

# News on The Grove

January/February 2010

A USG Student Council Publication



## Maryland Board of Advisors and Universities at Shady Grove Host Annual Scholarship Luncheon

By Arfa Syed (UMUC)

USG Student Council is a tightly knit organization of several student executive members, program representatives, and assembly members that is dedicated to advocate the voice, concerns, and needs of the USG student body. The council's main goal is to coalesce the several institutions on campus as one through their many activities.

Please come stop by our office in SC 3, Room 1104 to get more information!



Left Image: Luncheon Reception Hall. Right Image: (left to right) Trey Savitz, Elysa Fisher, Arfa Syed, and Joe Buccì (Marketing).

Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> marked the celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Board of Advisors Scholarship Luncheon hosted by Brad Young (Chair of the BOA Scholarship Committee) and Dr. Stew Edelstein (Executive Director of the Universities at Shady Grove). Honoring the 2009-2010 Shady Grove Scholarship recipients for their hard work as well as all the benevolent donors for their continued support towards higher education, the reception hall was filled with emotion as distinguished guests applauded student accomplishments, and indebted students thanked their donors.

Notable guests included the Honorable Shiela Hixson ( Delegate District 20), Camille Kendall, and several Board of Advisors

Members including Chairman Mike Priddy and the newest member to the BOA, Mr. Raj Khera. In addition to student success, two USG faculty and staff were appreciated for their dedication to the Shady Grove campus. Dr. Noben-Trauth, from the Biological Sciences Department, was the recipient of the Kendall Excellence in teaching award, and the late Steven Purcell was awarded for Outstanding Service to Students. Mr. Purcell's sister Denise was present to accept the award on his behalf.

The Shady Grove Marketing Department (featured above) was proud

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## MoCo Hidden Treasures- Rodeo Drive Quality on a Student's Budget

Courtesy of News on the Grove Editors



MoCo Hidden Treasures is the newsletters latest column made just for students (who, as we all know, live on tight budgets). This column will tell you about all the places in Montgomery County where you can get that cheap eat, less than \$20 haircut, and how stretch your dollar to the max. This issue features:

»Yankee Clippers Men's Hair-Owned by Jerry who'll give you good conversation with your \$8 haircut. But while you wait, enjoy the pool table or Marilyn Monroe Posters on the wall! 7 Dawson Ave, Rockville, MD 20850

»P.F. Changs-Happy Hour prices you just cant beat from 3-6p.m.& only \$3-\$6! Icing on the cake-this applies to weekends as well! 11301 Rockville Pike Space N. Bethesda, MD 20895



## The 2010 Blizzard Can't Stop a Bake Sale Filled with Love

By Arfa Syed (UMUC)



**Top left:** Students William Plum and Arin Teymouri whom purchased \$10 worth of cupcakes. **Above:** Student Council member Joy Laing and V.P. of Finance Cathy Lee selling the baked goodies! **Right:** Cupcakes from the fundraiser.

As a fundraiser for the Senior gift (an environmentally friendly present left behind by the graduating senior class and Student Council), a Valentine's day bake sale was scheduled to be held on February 10, but much to the dismay of the Student Council, the sale was forcefully canceled as a result of the blizzard conditions and closing of USG. Skeptical about holding a "Valentine's Theme" sale after the holiday, the Student Council "followed their hearts" and rescheduled the fundraiser for February 24th.

Members baked dozens of cupcakes and brownies, filled with love, to sell and fundraise for the gift, only to be overwhelmed by the support of students, faculty, and staff. The sale was a super hit and sold out within an hour. Loyal students and staff not only came in packs, but also bought in packs, sometimes purchasing 5-6 cupcakes a sale. Thanks to the support of everyone, the Student Council was able to raise more than \$150 dollars!

## Financial Aid Awareness at USG...Did You Know?

Courtesy of Gloria Kalotra (Student Services Coordinator)



- Did you know that Federal Student Aid has over 80 billion dollars each year to help students with tuition?
- Did you know that you can miss out on thousands of dollars if you miss institution and state deadlines?
- Did you know that you can apply for financial aid at anytime?
- Are you an international student and need help in finding financial resources?
- Did you know USG has scholarship opportunities?
- Do you need help in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)?

Have no fear...USG's Office of Student Services is here! Stop by anytime in our office and we're happy to help. For more information please e-mail us at [shadygrove@umd.edu](mailto:shadygrove@umd.edu) or call us at (301) 738-6023.

## The Advocate Says... The Auxiliary Services Advisory Board is Here for You!

By J.R. Fraker (UB)  
(V.P. of Advocacy)



The Auxiliary Services Advisory Board at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) was formed this past year to provide feedback, opinions, and evaluations of existing and planned services at Shady Grove. Services include the recreation center, Bon Appétit Café, as well as the bookstore. Led by Carl May, Director of Auxiliary Services, the board also composes of current students and USG administrative staff. Student board members include Lindsey Egan (UMUC), and Student Council's very own J.R. Fraker (UMB) and Kruti Mehta (UMCP). Administrative staff includes Julie Rader, (Associate Director of Student Services) and Mary Resop, (Coordinator in Student Services).

After several students attended and expressed concerns at Student Council meetings about USG recreational facilities, several proposals were presented for future recreational spaces this past Fall. The three main proposals that were favored by the board included a basketball court, a volleyball court, and a soccer field. The USG Student Council has been polling students on which of these proposals they would like to see on campus, the results of which will be shared with students and the board in the near future.

The board has two more meetings tentatively scheduled in March and at the end of the spring semester. If you have any ideas or concerns you wish this board to address please contact J.R. Fraker at [jfrak001@umaryland.edu](mailto:jfrak001@umaryland.edu).



## Graduation is Approaching!! Have You Secured Yourself a Job?

STOP BY THE CAREER SERVICES CENTER  
IN BUILDING III or visit:

[www.shadygrove.umd.edu/careerservices](http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu/careerservices) for  
help with the following:

- Resume & Cover Letter Writing
- Internship Opportunities
- Job Search Strategies
- Interview Preparation
- Career Workshops
- Networking with local employers

Contact Samantha Caruth at  
[scaruth@umd.edu](mailto:scaruth@umd.edu)  
for more information

**LOCAL JOB MARKET**



Above: Executive Chef Franz in his native  
cafe

## Bon Appétit Chef Franz Corrales Featured in the Fall 2009 Issue of *Bravo*

By Arfa Syed (UMUC)

Executive Chef Franz Corrales has enraptured USG student, staff, and faculty taste buds with his ambrosial dishes, from his Turkish kabobs to his delightful potato cakes. Our main chef is not only appreciated at the Shady Grove Bon Appétit, but was recently featured in the Bon Appétit Management Company newsletter for establishing an herb garden in an effort with the Shady Grove Green Committee.

Already on a quest to eat and purchase locally, Chef Franz now tends the basil and herb garden on the third floor balcony. The basil that is enjoyed by all, whether on the pizza or in the tomato soup, is a precious product of our master chef. Franz and the green committee are now collaborating on projects for a larger garden in the coming years to include peppers and tomatoes. We wish them all the best in their exciting efforts and look forward to some more local and fresh foods.



## T.A.X.— 3 Letters That Make a Big Word

By Maggie Lutsky (UMUC)



April 15<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it. By the end of January, you should have received all the necessary documentation to file your 2009 income tax returns. Some figures that you may need handy while filling out your forms are as follows:

### Standard Deductions

Single: **\$5,700**

Head of Household: **\$8,350**

Married Filing Joint: **\$11,400**

Married Filing Separately: **\$5,700**

### Personal Exemptions

Individuals may claim a personal exemption for themselves and any individual they support. This exemption acts just like a deduction; it reduces your annual gross income, so you pay less tax.

**Personal exemptions** are subject to phase-out limits. Taxpayers will lose some of their personal exemptions if adjusted gross income exceeds certain threshold amounts. Taxpayers can lose at most two-thirds of their personal exemptions. See IRS Publication 501 to determine whether your adjusted gross income is over the acceptable threshold amounts.

We have seen a few changes in the tax laws recently that affect students. The biggest one concerns the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**. Under ARRA, more parents and students will qualify over the next two years for a tax credit, the American Opportunity Credit, to pay for college expenses. The new credit modifies the existing Hope Credit for tax years 2009 and 2010, making the Hope Credit available to a

broader range of taxpayers, including many with higher incomes and those who owe no tax. It also adds required course materials to the list of qualifying expenses and allows the credit to be claimed for four post-secondary education years instead of two. Many of those eligible will qualify for the maximum annual credit of \$2,500 per student.

The full credit is available to those individuals with modified adjusted gross income of \$80,000 or less, or \$160,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return. The credit is phased out for taxpayers with incomes above these levels. These income limits are higher than under the existing Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits.

For more information, see IRS [Publication 970](#), Tax Benefits for Education.

### Did you Know...

- You can deduct cost of college tuition and other mandatory school fees on Form 1040?
- You can claim up to \$2,500 of student loan interest you paid as an above-the-line tax deduction on Form 1040?





## USG Board of Advisors Rolled-up Their Sleeves & Grabbed an Apron to Help with Campus Kitchens

*By Muhammad Waqar (UMCP)*



Members of the Board of Advisors and USG staff members volunteered at the UMES/USG Campus Kitchen on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Board member, Teresa Wright along with her two students from Thomas Edison HS Culinary Arts program cut the green peppers, mushrooms, and carrots with UMES HRM student Isabel Martinez. Board members Tom Murphy, Mike Priddy and Student Council President Muhammad Waqar assembled a wheat berry pilaf and placed it in containers for the 16 families from the Dwelling Place.



**Above:** Tom Murphy and Mike Priddy of the Board of Advisors helping in the kitchen

Director of Development, Bill Schlossenberg showed his skills at cutting onions while Karen Lenz and Mary Lang diligently packed the food in the bags ensuring everyone got their fair share of food items. Dr. Stewart Edelstein mingled with the UMES students and kept the atmosphere light and enjoyable with his great sense of humor.

The Campus Kitchens Project is a nationwide nonprofit organization that partners with universities to provide food to the needy in their community. At USG, students design healthy, family-friendly menus, and prepare approximately 200 meals each month divided into easy-to-serve portions. Ensuring that nothing goes to waste, stu-

dents use donated surplus ingredients remaining from classroom instruction or campus events, along with foods purchased through funds they solicit from local businesses.

The Campus Kitchen Program at USG is managed by seniors in the Hotel Restaurant Management program, and is embedded in their professional development curriculum. The mission of Campus Kitchen is to; “strengthen bodies” by using existing resources to meet hunger and nutritional needs in our community, “empower minds” by providing leadership and service learning opportunities to students, and educational benefits to adults, seniors, children, and families in need; and “building communities” by fostering a new generation of community-minded adults through resourceful and mutually beneficial partnership among students, social services agencies, business, and schools.

Meals prepared at the USG Campus Kitchen are donated to the 16 families from The Dwelling Place, a transitional housing agency in Gaithersburg. Along with low cost housing, the Dwelling Place offers programs helping them to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. The goal of the Dwelling Place is “Ending Homelessness one Family at a Time.”

If you or your student organization also wants to volunteer at the Campus Kitchen, you can come help them every on every third Thursday of the month. If you have any questions, please email at Chef Susan Callahan at [sbcallahan@umes.edu](mailto:sbcallahan@umes.edu).



**Above:** Teresa Wright (of BOA) with students



## David Plouffe on *The Audacity to Win*

By Arfa Syed (UMUC)

Hosted on January 19, at George Washington University, the newly formed Progressive Book Club welcomed a facilitated discussion with David Plouffe, Campaign manager to then presidential candidate Barack Obama, in the historical elections of 2008. In his acceptance speech, President Obama praised Plouffe stating he is, “the unsung hero of this campaign, who built the . . . best political campaign, I think, in the history of the United States of America,” in reference to Plouffe’s campaign with the Obama Administration called *Organizing for America (OFA)*.

Moderator Sam Stein, Political reporter for *The Huffington Post*, questioned Plouffe on several issues, from his new book, *The Audacity to Win*, to the current debate on healthcare, all the while polls culminated for the senatorial race in Massachusetts. When questioned on polls showing a Republican lead, Plouffe was still hopeful that a bill on healthcare would be passing this year despite party contention.

Plouffe now serves as a Senior Advisor to the Obama Administration and continues to tour for his new book which released almost simultaneously with Sarah Palin’s bestseller *Going Rogue*. David Plouffe and the Progressive Book Club also challenged members to support and purchase Plouffe’s book and turn in it to a bestseller as well (or at least beat Palin’s sales for a day). Highlights from the event may be seen here: <http://www.progressivebookclub.com/blog/2010/01/25/david-plouffe-if-you-run-from-health-care-they-will-still-attack-you/>

**Above:** Sam Stein of the Huffington Post interviewing David Plouffe at Progressive Book Club event.

## Scholarship Luncheon continued...

*continued cover story...*

...to see their team Program Specialist, Trey Savitz, recognized as recipient of The Chaim & Miriam Bentzlovitch Scholarship for 2009. UMES also made USG very proud as their Hotel & Restaurant Management Students catered the entire event.

A special thanks to the organizers of the special event: William Schlossenberg, Joyce Schneider, Judy Streeter, Gloria Kalotra, Obi Akaigwe, Karen Lenz, Andrew Ghanem, and USG Student Ambassadors. Additional photos from the event will be coming in the next issue!

## UMUC Launches New Blog



What better way to connect with UMUC’s 90,000 students in over 23 countries than their latest Social Media tool- UMUC Experience. Launched in January 2010, the blog will feature UMUC resources, upcoming events, surveys, and much more.

Students are able to read other student success stories (including one featured in The Gazette) as well as connect to the many other social media sites UMUC is using, including Flickr and youtube.com.

Visit Experience UMUC at <http://www.experienceumuc.com/> for more information and student opportunities.

## Attention Social Work Students!

By *Jatnna Fortuna (UMBC)*

Are you a social work student in need of some updates on your profession of choice? Or maybe you just want to find ways to get involved? If so, luckily the future social workers of America have an association that can help make the school-to-field transition a little smoother. The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), is the largest organization concentrated in the Social Work field in the United States. It consists of 56 chapters that serve in all 50 states. Among its many services, NASW provides accreditation, newsletters, litigation, advocacy, conferences, insurance protection, and above all a Code of Ethics, which governs that social work profession.

Social work students have the advantage of joining the association prior to graduating from the program. For a reasonable fee, students can receive the many membership benefits which include online classes, supplemental courses, publications, loan forgiveness, scholarships and fellowships, and a space to network. NASW offers tools for professionals and students to remain up to date with the field. The USG Social Work Student Association (SWSA) offers assistance connecting students interested in the NASW. Interested students should keep an eye on the events organized by SWSA during the semester which many times include NASW speakers or participation in NASW events.



## Sharing a Study Abroad Experience

By *Joy Laing (UMCP)*



**Above:** Program Representative, Joy Laing, with fellow study abroad students in England.

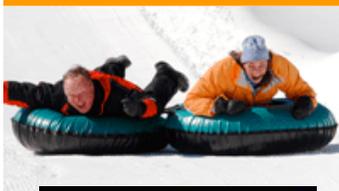
In the summer of 2008, I studied abroad in Cambridge, England as part of the Montgomery Scholars Program. As an international business major, I place high value on opportunities to study abroad. I often reflect on my experiences in Cambridge and apply my observations to my studies.

When studying overseas, you are put into a significantly different environment than you are used to at home. Certainly, there are many similarities: fast food, technology, cars, and even the language. It may be hard to believe there are many differences especially with the help of technology powering globalization. However there are many subtle differences that exist within the culture. This is visible in the architecture, music, education system, the literature, and even the natural landscape. There always seems to be a uniqueness about

other countries that words cannot sufficiently describe.

Through my experience I have learned to appreciate the differences in culture. I have learned to look at the world with an open mind. I think students can really benefit from studying abroad. Sure, you can read and hear about other countries, but what you learn from that is someone else's perspective. To visit a foreign country for yourself can give you a completely different point of view. Before my experience, I was prone to making judgments. The things I've seen, the things I've heard and the things I've read about the world clouded my ability to be objective when observing other cultures. I had many biases. After studying abroad, I learned to think openly and independently of others beliefs.

Studying abroad teaches students to think critically, with an open mind, and with a global perspective. In today's society, it is important to be able to think and act in a global standpoint. It is extremely difficult to live with only one set of beliefs and one predominant culture. I believe that students in all areas of study should take advantage of opportunities to study abroad. The possibilities and the benefits that you receive are truly remarkable and enriching to your future careers.



Top: Photo of snow tubers at Whitetail (courtesy Whitetail Ski Resort) Middle: Snow tubing slope. Above: Photo of Program representative Jennifer Willis after a snow tubing experience.

## In a Winter Olympics Mood? Try Whitetail Ski Resort

By Jennifer Willis (UMCP)

Looking for a cheap get away that's close to home? Over the break I discovered White Tail Resort, a facility that includes skiing, snowboarding, and tubing less than two hours away from Shady Grove! White Tail Ski Resort is located in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania on Tuscarora Mountain Range, and is well worth the drive.

Many have heard of skiing and sledding, but snow tubing? A concept that was completely foreign to me, snow tubing is a combination of sledding and riding water slides at an amusement park. It is the perfect option for college students who still love to go sledding (like me!), costing a flat rate and requiring no rental fees. Customers simply pay for the amount of participative hours that are desired, select a tube, and hit the slopes. During midweek, snow tubers can purchase tickets for as low as sixteen dollars!

The Snow Tubing area at WhiteTail has ten unique slopes to choose from, with the first five being steepest. After approaching the end of the incline, snow tubers simply stand on a conveyor belt that returns them to the hill's summit. If participants desire to ride faster down the slopes, they can team up with a partner, tying their individual tubes together by the handles.

I recommend racing down the slopes with another person, laying face down, for the most exciting experience. Word of advice, do not dress to impress! Be practical and wear as many layers of clothing as possible, including snow boots to remain warm. More information on the resort can be found at <http://www.skiwhitetail.com>.

Special thanks to the staff and contributing writers of this issue:



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Interested in joining the USG Student Council? We're interested in you! Email the USG Student Council at [Usg.studentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Usg.studentcouncil@gmail.com) for an application to join today!



### UPCOMING SHADY GROVE EVENTS



Student organizations are hosting the must-attend event of the spring semester – **Spring Carnivale!** Come out for a fun filled events of games, music, food, and excitement all for a great cause! All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to help the people of Haiti. The event will take place on **Tuesday, March 9 from 5pm to 8pm in the SG 2 multipurpose room.**

Want to get involved? Email [mresop@umd.edu](mailto:mresop@umd.edu) on how you can help!

#### BBALL Game time

03.05.10 @ 1pm

INDOOR basketball tournament! All students are encouraged to participate. Fabulous grand prize awarded to winning team. The event will take place at Thomas Farm Community Center (700 Fallsgrave Drive Rockville, MD). All USG students and staff are welcome to sign up a team or to attend this event. For more information please email [SEBatUSG@umd.edu](mailto:SEBatUSG@umd.edu)

Want to write for News on the Grove? Email our editors at: [usg.studentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:usg.studentcouncil@gmail.com)

