

**OFFERING A CLOSER  
LOOK AT USGA**

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# USGA Recap

A Monthly Newsletter of the University Student Government Association  
University of Maryland-Baltimore

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MARCH 2, 2007

## SPRING FUNDING APPROVED BY USGA SENATE FOR CAMPUS STUDENT GROUPS

by Clarence Lam, SOM

On February 21, the University Student Government Association (USGA) Senate met for over two hours to approve of spring semester funding for campus student organizations.

21 student organizations requested \$31,441 in money, and 17 of those groups received some degree of funding from USGA. A total of \$18,064 was allocated of the \$18,469 that was available for distribution to the organizations.

The deadline for organizations requested funding was February 2. The USGA Appropriations Committee met on Friday, February 9 to review these requests and set recommended amounts of funding for



The USGA Senate reviews appropriations recommendations during the February 21, 2007 meeting.

each organization. These recommendations were based on a set of general guidelines, in addition to those stated directly in the funding guidelines, which included:

- Funding for food was capped at \$6 per student per event, except for large campus events.
- Funds were not appropriated for decorations, honorariums and gifts, and printing costs.
- All funded events must be open to or have open enrollment for students of all schools.

- Funded events must be publicized in USGANews.

The Senate either approved or modified the recommended amounts. Final appropriated amounts can be found online

(<http://www.umaryland.edu/usga/resources/spring2007appro.html>). The Senate increased funding beyond the amounts recommended by the Appropriations Committee for five organizations and decreased funding for one organization.

USGA was provided about \$38,000 for its spring semester budget, based on student fees. On February 7, the Senate approved of \$2960 for USGA operating expenses and \$17,170 for the USGA Programming Committee's spring semester campus-wide events.

## New USGA Vice President Elected

by Lindsey Marable, Law



The USGA would like to extend a heart-felt congratulations to Alicia Welch for becoming its new Vice-President and head of the Pennington Committee. Alicia is a law student interested in labor and employment law. She was a former USGA Senator and member of the Appropriations Committee. She serves on the School

of Law Moot Court Team and is a current member of Students Supporting the Women's Law Center. She also coordinates excursions to Louisiana as Trip Coordinator for the Hurricane Katrina Building and Indigent Defense Project.

As head of the Pennington Committee, Alicia is committed to community service in the name of the USGA. Some of the Committee's projects include training volunteers for the House of Ruth Domestic Violence Hotline; volunteering at the Ronald

McDonald House; and organizing Habitat for Humanity day. With all this going on in her life, one would wonder what she enjoys doing for fun. Well it may come as no surprise to some that she enjoys drinking coffee. To all who read hear about Alicia, she encourages you to volunteer to be a member of the Pennington Committee—community service with a smile!!

Congratulations Alicia on your new promotion to the USGA Executive Board.

# Message from USGA President



“I am happy to report that we allocated funds to student organizations from virtually every school on our campus.”  
Jason Smith,  
USGA President

Welcome to the first edition of the USGA Recap newsletter! I hope that this newsletter will give you a better understanding of what your student government is doing to improve student life on our campus.

The USGA has been busy so far this semester. We have already had both of our funding meetings, and have allocated student funds to a record number of student organizations. I am happy to report that we allocated funds to student organizations from virtually every school on our campus. There will be a large number of USGA and USGA co-sponsored events this semester, so be sure to check the USGANews to find the dates and times for each of these events.

Aside from allocating funding, the USGA has also been busy with a number of other issues. The USGA is currently working with all of your school President's to get

vending machines in the HSHSL Library. We are also continuing to work with the campus to improve the Caravan service for the upcoming year. The USGA is also working with the Financial Aid office to resolve student concerns, and I am happy to report that Patricia Scott, the Director of Financial Aid, will be coming to the next USGA Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, to discuss changes that will be made in the financial aid office, as well as listen to student concerns.

In addition to the other issues, the USGA is also working with the University System of Maryland Student Council on a number of legislative initiatives. Last week, I submitted testimony on behalf of the USGA in support of HB 410, which would “couple” state tax law with the federal tax law. This would permit students who are able to claim deductions for tuition and expenses on federal taxes to

keep that deduction when calculating their Maryland Gross Income for state taxes. The USGA is also supporting two other bills, one that would create a \$500 tax credit for students who spend over \$500 a year on textbooks and one that would freeze undergraduate tuition.

As always, I encourage students to attend a USGA Senate meeting to gain a better understanding of what we are doing. The Senate meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Pine St. Student Center. Food is provided at all of our meetings. Otherwise, enjoy the first edition of this newsletter, and feel free to contact me or any of the USGA Officers or Senators with any questions or comments you may have.

Yours,  
Jason Smith  
President  
University Student Government Association

## Campus Center Update & Student Directory Information

by Justin Kerr, Grad. School

Have you noticed the giant fence between the Health Science/Human Services Library and the School of Nursing? That is the future home of a brand new \$49 million Campus Center ([http://www.umaryland.edu/campus\\_center/](http://www.umaryland.edu/campus_center/)). The new Campus Center will include brand new meeting spaces, a large ballroom for special events, offices for student organization, a food court, and a new and expanded gym including a pool. The new building will connect directly to the library and the existing gym, which will also be renovated as part of the project. The Campus center is scheduled for completion in January 2009.

Tricia O'Neill, JD, Senior Advisor to the Vice



Artist's drawing of new Campus Center.

President of Academic Affairs, is spearheading an effort to update and clarify the UMB policy for publishing student information. The current policy allows the university to publish the following student information: name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, photograph, major field of study, dates of

attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous educational institution attended. Many students are unaware that this information can be published in a variety of ways without direct permission unless they file written notice within the first three weeks of the fall semester and renew this request every year. The entire policy is available in the Student Answer Book ([www.umaryland.edu/student/sab/pdf2006/rules%20and%20regulations.pdf](http://www.umaryland.edu/student/sab/pdf2006/rules%20and%20regulations.pdf)).

Ms. O'Neill will be working to address this issue. Be on the lookout for a student survey that will be used to help develop recommendations for updating these student information policies.

# New Senators Sworn In



USGA welcomes the following newly elected spring 2007 Senators:

- Lisa Elder (Law)
- Stephan Davis (Nursing)
- Amanda Glass (Nursing)
- Sharon Martin (Nursing)
- Sanam Razeghi (Medicine)
- Joseph Roche (Grad/GSA)
- Felicia Washington (Medicine)
- Stacey Wolohan (Nursing)
- Yue Zhu (Int'l Students Org.)

New USGA Senators Yue Zhu (representing the International Students Organization) and Lisa Elder (Law) being sworn-in.

by Clarence Lam (SOM) & Alicia Welch (Law)

## USGA Compiles Central List of Campus Orgs.

by Jake Weissmann, SSW

Recently, I was speaking to a friend in the School of Law about my disappointment that the campus lacked any Democratic student organizations, when he stopped me. "The School of Law has a Democrats organization," he told me, which shocked me quite a bit but brought up an interesting point. On our campus, as disjointed as we are there is no way to know what organizations exist in which schools. For example, after speaking with some USGA Senators, I discovered that there are at least

three active LGBT organizations on campus, at least a couple of organizations for a variety of different religions on campus and a new environmental group starting. What if there was some way, to have this information at the tips of your fingers without having to go through the effort of contacting several people to find out this information? Well, now there will be.

Using the magic of the Internet (the Internet is a new invention, more details will be forthcoming), USGA will be unveiling a database of all the student organizations on campus shortly. This list

will include the school and contact person of the organization. The list will be available on the USGA website (which is easily accessible through the [www.umaryland.edu](http://www.umaryland.edu) homepage). So, no more digging for hours to discover an organization, soon it will just be a couple clicks away. Just another thing to make your life easier from your friendly neighborhood USGA.

\* Editor's Note: If you are a member of a student organization and would like to add your group to the list, please e-mail [clam001@umaryland.edu](mailto:clam001@umaryland.edu) with your organization's name, contact information (e-mail), and school.

"So no more digging for hours to discover an organization, soon it will be just a couple of clicks away."

## Valentine's Day Speed Dating Held at Sliders

by Jannet Hseih, Pharmacy

The USGA Programming Committee hosted a Valentine's Day Social Hour, its first campus-wide event of the spring semester, on Thursday, February 8 from 7-11pm at Sliders Bar & Grill. Over 200 students attended this event with over 50 students participating in speed dating. Pictures from the event and some of our fall events will be posted soon at

[www.umaryland.edu/usga/resources/pictures.html](http://www.umaryland.edu/usga/resources/pictures.html).

What is speed dating? Last year the programming committee thought it would be fun to organize a speed dating session Valentine Day social where students could participate in six, three-minute dates. It was so popular last year that we decided to bring speed dating back and increase the number of dates that each person could participate. This year each student

went on fourteen, two-minute. Each participant filled out a "speed dating card" which indicated whether they would like their e-mail address exchanged with each of their dates. An exchange of e-mail addresses was facilitated by the Programming Committee only if both partners of each date agreed. We hope those of you who participated had a fantastic time at the event!



(Photo credit: Jannet Hseih)

# USGA OFFICER REPORTS

## Secretary, Julia Chan



Hello! I'm Julia, a 3rd year doctoral student in epidemiology at the Graduate School. I am also the Secretary of USGA. My main responsibility is heading up the Programming Committee, which uses a portion of your student fees to organize and carry out social activities for the entire UMB student body.

Last semester we had a boat cruise in September and a Halloween Social Hour, co-sponsored with the Graduate School Association (GSA), in October. We also held our annual Student Appreciation Lunch in December, attended by almost 550 students!

This semester, our Valentine's Day Social at Sliders Bar and Grill was quite entertaining. Students across all schools had an opportunity to mingle, especially those who participated in our speed dating activity. We also received several donations for Project Jump Start, a student-run organization serving the Baltimore homeless population.

The Programming Committee has several other events planned for this semester, including a trivia night in April (co-sponsored with GSA), an Oriole's game and bullpen party event on April 20 (co-sponsored with the School of Nursing), and another Student Appreciation Lunch. Check out upcoming USGANews e-mails for more details.

## Chief of Public Relations

### Clarence Lam



Hi, I'm a third-year medical student currently serving as USGA's Chief of Public Relations and managing editor of this new newsletter that you're reading now. Welcome to the inaugural issue of USGA Recap!

I developed the idea behind this newsletter after recognizing that few students are aware of what USGA does, the issues that we address, events that we hold and sponsor, among other matters. While records of our meetings are available as written minutes and audio recordings on our website ([www.umaryland.edu/usga](http://www.umaryland.edu/usga)), I believed that all of you would be better informed of USGA through a concise, attractive, easier-to-read e-mail newsletter following each of our monthly Senate meetings. Fortunately, members of the USGA Public Relations Committee lent their contributions and assistance to this effort in the form of articles and briefs. (Their names can be found on the first page of this newsletter.) Without their enthusiasm and dedication, USGA Recap would not have been possible!

In addition to USGA Recap, the Public Relations Committee is developing a webpage on the USGA website for a unified list of all student organizations on campus to assist with collaboration between schools. (See page 4 for full article.) If you are interested in adding your organization to this list, please send me an e-mail at [clam001@umaryland.edu](mailto:clam001@umaryland.edu).

Again, I'd like to thank all the USGA Senators and Officer who contributed to USGA Recap, and we hope all of you enjoy learning more about USGA!

-Clarence  
[clam001@umaryland.edu](mailto:clam001@umaryland.edu)

## Treasurer

### Jessie O'Kane



The USGA receives \$7.50 per student per semester to use for three purposes:

operations, programming (campus wide social events), and to help fund events held by student organizations. This year a record number of organizations applied for these funds. On Wednesday, February 21, the Senate allocated \$18,064 for events held by 17 campus organizations this semester. The exact description of the events and the awards (two separate documents) can be accessed through the Resources & Finances link on the USGA website. Earlier this semester, the Senate approved \$2,960 for USGA operations and \$17,170 for programming events. These allocations bring our total expense budget for the spring semester to \$38,194.

## 24-HOUR STUDY SPACE SUCCESSFUL

by Justin Kerr, Grad. School

The 24-hour study space at the student center in December was a huge success! Hundreds of students took advantage of the free coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and snacks (and the study space, too). A similar schedule of 24-hour study space will be available at the end of this semester at the Pine Street Student Center. USGA thanks Auxiliary Services, the University Athletic Center and the Office of Student Services for making the study space possible.



Students pose during the USGA/GSA Halloween Social held on October 31, 2007 at Sliders Bar & Grill.

From left: Debbie Stevens, Jade Bernstein, Jannet Hseih.

# USGA Primary Senator Briefs



Derek Blank, Dental School

At our last USGA Senate meeting, first-year dental students Zahra Omar and Bahar Zarrabi represented the Student National Dental Association (SNDA) in fine fashion as the club was awarded \$800. This funding was allocated for the group's Unity Celebration featuring food, music, poetry, dance, and history to inspire unity, awareness, and cultural sensitivity among all students during Black History Month. The event will take place on Monday, March 12 from 6-8pm at the MSTF.

In other news, be sure to whip out your Miguel Tejada jerseys for the April 20th Orioles' game against the Toronto Blue Jays. USGA, in collaboration with the School of Nursing, has rented out the Bullpen Picnic Area...game on!

Justin Kerr, Graduate School

The Graduate Student Association will hold its annual Graduate Research Conference (GRC) on April 20, 2007. The GRC is an opportunity for all graduate students on campus to gather in an interdisciplinary setting and present their research. This year we are renewing our interdisciplinary focus and expanding our event to include post-doctoral fellows. The entire university community is invited to visit student poster and oral presentations. In addition, Dr. Alan Leshner, Chief Executive Officer American Association for the Advancement of Science and Executive Publisher, Science, will be the keynote speaker. His talk will focus on the interplay between natural science, social sciences, and public policy. Please see our website (<http://graduate.umaryland.edu/gsa>) for more information.

Allison Lynch, Phys. Therapy

Each year, physical therapy students across the country participate in the Pittsburgh-Marquette Challenge, a grassroots fundraising effort to raise money for research conducted at the Foundation for Physical Therapy. Please join the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science Class of 2008 in our efforts to raise money to support the current and innovative research in the field! Make a four-person team for our Best Ball Golf Tournament on April 7th at Hollow Creek and come support our Wheelchair Basketball Challenge on April 5th at 6:30 pm at Landsdowne, MD. Questions/concerns contact Alaina Nutwell ([anutw001@umaryland.edu](mailto:anutw001@umaryland.edu)) or Shannon Schuman ([sschu002@umaryland.edu](mailto:sschu002@umaryland.edu)). Stay tuned for more information!!

Nathan Marchiano, DMRT

Welcome to all the spring admits! Congratulations to Constance Enow for giving birth to a healthy baby boy, Ryan-Conoel, over the winter break. Good luck to Crystal Melendez and Maria Mochin-Peters in preparing for their upcoming case study competitions. Seniors, keep up the good work on your rotations!

- Besides regrouping for this school year, and presenting a terrific diversity panel last semester, the group added on the letter "A" into their name to welcome Allies to the group and remind them that we can all be a help to the LGBT community.
- Students Coalition for Peace and Equality (SCOPE) – Resurging at the beginning of this school year, SCOPE has invigorated a student body with fascinating panels on healthcare, housing and other topics, as well as being a wellspring of resources for other student groups.

Furthermore, both the Christian Social Work Fellowship (CSWF) and The Organization of Jewish Social Workers (TIKKUN) are restarting with meetings this semester.

Finally, I'd be remiss if I left out our always active LASO (Latin American Student Organization), OASIS (Org. for African America Students in Social Work) and ISW (International Social Workers). All three are to be commended for their continuing growth and addition to the campus. Now that you know the SSW a bit better, shoot me an email if you're interested about these or any other happenings at the SSW.

Jannet Hseih, Pharmacy

Welcome to the School of Pharmacy (SOP)! Let me introduce you to our school. University of Maryland SOP was founded in 1841 and today is the fourth oldest pharmacy school in the United States. Although it is the only pharmacy school in the state of Maryland, the SOP is known for its excellent doctor of pharmacy (PharmD) education program—ranked eighth in the entire nation.

The four-year professional PharmD program started in 1993, which requires at least 2 years of pre-pharmacy coursework for admission. Our student body totals over 480 students. Each class of 120 students consists of a diverse student population with an estimated 60% females and an incoming average GPA of 3.4. SOP also offers PhD programs in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Health Research.

The mission of our school is to enhance health through innovative pharmaceutical education, research, practice and public service. Please visit us for more information at <http://www2.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/>.

Our SOP Student Government Association (SGA) is led by a four-member executive board. The presidents from each of our 18 school organizations, officers from all four classes, and the USGA Senators serve as members of the executive council. Please visit student organizations page for more information: <http://www2.pharmacy.umaryland.edu/studentorg/>.

Some upcoming events from the SOP:

- PLS Leadership Fraternity is looking for students from each school to comprise an interdisciplinary team for a patient management competition (IPMC). There is a \$500 cash prize for first place! Interested? Contact Jamie at [jwilk002@umaryland.edu](mailto:jwilk002@umaryland.edu).
- Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity is hosting the annual Wing-A-Thon eating competition with all proceeds going to the Mildred Mindell Cancer Foundation. They are looking for teams of 4 members from each school to compete! Interested? Contact Sarah at [solsz001@umaryland.edu](mailto:solsz001@umaryland.edu).
- ABAE helps tutor middle/high school students from inner city Baltimore every Saturday at the Pharmacy Learning Center. Interested? Contact Michelle at [mtaym001@umaryland.edu](mailto:mtaym001@umaryland.edu).

Jake Weissman, Social Work

Wow! This last semester has been a busy one for the SSW, as organizations that have been dormant for a year or more have sprung up and brought new life into the School of Social Work student body! While our student body is in field placements (internships) either two or three days a week and many are married with families, we still have several active organizations including:

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Union (LGBTAU) –

Besides regrouping for this school year, and presenting a terrific diversity panel last semester, the group added on the letter "A" into their name to welcome Allies to the group and remind them that we can all be a help to the LGBT community.

Students Coalition for Peace and Equality (SCOPE) – Resurging at the beginning of this school year, SCOPE has invigorated a student body with fascinating panels on healthcare, housing and other topics, as well as being a wellspring of resources for other student groups.

Furthermore, both the Christian Social Work Fellowship (CSWF) and The Organization of Jewish Social Workers (TIKKUN) are restarting with meetings this semester. Finally, I'd be remiss if I left out our always active LASO (Latin American Student Organization), OASIS (Org. for African America Students in Social Work) and ISW (International Social Workers). All three are to be commended for their continuing growth and addition to the campus. Now that you know the SSW a bit better, shoot me an email if you're interested about these or any other happenings at the SSW.

# Some Upcoming March Events

Holi: A festival of colors  
Indian Association together with the USGA invites you to  
Holi: A festival of colors.

It is a joyous festival celebrating the coming of spring. Come and celebrate with us, and enjoy delicious Indian food, music, cultural performances, door prizes and an open dance floor.

Friday, March 9, 2007, from 6-10 pm at MSTF Atrium  
Entry fee: \$5 early bird tickets; \$7 at the door. Kids under 5 enter free.

## MPI LP Annual Goods & Services Auction

The Maryland Public Interest Law Project will hold its Annual Goods & Services Auction in celebration of their 20th anniversary on March 10th at the School of Law. Silent Auction begins at 6pm with Live Auction to follow. Tickets are \$20 for students and guests and \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door for all other guests. Ticket includes food, drinks, and bidder number. If you are interested in purchasing tickets in advance or making a donation, please contact Lauren Calhoun at [icalh002@umaryland.edu](mailto:icalh002@umaryland.edu).

# Spring Senate Meetings



March 7, 2007

April 11, 2007

May 9, 2007

All meetings are held at 5:30pm in the second-floor multipurpose room of the Pine St. Student Center. Food is provided.

Agendas, meeting minutes, and audio recordings can be found on the USGA website here:

<http://www.umaryland.edu/usga/about/meetings.html>.



## USGA Sponsored Group Update

### Project Jump Start

by Dan Andersen & Julie Della-Maria, Project Jump Start

Project Jump Start (PJS) is the student-run organization at UMB that seeks to ameliorate homelessness in Baltimore through an interdisciplinary approach including: outreach, advocacy, education, and innovation. You may have seen students congregating on Friday nights at Pharmacy Hall to prepare food for distribution to our homeless neighbors. While a very visible aspect of PJS, the food drives are a small part of what students in this organization do. Students from each of the professional schools bring what they have learned to the myriad problems homeless people face and help them to reintegrate into society.

Julie Della-Maria and Dan Andersen began Project Jump Start in October 2005 with the idea that a reciprocal relationship could be formed between the UMB students who seek real world experience and the vulnerable members of soci-

ety around the university that need real world help. They elicited help from the UMB President's office—Mary Leach, Pat Maloney, and Malinda Orlin (Vice President for Academic Affairs), as well as faculty and staff members including Brenda Blom (School of Law); Bruce DeForge, Bob Kirk, and Dick Cook (all from the School of Social Work); Angie Battaglia and Harriett Mandell-Olsen (Medicine); Cyndi Rice and Jill Venezian (Office of Student Services); and Brian Sturdivant (Office of External Affairs). Two PJS students, Nick Frost and Kavita Gandhi (Medicine), had spearheaded a plan to open a free-clinic for the homeless and poor around the UMB community. Sadly, this effort did not survive past the final level of medical school administration, but it will be revisited. Other student organizations such as the USGA, the Graduate Student Association, and the Indian Association have rallied around the efforts of PJS by cosponsoring events or donating proceeds

of events to the program.

Last year PJS became part of the UMB Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, in order to accept tax-exempt donations. Money is used for food drives, toiletries, clothing, and other costs such as the fees for birth certificates and identification. PJS also relies on the generous support of people that have contributed to toiletries and clothing drives. These donations have been handed out to people on the street – people who do not usually access the shelters or other agencies.

Three PJS members are currently Baltimore Albert Schweitzer fellows. The Baltimore Albert Schweitzer fellowship provides a \$2000 stipend to students who are working on community service projects (at least 200 hours of direct service per year). The current fellows - John Watts (Pharmacy), Trish Keegan (Social Work), and Dan Andersen (Graduate) are using this money to fund PJS, and at least 2 more students have applied for the fellowship for the

coming year.

Project Jump Start is recognized in the Greater Baltimore community. They are a member of the SHARP (Stop Homelessness and Reduce Poverty) coalition, a cosponsor of the 2007 Baltimore Homeless Census, and a proud advocate for the rights of homeless people. They have recently begun occupying the building of A New Faith Community (ANFC) in West Baltimore to have more formal client interactions on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. They are currently working on a database with up-to-date information on all social services (shelters, health care, jobs, and housing) in Baltimore with detailed guidelines to help their clients navigate the system. PJS is always seeking to expand and to have more involvement from the University community. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to participate in or learn more about PJS. Information is available at [www.umbprojectjumpstart.org](http://www.umbprojectjumpstart.org) or by request to Dan Andersen ([danderse@epi.umaryland.edu](mailto:danderse@epi.umaryland.edu)).