

# News & Notes



The UNIVERSITIES  
at Shady Grove



University of Maryland  
University College

## "Campus Kitchen" Project Dishes Up Generous Helpings Of Support

*Students Cook Together To Provide For Struggling Local Families*

On a recent weekday, a commercial kitchen at The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is a beehive of activity as students prepare meals to be donated to 16 low-income families at The Dwelling Place, a transitional housing facility in Gaithersburg. The USG Campus Kitchen Project, initiated in 2008 by University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Hotel and Restaurant Management lecturer Susan Callahan, is designed to engage students in a monthly community service program that also builds teamwork and leadership skills.

The Campus Kitchens Project is a nationwide nonprofit organization that partners with universities to provide food to families in need while fostering professional development and community involvement by students. 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, students use donated surplus ingredients remaining from classroom instruction or campus events, along with foods purchased through funds they solicit from local businesses.

Mary Vargas is president of the student-run Campus Kitchen Project at USG. A senior in the UMES Hotel and Restaurant Management program, she also works fulltime as a dining supervisor in a Silver Spring retirement home. "Campus Kitchen is a great program that brings us together as a team and as a community at USG," adding, "We're helping families who really need it and that's rewarding." She hopes to return to help after her graduation this spring.

On this day, the team of students is preparing a menu that consists of five gallons of tomato soup along with 32 cheese and bean quesadillas; vats of chicken stroganoff with noodles; and 20 pounds of meatballs in a lemon-dill sauce. When the

food is cooked, the students – each wearing black Campus Kitchens tee-shirts - form an assembly line along the countertops, filling paper grocery bags with the prepared meals which will be picked up later by staff at The Dwelling Place.

When the meals are carefully packed away, the group scrubs pots, wipes down the stainless steel countertops and sweeps the floor, leaving the kitchen gleaming. Then the students disperse until the next month when they will return to dish up more meals for the appreciative families at The Dwelling Place who are trying to rebuild their lives. ■



Volunteer USG student-chefs help feed bodies and souls at community shelter.

## Funding Their Futures

### Caring Community Members Provide Scholarships For Deserving USG Students

At the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), scholarships can make all the difference in forging bright futures and rewarding careers. William Schlossenberg, USG's Director of Development and Community Partnerships, says the number as well as the amounts of scholarships available to students continues to grow. Numerous USG students receive help with expenses, as more and more donors – many of whom once received scholarships of their own – now have the opportunity to give back to their community.

For businessman Sterling Crockett of North Bethesda, establishing an endowed scholarship fund at USG this year was an important way to nurture students who exhibit an outstanding entrepreneurial spirit along with an interest in construction technology. Crockett is himself a successful entrepreneur, as founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Sterling Construction Services, Inc., with offices in Rockville, Baltimore and Ft. Lauderdale. He was named 2008 Small Business Leader of the Year by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce.

Named for him and his wife, The Florence & Sterling Crockett Scholarship will be awarded to two students each year, beginning in the fall of 2009. "USG seemed to be a great place to make an impact," Crockett says. As a young man, he was the recipient of a much-needed scholarship that allowed him to complete his education, becoming the first person in his family to



Sterling Crockett

graduate from college.

"That scholarship was a major turning point in my life. I have tried to honor their investment in me by giving back and helping others," Crockett says.

Donor Leah Waks of Gaithersburg could think of no better way to honor the memory of her parents than the establishment of a new scholarship fund at USG.



Dr. Leah Waks

Dr. Waks' late parents were born in Eastern Europe and endured a harrowing two-year-long escape from Poland after the Nazi invasion, finally settling in Israel where they lived for the duration of their lives.

Beginning in the fall of 2009, the Miriam & Chaim Bentzlovitch Scholarship will be given each year to a rising senior communication major. Dr. Waks is director of the Undergraduate Studies Program in the Department of Communication at the University of Maryland College Park.

Dr. Waks chose to establish this scholarship at USG because of its large enrollment of working students. "If I could just cover some of their expenses, it would help - every little bit helps them," she explains. She herself is a first-generation college graduate and an immigrant from Israel, who appreciates the diverse backgrounds of USG students. "I think it's important for these students to get recognition for their hard work and successful efforts," Dr. Waks says.

For additional scholarship information, please contact William Schlossenberg, at [wschloss@umd.edu](mailto:wschloss@umd.edu) or 301/ 738-6113. ■

## Kendall Award Winner

### Susan Callahan

#### She Shares Recipes For Success With USG Students



Susan Callahan

As a Chef Instructor and Lecturer in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Shady Grove campus, Susan Callahan knows how to stir up excitement in her students. Known for her passion, enthusiasm and instructional creativity, Callahan is this year's winner of the Kendall

Award for Excellence in Teaching. The Kendall Award was established through the generosity of USG supporters Clifford and Camille Kendall.

At USG, Callahan helped establish a vibrant chapter of the nonprofit Campus Kitchens, which helps feed needy families in Montgomery County throughout the year (see accompanying story) while also teaching professional development skills to students.

"Susan is wonderful – she is always trying to empower us and make us leaders. She's a great motivator and very energetic. We're lucky to have her," says USG senior Mary Vargas, student leader of Campus Kitchens.

Callahan has a background in the culinary arts and was a corporate trainer for Marriott. She also taught at L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda before deciding to teach at a university level. "We have great education right here in Montgomery County, for students who can't afford to go away to school. And we have great clients here to hire them, like Marriott, Clyde's Restaurants and Ridgewells Caterers," she explains.

A resident of Silver Spring and the mother of four grown sons, Callahan is also a textile artist and has shown her work throughout the country. "I love working with my hands and creating things," she says, as evidenced by her hot pink and bright yellow chef's jacket which she tie-dyed herself.

For this colorful chef, receiving the Kendall Award "is really just amazing – I'm shocked and honored," Callahan says. ■



**Dr. Marsha Youngblood, Dr. Stewart Edelstein, Executive Director USG, Dr. Bridgett Price, USG Board of Advisors, Michael Priddy, 1st Vice Chair, USG Board of Advisors**

## Kendall Award Winner Dr. Marsha Youngblood *She Opens Doors To Academic Success For USG Students*

**D**r. Marsha Youngblood, associate director of the Center for Academic Success (CAS) at The Universities at Shady Grove, is this year's winner of the Kendall Award for Outstanding Service to Students. Through the generosity of dedicated supporters Cliff Kendall and his wife Camille, USG has established this annual award to recognize faculty and staff who have performed exceptionally in supporting student success.

Dr. Youngblood has made it her mission to see that students at USG have the necessary study skills to reach their goals and achieve their dreams. Under her guidance, CAS offers innovative learning strategies for students, including workshops on speed reading and time management along with the very popular Guided Study Sessions led by high-achieving students who work with their classmates in challenging subject areas.

Dr. Youngblood is certainly not afraid of challenges. In 1977, she, her husband Jack and six-month-old daughter, Sarah, set out on an extraordinary 14-year adventure to teach English overseas in India, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. In 1991, the family was evacuated during the first Gulf War and settled in the Washington, D.C. area. She has lived in Silver Spring for the past 12 years. Her experiences overseas gave Dr. Youngblood a wide background in multi-cultural life, one that has served her well here. "Shady Grove is known for its diversity – I love it. The students have so much to offer – it's terrific," she says.

Working with USG students, she says, is the capstone of her career. "All of my experiences come together here at Shady Grove. I'm very happy about the Kendall Award – it says our model is working. We're able to touch a lot of students," she says. In fact, 55 percent of the daytime undergraduate population across all nine academic institutions at USG has come to the Center for Academic Success to improve their study skills. ■

## Simulation & Digital Entertainment Program *Much More Than Fun And Games – It's A Fast-Growing, Challenging Career Path*

**S**ince its arrival at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) campus in the fall of 2007, the University of Baltimore's Simulation & Digital Entertainment program has steadily expanded each semester. Today, 86 men and women are now actively pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees leading to exciting careers in the burgeoning multi-billion dollar game development industry. The state of Maryland - home to approximately 100 companies - is second only to California in the number of interactive developers and agencies in the United States.

Students, however, are creating far more than games to entertain; they are also learning how to develop simulators and interactive computer applications vital to military, medical and industrial training as well as in education. As an increasing number of institutions incorporate these important technologies, job growth is expected to climb each year.

The University of Baltimore's Simulation & Digital Entertainment program at USG is spearheaded by its founding director, Kathleen Harmeyer, who earned her doctorate in Communications Design at UB. Using USG's state-of-the-art computer lab in Rockville,



**UB at USG Global Game Jam team  
Front left to right, Alex Tran, Mike Couture, Jenny Lees, Brian Doyle.  
Back row, Derek Willemstijn**

students learn how to develop a wide variety of computer applications that employ three-dimensional graphics, technical writing and project management, allowing them to develop their portfolios. By taking electives or additional courses they can also prepare themselves for graduate study in information technology and computer science.

Dr. Harmeyer has been delighted with the students who have enrolled in the program at USG. "They are uniformly creative, hardworking, smart and driven – it is a dream come true to work with them," she says, adding, "They'll be very competitive in this industry."

As proof of their excellence, a team of six USG students in the program

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## USG's Mission Is The Message

### Board Of Advisors Chair James Mannarino Looks Back On His Term, And Ahead To The Future



James Mannarino

James Mannarino, outgoing Chair of the Board of Advisors for The Universities at Shady Grove (USG), has thoroughly enjoyed his role as an ambassador spreading the word about USG's core mission: to provide affordable high-quality baccalaureate and graduate degree programs here in Montgomery County.

Mannarino, who is completing his two-year term as chair this spring, first joined the Board of Advisors in 2002. As president and publisher of the Gaithersburg-based Gazette Newspapers which covers education issues extensively, Mannarino decided he wanted to become involved. "[USG] is a unique model for higher education that has been attracting attention around the country," Mannarino says.

In addition to communicating information about USG's mission to high school guidance counselors, teachers, parents and business leaders, Mannarino and his fellow board members promote workforce development to provide quality employees to meet the needs of the region. Board members, who hail from the fields of education, business, finance, law, healthcare, government and biotechnology, advise USG administrators and its nine university partners about adding academic programs to meet specific staffing needs. "A great practical example is the new University of Maryland, Baltimore's pharmacy program at USG, which is enrolling 40 students each year. When the first class graduates in 2011, USG will have 160 students studying in the professional 4-year doctoral program here," Mannarino explains.

"Montgomery County is the economic center of the state – we have to pay attention to the huge educational and workforce needs here. Let's graduate people who will live here," he says.

As a board member, Mannarino has also worked to create strong relationships with USG's university partners by meeting with college presidents and support staff to learn more about their needs and challenges.

"The Board of Advisors is a very rewarding group to be involved in – I was wowed by what I saw here and I've loved every bit of it," Mannarino says. "I would love to continue to be engaged with USG and support USG and its mission in any way I can," he adds.

"The students here are absolutely amazing – they come from such diverse backgrounds and have faced such challenges. I go to every event I can and spend time talking to the students – they blow me away," he says. Mannarino, who grew up in Montgomery County and graduated from Winston Churchill High School in Potomac and the University of Maryland, admits, "I haven't faced some of their struggles. When I see these students, fighting to better themselves, it's very humbling." ■

### Simulation & Digital Entertainment Program - continued

recently won the "Games for Health" competition held at the UB campus in Baltimore this past fall. These students helped develop an interactive health education game over a 24-hour period, working against other students as well as professionals. In January, USG sponsored an exciting Global Game Jam, a weekend-long international competition to create a viable video game in just 48 hours. Completed games will be shown at the Game Developers Conference this spring in San Francisco.

Graduates of the Simulation & Digital Entertainment Program have successfully found challenging positions at area companies like Firaxis (known for its blockbuster game, "Sid Meier's Civilization"), Bethesda Softworks, and Lockheed Martin, among others. Executives from many of these companies advise the university on curriculum and help place USG students in professional internships. ■

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 25, 2008

9 am - 12 pm

for prospective students and their families



The UNIVERSITIES  
at Shady Grove

a unique partnership of 9 Maryland  
Universities in one location