

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

>> SPRING 2009

USMH Students Gain Experience and Assist Community in Field Placements

Students attending USMH partnering institutions are contributing to our community in the areas of education, social work, and nursing through work field placements. To facilitate the field placements, USMH participating institutions have partnered with area schools, community agencies, and hospitals.

For many students, like **Joanna Hose**, who is a junior in FSU's early childhood education program, and **Mary Beck**, who is a senior in SU's social work program, the field placements are eye-opening experiences that can help them determine their future career path.

"I liked the upper-grade levels more than I thought I would," said Hose, who completed a three-week assistantship in a fourth-grade classroom at Myersville Elementary in Frederick County. "It was nice to get the experience talking in front of a group of students." Beck, who is completing her field placement at the Martin Luther King Head Start in Hagerstown said, "Before my field placement, the idea of practicing social work in the area of mental health left a bad taste in my mouth." But now it is one of her top career choices. "It is very rewarding," she said.

Beck works with families who do not have affordable access to mental health providers. She refers them to community agencies like Villa Maria and the mental health centers in Hagerstown for assistance.

Hose also found her field placement rewarding. "The students loved us," she said, referring to herself and a classmate who partnered in the classroom together. "We were able to teach two lessons, and the last two weeks of the internship were spent making up a five-day unit."

In addition to being in the classroom, Hose participated in a fourth-grade teamplanning meeting for the coming school year.



works on a project at the Washington County Head Start office where she is completing a field placement.

"The assistantship is to get us warmed up," said Hose, who will complete a sixweek field placement in the fall of her senior year and a 15-week placement in the spring.

Dr. Kim Rotruck, education programs coordinator for FSU at USMH, explained the education field placement program. "The early childhood education students complete an internship in professional development schools. These schools are in partnership with FSU. In Washington County, the schools are: Bester Elementary, Rockland Woods Elementary, E. Russell Hicks Middle School, and South Hagerstown High. In Frederick County, the professional development schools

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Editor: Amanda Johnston USMH Public Relations Specialist Phone: 240-527-2722 Email: ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu

Dr. C. David Warner USMH Executive Director

Phone: 240-527-2727 Email: dwarner@hagerstown.usmd.edu

Erin Harman USMH Director of Marketing and Public Relations Phone: 240-527-2728 Email: eharman@hagerstown.usmd.edu

Interested parties can submit editorial content to Amanda Johnston, USMH public relations specialist, at ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu.



USMH — 5 UNIVERSITIES **UNDER 1 ROOF**

YOU'RE READY. WE'RE HERE.



USMH Board of Advisors Advanced Toward Long-Range Goals

by Gaye McGovern, USMH Advisory Board Chair

Once again this spring, USMH will honor graduates from the universities offering programs of study in Hagerstown. Since opening its doors in January 2005, 527 people have completed bachelor's or master's degree programs at USMH.

Many others have been supported in their quest for online higher education at UMUC with local testing, academic counseling and library services. In addition, the Hagerstown center is increasingly being used for continuing education conferences. In the fall of 2009, the first doctorate ever to be offered in Hagerstown will begin with a class of educators committed to honing their leadership skills in administration. What more solid evidence of the value of local, high-quality education can we provide?

Students are not only completing their college degrees but are increasing their work skills, and, in many cases, are retooling for a new career field. In the changing economy of tomorrow's world, it is important for all of us to be lifelong learners. USMH provides a way to do so.

The world has moved far away from the one- or two-note economy of manufacturing or reliance on any major employment sector. Educated, creative workers clearly provide economic strength to a location by attracting employers who want skilled workers and an excellent quality of life for the people they bring when they relocate or expand their business operation. We all can have a part in building and sustaining a healthy local economy by providing accessible, affordable educational opportunities in a variety of settings.

The USMH Board of Advisors consists of community leaders and USM officials who work to represent our region's interests and workforce needs.

During the 2008-9 academic year, we have encouraged broader development of the HCC-USMH alliance and helped spread the word about local availability of a seamless transition from HCC to institutions of upper-division and graduate course work at USMH.

We know additional learning spaces will be needed for USMH as its enrollment and course offerings expand. And community leaders are studying options available to achieve this.

We also see developers such as Donald Bowman, Michael Deming and John Laughlin, among others, improving our downtown buildings for business and residential opportunities. The Barbara Ingram School for the Arts will open in September 2009 thereby providing another educational opportunity for talented high school students and bringing added vitality to downtown. Students will take their academic classes in USMH classrooms rented by the Washington County Public Schools.

The scholarship fund that so many people in Washington County have helped to build will award scholarships for the first time this spring. These scholarships will help USMH students achieve their goals in social work, criminal justice, business administration, teaching, nursing and other fields of study.

The goals that the Board of Advisors set out to work on this year have been moved forward thanks to ongoing communication and teamwork among its members and with strong support from community and government leaders.

It is true that we live in challenging times. It is also true that USMH has again proven its merit as the jewel in the crown that is the downtown renaissance.

Social Work Student and Student Ambassador Ligia Teodorovici Aims to Make a Difference

Q: How did you find out about the social work program at USMH?

A: I remember first reading about it in the *Herald-Mail*, and I couldn't wait for the details to be finalized so I could put in my admission application. This was something I had wanted to do since I received my undergraduate degree in 1996.

Q: When did you start taking classes at USMH?

A: In the fall of 2007. It was the inaugural semester of Salisbury University's (SU) bachelor's in social work (BASW) and master's in social work (MSW) programs.

Q: When do you expect to graduate?

A: I will be taking a break after this semester (while the others participate in the summer courses), but I hope by fall 2011. My peers are on target to be the first graduating class in May 2010. The master's in social work program takes three years to complete for students who do not have their bachelor's degree in social work. I have a dual B.S. in psychology/sociology from Towson University.

Q: What courses are you taking this semester?

A: I am enrolled in psychopathology and field seminar.

Q: Are they blended or online?

A: All SU satellite courses are blended (online/interactive video networking — IVN) with a few exceptions. I really like this format since you get the best of both worlds ... face-to-face interactions as well as online discussions and posting assignments.

Q: How do the blended courses work are there challenges in completing your degree online and in blended courses versus face-to-face courses? If so, what are those challenges and how have you overcome them?

A: Having been away from academia for 11 years, I was intimidated by the technical advances in learning and wondered how I would adjust to them. I have found that the only challenge has been the online library (ResearchPort can be a bear to navigate), but I have overcome the obstacles. If it were strictly online I don't think I would enjoy the courses as much since I enjoy the social interactions with my peers and professors once or twice a week.

Q: What field placements have you participated in and what have you learned from that experience?

A: My internship has been employmentbased through the Board of Child Care. I have learned more about the clinical department's operations versus the residential program. Spending an additional 16 hours on-site has allowed me the opportunity to interact with the adolescents in a different capacity and learn different roles that can be experienced within this environment.

Q: What are your duties in your field placement position?

A: I am the clinical department intern and I get to help facilitate group therapy, put together specialized trainings (like Ethical Considerations in Residential Treatment Facilities), update clinical policies and procedures, and conduct secondary analysis research.

Q: How has it helped you prepare for your career?

A: I always try to see my work experiences as a way to become a better social worker; this is no exception. As far as my career goes, I'm not sure where I'm headed from here as I am open to different options.

Q: Do you like the way the program works at USMH and would you recommend it to others?

A: This program has worked for me for the past two years and I have recommended it to friends, neighbors, and even strangers (who approach me saying that they have seen me on the USMH television commercial). Convenience, quality, and affordability... second to none.

Q: Do you find your classes to be small and close knit? If so, does this help you?

A: The class sizes vary, depending on the number of sites we have included (Salisbury, Cecil, Chesapeake), but I really enjoy the community we have become. Even though we are spread out from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland, we are close knit in our focus ... becoming prepared social workers.

Q: You are a USMH Student Ambassador. How and why did you get involved in the group and what have you accomplished so far?

A: I was invited to represent the SU Social Work students and didn't mind doing this as I am a rather vocal person by nature. In an effort to be more productive while juggling all of our busy schedules, I suggested having the group meet via Facebook more often in order to discuss issues and upcoming events.

Q: What advice would you give to interested students?

A: If you're curious about how this downtown campus can work to meet your educational needs, stop by, call, or go online to ask your individual questions. The staff and university advisors are great to work with and knowledgeable in answering the questions that you may have. Don't think it can't be done, because there are people who are willing to help as long as you put forth the effort that backs up your own passion.

Q: What career do you plan to start after graduation?

A: One of the best things about pursuing a career in social work is that your options are only limited by your own preferences. I have been fortunate enough to work in the medical arena of social work (nursing home), the advocate arena (area agency on aging as a long-term care ombudsman), and I am currently working with adolescents in a residential treatment facility.

All of these different paths have held challenges, but they have made me the well-rounded professional that I am today. Adding a MSW to my résumé will allow me greater opportunities as many jobs in this field require social workers to be licensed. I have not yet picked a path since I still have a one-year concentration that I must complete prior to completing my MSW degree. I plan on staying in the Hagerstown area. All the human service agencies make such a difference in the lives of this community's citizens.

USNH 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.

David Warner Executive Director dwarner@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2727

Jennifer Clement Director of Library Services jclement@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2717

Tamara Doleman Office Clerk tdoleman@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2062

Suzanne Frock Testing & Career Services Coordinator sfrock@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2755

Erin Harman Director of Marketing & Public Relations eharman@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2728

Amanda Johnston Public Relations Specialist ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2722

Gayla Moon-Burgess IT Support Associate gmoonburgess@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2723

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

Patrice Travis Library Assistant ptravis@hagerstown.usmd.edu 240-527-2716

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

Field Placements Help Students Establish Career Connections

continued from cover

are Middletown Primary and Elementary, Wolfsville Elementary, Middletown Middle and Middletown High. Also Myersville Elementary is hosting the undergraduate assistantship."

The graduate-level students also complete field placements. "The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) elementary students start in mid-February with their second placements and complete their internships in May." She said the students had a nine-week internship in the fall at a different developmental level, but in the same professional development school.

The MAT secondary students have either a middle school or high school placement in the fall and then complete the opposite in the spring. They are in the professional development schools for 11 weeks each semester.

Hose, who plans on staying in the Hagerstown area after graduation, said, "It is nice to get the experience in a school in this area. The internships will allow me to make connections in the location where I will be starting my career."

Beck, who is graduating with a bachelor's in Social Work this May, will start Salisbury's Master's in Social Work program at USMH in the fall. She said she already has her field placement lined-up for next year based on connections she has made in her current field placement at Head Start. "It has really helped me to make contacts for my career."

The field placement is part of Salisbury's social work program curriculum and students participate in a field seminar class where the students discuss their experiences in their field placements.

"I recently completed a reflection paper that discusses my field placement experiences from the fall to the present. This month, I will present a case I have worked on to the class," said Beck. **Frances Cade,** field liaison for Salisbury's social work program at USMH, conducts the field placement seminar class. In her role, Cade is assigned to a field placement and serves as the connection between the placement and Salisbury University.

Cindy Wingate, social work program coordinator for Salisbury, said, "The liaison visits each student while in placement each semester and facilitates the needs of both students and the agencies."

The students also submit timesheets to Cade. "We work 16-hours a week in our field placements," said Beck.

Beck said her field placement "fits in hand-to-hand with my coursework," especially her macro social work class, which focuses on community agencies. "I was able to talk across different disciplines in the field placement. It wasn't foreign to me. It was a surprise to find, through my course work, that I could give feedback in the field," Beck said.

According to **Judy Breitenbach**, Towson University nursing students at USMH participate in clinical rotations at Frederick Memorial Hospital and Washington County Hospital. The clinical rotations correspond with certain courses that students attend on a weekly basis with their clinical instructors.

In their senior year, nursing students must complete 84 hours of work alongside a registered nurse. This is called the practicum requirement and is completed during the winter break, explained Breitenbach, who is the nursing programs director for Towson at USMH.

Web Advising – a Convenient Alternative

"It is nice to put a face to the name," said **Will Shelton**, a University of Maryland University College (UMUC) prospective student, after meeting for the first time with his advisor via a webcam. "I would use this again rather than over the phone."

UMUC first started using the technology at USMH this March, according to **Adrienne McBride**, UMUC director of western Maryland operations. "If students are unable to attend an advising day, they can schedule a webcam appointment instead," she said.

The webcams work with state-of-the-art encrypted technology for top-notch security. "You can enjoy accessibility to the guidance, assistance and support your advisor provides at a time that is convenient for you," said McBride. Shelton said his webcam appointment was more convenient than going to the main campus and avoided the hassle of a long drive.

UMUC advisor **Diann Sanderson** said she would recommend webcam advising because, "it allows students in the Hagerstown region to experience the benefits of a face-to-face advising session without having to travel far from home.

"It also allows the advisor to build a stronger rapport with the student as compared to a phone advising appointment," Sanderson added. "And unlike a phone advising appointment, webcam advising allows the advisor/student online access to all the resources that can be utilized in a face-to-face appointment in real-time."

In addition to the webcam advising, UMUC has scheduled an advising day on Tuesday, May 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students can schedule an appointment to meet with an undergraduate academic advisor to review remaining program requirements, determine next courses and register for courses this summer.

"Students can also learn about two onsite courses being offered at UMUC at Hagerstown this summer," said McBride. "We are offering Business Writing on Thursdays from 2-5:15 p.m. and Drugs and Crime on Mondays from 6:30 – 10 p.m.

Students who are interested in scheduling webcam or advising day appointments can contact UMUC at USMH at 240-527-2711 or 301-738-6090. ●

Graduates to Celebrate Hollywood-Style

On May 19, USMH will honor graduates from its partnering institutions at the 2009 Graduation Celebration.

The Hollywood-themed event will feature a music revue of Academy-Award-winning songs, and graduates will pose for caricature artists who will draw the students in a red-carpet setting.

The event, which will be held in the USMH Lobby, begins at 5:30 p.m. with a cashbar cocktail hour followed by an hors d'oeuvre reception and awards program.

Fall 2008 and spring 2009 graduates from Frostburg State University, Salisbury University, Towson University, and University of Maryland University College will be honored at the event, and academic achievement and student leadership awards will be presented. Invitations have been mailed to graduating students, faculty and staff. Each graduating student will receive two complimentary tickets to the event.

"This spring the first group of social work students from Salisbury University will be graduating. It is an honor to recognize them and all the graduates of programs from our partnering institutions," said **Dr. David Warner**, USMH executive director.

"Many of the students who are graduating will use their degrees to start careers in the Hagerstown area in the fields of nursing, teaching, and social work," Warner added.





End-of-Semester Crunch Finds Students Busy

With the semester coming to a close, students attending programs at USMH are busy. The USMH Library is a "hot spot" for students working on projects, research and papers.













Want to see your photo in *Campus & Community*? Have a story idea you would like to share? Contact Amanda Johnston, USMH public relations specialist, at 240-527-2722 or ajohnston@hagerstown.usmd.edu to have your submission published in our next issue.



<u>Did vou know?</u>

Next fall more than 100 high school students from Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) will attend classes in the USMH facility.

USMH will be renting classroom space to students attending the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts (BIFSA). Students will take their academic classes in the USMH building. The performing arts school will hold all arts-related classes, such as music, dance, and voice in its newsly renovated building. "We are proud to partner with WCPS on this project. We have been working very closely with school administrators and staff to ensure a smooth start to the school year in August," said Dr. David Warner, USMH executive director. "We look forward to having the students at USMH." On April 24, the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts "Taking Flight" civic art program unveiled 30 artist-rendered butterflies in downtown Hagerstown. During the event, USMH staff offered tours to parents of students who will be attending classes in the building in the fall. An orientation event will be held for students and parents prior to the beginning of the school year.

USMH Career Center Helps Students Achieve

In the current economic climate it is good to know your resources. USMH Career Services Center offers a myriad of resources for students attending USMH partnering institutions, including a new brochure that lists valuable online job search engines and links to state employment agencies.

(See box to right for links.)

In addition to research tools, students can also meet with **Sue Frock**, USMH career services coordinator, for individual career counseling, résumé and correspondence assistance, and job search and networking suggestions.

The Career Services Center also offers the Birkman Method Personality Assessment Test to help you determine a career path that suits your personality. The test combines motivational, behavioral and interest evaluations into one single assessment identifying your everyday interpersonal style. It then gives you unique insights into underlying motivations and needs. The Birkman Method also generates a career management report to help you identify the occupational groups and work environments that suit your personality.

To schedule an appointment for any of these services contact USMH Career Services Coordinator Sue Frock at 240-527-2755 or sfrock@hagerstown.usmd.edu.

Job Search Engine Links

State Agencies District of Columbia Job Service www.does.dc.gov/does/cwp/view,a,1232, q,537771,doesNav,l32062l.asp

Maryland Job Service Allegany County www.dllr.state.md.us/county/alle Baltimore County

 Baltimore County www.dllr.state.md.us/county/baco Frederick County www.dllr.state.md.us/county/fred Howard County www.dllr.state.me.us/county/howard Montgomery County www.dllr.state.md.us/county/mont Washington County www.dllr.state.md.us/county/wash Pennsylvania Job Service Franklin County www.cwds.state.pa.us Virginia Job Service Fairfax Fauguier, Loudon & Prince William Counties www.vec.virginia.gov/vecportal/index.cfm West Virginia Job Service Berkley County www.workforcewv.org

National Job Search Engines

www.beyond.com www.careerbuilder.com www.getthejob.com www.job.com www.jobbankusa.com www.jobsearch.com www.mainstreetrecruiters.com www.monster.com www.simplyhired.com www.theladders.com www.6figurejobs.com

Education

www.universityjobs.com www.teaching-jobs.org

Technical www.dice.com

Federal/Government

www.fbijobs.gov www.federaljobsearch.com www.jobs.irs.gov www.jobsfed.com www.makingthedifference.org www.usajobs.com

Student Internships and Jobs

www.internshipprograms.com www.studentjobs.gov www.wetfeet.com

Programs

 Accounting www.accounting.jobs.com Criminal Justice www.talkjustice.com/links.asp?453053981 Engineering www.engineerjobsearch.com Information System Management www.tech-centric.net/informationsystemjobs.aspx Investigative Forensics www.aafs.org?section_ id=employment&page_id=current_ openings Nursing www.nurse.comjobs/Index.cfm • Social Science www.rileyguide.com/social.htm Social Work www.socialservice.com Teaching

The first doctorate program is coming to USMH.

USMH is pleased to announce that the Department of Education Leadership, Higher Education and International Education at the University of Maryland will be collaborating with Frostburg State University and USMH to offer an Ed.D. program in Educational Leadership. USMH has received a good amount of interest in this program and formal recruiting and admission to this program will begin in June. The USMH Center will be advertising and hosting the recruiting events. These sessions will provide greater detail regarding this unique partnership as well as information regarding admissions and program requirements. To add your name to an email contact list about the program or to receive more information, contact USMH at 240-527-2060 or visit www.hagerstown.usmd.edu.

www.teachers-teachers.com



Contact Participating Universities

Frostburg State University

Education Programs Coordinator College of Education Administrative Assistant Coordinator of Academic Advising Activities	Dr. Kim Rotruck Kathy Griemsmann Gary Austin	240-527-2736 240-527-2741 240-527-2708	krotruck@frostburg.edu kmgriemsmann@frostburg.edu gaustin@frostburg.edu
Salisbury University Social Work Program Coordinator	Cindy Wingate	240-527-2737	clwingate@salisbury.edu
Towson University Nursing Programs Director	Judy Breitenbach	240-527-2726	jbreitenbach@towson.edu
University of Maryland University College Director of Western Maryland Operations Team Associates	Adrienne McBride Ken Davis Jana Gordon	240-527-2750 240-527-2711 240-527-2711	amcbride@umuc.edu kdavis@umuc.edu jgordon@umuc.edu
University of Maryland, College Park Program Coordinator	Paul Easterling	301-405-3017	peaster@umd.edu

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown 32 West Washington Street Hagerstown, MD 21740

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