



# System Insider

Volume 1 Issue 2    www.usmd.edu    December 2008/January 2009



## WAY 2 GO MARYLAND

USM has launched [Way2GoMaryland](#), an information campaign designed to encourage more students to begin preparing for college early. “This campaign supports Chancellor Kirwan’s ‘Closing the Achievement Gap’ initiative, a system-wide effort to increase the preparation, participation, retention, and graduation rates of students,” said [Anne Moultrie](#), associate vice chancellor for communications and Way2GoMaryland director.

The launch event, held earlier this fall at the Maryland Science Center, attracted students—and their parents—from five Baltimore City middle-schools. They were among the first to visit the Way2GoMaryland web site ([www.way2gomaryland.org](#)), developed by design firm LMD working with [John Buettner](#), USM media relations and web manager. Delivering strong and compelling messages about the value of working hard to prepare for college at the launch were: Chancellor Kirwan; Jack Cronin, president of ATK’s mission support group; current and former USM students; and representatives from admissions offices system-wide. ATK, a leading aerospace and defense company, has committed \$210,000 in funding and in-kind support over the next three years.

Volunteers from the system offices of advancement, academic affairs, and communications helped to make the launch a success.

Currently, the USM communications office is distributing information about Way2GoMaryland statewide and planning future events.

If you have children in middle- or high-school and would like them to receive a Way2GoMaryland gift bag, contact [Latoya Jefferson](#), who worked with the vendor to create the give-aways.

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## In Office News

The deadline for the Professional Development Award application offered by the USM Women's Forum is January 31st. A maximum scholarship of \$500 will be awarded to an employee for use toward non-credit courses, conferences, or training. Applicants must have been employed full-time or part-time with the university system for at least one year and must have submitted required documents with the scholarship application.

The USM Women's Forum works to enhance the status of women, foster networking among women, and encourage the participation of women in all facets of the university system. For more information, contact [Lyn McDonald](#) in HR or visit <http://usmwf.usmd.edu/index.html>

The first floor of the Elkins Building is still being renovated. The Office of Communications staff has relocated to the second floor in offices that were previously occupied by Leonard Raley and advancement staff. The first phase of the construction has been completed and some advancement staff have relocated to the new offices. The second phase of construction is scheduled to be completed in December with remaining advancement staff being moved into their new offices by mid-December. Contact [David Balcom](#) at 445.2721 for more information.

The 2008 Maryland Charity Campaign that was coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs for the system office has ended. Donations are still being accepted for the charity of your choice via payroll deduction or personal check. A total of \$450 is still needed to meet this year's goal of \$25,475. For pledge forms, charity listing booklets or more information, contact [Davana Purushotham](#) in Academic Affairs at 445.1992.

### Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to:

- ◆ **Joseph Vivona**, chief operating officer of administration and finance, on receiving the award in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.
- ◆ **Chancellor Kirwan**, who received the Health Leadership Award from the Baltimore Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.
- ◆ **Nancy Shapiro**, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, for her leadership that led to a \$12.4 million National Science Foundation grant to enhance STEM teaching and learning in Prince George's County schools.

## Events Calendar



December 9 Chancellor's Coffee  
December 25-31 Christmas/Winter Holidays  
January 1, 2009– New Year's Day  
January 2, 2009– University Holiday  
January 3, 2009 Return to service



## **Benefaction**

*Ever wondered if there were any other perks available to USM employees? Well, there are benefits beyond the health insurance, tuition remission, and pension plans. Here's one to explore:*

With the new telecommute option, employees must make sure they have the same capabilities at home as they do at the office. The Maryland Education Enterprise Consortium has negotiated contracts that will allow the USM IT department to install on personal computers work-at-home versions of the Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc). Microsoft Operating System (Windows XP Professional, Windows Vista) upgrades, and McAfee VirusScan at no cost to employees.

USM employees are also eligible to purchase hardware from specific vendors at a discounted rate. Employees can purchase computers from such vendors as Apple, Dell, and Gateway.

For more information contact [Fred Hayes](#) in the IT department or visit [www.meec-edu.org/hdstupurchase.html](http://www.meec-edu.org/hdstupurchase.html)

## **Initiatives**



### Going Green

In support of the Chancellor's environmental initiative, here are a few tips on how to go green in the office and at home.

1. During the cold months wear clothes made of thicker fabric to stay warm in lieu of turning up the thermostat.
2. Use nontoxic cleaning products to clean your office and your home.
3. Brighten up your office with plants which absorb indoor pollution.



## A Healthy System

In September during a meeting at the USM offices, Maryland State Benefits Coordinator Diane Bell suffered a heart attack. Susan Jiacinto (Chancellor's office) and Carrie Roberts (Advancement office) were able to quickly respond using skills learned from CPR training taken just a week before. Unfortunately, Bell died later at a hospital. To help promote a healthier lifestyle for office employees here are a few tips:

- Get a full eight hours of sleep to help lower your blood pressure and increase your metabolism.
- Eat plenty of whole grains, fruits & veggies, beans and fish.
- Exercise daily. Just 30 minutes of an exercise that elevates the heart rate strengthens the heart muscle. You can start by walking the perimeter of the building's parking lot. This also helps to lower stress.

## Reminders



The Maryland Business Roundtable for Education is currently recruiting volunteers to speak to middle- and high-school students for its Achievement Counts Program. The program serves all areas of Maryland. For more information, visit [www.mbrt.org](http://www.mbrt.org) or contact [LaTara Harris](#) at 410.727.0448.

There are USM logo mugs, keychains, lapel pins, and ink pens available for distribution at meetings, conferences and to special guests. Contact [Latoya Jefferson](#) in the Office of Communications.



## Editor's Desk

Hello USM Family,

The second issue of the *USM Insider* has finally arrived. We will now publish the newsletter bi-monthly so look for the next issue in February. As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions as well as any news you may have to share about your department's accomplishments, new hires, retirements, and initiatives.

[Latoya Jefferson](#), Editor

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