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# USGA Recap

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

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 19, 2007

## USGA REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND MEETING WITH CAMPUS POLICE TO ADDRESS SAFETY

by Nate Marchiano, DMRT

The most recent Safety Awareness Committee meeting was held on March 1 by Col. Cleveland Barnes of the University of Maryland-Baltimore, Campus Police. Also in attendance were representatives of campus housing, campus facilities, and USGA. According to Barnes, there was a 20.4% decrease in crime for the month of February. Thefts continue to be of concern, particularly of laptop computers. Other portable electronic devices are also valuable and easy to conceal making them attractive targets for thieves. When asked what students can do to protect their valuables, Barnes' response was simple: "Lock it. Engrave it. Secure it." For information on how to obtain free engraving services, students should call (410) 706-6882.

Students should be aware that crime will go up as

warm weather approaches. Barnes explained that it is a natural trend in criminal activity. More people will be outside for longer periods. The increased foot traffic adds to the number of potential targets and makes it easier for criminals to blend in. Also, cars are more often left unattended with open windows and doors. Three bike patrols will be added to help counteract the expected upsurge in crime.

"Don't be afraid to cry wolf," said Barnes. He encouraged students to trust their instincts and not to worry about being wrong. He pointed out that it is better for police to respond to a false alarm than to follow up on a crime.

The next Safety Awareness Committee meeting will be held at the Student Center located at 222 N. Pine Street in room 245 on Thursday, May 3rd, 2007 from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.



Did you know?

- The average response time for UMB campus police is two minutes?
- A new 711 service being implemented on campus will let police know exactly what phone you are dialing from?
- If you dial 911 from your cell phone on campus, the call will be directed to the Baltimore City Police and not the UMB Campus Police? [Program (410) 706-3333 on your speed dial for campus emergency response.]

## Finan. Aid Director Meets With USGA

by Clarence Lam, SOM

On March 13, Patricia Scott, University of Maryland-Baltimore's Director Student Financial Aid, attended a USGA Senate meeting to introduce herself to students and to directly address concerns that had arisen regarding financial aid services at the university.

Scott was recently appointed as director in October 2006 after originally joining the university in February 1989. Previously, she had served as the director of admissions at the



Financial Aid Director Patricia Scott speaks to the USGA Senate on March 13, 2007.

School of Law. "I knew that I had the skill set that the Office of Financial Aid needed," said Scott in explaining her main reason for joining the office after learning of the open position. She acknowl-

edged that the office was understaffed when she first arrived, but her efforts to date have nearly filled all vacant positions.

In addition to addressing office staffing, she has been representing student interests by securing more funds from Congress for student loans. She explained that UMB participates in a program

(Continued on page 2)

## Director of Finan. Aid Addresses Student Concerns

*(Continued from page 1)*

called "School as Lender" which has benefited students by offering them zero-origination fee loans and additional returns in the form of scholarship dollars to assist future UMB students. Recently, she visited Capitol Hill informing the Maryland delegation of the importance of this program.

Internally, she has worked to improve the services offered by the Student Financial Aid Office (SFAO). She has eliminated the student lenders list for the coming academic year after a review indicated that some lenders were not proactive and candid in communicating with students. Scott has hired a new Associate Director of Financial Aid for students of the School of Nursing and Physical Therapy program. She also recognizes the need for a dedicated counselor for the students of the

Department of Research and Medical Technology (DMRT) and Dental Hygiene programs. She plans on hiring an additional counselor upon approval from the Office of Academic Affairs.

USGA has heard student concerns regarding the campus' Federal Work Study (FWS) program. Scott explained that many of these concerns stem from a misunderstanding of how student salaries are determined. UMB is provided over \$500,000 annually in FWS funding for student salaries. SFAO distributes the student salaries, but most other salary factors are determined by the student's site supervisor. SFAO establishes salary ranges for specific job

titles. The site supervisor selects the appropriate job title for the type of work performed by the student and the starting salary within the range set forth by SFAO's guidelines. Over the past several months, Scott has met with various site supervisors to clarify their roles and monitor their job title selection. She explained that students often believe that SFAO determines student salaries, but ultimately the decision lies with the site supervisor.

She acknowledges that much work remains at the SFAO. "Rome wasn't built in a day...we've made some strides, but I know that there are other things that we still need to do in order to provide the services that you're entitled to."

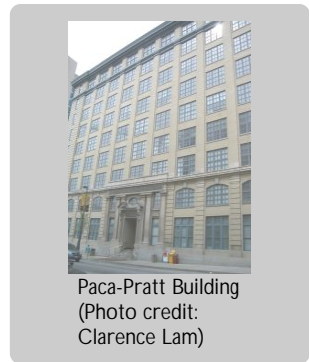
She welcomed any student criticism or concerns and asked that she be notified of them directly. When e-mailing her concerns, she requested that specific information about the incident or issue be clearly stated. Her e-mail address is [pscott@umaryland.edu](mailto:pscott@umaryland.edu).

"I know that there are other things that we still need to do in order to provide the services that you're entitled to."

-Patricia Scott, Director of Student Financial Aid

### Information on Student Financial Aid Office:

Location: 2nd Floor of the Paca-Pratt Building  
 Phone: 410-706-7347  
 Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8am – 6pm  
Responsibilities by School:  
 Medicine & Public Health: Patricia Scott ([pscott@umaryland.edu](mailto:pscott@umaryland.edu))  
 Nursing & Physical Therapy: Nicole McDaniel-Smith ([nmcda001@umaryland.edu](mailto:nmcda001@umaryland.edu))  
 Dental & Pharmacy: Laura McKenna ([lmcke002@umaryland.edu](mailto:lmcke002@umaryland.edu))  
 Graduate, SSW, Law: Stacy Harrison ([sharr009@umaryland.edu](mailto:sharr009@umaryland.edu))  
 DMRT, Dental Hygiene, Work Study: Yvette Washington ([ywashing@umaryland.edu](mailto:ywashing@umaryland.edu))



Paca-Pratt Building  
 (Photo credit: Clarence Lam)

## USGA Legislative Efforts at Maryland General Assembly

by Lindsey Marable, Law

As part of University of Maryland, Baltimore's legislative initiatives, Jason Smith (USGA President) offered testimony before the Maryland General Assembly on February 20, 2007 concerning House Bill 410. This bill, if passed, would allow eligible Maryland taxpayers to carry over their federal educational tax deductions for qualified tuition and related expenses to their Maryland

state tax forms as well. The effect of this would be to reduce the amount of taxable income so that income used for the payment of tuition and educational expenses would not be taxable at the state level. As indicated in Smith's testimony, this bill can be viewed as an indirect means of combating drastically rising fees for graduate and professional school students who would not necessarily benefit from proposed tuition freezes at the

undergraduate level. Currently, Maryland state law requires the taxpayer to add these deductions back when calculating their adjusted gross income.

Unfortunately this bill has been met with an unfavorable report from the House Ways and Means Committee and is unlikely to pass. Please check back to USGA Recap for updates to other Maryland supported legislation.

# Pharmacy Hall Addition Faces Delays

by John Watts & Jannet Hseih, SOP

At the March 14 USGA Senate meeting, Pharmacy Student Government Association President John Watts approached the senators with a request to help lobby legislators in Annapolis to allocate \$3.5 million for construction of the UMB Pharmacy Hall Addition. Currently 480 students share the two main lecture rooms, each built to hold 100 students and one practice laboratory. An additional 20 seats were added to each lecture room to accommodate 120 students, but the State of Maryland has requested that the school eventually its student body to over 800 students.

For the past seven years, pharmacy students and faculty have gone before the Maryland General Assembly advocating for increased facilities. During last year's General Assembly, the School finally re-

ceived approval for the construction of a Pharmacy Hall Addition. This project would involve funds to be appropriated over the next four years with the opening of the Addition planned for 2012. This increase in space, along with the opening of distance learning sites, would allow the School of Pharmacy to increase its graduating class from 120 to over 200 students per year.

Unfortunately, the School of Pharmacy recently received news that the Pharmacy Hall Addition project has been deferred for another year. This setback could cost the School of Pharmacy its accreditation and leave Maryland with a deficit of pharmacist.

This year, the Pharmacy Hall Addition was the only project requested by UMB in the University System of Maryland Capital Budget. We, as healthcare students and

members of the academic community at UMB, are asking for your support. Please contact your representative and the members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and request that they reinstate this much needed prescription for a healthier Maryland. Thank you!

Email Address for Committee Members:  
 House Appropriations Committee  
<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/06hse/html/com/01app.html>  
 Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/05sen/html/com/01bud.html>



Pharmacy Hall (Photo credit: Clarence Lam)

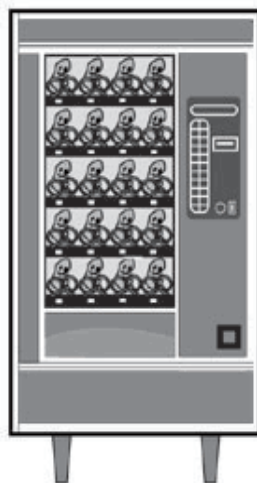
## UMB Campus Briefs:

### Vending Machines Planned for HSHSL

by Clarence Lam, SOM

Administrators of the Health and Human Services Library (HSHSL) have approved of the placement of vending machines for students at the library. The machines are planned to be located in the hallway found immediately to the right upon entering the main entrance.

At this point, it is unclear when the new vending machines will be installed. Due to the construction that is occurring within and near the building, it remains to be determined whether the planned location can handle the increased demand in electricity to power the machines.



### Addition of Gender Identity to the University Non-Discrimination Policy

by Clarence Lam, SOM

There has been student interest, which has been brought forth at several USGA Senate meetings, in adding a gender identity clause to the university's non-discrimination policy. Jason Smith (USGA President) examined the issue and found that the current non-discrimination policy was articulated by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents. The Board of Regents is the overall governing body for all state-funded and administered colleges and universities within Maryland. Smith has contacted the UMB Counsel's Office for advice on the possibility of updating the policy to include a gender identity clause. He is still awaiting their reply, and we will offer updates on the progress of this concern in future issues of USGA Recap.

# USGA OFFICER REPORTS



## Chief of Public Relations Clarence Lam

I hope that you've enjoyed the inaugural issue of USGA Recap last month and have gained a better appreciation of USGA's efforts to represent and improve your experiences here at UMB.

This position of Chief of Public Relations was created two years ago after we recognized the need for greater communication and outreach between USGA and its constituents—all of you. Since then, we've made significant strides in these efforts, a few of which I'd like to highlight. In the past two years, I've completely redesigned the USGA website to be more inviting and professional in appearance with new pictures, colors, and graphics. A current USGA roster and photos of Senators were placed online so students could more easily recognize their representatives. We've digitally recorded meetings and placed them online for public record. The website has embraced new technological capabilities including a webcast and online surveys. This year, I negotiated placement of a direct link to the USGA website from the [www.umaryland.edu](http://www.umaryland.edu) homepage. I've also worked to increase professionalism within USGA by establishing the use of name placards for Senators at meetings, the use of a gavel by the president, designated seating areas, and placement of the USGA banner at the front of the Senate meetings as well as a letterhead and specific appearance for all our documents. USGANews was updated from a plain-text e-mail to one capable of colors, links, and images, and a clear process was instituted for submitting announcements to USGANews—all changes which have increased the average USGANews readership to nearly half the student-body. I hope to continue these improvements through other creative and innovative methods to reach out and better inform all of you of the efforts of USGA.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the USGA Primary Senators who contributed to USGA Recap and have made this latest endeavor possible.

-Clarence  
clam001@umaryland.edu

## USGA Primary Senator Briefs

Lindsey Marable, Law School

A number of new and exciting things are happening at the School of Law. First and foremost the Law School has reached an all-time high U.S. News & World Report ranking as it soared to 36th position from last year's ranking of 42nd amongst over 180 law schools surveyed annually. The School of Law has excelled more than any other law school in the nation since 2002. Its Environmental law program is ranked 11th, its clinical law programs are fifth, and its Law & Health Care program second in the country. Visit the Law School website at [http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news\\_detail.asp?news=194](http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news_detail.asp?news=194) for more information.

Secondly, for those of us who couldn't get enough of 12 Angry Men, the Law School is hosting yet another event in conjunction with the Hippodrome Theatre. On Friday, May 4th at 6:00pm, come join the School of Law for a bistro-style dinner and wine in Westminster Hall as a panel of experts discusses Cherry Jones's Tony award-winning play, *Doubt*, from both legal and psychological perspectives. Following that, at 8pm we'll take a short walk over to the Hippodrome Theatre to view the critically acclaimed masterpiece. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at <http://www.broadwayacrossamerica.com/groupsales/>. Please use the password "unmdlw" when purchasing. For more information, please visit the Law School website at <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/arts/doubt.asp> and enjoy the show.

On Thursday, April 26th at 5:00pm in Westminster Hall, distinguished Visiting Professor, Kendall Thomas will present "Human Rights/Culture, a collage of sound, text and movement on the state of human rights culture". As part of the Law School's "Linking Law and the Arts" series, you can expect to hear music, see live performances, and experience usage of other media in this interesting performance piece. To reserve your FREE ticket to this event, please call 410-706-2070. For more information, visit [http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news\\_detail.asp?news=244](http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news_detail.asp?news=244).

If you're interested in the area of corporate governance, then come join the Law School's Business Law Program on April 27th at 8:00am in the Krongard Board Room for a breakfast forum discussion on majority voting, a hot topic of corporate governance. Patrick McGurn, Executive Vice President and Special Counsel of Institutional Shareholder Services and a leading national expert on corporate governance issues, and Christopher Johnson of Miles & Stockbridge, an expert in corporate and securities law, will engage in a panel discussion moderated by Professor Lisa Fairfax. The breakfast and panel discussion are free and open to the public. Please RSVP with the Office of Alumni Relations at 410-706-2070 to reserve your space. For more information, please visit [http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news\\_detail.asp?news=236](http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news_detail.asp?news=236).

That's all for now, but check the Law School News & Events page regularly for more exciting events at the Law School.

Nathan Marchiano, DMRT

Congratulations to three Department of Research and Medical Technology juniors who placed in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Region II case study competition held at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center on Saturday, March 31. Ryan Merson placed first with his presentation of Nosocomial Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis. Tiara Moore and Lorraine Wood tied for third after presenting When Snorkeling in Hong Kong Goes Wrong and Acute Hemolytic Anemia in a Patient with Mixed Species Malaria, respectively. "This is the fourth year in a row that a DMRT student placed first in the competition," said Deirdre Parsons, Interim Program Director.

Adrian Crisp (Senior) gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Landin James, at the University of Maryland Medical Center on March 31. The department now has 67 students enrolled, 18 of which have children.

The future lab scientists and biotechnologists of DMRT will be distributing informational flyers in the Sandtown/Winchester area through Enterprise Partners as part of the Community Service Day event held by the School of Medicine.



2007 ASCLS Case Study Competition

Winners:

Ryan Merson (second from left, 1st Place),  
Lorraine Wood (third from left, 3rd Place),  
Tiara Moore (fourth from left, 3rd Place).

# USGA Primary Senator Briefs (cont'd)



Allison Lynch, Phys. Therapy

Physical Therapy is a three-year, year-round doctorate program, which is affiliated with the medical school. In order to apply, you must have an undergraduate degree including certain prerequisite courses as well as experience in a physical therapy setting. Our first summer is cadaver human anatomy. We continue our didactic curriculum in a "block" class fashion for the initial two years with two part-time affiliations in the fall and spring of the second year. In June of third-year, full-time affiliations begin for a total of 36 weeks split into three, eight-week and one, twelve-week rotations. Our only requirements are that one rotation be completed out of state and another be in an acute rehab and outpatient setting. Graduation is in May, after which we must begin to prepare for the National Board Exam. After completion of that Exam you may practice in any state as long as you pay a state licensing fee.

Jannet Hseih, Pharmacy

Welcome again to the School of Pharmacy! Now you've learned some background information about our 4-year doctoral program, let me familiarize you with more details about each academic year.

During the first year of our pharmacy program, all students are divided into groups of about ten students. Members of each group will learn teamwork over the course of the year by completing assignments and projects together. Pharmacists play an important role in a team of many healthcare professionals all working on the same goal: to help people. The goal of the first year curriculum is to review the basic sciences such as physical chemistry, biochemistry, anatomy, and physiology. Students are also taught the importance of professionalism and given information on the vast career options available to pharmacists.

After completing your first year, second-year students focus more on pharmaceutical sciences such as pharmaceutics, pharmacology, and pharmacokinetics. There is greater emphasis on drug production and the effect of drugs on the human body. This is considered one of the toughest years because each week consists of at least one exam and many quizzes on all lecture materials. Students also begin working with actual patients in developing health and wellness plans and skills in patient assessment and counseling.

During the third year, the curriculum changes by placing more emphasis on integrating all the science and drugs from the first two years into clinical use. Students are given more cases to evaluate and are taught to design, implement, manage, and monitor actual patient care plans to improve patient compliance and reduce healthcare costs.

The last and final year of pharmacy school is composed of on-site rotations. Fourth-year students spend one month at each rotation site. Approximately 1600 hours of "experiential" on-site learning is required in order to receive a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Experiential Learning is a series of learning and training activities during which students work under the supervision of experienced clinical and academic faculty in a variety of healthcare sites. Students obtain and apply knowledge and skills necessary for successful delivery of pharmaceutical care and develop competence, confidence, and maturity as responsible professionals. Fourth-year students come back to campus for the final months to take pharmacy law and present senior colloquiums posters at our pharmacy research showcase.

Upcoming events from the SOP:

Phi Delta Chi: Charity Golf Tourney  
Date: Tuesday, May 1  
Place: Oakmont Green Country Club  
Contact: Adam (abres001@umaryland.edu)



Jake Weissman, Social Work

One of the most of-overlooked parts of the social work profession is the idea of advocacy for a variety of clients and causes, and nowhere was this more apparent than in the School of Social Work this past semester. With the Maryland General Assembly in full swing, four main projects surfaced. The first was House Bill 839, a bill written and advocated for by students in the school. Known in the press as the "Bottle Bill," it would have mandated a five-cent deposit on all beverage containers sold in Maryland and would provide for a five-cent refund when the bottle was returned to a redemption center. While the students pressed hard for this bill, including advocating key legislators and testifying before the committee, the bill died in a subcommittee vote.

Other bills which had heavy attention from students at SSW including HB 6, a bill which would have offered in-state tuition rates to university students if they graduated from a Maryland high school; SB 516, a bill which would prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and expression; and HB 752, a bill to increase the cigarette tax and use the generated funds to help support Medicaid and other programs. In all of these issues, social work students were testifying, advocating, and attending rallies as well as pressuring others to advocate on behalf of our clients, our friends, our neighbors, and everybody else.

One of the biggest stereotypes facing social workers on an everyday basis is the idea that we either work for the Maryland Department of Social Services or are therapists, yet more and more, this stereotype is proven false. The above is just a handful of many examples of social workers advocating and pushing for a better society for all of us, showing once more that the field of social work is greater reaching than simply therapy or casework.

Thanks!

# April-May Campus Events

Jazz Fusion with the United Students of African Descent



Please join the United Students of African Descent (USAD) for our upcoming Jazz Fusion event. This event will showcase local talent from the youth of the Baltimore community and surrounding area. Light fare and a tour of the historic Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African-American History & Culture will

also be provided. Please come and support your campus and community! We look forward to seeing you there!

WHAT: Jazz Fusion

WHEN: April 27, 2007

TIME: 6-9pm

WHERE: Reginald F. Lewis Museum

(830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 )

WHY? There will be a tour of the museum, light fare, live music, & fun, AND you get to support your campus and community!

COST: Only \$5 for UMB students, \$10 for guests; Free for USAD dues paying members!

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from Student Services (2nd Floor Student Center) or from any USAD Executive Board member. For more information call 410-706-7117 or email usad@umaryland.edu. Parking available across from the museum on Pratt St.

We hope to see you there!

This event has been co-sponsored by the University Student Government Association (USGA).

Congressman Elijah Cummings' 2007 Job Fair

Seventh district Congressman Elijah E Cummings will sponsor a job fair on Monday April 30, 2007 from 9:00am til 3:00pm at the Fifth Regiment Armory located at 29 Division Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. This event will provide attendees the opportunity to obtain information about potential employers and submit applications and or resumes for actual job openings. Parking is limited so students are encouraged to use public transportation. For more information, call Congressman Cummings' district office at 410-685-9199.

## USGA Sponsored Group Updates: Chinese Students & Scholars Assoc. International Students Org.

by Qi Cao, International Students Organization

Have you always wanted to travel around the world, experience the richness of diverse cultures, and taste a variety of savory cuisines? The International Student Organization (ISO) has planned the perfect trip for you, without ever leaving campus. Every spring, ISO the world to you with its annual World Fest, a festival of culture, food, and fashion, right here at the Student Center.

At World Fest, students and guests will be able to sample delicious foods including Chinese, Indian, Thai, Cuban, middle-Eastern, Brazilian, and Ethiopian as well as to learn about each of these cultures. Later in the evening, students representing their cultures will grace us with their modeling of traditional costumes and modern designs from Vietnam, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Thailand, Japan, India, and China in the International Fashion Show. This year part of the proceeds from

World Fest will benefited UMB's Project Jump Start.

The ISO is a USGA-sponsored student organization aimed at promoting the interests of international students at UMB and stimulating cross-cultural exchange within the UMB community. Membership is open to all current students of UMB. The ISO welcomes everyone to attend its many events such as World Fest and International Dessert Festival throughout the year. Subgroups of the ISO include Chinese Student and Scholars Association (CSSA) and Indian Association (IA). More information regarding World Fest and the ISO can be found at [www.umaryland.edu/iso](http://www.umaryland.edu/iso).



WorldFest 2007 (Photo credit: Jannet Hseih)

## Chinese Students & Scholars Assoc.

by Yue Zhu, ISO/CSSA

Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) at University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is a non-profit, non-political organization with voluntary executive committee. As an official organization sponsored by USGA, it has been a key participant in activities on campus as well as in big events in Baltimore, MD. CSSA goal is to promote social and cultural exchange between the Chinese community and other cultural and social groups on campus and in the Maryland-Washington D.C. area.

CSSA serves as an information center in providing resources and services to Chinese students and scholars, especially those who are newcomers to the area. Every year, we organize festival celebrations, cultural events, sports activities, and other gatherings every to entertain the students of UMB. CSSA also aims to represent Chinese students, express their wishes, and protect their rights as students of the UMB community.

## Upcoming USGA Meeting



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>.

