

# ACHIEVER



FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY, UMUC HAS HELPED TO SHAPE—AND HAS, IN TURN, BEEN SHAPED BY—THE U.S. MILITARY. NOW, CONTRACT RENEWALS IN EUROPE AND ASIA ENSURE THAT THAT RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE INTO THE NEXT DECADE.

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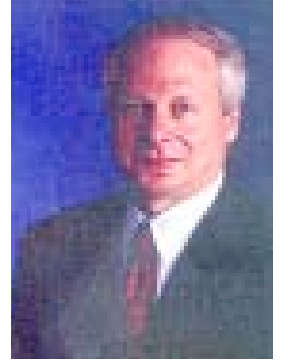
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## Military Contract Awarded

University of Maryland University College's ongoing relationship with the Department of Defense spans more than half a century. Now, thanks to recent contract renewals in Europe and Asia, it is slated to continue for another 10 years, as UMUC continues to shape, and be shaped by, the U.S. military.



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## Dear Friends:

As Americans, we have a lot for which to be grateful. We live in a country that is not only the greatest in the world, but also one of the safest—with a military defense second to none, a law enforcement community of extraordinary capability, and a fire service known the world over for professionalism and courage. Without a doubt, the continuing emphasis our government places on higher education for its “first responders” is the common denominator in making our country a safer place to live and work—especially given the highly specialized nature of emergency management these days. And that’s where UMUC comes in.

For more than half a century, our university has enjoyed an outstanding reputation for educating this nation’s service community—a community for which easy and affordable access to higher learning has always been a challenge. In meeting this challenge, UMUC has built the largest virtual campus in the world, offering 17 bachelor’s and 17 master’s degree programs that can be completed entirely online. Moreover, we have opened classroom doors in 28 countries, on all seven continents, in an effort to serve our armed forces wherever they are deployed. It’s no wonder then that the U.S. Department of Defense saw fit to reward our efforts with a \$450 million contract to continue as the military’s largest provider of post-secondary education to this country’s troops and their families.

In addition to educating our servicemen and -women, we continue to meet the needs of the country’s emergency management workforce. Our online fire science degree and professional development programs are recognized as among the best. Today, these exceptional programs enroll students from fire companies nationwide and attract professionals from around the world in related fields such as public safety, law enforcement, health services, insurance, and private-industry emergency response.

But in spite of our many kudos and accomplishments, we continue to look for ways to better serve those students who risk their lives every day to make us all feel safer—especially when it comes to helping them pay for their education. Toward that end, we have taken a multifaceted approach to raising the money needed to support this objective. One example is the generous \$2 million donation UMUC received from Household Finance to create a financial planning Web site especially for our military students, which will then be available—and of value—to the entire student body. In addition, we have established specialized scholarship funds to help service professionals overcome the sometimes overwhelming financial hurdles they face when paying for books and tuition.

As alumni, you continue to play a significant role in making our programs work, by donating your time and money to so many of these worthwhile projects. Above all, your input is extremely valuable when it comes to developing the services our students need to succeed. After all, you’ve walked in the same shoes, and know best when they don’t quite fit. So, we hope that you will find this issue of the *Achiever* both informative and inspiring, as we introduce you to some of the many reasons why our country’s security is in such good hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald A. Heeger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gerald Heeger, President  
University of Maryland University College



## Greetings Fellow Alumni:

As your Alumni Association president, I am pleased to serve at such an important and exciting juncture in this great university's history. And, as alumni, we can all be proud of the pioneering spirit with which we have led the way in shaping UMUC's mission and vision—especially when it comes to the many innovative approaches our university is taking to delivering quality education to adult learners around the world.

The Alumni Association's own mission is to support, enhance, and promote UMUC and its vast community of students, faculty, staff, and alumni. In our relatively short history as an organization, you have helped us successfully meet that mission with your many donations of time, money, and talent, and together we have accomplished a great deal! In just a few short years, we have organized an exceptional network of 100,000 alumni around the globe. We have also developed a number of ways to keep that network not only connected, but also working for all of you—through a hard-working board; a dedicated Alumni Relations staff based in Adelphi, Maryland; a wonderful alumni magazine; and a brand new alumni Web site at [www.umucalumni.org](http://www.umucalumni.org), offering a vast array of information on special benefits and other opportunities available to all of you.

This year promises to be a great one, with a number of outstanding activities and events to support our alma mater and its many new directions. On behalf of the Alumni Association, I would like to encourage each of you to stay connected by participating in your local alumni chapter (or helping us start one in your area), volunteering to serve on one of the association's many committees, checking out the Web site regularly to see what's going on, and keeping us posted with news for the magazine. I would also like to congratulate the outgoing association officers for a job well done. Without their able leadership, we could not have done it all!

I look forward to an exciting year and hope to see you at future Alumni Association events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Emmel". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Bruce Emmel '86

President

UMUC Alumni Association

Just mention the words  
*fire science* to JoAnne  
Hildebrand, and her face lights  
up with what can only be  
called unbridled enthusiasm.

# all FIRED up!

As academic director for UMUC's Fire Science program, it's JoAnne Hildebrand's job to ensure that firefighters around the world have access to the highest quality online coursework and professional development available. And now, thanks to her efforts and those of her outstanding faculty, the university boasts an exceptional four-year bachelor's degree program in fire science, along with a wealth of continuing education opportunities, all available online. In fact, according to Hildebrand, UMUC is becoming known as the "Harvard of fire science education."

Thirty years ago, firefighters received most of their training from the back step of a fire engine. However, the staggering personal and property losses associated with fire-related disasters (more than 4,000 lives lost and an estimated \$11 billion in property damage last year alone), combined with evolving technologies and a far more concentrated focus on mass-casualty emergency management, have changed the way firefighters prepare themselves for the workforce. As Hildebrand put it, the fire service is "on the cusp of some very big changes in the way it trains its firefighters."

"Last year, fire killed more Americans than all other natural disasters combined," said Hildebrand. "And, of course, we saw the very critical role that firefighters played in the September 11 attacks, not only as first responders, but also in the search and rescue process that followed. Those events have led those of us in the firefighting business to look at providing firefighters with an all-hazards approach to training. But, even more importantly, September 11 taught us how very important it is to have a well-educated fire service workforce—one that's always on top of its game, particularly within the ranks of its management. That takes a very specialized form of training, along with an even greater commitment to career."

For one thing, fire service technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated these days. Even in the very recent past, a firefighter's primary work tools consisted of an engine unit and a lot of intuition and experience. However, technical advances over the past decade have produced such extraordinary job enhancements—and lifesavers—as thermal imaging and electronic disaster monitoring, along with some pretty fancy

communications equipment. And, as Hildebrand was quick to point out, these innovations are “only as good as the team that is operating them.”

In addition to effectively handling technology, Hildebrand said that fire chiefs and their command staff must now be much savvier managers of information.

“Although it’s a lot easier, thanks to the Internet, to share information from one jurisdiction to another, it’s not really wise in this day and age to publicize your resources and assets, which can also reveal your vulnerabilities,” said Hildebrand. “Prior to September 11, our emergency responders shared information freely through open-source channels. But now we see that we must pull back on that, so that vital records don’t fall into the wrong hands. Fire science professionals nowadays need to know how to separate critical from noncritical information.”

Hildebrand believes that education is also a crucial factor when it comes to the budget process. With most cities now strapped financially, she says money for public service is becoming far more competitive among agencies, and a more educated workforce means additional leverage at the bargaining table. So fire service managers must be in a position to encourage continuing education among their career firefighters. Moreover, given the large numbers of volunteer firefighters (nearly 80 percent of the total workforce), most of whom have full-

*UMUC’s online program offers a wealth of professional opportunities for even the busiest volunteer firefighter.*

time day jobs, access to targeted professional development has become even more critical. As Hildebrand pointed out, “Recruiting and retaining volunteers is very difficult. Twenty years ago when the job required far less technical know-how, we could count on a highly active and enthusiastic volunteer force. However, given the huge commitment of time and energy required in this more complex environment, the

volunteer force is dwindling, and some communities are now altogether without fire protection. Given these conditions, volunteer fire chiefs not only need to know how to recruit effectively, but also how to successfully train and motivate the volunteers they recruit. UMUC’s online program offers a wealth of professional opportunities for even the busiest volunteer firefighter.”

Higher education has always faced significant challenges when it comes to delivering quality fire science degree programs. Because firefighters work nonconventional schedules and

often live in geographically remote areas, traditional, campus-based learning has proven difficult at best. When Hildebrand arrived on UMUC’s campus in 1984 to teach a few fire science classes, instruction was predominantly by correspondence, and students were mostly Maryland-based.

“Even though most of them lived in-state, they still had hectic schedules and lots of responsibilities,” said Hildebrand. “So to accommodate that, we did just about everything by mail, using the open university format. Optional seminars were held on Saturday mornings here at Adelphi, but they were very sparsely attended. So there was

very limited face-to-face interaction with students. We began putting the program online in the mid-1990s, and had it all online by the end of 1999.”

According to Hildebrand, the online experience has been “wonderfully rich” in terms of not only learning opportunities, but also increased access. Students can work any time, from just about any computer with Internet access, to attend classes, work on group projects with other class members, talk to their teachers, and participate in field studies. Moreover, the virtual environment has opened the floodgates for enrollments (with a whopping 60–70 percent increase in students over the past year alone).

Today, about half of UMUC’s fire science students are Maryland-based, while the other half are from all over the globe. In addition, Hildebrand noted that her program counts quite a few enrollments in courses like emergency



*JoAnne Hildebrand*

*continued on next page*

## All Fired Up, *continued from page 5*



response planning, from among agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), as well as from within the military. She attributed these expanded enrollments to the federal government's new focus on homeland security, which has added "another rubric to fire science." But, in spite of her enthusiasm about the program's growth, Hildebrand also foresees a number of challenges down the road.

"To stay on top with our fire science program, UMUC will need funding not only to hire exemplary faculty, but also to complete course revisions that reflect the constant changes in technology and procedures. I also believe we will see continued growth in enrollments from the military sector. Given those projections, we'll

need additional financial aid, in the way of program scholarships, to attract and retain students, and, more important, to motivate them. These folks sacrifice so much for us, and they need to know that they're appreciated. Scholarships help us do that. They also give our students, who are often not making a lot of money, a leg up to stick with the program and finish it."

As for Hildebrand herself, she has every intention of sticking with the program and sees her job as an ever-evolving work in progress. In 2000, after more than 15 years with the program, she won the Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award. For some, an award of this magnitude would be a career climax. For Hildebrand, it was "just another reason to keep doing what I'm doing, and to find ways to do it even better."

## MBA Student Does It All—From a Wheelchair

Bryan Harrison is the branch officer at a Maryland bank, a part-time teacher, a competitive fisherman, a deer hunter, a soccer coach, a father of three, and an MBA student at UMUC.



*Bryan Harrison*

That is no small amount of responsibility for any man to handle. But Harrison does it all from a wheelchair. He has been paralyzed from the waist down since he fell out of a deer stand in 1991.

"Getting my degree online is the only option for me with everything I have going on," Harrison said. "There would be no other way. And it helps in terms of logistics to not have to go to a classroom."

Harrison is about halfway through the classes he needs to earn his degree. He isn't completely sure what the next step will be after graduation, but whatever it is, holding an MBA from UMUC can only help. It would certainly make it easier to move up in the ranks at the retail bank where he works, but he may decide to quit

the bank and become a full-time professor—mainly for the sake of his family.

"The kids come first," Harrison said. "In a retail bank you have to work Friday nights and Saturdays. But I grew up in athletics and I want to help my kids do the same. I'd like to free up my weekends so I can spend them with the kids."

So when he decided to study for his MBA, Harrison "didn't shop around too much." He'd heard about UMUC and heard their radio advertisements for a long time.

"I got the literature, called them up, asked questions," Harrison said. "But I'm a Maryland person with roots in the area—plus I'm a big Terps fan, so [UMUC's] connection with the University System of Maryland was attractive. Then, of course, there was the online program. . . . There are nights where I don't get to bed until 1:30 a.m. or so, but if you're disciplined, you've got to do it. It is a lot of work and it takes an enormous amount of time—but at least I can work when it's a good time for me."

—By Alita Byrd

# BREAKING GROUND

Like everything else at UMUC, the Inn and Conference Center continues to evolve to meet the needs of a growing audience.

As we noted in the last issue of the *Achiever*, the university officially broke ground in December 2002 on the conference center's state-of-the-art, \$21.5 million addition, which will expand the existing building by 100,000 square feet, including 127 new rooms and another 7,000 square feet of meeting space. According to Bobby Stahl, UMUC's associate vice president for operations, the expansion—slated for completion in spring 2004—will allow the university to appeal to a much larger conference market by nearly tripling its hotel capacity.

"Although we've always had ample meeting space at the inn, we've become unbalanced on the hotel side because the standards for conference space have changed a great deal," Stahl said. "In the past, we assumed that conference-goers required accommodations that were conducive to doubling up. With that in mind, we built 111 rooms with twin beds in each room. Now the occupancy standards have changed, and we no longer assume that our guests are interested in sharing a room with anyone other than a spouse or kids. And they don't want to have to attend meetings at one location and drive to another location to sleep. So we're adding larger rooms, with queen- and king-sized beds in them."

Thanks to OPX (the project's architect), the new addition promises some rather dramatic architectural features, including a sweeping, two-story lobby with lots of wood accents and glass walls on two sides, as well as a flyway on the second floor, allowing guests to look down into the lobby area. Moreover, art exhibition areas will be incorporated in and off the lobby on both sides. In addition to highlighting its outstanding design elements, Stahl is quick to point out the building's environmentally friendly construction.

"We are definitely looking at sustainability with this project. For example, our contractor, Bovis Lend Lease, is using building materials that contain recycled-content products and has also added energy-efficient features like energy recovery units and special lighting fixtures. It costs more up front, but we will realize long-term savings on the back end."

The Inn and Conference Center has always played a significant role in UMUC's overall budget planning process. Unlike other institutions within the University System of Maryland that collect additional revenue from residential facilities and athletic events, UMUC must depend primarily on tuition, which is very cyclical. Therefore, the university must look to the conference center and other business revenue streams to keep things moving in the right direction financially. And, according to Stahl, once the addition is completed, the conference center complex will be the 12<sup>th</sup>-largest meeting facility in the national capital area, potentially doubling its current income.





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## First Full-Time Military Student in ACS Program Graduates with 4.0

As an aviation officer, U.S. Army Major Mark Bakum was used to flying fast over the treetops and setting lofty personal goals, but a perfect 4.0 final grade-point average in a program as tough as UMUC’s Master of Science (MS) in information technology has even department chair Don Goff impressed.



*Don Goff*

“It’s tough, really tough,” said Goff, shaking his head and smiling. “It is amazing that anyone could do that well. But with Mark’s background at Fort Gordon, I shouldn’t be surprised.”

“Hooah!” exclaimed the normally reserved Goff.

Academic success aside, at first appearances Bakum might not seem all that unusual at UMUC, where he and approximately 50,000 other servicemembers will pursue higher education this year.

And yet, Bakum is a first, and in “military speak” at UMUC—a university that, for more than a half century, has provided educational services to the U.S. military worldwide—firsts aren’t so easy to come by anymore. Nevertheless, Bakum is, indeed, the first military student to attend UMUC full-time in the U.S. Army’s Advanced Civilian Schooling (ACS) program.

Goff, himself a retired Army Reserve lieutenant colonel, is especially proud that Bakum was one of the first program graduates, crossing the commencement stage at UMUC’s Adelphi ceremony last year.

Bakum, who began studies in the MS in information technology program in September 2001, incurred an Active Duty Service Obligation of three days for every one day he attended UMUC.

That adds about five years to his Army obligation. Why the fast track, when someone interested in an IT degree could easily have taken the UMUC program online?

“The ACS program requires you to finish your degree as quickly as possible, preferably within 18 to 24 months,” said Bakum.

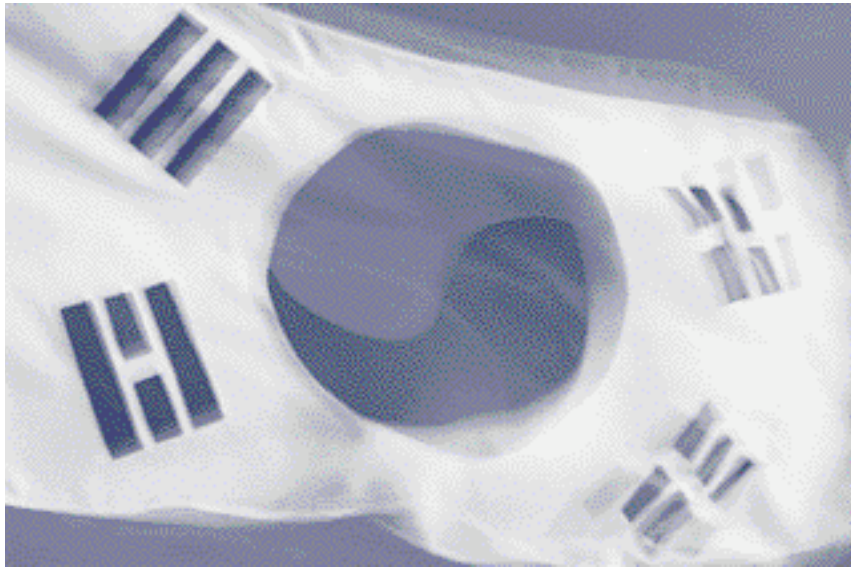
“Raising higher education goals raises the Army’s internal expertise, and because IT is fast-paced anyway, I knew I could be of most use to the Army if I studied IT full-time and then sought even more expertise later on, as my duties required.”

In 1998, Bakum was assigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia, the training base for the Army’s Signal occupational specialties and where UMUC gives officers the opportunity to continue their studies throughout their careers. During Bakum’s tour at Gordon, he served as an instructor, course manager, training division chief, deputy director, and interim director at the Army’s School of Information Technology.

“Essentially, I was dealing with much bigger issues than I expected in my positions at Fort Gordon,” Bakum explained. “For example, we examined our courses to be sure they were on par with the best benchmarks in the civilian sector. In trying to raise the bar even higher for the Army’s primary Information Systems Officer training course (then called the Systems Automation Course), we consulted with civilian colleges and universities to learn if courses and programs taken at Fort Gordon could be exchanged for similar ones in the best universities.

“That’s how I became interested in UMUC and knew what I needed was a plan for lifelong learning. . . . I quickly realized that the MS in information technology at UMUC was a good fit for me and potentially [for] other officers,” said Bakum.

—By *Andrea Martino*



## GENERALS LAPORTE AND PAIK ADDRESS SEOUL GRADUATES

**T**wo distinguished military leaders presented keynote addresses at UMUC's commencement ceremony in Seoul, Korea, on May 18, 2003.

General Leon J. LaPorte, as commander of the United Nations Command and the Republic of Korea–United States Combined Forces Command in Korea, holds what is generally considered the single most important forward military leadership position in the U.S. military. He also serves as commander of the United States Forces Korea.

During his military career, LaPorte has served in Vietnam, Germany, and in Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He held various positions of responsibility in the United States before assuming his current position in Korea in May 2002 and served most recently as Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff, United States Army Forces Command, at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

A native of Rhode Island, LaPorte graduated from the University of Rhode Island and earned a master's degree from the University of California. He held a faculty position for three years at the U.S. Military Academy. His many awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

General Paik Sun Yup is the Republic of Korea's (ROK's) most honored living military officer. In 1950, at the age of

29, he assumed the rank of colonel and was commander of ROK's 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division when North Korea invaded South Korea. He was promoted to general a year later, and in 1952, at the age of 32, was appointed the ROK's Army Chief of Staff—the highest position in the ROK Army. In 1953, he became the ROK's first officer to attain four-star rank and later served as chair of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Paik retired from military service in 1960 and entered the world of diplomacy, serving as Korea's ambassador to France, Canada, Taiwan, and other countries. He later served as Minister of Transportation. His wartime memoirs, *From Pusan to Panmunjom* (Brassey's, 1992), drew favorable reviews, and in 2002, the United States dedicated the "General Paik Hero Room," a special U.S. training facility in the Second Infantry Division. Paik currently serves as chair of the Republic of Korea Commemoration Committee for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War.

In addition to two Taeguk Medals—Korea's equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honor—Paik has received four Legions of Merit and the Silver Star from the United States. He is perhaps best known for his heroism in August 1950 as South Korean and American troops were being pushed toward the sea on the Pusan Perimeter. Paik rallied his troops and encouraged his American counterpart to hold fast by saying, "We just don't have room to retreat any more. The only place to go now is the ocean. If we run now, Korea is done for. . . . If I turn back, shoot me."



# MILITARY CONTRACT AWARDED

THE MILITARY HAS ALWAYS GIVEN  
SHAPE TO THIS INSTITUTION,  
AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE  
INEXTRICABLY CONNECTED TO  
THE UMUC VISION

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**W**hile the president was deploying military personnel to the Persian Gulf and parts beyond, UMUC was sending in a few troops of its own—faculty members to keep college classroom doors open for our soldiers stationed around the world.

It's all part of UMUC's longstanding relationship with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) as its largest provider of postsecondary education to the military—a relationship that now spans more than 50 years and is slated to continue for another 10 years, thanks to the university's contract renewals last year in Europe (which includes the Middle East) and Asia. And, as UMUC President Gerald Heeger put it, "Wherever our military troops are deployed, so is the university. The military has always given shape to this institution, and it will continue to be inextricably connected to the UMUC vision, overall—not so much in financial terms, but rather in how we think about the challenges of educational access that all of our students here grapple with."



*Nicholas Allen*

The contracts, which total around \$450 million dollars (about \$350 million in Europe and another \$100 million in Asia), will lay the groundwork for an unprecedented effort in terms of classroom-based delivery. Heeger pointed out that, given the vast complexities of today's foreign and military policies, our country is engaged in a far more aggressive cycle of deployment, making it more difficult for our soldiers to keep up with their postsecondary educational goals. UMUC's provost and chief academic officer, Nicholas Allen, certainly echoed that sentiment, pointing out that the university must continue to do what it has done in the past, but better.

"We are now moving toward one worldwide curriculum so that all of our students have the same learning experience," said Allen. "This includes a common syllabus for all classes, consistent course descriptions, resource materials, and learning objectives.

And all of that gives our faculty an exciting opportunity to lend their value-added experience to the actual course instruction. We believe that by doing so, we can guarantee seamless service, making it easy to transfer from place to place without losing ground."

Although, on its face, both the European and Asian contracts are similar in their scope of services—predominantly classroom-based instruction in both undergraduate and graduate disciplines—the European one is quite different in other ways this time around. For one thing, it is a 10-year commercial contract (versus a six-year noncommercial contract in Asia), with annual reviews. Moreover, it covers such additional expenses as textbooks and offers degrees in any of the university's undergraduate programs, along with graduate degrees in three master's-level programs—information technology, public administration, and counseling. And although the bid effort took a lot of teamwork, Laslo Boyd, then UMUC's executive vice president, joked that, "putting the proposal together was the easy part of it!"

"Now that we have the contract, we have to transform our words on paper into imperatives for service, and the deployment issue is going to be particularly challenging within the context of contract requirements. Our military students will always be in a different category from the rest of our students for two fundamental reasons. For one thing, there is far more face-to-face instruction involved, because the students are overwhelmingly freshmen and sophomores, much younger than UMUC's

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*“We already have a faculty in Kuwait, and we’re ready to go to Baghdad whenever it’s time!”*

typical adult civilian learner. Additionally, because of a more rapid deployment pattern in the military these days, our overseas terms are eight weeks, rather than 16. So we must have a dedicated faculty that is extremely sensitive to those particular issues,” Boyd said.

And that faculty will have to be ready to deploy wherever necessary as well. As Heeger put it, “We already have a faculty in Kuwait, and we’re ready to go to Baghdad whenever it’s time! It’s all part of our strategy to be more adroit in keeping our military students moving toward their degrees. We’ve always had very flexible policies in place that allow them to withdraw for periods of time when they need to. But now we have to be committed to keeping them enrolled. The contract forces us to think about these issues in an up-front way.”



*Gerald Heeger*

tion was stiff. We took an objective look at what we were doing and how we could be more responsive. Our biggest strength lies in the fact that UMUC has a big global footprint.”

J. J. Jones, UMUC’s vice president for DOD relations and a member of the proposal preparation team (along with Andy Chambers, Joan Dove, John Golumbi, and Boyd), sees the commercial contract in Europe as an important acknowledgement of the university’s expertise in delivering these services over the years. However, he was careful to add that when the team began strategizing, it “took nothing for granted; [there was] no resting on laurels, because the competi-

In monitoring the university’s commercial contract efforts, DOD has laid out a number of significant changes to the way business was conducted with them in the past. In addition to annual reviews, Jones said that all data must be electronically transferred, including student education plans. Moreover, the schedule for reporting is term-driven, and the department expects UMUC to be wherever they are needed to open classroom doors as soon as possible—“Not on the first plane,” said Jones, “but certainly at the flight line!”



*J. J. Jones*

Given the strong emphasis on classroom-based instruction, how does the new contract jibe with UMUC’s burgeoning virtual campus? According to Heeger, very well.

“DOD recognizes that our distance education technology will continue to grow, and that online enrollments for military students will grow with it over the years. But there are still significant barriers to technology in some of the more remote deployment areas. Even so, this new generation of younger soldiers will make the transition to online education far more easily. That said, the military is willing to evolve, just more conservatively.”

Heeger also emphasized that, as always, UMUC will focus on the needs of whole military families, particularly when it comes to financial aid. “While these contracts cover tuition for our country’s soldiers [more than 50,000 enrollments currently], they do not cover expenses for their spouses and children. So we must continue to find money through aggressive fundraising—scholarship funds and planned giving, in particular. And we’re getting more interest than ever before along these lines from corporations. In fact, we recently got a big boost in that direction when Household Finance gave us \$2 million, \$1.5 million of which will be used to set up a financial planning Web site for military families. Eventually, that Web site will be up and running for all of our students, just one of the many side benefits that continue to come our way thanks to UMUC’s ongoing efforts with the Department of Defense.”

*“We consider it a privilege to help create this exciting new initiative on behalf of our nation’s men and women in uniform.”*

—William F. Aldinger, Chairman and CEO  
Household International

## Household International and UMUC Create an Incredible Partnership

Soon, U.S. military families—including UMUC’s more than 50,000 military students and their families stationed stateside and abroad—will have a wealth of practical financial-planning information at their fingertips. Literally.

In March 2003, Household International and UMUC announced a \$2 million partnership to develop an online financial education resource center specifically tailored to the needs of military personnel and their families. The donation from Household International—the largest in the university’s history—included \$500,000 to establish the Household Military Family Scholarship Fund.

The partnership promises to be a powerful one. UMUC has built a solid reputation as the world’s leading provider of higher education to the U.S. military, while Household International has an equally impressive track record as the nation’s oldest consumer finance company. Together, they have pooled their high-tech know-how to create the Household International Military Financial Education Center, an innovative Web presence hosted on UMUC’s Web site that will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, free of charge to anyone with Internet access.

The site will offer concrete, real-world lessons in financial management, as well as a variety of financial tools and online exercises, covering everything from basic budgeting and credit management to purchasing a home or automobile and investing.

“We consider it a privilege to help create this exciting new initiative on behalf of our nation’s men and women in uniform,” said Household Chairman and CEO William F. Aldinger. “For many service members and their families, the college scholarship assistance included in this partnership will help make the dream of a college education possible.” Aldinger went on to point out that, for more than a century, Household has been helping people achieve their goals by strengthening their finances. Providing scholarship assistance, he said, is one more way to ensure people have the proper tools to build a successful future.

UMUC President Gerald Heeger echoed his partner’s sentiments, and discussed the advantages of making these resources available online.

“While the majority of U.S. servicemembers overseas still take courses at U.S. military bases throughout Asia, Europe, and the Middle East,” said Heeger, “an increasing number take UMUC courses online and rely on the university’s online student services.” Others are sure to find the resources useful as well, and Heeger went on to point out that the site offers the university the opportunity down the road to add content tailored for other UMUC student constituencies.

Household International is a leading provider of consumer loans, credit, financing, and credit insurance, with more than 50 million customers in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. To learn more about Household International, visit the Web site at [www.household.com](http://www.household.com).



# A Future in the Making

The excitement was palpable, the energy high, and the faces jubilant, as 1,700 men and women proudly marched into the University of Maryland, College Park's Comcast Center on May 17, 2003, taking what were for them the triumphant last steps of an amazing journey.

As Brenda Conley, chair of the Graduate School's education programs, opened the ceremonies, and UMUC's Class of 2003 filed confidently into row after row of folding chairs, one thing became eminently clear. These remarkable men and women were as diverse as they were determined, truly exemplifying the university's reputation as a worldwide, world-class institution. Spanning the age continuum from 20 to 72, they represented some 81 nationalities and hailed from 49 states, the nation's capital, and the three U.S. territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Many had traveled miles to walk across that stage, and all of them had worked hard to earn their degrees, juggling school with family, work, and community responsibilities to achieve their personal and professional goals.

Take Angela Kwon, for example, who, after five years, earned her bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, in business management with a certificate in human resources, while holding a full-time job in a busy construction company. Or Scott Nuetzel, whose 18-month-old daughter, Lauren, came to watch her daddy take home his MBA, which he completed in just two short years while bal-



Patricia Toregas

ancing the needs of a little one with full-time work during the day and classes in the evening.

Then there was Mary Jeanette Pettit, who last year watched her only son receive his doctorate in psychology, only to graduate this year with her bachelor's degree in business administration, after seven long years of taking classes in addition to working full time at a U.S. naval station. Kandece Roberts took care of a husband and two young children (one of whom was born prematurely), as she attended the classes she needed to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration. Her proud husband, who admitted that she



University System of Maryland Chancellor William Kirwan

planned their wedding and her education simultaneously, said Roberts anticipates opening her own real estate business. Ernesto Vance began his UMUC education while serving his country as a U.S. Marine. After leaving the service, he continued his coursework stateside, while raising two kids on his own, to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science.

As these graduates sat patiently in their chairs, a host of administrators, faculty, alumni, and trustees—including Provost and Chief Academic Officer Nicholas Allen, Board of Regents member Leronia Josey, Board of Visitors and UMUC faculty member Evelyn J. Bata, and then Alumni Association President Patricia Toregas—delivered their heartfelt greetings.

Many nodded humbly to themselves as UMUC President Gerald Heeger acknowledged their achievements as nontraditional students whose academic success had transcended the many complexities of their lives. But he went one step further when he commended them for having “rewritten the ‘rules’ of higher education and transformed not only this university, but every other university in this country, in how they teach, how they frame curricula and academic programs, and how they manage their organizations. All have been changed under your demanding scrutiny.”

They also listened intently as University System of Maryland Chancellor William Kirwan heralded their accomplishments, and applauded loudly as he congratulated their families as well,

saying, “I’m sure they have kept you going, with encouragement, support, and—when necessary—maybe a kick in the pants.”

And every honoree in the place cheered enthusiastically as fellow graduate and student commencement speaker Kirk Clear proclaimed, “I am an Air Force noncommissioned officer. I am a historian and a writer. I am a husband and father of three. I am—UMUC.”

Like so many of them, Clear is what UMUC proudly refers to as one of its 49,000 distinguished military students, who joined the Air Force right out of high school, and took a few years off from



academics before entering the college arena. Upon reaching his 15-year mark in the military, he began to think about retirement, and decided to finish his degree so he could be more competitive in the civilian job market.

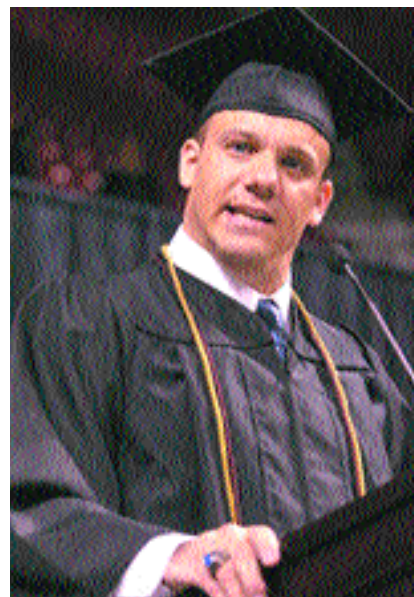
“I did some research and found this unique school. . . . UMUC would take every one of my previous credits earned and give me several credits for my military career. Wow! How could I go wrong with this school?”

Commencement speaker Judith McHale, president and chief operating officer of Discovery Communications, Inc., who jokingly referred to herself as “the only thing standing between you and your diploma,” asked the Class of 2003 to “savor the moment.” She also told them that they should turn their “passions into reality,” while continuing to “expand [their] horizons and communicate [their] ideas.” But she went one step further when she asked them all to “remember that life is so very precious and



sometimes all too fleeting. Never lose sight of what is important in it, especially when it comes to separating your work life from your home life.”

As McHale concluded her address by challenging the Class of 2003 to “hold the highest vision possible” for their lives, Mary Ellen Hrutka, vice provost and dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies, and Christina Hannah, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, took their places on stage, where they waited to confer what everyone had really come for—diplomas. As each graduate walked across that stage with that revered document held tightly in hand, surrounded by cheers from the countless mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, children, and close



friends who had come to watch them walk the last leg of their amazing journeys, yet another thing became eminently clear. These truly outstanding men and women, from all walks of life and with so many stories to tell, represented the very best of what we, as both a university and a nation, stand for.



When Technical Sergeant Kirk Clear stood before this year's graduating class to give the student address at UMUC's stateside commencement ceremony May 17, 2003, he followed the advice of university representatives and simply related his experiences as a UMUC student. That gave him plenty to talk about.

"I've been a student leader at UMUC," Clear said, "and I think I have a perspective of the university that no other student has."

Not only has Clear served on the Student Advisory Council and University Advisory Council, but he has served as UMUC's representative to the Maryland Higher Education Commission Student Council. He was also the only student to sit on the committee to select this year's Drazek award winners.

Clear is a man on the move—in more ways than one. He has been on active duty with the U.S. Air Force for more than 17 years, stationed everywhere from Texas, Saudi Arabia, and Maryland, to Oman, California, Afghanistan, Washington, D.C., Kuwait, and Iceland.

Because of the flexibility offered by UMUC's course offerings, Clear was able to complete his degree more quickly than he had anticipated.

"I've taken classes stateside and from UMUC—Europe and have even taken classes in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," Clear said. "I've taken a mixture of class formats—face-to-face classes, online classes—and have earned credit through the EXCEL program, the Co-op program, and an independent study

course. Here in the states, I've not only taken [on-site] classes in Adelphi and College Park, but also at outlying facilities like Shady Grove."

## KIRK CLEAR: SERVING his COUNTRY... and UMUC



Along the way, Clear said that he has become one of the school's strongest proponents, and he shows his pride and gratitude through his involvement in extracurricular activities.

Clear said his graduation (where he received a bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis in journalism) was bittersweet, because he will miss the faculty and staff he's met, but he's happy to have more time to spend with his wife, Sherri, and their three daughters, Kaitlin, Tabitha, and Morgan.

Now that he has graduated, Clear plans to continue his work with the military.

"For the past 14 years I have been a military historian, researching and writing about the activities of my assigned organizations," Clear said. "I am currently the base and wing historian at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, the home of Air Force One."

Somehow, Clear—an eight-time All-American swimmer—also manages to find time to swim competitively with the U.S. Masters organization.

"The biggest challenge I had with my speech was keeping it short," Clear said. "I've had such a great experience at UMUC, and I'd like to tell more of my story."

—By Wil McLean

A CONVERSATION WITH  
MARYLAND STATE TREASURER

# Nancy Kopp



*“At the DMZ, an American soldier said to me, ‘Mrs. Kopp, why are you here?’ I thought that was a very good question. The answer is, ‘Because you are here.’”*

And so it began that during a visit to the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in Korea, shortly before she would deliver the commencement address to U.S. servicemembers in Tokyo, Japan, on April 26, 2003, Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp had what she calls “a very profound experience.”

Kopp had planned to congratulate the military graduates, to thank them and say how much she admired them for pursuing a UMUC education while serving their country, and to tell them that it was a great investment that would serve them well. She planned to say that she hoped, now that the servicemembers were Maryland graduates, that they would come to Maryland when they left the military because they are needed here as teachers in classrooms, workers in high-tech industry, and leaders in health care.

That was what she planned.

“I said all those things, of course, because they were important. Visiting the DMZ, though, colored my words,” she said. “Seeing those beautiful mountains in the north, and then coming to truly appreciate the fact that on the other side of those mountains are several hundred thousand well-equipped soldiers ready to roll down into Seoul, that was a very profound experience. So I brought that with me when I met the servicemen and -women in Tokyo.

“I have adult children of my own,” continued Kopp, “and I know there are other mothers in the United States who wanted to be there in Tokyo for their sons’ and daughters’ UMUC commencement. Unlike them, I could be there and saw myself not just as a state

treasurer representing Maryland, but also very privileged in speaking for all of those mothers, wives, and sisters.

“Because I had the opportunity to visit the DMZ and our soldiers there, I was much more acutely aware of the sacrifice U.S. servicemembers are making. For me, the DMZ will no longer be a page from history. Even today, while we know there is a worldwide war on terrorism, it is still abstract—except for those terrible occasions when it’s very concrete. And, of course, though we know about the war in Iraq, thanks in large part to the embedded reporters bringing it to us live, it, too, seems somehow surreal.

“But servicemembers’ sacrifice and commitment is very real. Just as the American commitment to the security of Asia was a critical step in bringing about peace and stability in the world after World War II, UMUC’s education programs in Asia for the military have played a vital role in maintaining the strength and vitality of our military in Asia and helping to ensure that servicemen and -women stationed there have the opportunity to continue their personal and professional advancement and remain at the cutting edge.

“That these students are able to put together programs of study spanning so many terms, over several years, studying on different bases not only in Asia, but sometimes in Europe, too, and keeping everything going at the same time, in addition to their 24/7 military jobs—it is just extraordinary the amount of self-discipline, determination, and farsightedness that these students have to have to be able to pull that off.

“I marvel at the dedication of UMUC faculty and administration for being so student-oriented that they can keep this whole process going, so students’ interest and momentum will remain focused for as many years as they need to finish their degree. The university is both an academic and a logistical marvel, and I commend UMUC.”

—By Andrea Martino

## FIRST PRESIDENT’S BREAKFAST FORUM

When it comes to the business of educating America’s public servants, UMUC has certainly earned its place of distinction in the world of higher education. So it was only fitting that the university dedicated its first President’s Breakfast Forum to UMUC’s highly regarded fire science program.

This program has been around since the mid-1970s, when it began enrolling students from as far away as Utah and Arizona in correspondence coursework. Back then, the emphasis was on fighting fires more effectively. Now, with the advent of UMUC’s virtual campus, firefighters from all over the world can log on to degree programs and professional development opportunities, designed to meet 21<sup>st</sup>-century training challenges, particularly when it comes to emergency planning and management in the face of increased terrorism around the world. In fact, in his keynote address, Michael Byrne, director of the Office of Response Recovery in the new Department of Homeland Security, talked extensively about ways in which the fire service has retooled itself to address changing public safety needs.

“One of the key things is to provide a vision for change,” he said. “I haven’t seen a system more complex than public safety in this country. I don’t think we fully understand the cascade of effects when we apply change to that system. We’re past the time of letting business continue as is, because September 11 showed us that too many lives are at stake. . . . We have to think outside the box on delivery mechanisms for training. We have to reach out to institutions like UMUC and exploit them.”

Byrne began his career in 1979 with the Fire Department of New York, eventually moving on to work in the New York City Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management and then to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Citing this broad-based experience, he was quick to point out the importance of fire service as “a true discipline with common students, language, and understanding.” He went on to emphasize the cross-jurisdictional nature of today’s public safety force.

“It is critical that we move out of the local mentality and cross lines into county, state, and federal jurisdictions in every area of public safety. After all, if a community the size of New York City, with its approximately 15,000-member fire department, needed help on September 11, is there any community in the world that wouldn’t?”

UMUC President Gerald Heeger also used the breakfast meeting to honor recent fire science program graduate Matthew Stevens,



*Matthew Stevens*

who, at the age of 22, was appointed deputy state fire marshal in Maryland, a job that combines fire prevention with investigation and law enforcement. Stevens spoke passionately about his love for the fire service and his quest to find the financial resources necessary to finish his bachelor’s degree and pursue his dream of becoming a fire marshal. After earning an associate’s degree in fire science at Charles County

Community College, Stevens went on to enroll in UMUC’s four-year, online fire science degree program. By patching together a variety of scholarships, in addition to working full-time for a private ambulance company, he was able to pay for his education.

“What is so poignant about Matthew Stevens’s story is not just that he has accomplished so much at such a young age,” Heeger said. “It is that young men and women like him need to work so diligently to find the proper resources for the higher education that would help them better serve their communities. People like him deserve better; they deserve more support from us. That is the purpose of this and future breakfast forums at UMUC. We want to help make these and other connections for our students.”

# First UMUC Celebrity Golf Tournament

As golf cart after golf cart took off for the links on June 27, 2003, transporting nearly 100 golfers to play in UMUC's First Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament at the University of Maryland golf course in College Park, Maryland, there was far more at stake than trophies and bragging rights.

Proceeds from the tournament—co-sponsored by UMUC and the Baltimore Chapter of the NFL Players Association—went toward establishing the Athletes Contributing to Education (ACE) Scholarship Program.

This unique fund will award need-based scholarships to UMUC students in Maryland and the District of Columbia, with preference given to former varsity athletes from any of the schools in the University System of Maryland. Besides attracting support from current sports figures, the tournament drew wide support from retired athletes, who stepped up to the tee, volunteering their time and talent to help make the event a success.

"I look at [my involvement] as a Maryland graduate as giving something back, allowing some youngster to have the same opportunity I did," said Jack

Scarbath, a Heisman-trophy runner-up and former quarterback for the Washington Redskins. Scarbath played professional football for five years before parlaying his degree in industrial engineering, from University of Maryland, College Park, into a successful business—John C. Scarbath and Sons—specializing in industrial abrasives.

When Scarbath played in the 1950s—as he put it, "back when they didn't pay us anything"—the value of an education was obvious. Today, with headlines regularly touting lavish salaries and multimillion-dollar endorsement contracts, an education can seem almost superfluous. In reality, that is rarely the case, as Ravin Caldwell, a former Redskins player who is now the fitness director at the YMCA in Reston, Virginia, was quick to point out.

"For the 1 percent who make it to the NFL, there are hundreds who don't. When you combine [that statistic] with the extremely high incidence of sports-related injuries among professional foot-

ball players, it can make it hard to earn a living for any extended period of time in this business. Higher education offers all of us a much wider range of opportunities when playing sports is no longer possible." Caldwell himself returned to school three years ago to finish his undergraduate degree at the University of Arkansas and went on to say that he counsels all of the kids he works with to make getting a college education their highest priority.

Another former Redskins player, Carl Kammerer, certainly agreed. After receiving his college diploma "a number of years ago," he went on to play pro ball in the 1960s. Like many pro athletes, his career was short-lived, and he left football to work for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, retiring with the Senior Executive Service after 28 years there. In fact, he loved school so much that he went back for a year in the early 1990s to study German history, language, and culture at University of Maryland, College Park.

"I was older than most of my fellow students, not to mention my teachers and advisors. And I knocked their socks off with the grades I made during that year.

You're never too old or too famous to learn more about the world around you."

Ernie Turner, who played for the Dallas Texans (later the Kansas City Chiefs) also knows, firsthand, the value of an education, and, after earning his bachelor's degree in later life—"after finding out that I wasn't as dumb as I thought I was"—went on to complete a master's and doctorate from Fordham University. He shared his dreams for UMUC's celebrity tournament in the future.

"It's not going to be like the U.S. Open right away," Turner said. "Everything starts small. Everything starts with an idea in your head. And we don't have to make a lot of money the first year. But we've got pretty well-known professional athletes coming in to take part, and in three or four or five years, I think this could be one of the largest golf tournaments around."



**"Higher education offers all of us a much wider range of opportunities when playing sports is no longer possible."**

## UMUC Establishes Military Scholarship and Support Fund

UMUC has been meeting the education needs of our nation's armed forces and their families since 1947. The university's relationship with the military, designed to meet the unique needs of active-duty personnel, has historically extended its services into war zones from Vietnam to Bosnia.

Unlike most career professionals, when pursuing an education, military personnel face the added challenges of lower salaries, frequent moves, and even deployment overseas or to isolated locations.

The financial burden of educational costs can be overwhelming to military families, and while the need for scholarship assistance continues to rise, the availability of private funding has not kept pace.

To meet this challenge, members of the Leadership Circle and UMUC established the Military Scholarship and Support Fund to

- supplement tuition benefits and cover other education-related expenses for active-duty military personnel;
- provide scholarships for spouses of military personnel;
- provide educational assistance to military personnel while preparing them for employment as they transition to civilian life;
- provide professional development support for faculty who teach UMUC's military students.

For more information about the UMUC Military Scholarship and Support Fund, contact Jackie Bowen by telephone at 240-684-5100 or by e-mail at [jbowen@umuc.edu](mailto:jbowen@umuc.edu).

## LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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**Gen. John W. Vessey Jr.** (U.S. Army, Ret.)

Former Chair, Joint Chiefs of Staff

UMUC Distinguished Alumnus

Member, UMUC Board of Visitors

**Dr. Gerald A. Heeger**

President

University of Maryland University College

**Mr. Richard F. Blewitt**

President, Rowan & Blewitt Inc.

UMUC Distinguished Alumnus

Chair, UMUC Board of Visitors

**Maj. Gen. Roger R. Blunt** (U.S. Army, Ret.)

President and CEO, Blunt Enterprises

Chair, University of Maryland Foundation

**Lt. Gen. Andrew P. Chambers** (U.S. Army, Ret.)

Vice President, UMUC-Europe

**Mrs. Janet Langhart Cohen**

President, Langhart Communications

Member, UMUC Board of Visitors

**Mr. Hal Donofrio**

President and CEO, Campaign for Our Children, Inc.

Baltimore, Maryland

**Mr. Barry K. Fingerhut**

President, GeoCapital

New York, New York

**Maj. Gen. Marcelite J. Harris** (U.S. Air Force, Ret.)

UMUC Distinguished Alumnus

Member, UMUC Board of Visitors

**Dr. Jack Kushner**

Neurosurgeon

Chair, Patient Driven Communications

UMUC Distinguished Alumnus

**Adm. Charles R. Larson** (U.S. Navy, Ret.)

University System of Maryland

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**Lt. Gen. Emmett Paige Jr.** (U.S. Army, Ret.)

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UMUC Distinguished Alumnus

Member, UMUC Board of Visitors

**Mr. Henry A. Rosenberg Jr.**

Chair, Rosemore, Inc.

Baltimore, Maryland

**Gen. Larry D. Welch** (U.S. Air Force, Ret.)

President, Institute for Defense Analysis

Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Force

UMUC Distinguished Alumnus

# Where Would You Be Without UMUC?



Dear Fellow UMUC Alumni:

Where would you be today without your degree from UMUC? For most of us, earning a degree led to significant changes in our lives. An education in many cases paved the way for a promotion or a career change. It opened cultural doors and

offered new ways of thinking. It challenged us and sometimes defeated us, but we persevered. Shouldn't we now help someone else?

It's time to give back and get involved. Sadly, only about 7,000 of our 100,000 alumni participate in our donor programs. We have a lot of challenges facing higher education today—growing expenses, declining revenues, budget cuts, and tax shortfalls.

While UMUC remains vibrant, these fiscal challenges underscore the necessity of strong philanthropic support. Despite the challenges, we are growing. A new hotel facility at UMUC's Adelphi, Maryland, headquarters makes us the 12<sup>th</sup>-largest conference facility in the metropolitan area.

We currently have a campaign underway to sell commemorative bricks (see below). These bricks will be placed in the courtyard of the new hotel and will be engraved to provide a lasting tribute. Special friends and family deserve special tributes. A memorial or tribute gift is ideal for

- thanking a particular instructor for exceptional teaching
- remembering good times in the face of sadness
- commemorating the life of a family member or colleague
- honoring an anniversary or special event

At the same time, your donation is an investment in UMUC's ability to continue its distinguished tradition of providing high quality education to people all over the world.

As our country fights terrorism and repression, we want to support our troops. What better way than a contribution to the military scholarship program? We have brave men and women on scores of military bases around the globe and we have UMUC faculty members there to help them complete degrees while they are making the world a safer place for the rest of us. We can show our appreciation by giving to UMUC and relieving them of some of the financial burdens associated with their education.

In each issue of the *Achiever*, we will focus on a student who benefited from financial help and succeeded. You already know some of them: the women in the Better Opportunities Through Online Education program, a joint venture with Goodwill Industries and UMUC to provide computers and distance learning classes to mothers on welfare. They earn certificates and degrees that help them advance in the workplace and improve the learning environment for their own families. And some of the first students from Northwestern High School—just a few blocks from UMUC's Adelphi headquarters—to receive Partners in Progress scholarships, as well as mentoring from faculty and staff members, have already graduated from UMUC and are well on their way to profitable, stable careers.

In everything we do, your generosity makes a profound difference. Please renew your commitment to UMUC today.

Sincerely

Mary Anne Hakes '90

Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Annual Giving  
UMUC Alumni Association

## CREATE A LASTING IMPRESSION AT UMUC

Support UMUC with the purchase of a commemorative courtyard brick.

UMUC is expanding, with the construction of a new hotel facility at the Adelphi headquarters that will make UMUC the 12<sup>th</sup>-largest conference facility in the Washington–Baltimore metropolitan area.

Commemorative bricks will be placed in the courtyard of the new hotel and will be engraved with the names and phrases that will provide a lasting tribute to all participants.

These bricks are an ideal way to show support for UMUC and commemorate loved ones, graduation dates, or outstanding achievements. Most importantly, they offer the opportunity for you to leave a lasting impression with UMUC. Thank you for your continued support!

Visit [umucalumni.org](http://umucalumni.org) and click on the “Support UMUC—Buy a Commemorative Brick” link.



## From Dante to Development



For Jackie Bowen, her professional life has been a natural journey from the college classroom—where she taught literature—to the corporate boardroom, where she is now soliciting major gifts as UMUC’s assistant vice president of development.

In fact, she calls development the “capstone” of what many would call an illustrious, three-part career in teaching, marketing and promotion, and publishing. It all began with a faculty position at Trinity College in Burlington, Vermont, after Bowen received her bachelor’s degree in literature from Wellesley College and her master’s in medieval literature from the University of Illinois. From there she went on to teach for a few years at Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York.

When her then-husband’s graduate work brought the couple to Johns Hopkins University, Bowen decided to go back to school to work on her doctorate in literature.

“I really had a great life in graduate school there, working as a teaching assistant at Hopkins and as an adjunct faculty member at Towson University,” said Bowen. “I finished all of my coursework in the doctoral program and went on to work on my dissertation topic, *Moby Dick*. I was well on my way.”

But when her dissertation advisor, Lawrence Holland, tragically drowned while trying to save a colleague’s child, her whole life changed—along with her dissertation topic—and she eventually left the program without completing her dissertation. That change in direction, Bowen said, was the beginning of her second career in promotion and marketing.

“I left my doctoral program and went to work for the Hopkins Press, where I did all of their promotional work—press releases, marketing campaigns, you name it. Before long, I was lured into medical publishing at Williams and Wilkins, where I did the

same thing. And that was the segue into my publishing career, which suddenly blossomed when I was hired at National Health Publishing to be their vice president. Their focus was long-term care, which, at the time, was a novelty for most publishing houses.”

Bowen went on to expand the company’s sales almost threefold, a move that led her old company, Williams and Wilkins, to purchase National Health Publishing and offer her the position of president of the new division.

“But it all ended when they wanted to downsize and move us to corporate headquarters. I didn’t agree, and the company simply ‘golden parachuted’ me out. I took a teaching position at Chesapeake College, a small community college on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and that’s where I reached the capstone of my career—development.”

After moving up from a position as a faculty member to the associate dean of her department, Bowen was asked to become the college’s first dean of institutional advancement and outreach. There she combined her talent for fundraising with her passion for open access education, growing the college’s foundation from \$50,000 to more than \$3 million in a relatively short time.

“I greatly enjoyed my work at Chesapeake College, but Sandy Harriman told me about UMUC’s mission and global reach, and I’m so glad she did,” said Bowen. “It’s really incredible to have a chance to work with people like Jerry Heeger and Sandy, and I really believe in what we’re doing at this university. Just think about it. UMUC offers so many educational opportunities to so many, and makes access to quality education a reality. I couldn’t be more excited.”

And UMUC’s Institutional Advancement Office is certainly excited to have her on board.

# Hats Off to CitiFinancial

Every institution of higher education has them—individual, corporate, and foundation donors that give like clockwork. Donors that form the very backbone of institutional advancement. Donors that believe passionately in the institution's mission and want to be part of its future. And donors without which consistently high-quality educational programs and services simply would not exist. For UMUC, CitiFinancial has been one such donor.

Over the past four years, this company, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, has given annual gifts totaling \$55,000 to UMUC's Better Opportunities Through Online Education program, the university's innovative workforce development initiative for lower income women who want to expand their economic horizons. And according to Michelle Krabbe, administrative assistant to the president and chair of the local contributions committee, the program is a "perfect fit" for CitiFinancial.

"We were originally attracted to this program because education is one of our main philanthropic thrusts," said Krabbe. "Better

Opportunities was a wonderful way for us to support that priority, as it hits a market that is certainly deserving of our help, but often last in line when it comes to corporate giving for education. And the program's track record is great. The women who come out of Better Opportunities are motivated and self confident—so much so, in fact, that we're also committed to hiring them once they graduate."

CitiFinancial, a subsidiary of Citigroup, has a long tradition of helping individuals who deserve it. The company, with more than 2,000 branches in small towns throughout the United States and Canada, specializes in consumer loans for those who do not necessarily qualify for help from other financial institutions. As Krabbe was quick to point out, "We're a community-based lender, which means that we get to build real relationships with our customers, just like the one we're building with UMUC!"

## Richardson Gives Address at Mannheim Campus Commencement



Timothy L. Richardson, senior director of program services for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, gave the keynote address at this year's commencement ceremonies at UMUC's Mannheim campus on May 10, 2003. Richardson, who has been involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs from the time he was a college

student, has been instrumental in negotiating groundbreaking cooperative agreements with a variety of companies and agencies, including Nike, Inc., the Department of Defense, the National Basketball Association, and others, securing grants and other funding in excess of \$15 million.

Recently, Richardson helped develop the multiyear, \$5 million P.L.A.Y. Sports Program, a national youth fitness and skills

development initiative sponsored by Nike. Under Richardson's management, the program reached its five-year participation goals a year ahead of schedule, with youth fitness participation growing from 1 million to 2 million during the five-year period.

Richardson is currently at work developing the \$6 million, multi-element health and fitness initiative Coca-Cola Playbook and the \$1.5 million Reviving Baseball in the Inner City (RBI) program, sponsored by Major League Baseball.

Richardson holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing from Chapman University, in Orange, California, and has represented the Boys & Girls Clubs on the U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors since 1990. He was appointed assistant attaché to the U.S. Olympic Team in 1996.



RON SIARNICKI

# STANDING IN THE LINE OF DUTY



Ron Siarnicki will tell you any day of the week that firefighting is his passion—a passion that has not only kept him happily employed for the past 25 years, but has also earned him tremendous recognition, including his latest honor as UMUC’s Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

As for so many in the fire service, “riding the truck” is in the Siarnicki family blood, with his grandfather and both of his parents having served as volunteer firefighters before him. “I was raised with the fire service as a family ideal, a way of life, a kind of family business. I remember growing up with all of those little family-owned shoe shops on every corner around town, handed down from one generation to the next. I guess that firefighting is our family shoe business, so to speak.”

Siarnicki began his career in 1978, when he joined the Prince George’s County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department right out of high school. Over the next 20 years, he worked his way up through the ranks, eventually retiring as the department’s Chief Executive Officer in the summer of 2001. For him, being a firefighter was more than a nine-to-five job. It was both an avocation and a sacred trust, requiring the highest level of personal standards.

“Firefighters are some of the finest people I know—honest, ethical, and hardworking. In fact, in a country like America that works hard to protect the rights of all its citizens, the fire service is the only government entity that can enter your house—even tear it apart—without a search warrant or an invitation. So it stands to reason that the fire service has to maintain extremely high standards in its hiring practices. It’s a trust we all hold dear and work hard every day to earn.”

But even in the best of all possible worlds, there are challenges along the way. As Siarnicki put it, “Being a firefighter sometimes has its problems. For one thing, the job can be hard on family life. It’s a pretty nontraditional work schedule, so you’re not always around for your kid’s soccer games or the annual church social. And your family has to deal with the fact that the fire service itself becomes a kind of surrogate family, over time. Let’s face it, your partner on the hoseline is the one who decides whether you live or die each time you go out. That’s a very special kind of trust relationship, one you may not even have with your spouse. That’s why the divorce rate tends to be

high among firefighters and police officers. Unfortunately, the job sometimes takes precedence over family life.”

Siarnicki has also struggled over the years with what he and so many others in the industry call the fire service’s “limited resource issue.” Traditionally, fire departments have always done far more with far less than any other public agency. And even in the wake of such national disasters as September 11, the resource pool continues to shrink, which frequently means fewer firefighters, working longer shifts, using less-than-desirable equipment.

“The resource problem is common to all fire departments, regardless of where they are. Even New York City is ‘rif-fing’ firefighters after losing a substantial portion of their force on September 11. But fire service professionals are often their own worst enemies on this score. When other public agencies lose funding, they simply curtail services. Firefighters, on the other hand, never say ‘no’ to anything. We’re the guys who are out there with duct tape and baling wire putting the truck back together so we can run it for another year,” Siarnicki laughs.

According to Siarnicki, the biggest part of the issue lies with the public’s misperception of what the fire service actually does on a day-to-day basis. He calls it “Norman Rockwell Syndrome,” in which we Americans believe that firefighters are whimsical characters who sit around the cracker barrel playing checkers, telling stories, and making meals all day while they wait for the alarm bell to ring.

But, in reality, these first responders are on the go 24/7—answering calls, investigating fire scenes, participating in advanced training, overseeing emergency management efforts, providing community outreach, and just generally making the world a safer place for all of us. Moreover, Siarnicki believes that even though the recent spotlight on terrorism has raised the public’s awareness somewhat, it has also served to siphon precious dollars away from the everyday business of fighting fires.

“Homeland security is consuming the bulk of first responder resources these days, especially in this part of the country. But when you come right down to it, the majority of fire calls we get have nothing to do with terrorism and everything to do with someone leaving a pot unattended on the stove. And those regular, everyday fires cause thousands of deaths each year and cost billions in property damage,” he said.

With that in mind, Siarnicki contends that fire professionals must work harder to change that image by promoting a far more educated workforce. “When it comes time to finalize budgets, fire departments have to compete with all of the community’s other service agencies. To do that, department chiefs must make a far more compelling case. In my opinion, the answer lies in higher education, which continues to be the critical link when it comes to negotiating for better salaries and equipment. For years the fire service was behind the curve there, but we’re coming around now. In fact, in just about every major fire department across the country, higher education is becoming essential to career promotion.”

Education has played a key role in Siarnicki’s success. Realizing early on that he needed more than an associate’s degree to compete for promotion, he enrolled at UMUC

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## **LET’S FACE IT,**

**YOUR PARTNER ON THE HOSELINE IS THE ONE WHO**

**DECIDES WHETHER YOU LIVE OR DIE EACH TIME YOU GO OUT.**

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during the infancy of its online learning program. After earning both a bachelor’s degree with a specialization in fire science and a master’s degree in technology management, Siarnicki joined UMUC’s fire science faculty in 1997. It is a job he not only loves, but also credits as perhaps his greatest contribution to the fire service profession.

“I love teaching all those young, energetic, bright-eyed kids and preparing them to become the fire service leaders of the future. It’s a way I can give something back to all of those who did the same for me.”

But that’s not all Siarnicki is giving back. Upon retiring two years ago, after 23 years with the Prince George’s Fire Department, he started his *third* career, this time as executive director of the National Fallen Firefighters Association, an organization that provides relief and assistance to the families of fallen firefighters, as well as to surviving fire department members. In fact, it was this job that took him to the front lines of Ground Zero in New York City, where he worked tirelessly with the city’s command center to restore some semblance of order among the ranks. He is also a published author, having penned numerous magazine

*continued on page 31*

# NEWS, EVENTS, AND CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

Stay connected to your fellow alumni through Alumni Association initiatives, socials, and chapter events. Several academic and regional chapters have been in existence for years, and new start-up groups are in the planning stages. For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 240-684-5125 or visit the alumni Web site at [umucalumni.org](http://umucalumni.org).

## Howard County, Maryland

After a strong showing at an alumni event honoring Jim Robey '79, Howard County executive and UMUC's 2002 distinguished alumnus, interested alumni established a Howard County alumni chapter planning committee led by Kate Perry '97 & '01, Joel Aronoff '79 & '95, and Fred Antenberg '66, who helped arrange three exciting socials in the fall of 2003 that brought together UMUC alumni, currently enrolled students, and staff from the Howard County area. More gatherings are planned for the coming year. Nottingham's Tavern, an upscale sports bar in Columbia, Maryland, was the site of two afternoon events, on October 12 and December 14, that allowed guests to socialize as well as watch football and cheer for their favorite team. On November 13, alumni and friends relaxed at the stylish Luna C Grille in Clarksville, Maryland. Visit the alumni Web site at [www.umucalumni.org](http://www.umucalumni.org) for information on upcoming events.



## Human Resource Network

The Career and Professional Development Committee worked closely with Mary Schwanky, director of UMUC's Career and Cooperative Education Center, to strengthen the Human Resources (HR) Network and increase its membership to 100 participants. To recruit new members, a volunteer survey and sign-up form was posted on the alumni Web site at [www.umucalumni.org](http://www.umucalumni.org) and members met with interested HR alumni. Network members plan to visit UMUC classes in human resource management to advise students on careers and options in the field.

The Network partnered with the Society for Human Resource Managers (SHRM) and held a UMUC alumni/HR networking event on June 23, 2003, at SHRM's Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. Plans are underway to hold a similar event on June 28 in New Orleans, Louisiana, during SHRM's 2004 Annual Convention.

## IMAN Chapter Holds Fifth Annual Awards Dinner

The Master of International Management (IMAN) chapter, UMUC's longest-standing alumni chapter, celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 5, 2003, at its fifth annual awards dinner, held at the Holiday Inn in College Park, Maryland. Under the leadership of Dharma Selva '02, the chapter held a series of events, including monthly dinners at an eclectic variety of area restaurants, and its second annual Halloween party, held at UMUC's Oracle Lounge in Adelphi, Maryland.

This year's award dinner drew more than 200 people and helped raise funds for scholarships that will support students of international management. The outstanding alumnus award went to Edmund ("Bud") Miller '96, CEO of Efficient Research Solutions, for outstanding application of international management principles.

The IMAN Chapter elected the following officers to serve during 2003–2004.

Yuri Skrynnikov, *President*  
Connie Turner, *Vice President*  
Cleopatra B. Sinkamba Islar, *African Liaison*  
Zorayda Munoz, *Treasurer/South American Liaison*  
Steve Koenig, *European Liaison*  
Dharma Selva, *Vice President for Philanthropy*  
Jin B. Yoon, *Asian Liaison*

During the coming year, the chapter officers plan to reinvigorate the Ambassador Speaker Series, funded in part by a generous grant from Alumni Association–International, Inc. In addition, the chapter will hold its Sixth Annual Dinner and Dance on May 1, 2004, at UMUC's Inn and Conference Center. The chapter Web site will be updated to allow for more online interaction, and an expanded mentor program will be launched to benefit students and alumni in the international arena.

## MBA Chapter Launched

In 2002, a group of graduates of UMUC's MBA program formed a planning committee to explore establishing an alumni chapter.



Kathleen Puckett '01 & '02 and other committee members devoted countless hours to laying a solid foundation for the MBA chapter, organizing a Web site, holding online elections, and drafting chapter bylaws.

In April 2003, the following officers were installed:

Brian Ford, *President*

Sharon Bowser, *Vice President*

Jonn Lau, *Treasurer*

Jeri Groce, *Secretary*

Cheryl Young, *Representative-at-Large, Executive Programs*

Patricia Hicks, *Representative-at-Large, Online Programs*

Plans are underway to host and facilitate events that will alternate between professional development and social interests. Membership already exceeds 350 and is expected to grow with each graduating cohort.

### **Military Chapter Formed**

In order to accommodate the special needs and interests of UMUC's military alumni and currently enrolled students, a planning committee has been formed to establish a military chapter. An alumni social took place June 9, 2003, at the Andrews Air Force Base Officers' Club in Maryland. Jerry Cannon '01, manager of the club, graciously agreed to host the event, which brought military alumni and current students together to learn more about the military chapter and recent developments at UMUC. Alumni Association–International, Inc., previously awarded the association \$5,000 in grant funds to initiate and launch this important chapter.

### **Munich/Augsburg/Mannheim Biannual Alumni Reunion**

After the successful biannual alumni reunion for UMUC graduates of the Munich/Augsburg/Mannheim two-year residential program held in October 2002 at the Capitol Brewery in Washington, D.C., a committee was established to plan for the 2004 Oktoberfest. James Corley, Theresa Kalmer, Michelle Renee Thamer, and Carlton "Woody" Woodell are hard at work planning a memorable weekend of events that will take place at UMUC's Inn and Conference Center in Adelphi, Maryland, October 8–10, 2004. For more information, visit the Alumni Association Web site at [www.umucalumni.org](http://www.umucalumni.org).



### **San Antonio Chapter Officially Off to a Great Start**

With more than 1,000 UMUC alumni living in the greater San Antonio metropolitan region, forming an alumni chapter is important. Alumnus Howard Cain '68 helped create a groundswell through his work on the very successful alumni event held in April 2002. Joyce Wright '90 & '94, recipient of the 2001 IMAN distinguished alumnus award, built on this foundation and chaired planning meetings through the summer and fall of 2003. The chapter was officially launched in November 2003 with the following officers:

Joyce Wright '89 & '94, *President*

Brian Parks '95, *Vice President*

Carolyn Coleman '92, *Secretary*

Ellis Jones '95, *Treasurer*

Betty Andrews '88, *Assistant Treasurer*

Ramon Martinez '97, *Membership Committee Chair*

Alfredo Ramos '80, *Membership Committee Co-Chair*

Cindy Inkpen '95, *Social Committee Chair*

On November 21, an alumni reception took place at the San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk in the Riverview Room. More than 60 alumni and current students attended as the new officers were introduced. Cynthia Sikorski, director of alumni relations, and Dharma Selva, associate director of annual programs, traveled to San Antonio and thoroughly enjoyed visiting the beautiful downtown area and meeting with alumni.

### **Former Schwäbisch Gmünd Class President Reuniting Classmates**

Keisha Campbell, a graduate and class president of the class of 2001, has been working to reunite fellow alumni and lay the groundwork for forming an official Schwäbisch Gmünd alumni chapter. She can be contacted at [kmcampbell@umuc.edu](mailto:kmcampbell@umuc.edu) and is eager to hear from her friends and colleagues and to update the international database to facilitate communication. For 10 years, the Schwäbisch Gmünd campus attracted students from all over the world until its doors closed in May 2002.

### **Verizon Corporate Chapter Created**

UMUC alumni and currently enrolled students are well represented at many major corporations in the greater Washington, D.C., area as well as around the world. In an effort to bring together alumni and students employed in the corporate world, the Alumni Association is forming corporate chapters at those companies who boast a strong UMUC alumni and student population. Verizon Corporation is the location for the first corporate



chapter, and, in June 2003, Jennifer Creque '01, Verizon manager and Alumni Association secretary/treasurer, was elected president of the newly formed chapter. The other chapter officers include

Larry Clairmont, *Vice President, Membership Coordination*  
 Darryl Delaney, *Vice President, Academic Enrichment*  
 Silvy Garibaldi, *Vice President, Communications*  
 Zorayda Munoz, *Vice President, Event Coordination*  
 Robert Thompson, *Vice President, Outreach*  
 Shomari White, *Vice President, Finance*

### **Career and Professional Development Committee**

The Career and Professional Development Committee, headed by Jeff Brody '93, advanced many of its goals, including collaborating with the Career and Cooperative Education Center to provide a career development channel for students and alumni, providing a networking and continuous learning forum for alumni who work in the human resources field, supporting the continued evolution and effectiveness of the UMUC Mentor Program, and providing employers in the private and public sectors with a source of student interns and full-time employment candidates.

### **Communications Committee**

Under the leadership of Theresa Poussaint '01, the Communications Committee launched a redesigned Alumni Association Web site with the help of students from Yvette Kalkay's CSMT 450 Web Design class. The winning design was by Edith Williams, and elements of her ideas were incorporated into the overall redesign of the alumni site.

The new site was launched in June 2003 and boasts a quicker upload time. The committee is working on creating a bank of alumni profiles that will be featured on the Web site in the coming months. In addition, the Web site will be updated to accommodate our military alumni and current students and provide them with links to relevant sites.

### **Alumni Association Student Relations Committee Helps Welcome New Students**

The Alumni Association, in partnership with UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, formed a new volunteer outreach program to benefit newly admitted students. Patricia Westlein '88, the Alumni Association's vice president for student relations, worked tirelessly to recruit volunteers and ensure the program was a success. In January 2003, approximately 15 alumni volunteers attended a comprehensive training session led by UMUC staff members Shawna Acker, Tom Porch, and Pershail Young. Each volunteer was assigned to a group of newly enrolled students to call and personally welcome into the UMUC community. The alumni who participated in this pilot program were gratified by the positive response they received from the students. In September 2003, more than 35 volunteers participated in the second phase of the program, contacting more than 700 newly enrolled students. As more UMUC students choose to take their courses online, this program will give newly admitted students a chance to speak with alumni personally and learn more about UMUC, as well as become acquainted with the Alumni Association and its dynamic alumni programs.

### **Alumni Happy Hours at the Oracle**

A new alumni program was launched in the fall of 2002 to provide opportunities for alumni, students, faculty, and staff to meet socially on a regular basis. Events were held at the Oracle Lounge in the Inn and Conference Center during 2002 and met with such an enthusiastic response that a new Alumni Association tradition was established. The socials continued into 2003 with an October 31 Halloween party and a December 11 holiday event; a St. Patrick's

Day celebration is scheduled for March 18, 2004, and will be co-sponsored by the newly formed MBA Alumni Chapter.

### **UMUC Distinguished Alumnus Ronald J. Siarnicki Honored in Montgomery County**

To honor UMUC's Distinguished Alumnus Ronald J. Siarnicki '91 & '97, a special event was held at the exquisite Strathmore Arts Center in Bethesda, Maryland, May 6, 2003. More than 150 alumni, friends, and Montgomery County community leaders attended the event. Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan welcomed the crowd and applauded UMUC for the outstanding educational opportunities it provides to Montgomery County students as well as to students around the world.

### **Alumni Association Hosts New Graduate Reception**

The new graduate reception took place on May 15, 2003, and more than 400 new graduates attended with their guests. They enjoyed the opportunity to meet with UMUC faculty and staff and receive an enthusiastic welcome into the Alumni Association by then-President Patricia Toregas '84 & '91. UMUC Provost Nick Allen led the UMUC cheer and Deans Mary Ellen Hrutka, School of Undergraduate Studies, and Christine Hannah, Graduate School, congratulated the graduates on their accomplishments. Chapter booths for the MBA, IMAN, HR Network, and Verizon alumni chapters were set up in the ballroom to give the new graduates a chance to get involved early on with the Alumni Association and stay connected with their fellow graduates.

### **Executive Board Helps Honor USM Chancellor William Kirwan**

Members of the Alumni Association Executive Board attended a special tribute honoring University System of Maryland Chancellor William ("Brit") Kirwan on June 6, 2003, at the Inn and Conference Center ballroom. The association sponsored a \$2,500 table at this special event; a portion of the proceeds will be earmarked for student scholarships.



## Dragon Boat Races 2003

UMUC and the Alumni Association made history at last year's Washington, D.C., 2003 Dragon Boat Races. Alumnus Yuri Skrynnikov '96 & '00, from Vladivostok, Russia, served as captain for the boat sponsored by the Alumni Association that competed in the 250-meter races and was crewed by alumni, staff, and students. UMUC also sponsored a boat for staff and faculty that competed in the 500-meter race. Both teams placed third in their division and received bronze medals—a tremendous showing for UMUC's first athletic teams!

The Dragon Boat Races took place May 24–25, 2003, at the Thompson Boat House on the Potomac River, with more than 60 teams participating. This is an exciting new venture for UMUC and the Alumni Association, as well as a historical venture.

## UMUC Europe

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual commencement exercises for UMUC Europe took place on May 25 at the Village Pavillion in Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, Germany. The ceremony was for both undergraduates and graduate students earning their degrees from a UMUC Europe institution. UMUC has awarded more than 50,000 degrees in Europe since 1949 when the military first invited the university to hold classes overseas. This year, more than 650 students received their associate's degrees, 700 received bachelor's degrees, and 120 received master's degrees.

University System of Maryland Chancellor William Kirwan was the commencement speaker at the ceremony. According to Kirwan, "UMUC Europe is a dynamic member of the University System of Maryland institutions. . . . I am fortunate to be a part of this ceremony honoring the academic success of students who have made a substantial commitment to their family and to their nation."

The Europe and Middle East chapter kicked off the 2003 commencement weekend by hosting its famous Alumni Neckar

Cruise. The alumni cruise offered relaxation, light refreshments, and the perfect setting to meet other alumni and learn more about the association.

Three boats—the *Europa*, the *George Fischer*, and the *Alt Heidelberg*—departed at 3 p.m. from the boat landing located near the Stadthalle on Neckarstaden. Then Alumni Association President Patricia J. Toregas '84 & '91 and her husband, George, were on hand to welcome guests and represent the UMUC Alumni Association.

## UMUC Asia

The Fifth Annual Okinawa Joint Women's Forum was held at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa, Japan, on March 1, 2003, kicking off Women's History Month. More than 600 individuals participated in the event that was designed to "enrich, enlighten, and empower" women and men on the island. A series of four one-hour workshops was held throughout the day, on topics ranging from yoga and finance to Japanese pottery and calligraphy. One hundred forty-four workshops were offered, with an average of 36 workshops per session to choose from.

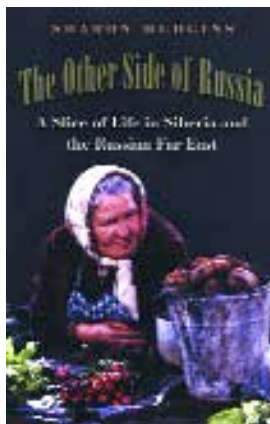
Dawn Berge, assistant to the area director for UMUC–Asia, began the forum and introduced the keynote speaker, Nancy Kassebaum, former U.S. senator from Kansas and wife of Howard Baker, U.S. ambassador to Japan. Several of UMUC's staff and faculty contributed to the success of the event through their volunteer efforts. Berge and Debbie Sickler, UMUC's marketing coordinator on Okinawa, recruited more than 105 different organizations and businesses and also gathered more than 100 door prizes for the event.

The Tokyo Commencement took place on April 26, 2003, at the New Sanno Hotel. The Honorable Nancy K. Kopp, Maryland state treasurer, was the speaker. General Leon J. LaPorte and General Paik Sun Yup were the commencement speakers at the



Seoul Commencement exercises held at the Seoul American High School Auditorium on May 18, 2003, and the Okinawa Commencement was held June 14, 2003, in the Kabasaki High School Auditorium with speaker Lorraine Suzuki, associate dean, UMUC Asia.

**Sharon Hudgins**, who worked for UMUC for 19 years and is the author of *Never an Ivory Tower*, the official history of UMUC's first 50 years, recently published *The Other Side of Russia: A Slice of Life in Siberia and the Russian Far East* (Texas A&M University Press, 2003), based on the 16 months that Hudgins and her husband spent in Russia working for UMUC at Vladivostok and Irkutsk. The book is available from major booksellers.



**STANDING IN THE LINE OF DUTY**, *continued from page 25*

articles, and will soon have a book title under his belt. The 400-page coffee-table book, called *Firefighter*, took nearly two years to complete and features a volume of amazing photographs, accompanied by in-depth interviews with many of the nation's established fire service leaders. For Siarnicki, it has been a labor of love that he plans to use as a fundraising vehicle for the National Fallen Firefighters Association. So far, the original 24,000-copy printing estimate has grown to 70,000.

"It's amazing how well the book was received in the 'short edit' process, and of course we're thrilled that the sales projections are so high," Siarnicki said proudly. "I have been so fortunate in my life. Very few people get to do what I've done and walk from one career into another in the very same line of work, with all of the same issues, culture, people, and partners. I truly feel blessed."

And so do the thousands of people Ron Siarnicki has touched in the course of an already illustrious lifetime.

## AWARD RECIPIENTS

*2003 Edward A. Parnell Outstanding Alumnus Service Award*  
Richard F. Blewitt '73

*Achiever Awards*

Jeffrey S. Brody '93  
Kathleen Puckett '01 & '02  
Distance Education Coordinator, MBA Program  
Mary Schwanky  
Director, Career and Cooperative Education Center  
Michelle Renee Thamer '88  
Patricia Westlein '88  
Vice President, Student Relations  
Alumni Association Board of Directors

*UMUC Staff and Alumni Dragon Boat Bronze Medal Awards*

I Ling Chow (honorary team captain)  
Jackie Anderson '03  
Errazi Belimihoub '02  
Shari Cammack  
Terrie Dixon  
Neal Dubey '02  
Theresa Dunning  
Jose Eduardo Pires de Araujo  
Adam Elkassem  
Arnold Foelster  
Ashanth Jacob  
Clyde Jones  
Theresa Jones  
Don Kehne  
Ferlinda Kreh '98  
Sal Kurian  
Joy Lam  
Sooraj Matthew  
Nichole Mattison  
Zorayda Munoz  
Catherine Newsome '02  
Stephen Newsome '03  
Hong Nguyen  
Toan Pham  
Denise Richards  
Sunil Roopnarine  
Ernie Santos-DeJesus  
Dharma Selva '02  
Cynthia Sikorski  
Shawn Singh  
Yuri Skrynnikov '96 & '00  
Isabel Smith  
Jennie Sweo  
Robert Sweo  
Rosalia Webb  
Julia Wilson



## Bill Bastedo '52

Charlottesville, Virginia, retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1975 as a colonel after more than 20 years of service. He then joined NASA (he had previously been “loaned” to NASA to act as one of seven capsule communicators directing the astronauts in the Gemini program) for 12 years, working first as an operations support director in the Office of International Affairs and later as director of ground tracking and data networks. He joined BDM International in 1987, where he worked on the Hubble Space Telescope until his final retirement in 1996.

## Werner Fornos '65

Washington, D.C., president of the Population Institute and the 1996 UMUC Alumnus of the Year, was named to the Earthtimes Hall of



Fame as one of the 50 individuals around the world who have made distinguished contributions to environment and development

between the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Earlier, Fornos accepted the United Nations Population Award from lawyer, artist, and children’s author Nane Annan (pictured here), wife of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Fornos is only the third U.S. citizen to receive the award, which has been conferred annually since 1983.

## Thomas L. Long '67 and Lucy M. Long '83

Rockville, Maryland, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary May 3, 2002. Both are retired, and listed their occupations as “retired/volunteer/emergency babysitter for grandchildren.”

## Joseph Bernhard Janssen '78

Dasman, Kuwait, wrote, “Since I graduated in 1978, I have taken up managerial positions worldwide and have greatly benefited from my UMUC education.”

## Allen Willey '80

Parker, Colorado, served for six years in the U.S. Air Force as a communication center technician, then worked for 14 years tracking satellites for the Air Force Satellite Control Network (AFSCN). He wrote, “I have worked overseas most of my life. Having a degree has helped my career greatly.”

## George Neilson '82

Dedham, Massachusetts, earned his master’s degree in criminal justice from Jacksonville State University in Alabama. In addition to being a police officer, he serves as a faculty member at Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

## William H. Steele '82

Fort Belvoir, Virginia, recently returned from Kuwait and Afghanistan after serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Lawrence D. Steinfeldt '83

Laurel, Maryland, took his first course with UMUC Europe in 1970 while stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany. He recently retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 32 years of combined military and civilian service.

## Bill Hegedusich '84

Weston, Massachusetts, retired from the U.S. Air Force after 22 years of service. He is now a seminarian, studying outside of Boston, Massachusetts, and hopes to be ordained in 2006.

## Keith E. Rolle '84

San Antonio, Texas, received his doctorate in church leadership and organization systems from Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, in June 2002. He is executive director and president of Rolle Apostolic Ministries, Inc., in San Antonio.

## Ned E. Gensemer '86

Davie, Florida, graduated with an MBA from the University of Phoenix in December 2002.

## Maryann Zihala '86

Nixa, Missouri, a faculty member at Ozarks Technical Community College, recently published *Democracy: The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number* (University Press of America, 2003). The book is available from major booksellers everywhere.

## Derold W. McClammy '87

Hampton, Virginia, earned a bachelor’s degree with a concentration in business management while stationed in Germany with the U.S. Air Force. He wrote, “What a great program! I can’t thank you enough.”

## Katie Meyers '87

Frankfurt, Germany, wrote, “[I fulfilled] a life-long dream to be the first college graduate in my family. Staff and classmates gave me skills and confidence to stay in Germany after retirement to use my degree in German language studies, [and I] went on to get a dual degree: Master of Human Relations and Master of Education from the University of Oklahoma in 1996.”

## Louis Hicks '89

St. Mary’s City, Maryland, was recently named the Aldom-Plansoen Professor of Sociology at St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

## Joyce Lima '89

Glen Burnie, Maryland, fulfilled a long-term goal through UMUC. She wrote, “I attended University of Maryland, College Park, right after high school graduation, then took a semester break that lasted 20 years! UMUC allowed me to work full time and take classes in nontraditional ways and at times that were convenient to me. I made many new friends who had stories just like mine. UMUC is truly a place where dreams are realized!”

## Frederick Clem '92

Springfield, Virginia, completed his bachelor’s degree in Germany in 1992 after attending classes off and on for about 20 years and completed a 26-year career with the U.S. Navy in 1995 as a lieutenant commander. He wrote, “My bachelor’s degree provided the knowledge and ability to gain entrance into graduate school. Currently, I am pursuing a master’s degree in organizational management online with the University of Phoenix.”

## Ratha Vayagool '92

Bangkok, Thailand, went on to earn a master’s degree in international relations from Boston University’s international program in Germany and to work at the Export-Import Bank of Thailand and at the Thai Parliament as a

*continued on page 34*

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“If you can't beat 'em, join 'em,” or so the old saying goes. And that's exactly what Bobbi Stevens has done, as wife and mother to a family of firefighters.

Husband Dan, who has earned his living for the past 30 years as an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), puts in 40 to 60 hours a week as chief of the Waldorf, Maryland, Volunteer Fire Department, as well as head of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (which advocates for volunteer firefighters). He also serves as an advisor and field instructor to the University of Maryland's Fire and Rescue Institute, which provides ongoing professional development to the volunteer fire service. Eligible for retirement from USDA, Dan laughed and said that he will leave when his job “starts getting in the way of firefighting.”

Sons Matt, 24, and Phil, 21, have also worked as volunteer firefighters since the age of 16, and both men have earned their bachelor's degrees in fire science at UMUC. Matt has since gone on to become a deputy state fire marshal in Maryland, and Phil is working toward a career in the military, hoping to one day become part of the U.S. Navy's elite special operations unit, the SEALs.

Given this level of family involvement, it made sense for Bobbi to join the fun, which she has done in several volunteer capacities—as assistant treasurer of the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department and secretary to both the Maryland State Firemen's Association and its safety and training committees. She is even willing to spend her well-deserved summer vacation time in Ocean City, Maryland, at the annual state firefighter's convention.

“Mom has put up with a lot from all of us over the years—not just the fire service, but our schooling and other activities, as well,” said Matt. “There are many times when we've left her sitting in a restaurant or at the movies while we take a call. You learn to plan your activities close to the fire house so you have a way to get home, from time to time.”

With all of the excitement and constant activity, Bobbi admitted that she has learned to “roll with the punches.” Having given up working outside of the home when Matt was born, she has devoted her life to family and friends. And, essentially, that means being devoted to the business of firefighting.

“I figured out early on that it's the quality of the time you spend with a family of firefighters, not the quantity,” she said with a big

smile. “You have to learn to be flexible. So I was happy to support what they were doing from home. I didn't even get involved in the [volunteer firefighter's] auxiliary, even when Dan became chief in Waldorf, which caused some talk from time to time. So, when both of my boys had finally gotten out of school, I said to myself ‘Why not?’ Might as well join them in it.”

Asked if she ever worries about her brood, she declared, “Not really, because I know that they are so well trained; they have all the education and the tools they need to do the job well and as safely as possible.”

The family began its intergenerational love affair with firefighting when Dan was a boy. “My dad became a forest service warden when they created those positions around the time of World War II. Back then, training for forest service wardens emphasized firefighting, because this country wanted to protect its forests from outside invaders. So I remember riding around in his truck with him. But I wasn't really interested growing up. That didn't happen until I was 16 and in the 4-H in high school. We were showing at the county fair, and some of the volunteer firefighters put the hard sell on me to join. I did, and I've been doing it ever since,” he said proudly.

Both of the boys began their volunteer careers at 16, as well, having enrolled in the fire career technology program in high school. Phil has consistently remained among the top 10 most active volunteers, answering more than 1,000 calls per year. And Matt has been equally involved over the years.

“It's every kid's dream to be a fireman, and we were exposed to it at a very young age. I mean, I can remember driving around with my dad, blowing the siren and learning to read the maps. So it was natural for us to fall into it. What excited us so much was the idea that we could one day drive the fire truck. When I turned 21 I was thrilled, not—like most guys—because I had reached legal drinking age, but because I could finally drive the truck!” Matt laughed.

Phil also loves the truck, but explained why he wants to parlay his already impressive experience into a military career. According to his dad, he has always been one to take on a challenge—and the more difficult the challenge, the more driven he is to meet it. As Phil put it, “I've wanted to do the SEALs since I was in middle



*continued on next page*

It's All in the Family, *continued from page 33*

school. And now, with a degree, I can go into the military as an officer. I've also looked into joining the Washington, D.C., fire department and ATF. But, because of budgets, there isn't much hiring going on right now."

Dan is quick to point out that volunteers make up the vast majority of this country's fire service, and that, for all of them, the opportunity to give so much to the community is well worth the many hours they devote to the job. He is particularly fond of the time he spends with the younger generation of volunteers, who he calls "our future."

Both of his sons understand why. "The kids we hung out with who were also learning the ropes of this business were special, and most of them had learned about firefighting from their families. When you grow up with this around you, you develop a good value system and work ethic," said Phil.

Matt echoed his brother's sentiments, and added, "They're not there for the paycheck. They're there because they want to be." And that is certainly the case in this family. Even Matt's girlfriend, Jennifer Gordy, who is building a career in real estate, is, like his mother before her, along for the ride. "If Matt were to say, 'It's time to pick up and move someplace else for the job,' I'd say, 'Fine, let's go.'" Now, that's dedication to the man and his mission!

*Class Notes, continued from page 32*

foreign affairs information officer. He is currently a Theravadin Buddhist monk pursuing vipassana meditation.

#### **Rose Mueller-Hanson '93**

Herndon, Virginia, received her PhD in industrial/organizational psychology in May 2002 from Colorado State University.

#### **John R. Kramer '94**

Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1994 and in 2001 was promoted to the position of claims representative with the Social Security Administration in Charleroi, Pennsylvania.

#### **Valerie J. Mainwaring '94**

Potomac, Maryland, earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University in 2001.

#### **Joyce Kennedy '95**

College Park, Maryland, wrote, "UMUC's EXCEL program was a real help with my earning a bachelor's degree [with a specialization] in information systems management. I am now working on a master's through UMUC while working part-time as a network administrator for University of Maryland, College Park."

#### **Steven J. Schupak '95**

Potomac, Maryland, was named vice president of content enterprises for Maryland Public Television. Previously, he served as vice president of strategic marketing and business development for Henninger Media Services, Inc., in Washington, D.C.

#### **Peter Tiernan '95**

Bowie, Maryland, wrote, "As a senior systems analyst for LLD, Inc., at contract sites, I have benefited from UMUC management training in the Master of International Management. Thanks, UMUC!"

#### **Bruce Barker '96**

Corpus Christi, Texas, is now a resident physician in Corpus Christi. After graduating from UMUC, he went on to earn an MBA from University of Houston in 1997, and began studies in 1998 at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, earning a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

degree in 2002. He wrote, "If not for UMUC, I would not be a physician today."

#### **George L. Thomas IV '96**

Adamstown, Maryland, is a career firefighter with the rank of sergeant with the Frederick County Department of Emergency Services, Frederick County, Maryland. He wrote, "As of March 2001, I was promoted to sergeant of the busiest fire station in Frederick County. My degree in fire science from UMUC helped me obtain this promotion."

#### **Clarke A. Cummings '97**

Oro Valley, Arizona, wrote, "I recently retired as chief master sergeant and settled in sunny Arizona."

#### **Debra A. Hanley '97**

Riverview, Florida, retired from the U.S. Army in November 2001 after 20 years of service.

#### **Karen Biscoe '98**

Clinton, Maryland, wrote, "Taking classes and graduating from UMUC in 1998 was a trip that took approximately 20 years. The various course formats allowed me to take classes while working full-time and raising a family. The instructors were especially helpful and knowledgeable. I am still benefiting from classes in business and employment law, career assessment, and HTML. I have just been ordained as a pastor of a new Christian church in Prince George's County, Maryland, and my management and other classes will help me tremendously. I am blessed to have been a student at UMUC!"

#### **David Jones '98**

Morrisville, North Carolina, wrote, "Studying overseas with UMUC taught me many things, but the one thing that I took home from my studying is one important principle of success—going the extra mile. I have applied this every day to my life, and it is amazing how you can rise above the average. I am proud to say that I will be financially independent before I am 32 years old. Thank you, UMUC."

#### **Donna L. Cole '99**

Edgewater, Maryland, completed her degree over the course of several years, studying in Italy and stateside. She wrote, "In the end, I

# Getting into the Volunteer Spirit

When Bruce Emmel '86 officially took the reins from Patricia Torregas '84 & '91 as president of UMUC's Alumni Board of Directors on June 19, 2003, he not only inherited a worthy mission and an outstanding board, but he also watched proudly as UMUC's first and only athletic team, the Virtual Dragons, medaled in the Washington, D.C., Dragon Boat Festival. As might be expected, the team owes its prowess in large part to the magic oars of more than a few alums among its ranks.

It was just one of many awards bestowed at the Alumni Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Reception, held at UMUC's Inn and Conference Center. As the meeting opened, Torregas took the stage to talk about the association's accomplishments under her able leadership—a brand new alumni Web site ([www.umucalumni.org](http://www.umucalumni.org)), three new alumni chapters (the MBA, military, and Verizon chapters), the first ever UMUC Celebrity Golf Tournament, and the largest new graduate reception ever, just to name a few.

UMUC President Gerald Heeger presided as the torch passed from, as he put it, “a wonderful, extraordinary president to a wonderful, extraordinary president.” He went on to praise UMUC's alumni, and the support they provide.

“Maryland is operating under a budget deficit, which means cuts in higher education. But UMUC is in great financial shape. Unlike other universities in the system, there will be no layoffs or faculty furloughs. And while other state schools will have to raise tuition by at least 5.5 percent, we will not.

We will simply continue working together to make this the best institution in the world,” Heeger said.

He went on to describe UMUC's recent triumphant military contract renewals in Europe and Asia, along with its landmark articulation agreements, which bring UMUC to community college campuses in Montgomery and Frederick counties in Maryland, as well as to Honolulu Community College in Hawaii. The move, he said, will create seamless access to a four-year degree for students everywhere, including our military students.

As the meeting continued, the Alumni Association elected and installed its officers. In addition to Emmel '86, president, this highly able slate included Debra Young '88, president-elect; Jeff Brody '93, vice president for career and professional development; Theresa Poussaint '01, vice president for communications; Joseph Bowen '84 and '95, vice president for government relations; Ralph Young '93, vice president for outreach and chapter development; Mary Anne Hakes '90, vice president for philanthropy and alumni annual giving; Patricia Westlein '88, vice president for student relations; and Jennifer Creque '01, secretary/treasurer.

Richard Blewitt '73 also received the prestigious 2003 Edward A. Parnell Outstanding Alumnus Service Award, and Jeff Brody '93, Kathleen Puckett '01 and '02, Mary Schwanky (director of UMUC's Career and Cooperative Education Center), Michelle Thamer '88, and Patricia Westlein '88 were presented with Achiever Awards.



received my degree, but even more important, the satisfaction of having worked so hard and so long and completed something very important to me and my family.” She now enjoys raising her two-year-old daughter, boating, spending time with her husband and their five Dalmatians, traveling, freelance writing, and eating great food.

## Mark Epstein '99

San Antonio, Texas, planned to attend law school after retiring from the U.S. Army in 2002. However, the events of September 2001 changed his life and plans. As a member of the nuclear, biological, and chemical sciences branch of the Army Medical Department's Center and School, he was directed by leadership to develop a broad-spectrum instruction plan to incorporate homeland defense training

into every course taught by the Academy of Health Sciences. When he retired in 2002, he was asked to take a critical position standardizing training in the rapidly developing field of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives. He wrote, “Without the critical thinking, writing, leadership, and team-building skills I learned at UMUC, I would never have achieved the degree of success I have, nor would the senior leadership have

trusted me to initiate the programs I did or asked me to accept a civilian position. Although law school is still on my agenda, and although I would love to attend University of Maryland, it appears that I will remain in Texas. I thank each of my UMUC professors and the support personnel at the university. It was a joy to know each of you."

#### **Jerry Cannon '00**

Fort Washington, Maryland, serves as manager of the officers' club on Andrews Air Force Base. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1992 after 20 years of service, having managed clubs in Turkey, Korea, and Guam, and stateside in Washington, D.C., California, and Maryland. He served with the U.S. Air Force Presidential Honor Guard at Bolling Air Force Base and for the first eight years of his career worked as an aerospace ground equipment mechanic. He is currently helping the UMUC Alumni Association Military Chapter Planning Committee, which held an alumni social at the Andrews Officers' Club in June 2003.

#### **Tim McMullin '00**

Glen Burnie, Maryland, was appointed district manager of the Baltimore station of Pilot Air Freight, a leading provider of transportation and logistics services. Previously, he served as regional operations manager for Pilot's north-east region.

#### **Steven M. Toole '00 & '01**



Reston, Virginia, has been named vice president of marketing for Icode, Inc., a Chantilly, Virginia-based, 400-person, multinational firm that has developed the world's first integrated business automation software for small-to-medium business.

#### **Fran Vasi '00**

Houston, Texas, was introduced to distance learning through a course she took from University of Alaska-Fairbanks. She wrote, "A door opened [and] I was hooked." She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in sociology before enrolling in UMUC's Graduate School while living in Barstow, California, and working as a computer technician for the local school district. She wrote, "When we relocated to Houston, Texas, I was in the middle of the UMUC master's program and my program

followed [me]. I currently work for Compaq and find my educational experience has enhanced my work life immeasurably."

#### **Guillermo Vega '00**

Alexandria, Virginia, took his first class in the computer field from UMUC Europe, while serving as an infantry NCO with the U.S. Army. When he was medevaced to the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, he was able to complete his bachelor's degree, thanks to the proximity of UMUC headquarters. He now works for the federal government and as an entrepreneur. He wrote, "This is just a small token of [my] recognition and appreciation of, and gratitude to, the University System of Maryland."

#### **Andrew J. White '00**

Florstadt, Germany, wrote, "For all who knew me at Mannheim, I'm still here in Germany. I earned my master's degree in education and have taught English for a few years. I wouldn't mind hearing from anyone who attended the Mannheim campus while I was there 1996-97. Just e-mail me at [ajwhite71@yahoo.com](mailto:ajwhite71@yahoo.com)."

#### **Thomas Bartenstein '01**

Annapolis, Maryland, wrote, "UMUC gave me the background knowledge I needed to start my career off right. Without a base, I had no future. UMUC gave me that base."

#### **Sandra Joseph '01**

Mount Rainier, Maryland, wrote, "Distance education made it possible for me to finish my degree while working full-time. I doubt that I could have finished without this flexibility."

#### **Ronald W. Koon '01**

Seoul, Korea, accepted the position of help desk coordinator in January 2002 and was elected secretary of the Armed Forces Communications Electronics Association (Seoul Chapter 169) in October 2002.

#### **William R. Metcalf '01**

Fallbrook, California, was recently appointed fire chief of the North County Fire Protection District in Fallbrook, in northern San Diego County. Previously, he served as assistant chief in the same district. He wrote, "My UMUC undergraduate degree was a major factor in my being considered for the position."

#### **Cris M. Mixer '01**

Honolulu, Hawaii, works in help desk support with CACI in Hawaii, and wrote, "UMUC gave me the degree [I needed] to land a great job in paradise. Thank you for letting me continue my education while I was stationed in Yokosuka, Japan."

#### **Walter C. Perry '01**

Germany, graduated from Oklahoma University with a master's degree in education in December 2002.

#### **Enrique ("Rick") Sampson '01**

Long Beach, California, wrote, "I can't say enough good words about the quality of UMUC teachers in the Asia Pacific region. I especially want to thank Mr. and Dr. Albrecht, and my favorite information systems instructor, Mr. W. Jung. I owe my success to them."

#### **Maria Donna Ago-Stallworth '02**

Puyallup, Washington, found UMUC to be the only university that would accommodate her family's military service and the frequent moves that service called for. She wrote, "Thank you for developing a college program that is different from the ordinary classroom setting. This means that you look after not only the typical students, but also the challenged ones. Great job, and I am honored to join the alumni family. Hooray!"

#### **Jo Anna Bennerson '02**

Adelphi, Maryland, was recently appointed by the director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to the 2003 board of examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award, created by public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. Bennerson is a certified professional accountant and works for a financial institution as a senior financial analyst. She married Chef Moussa Macalou on May 25, 2003.

#### **Alexine Frank-Cooper '02**

Laurel, Maryland, recently had a baby.

#### **Patrick H. Gordon '02**

Lanham, Maryland, reported that UMUC's graduate program in management helped him enhance his knowledge, skills, and abilities in all areas of management, and expects to use his

# calendar of events



## APRIL 8, 2004

*Graduate School  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Colloquium*

Robert B. Reich, economist, professor, author, and former U.S. secretary of labor, presents "*The Global Economy Is No Longer What It Seems,*" discussing the opportunities and hazards of the global economy and what businesses will need to do to survive and thrive.

7 p.m. in the Auditorium.  
Reception follows in the Ballroom  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland



## MAY 1, 2004

*Dinner and Dance*

Join the IMAN and MBA chapters of the Alumni Association in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UMUC's Graduate School. Tickets are \$75 each. Reserve yours today! For more information, contact Dharma Selva at 240-684-5114 or by e-mail at [dselva@umuc.edu](mailto:dselva@umuc.edu), or visit [www.umucalumni.org](http://www.umucalumni.org) and click on "Events."

7 p.m. in the Ballroom  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland

## March 18, 2004

Alumni Happy Hour  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland

## May 11, 2004

Board of Directors Meeting  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland

## May 13, 2004

New Graduate Reception  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland

## May 15, 2004

UMUC Commencement  
Comcast Center  
College Park, Maryland

## June 17, 2004

Alumni Annual Awards Reception  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland

## June 28, 2004

Alumni Social at SHRM Annual  
Convention  
New Orleans, Louisiana

## June 25, 2004

Second Annual Golf Tournament  
University of Maryland Golf Course  
College Park, Maryland

## August 12–15, 2004

Munich Reunion—Class of 1964  
Baltimore, Maryland

## October 8–10, 2004

Munich Reunion  
• Oktoberfest (Friday)  
• Dinner Dance (Saturday)  
• Brunch (Sunday)  
Inn and Conference Center  
Adelphi, Maryland

degree to further his career, eventually moving into a management position. He wrote, "I would recommend the graduate or undergraduate program to anyone who is looking to get a quality education and interact with top-notch professors and students."

#### **Dennis Joyner '02**

Richmond, Virginia, wrote, "I chose UMUC because of its leadership in distance education. Having also earned my undergraduate degree via the distance education format, I was very much aware of how online education can benefit busy, working students. I would highly recommend UMUC to those who value a quality, flexible education experience. Within one year of receiving my master's degree, I received two promotions and a 30 percent increase in salary. When my schedule permits, I plan to enroll in the Doctor of Management program at UMUC."

#### **Paul Karner '02**

North Ogden, Utah, has lived in Utah for the past 15 years and reported that, while it took a bit of getting used to, he now thoroughly enjoys it. He works for a commercial aerospace firm and wrote, "The education provided through UMUC helped again fire my imagination and creative thinking—two elements key to survival and, more important, growth within any industry. Lessons learned through UMUC also help me manage a variety of issues associated with my family's well-being."

#### **Lawrence J. Monahan '02**

Travis Air Force Base, California, earned his undergraduate degree in business management and is currently a student in the MBA program. He wrote, "I love this school!"

#### **Angela Knight '03**

Springdale, Maryland, is a technology professional with more than 10 years of experience in information systems in a variety of industries and positions. During the past five years, she has worked in the financial services industry with a concentration in client server technology, including systems development lifecycle. She wrote, "Obtaining my Master of Science in e-commerce from UMUC has equipped me with the knowledge to fully participate in the transformation of businesses and organizations through the use of Internet technologies."

#### **Rendall H. Latin '03**

Rockville, Maryland, wrote, "I started my quest to get my degree five years ago. UMUC was the link that allowed my dream to come true. It is truly a university for working adults. Currently, I have completed both my AA and BS from UMUC, and I am working toward my MS. UMUC will always play an important part in my life."

#### **Steven Osvatics '03**

Mechanicsville, Maryland, wrote, "The Graduate School at UMUC has improved the way I conduct business as a federal contractor

and how I manage the resources provided by my employer."

#### **Francis Slover '03**

Palmer Township, Pennsylvania, wrote, "Like most people who attend UMUC, I found it to be the only feasible way for me to pursue a graduate degree. With three kids, a Cub Scout pack, and a brutal commute, regular classroom attendance would have been near impossible."

## IN MEMORIAM

#### **Charles E. ("Buck") Conrad '59**

Alexandria, Virginia, died January 11, 2003.

#### **Roy E. Nolt '61**

Poulsbo, Washington, died June 2002.

#### **George F. Uhl '69**

Wooster, Ohio, died March 5, 2003.

#### **William H. Mitchell '71**

Canyon Country, California, died recently.

#### **Richard F. Mitchell '73**

Santa Barbara, California, died July 16, 2002.

#### **Earl L. Middaugh '77**

Bowie, Maryland, died March 17, 2003.

#### **Sondra S. Shannon '82**

Alexandria, Virginia, died November 11, 2002.

#### **Aaron Heller '84**

Silver Spring, Maryland, died February 2, 2003.

#### **Keith J. Alexander '90 & '98**

Brookline, New Hampshire, died April 23, 2003. He was born in Washington, D.C.,

and grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

He lived in New Hampshire for the past five years, where he was active in Cub Scouts and youth sports with his sons, and in the Nashua, New Hampshire, branch of Habitat for Humanity. He worked for Storage Networks, in Waltham, Massachusetts, for the past three years; for the Gartner Group, in Lowell, Massachusetts, for two years prior to that; and for Intersolv, in Rockville, Maryland, from 1991 to 1998. He is survived by his wife, Jennifer, two sons, his parents, and two brothers.

#### **John R. Barnett '90**

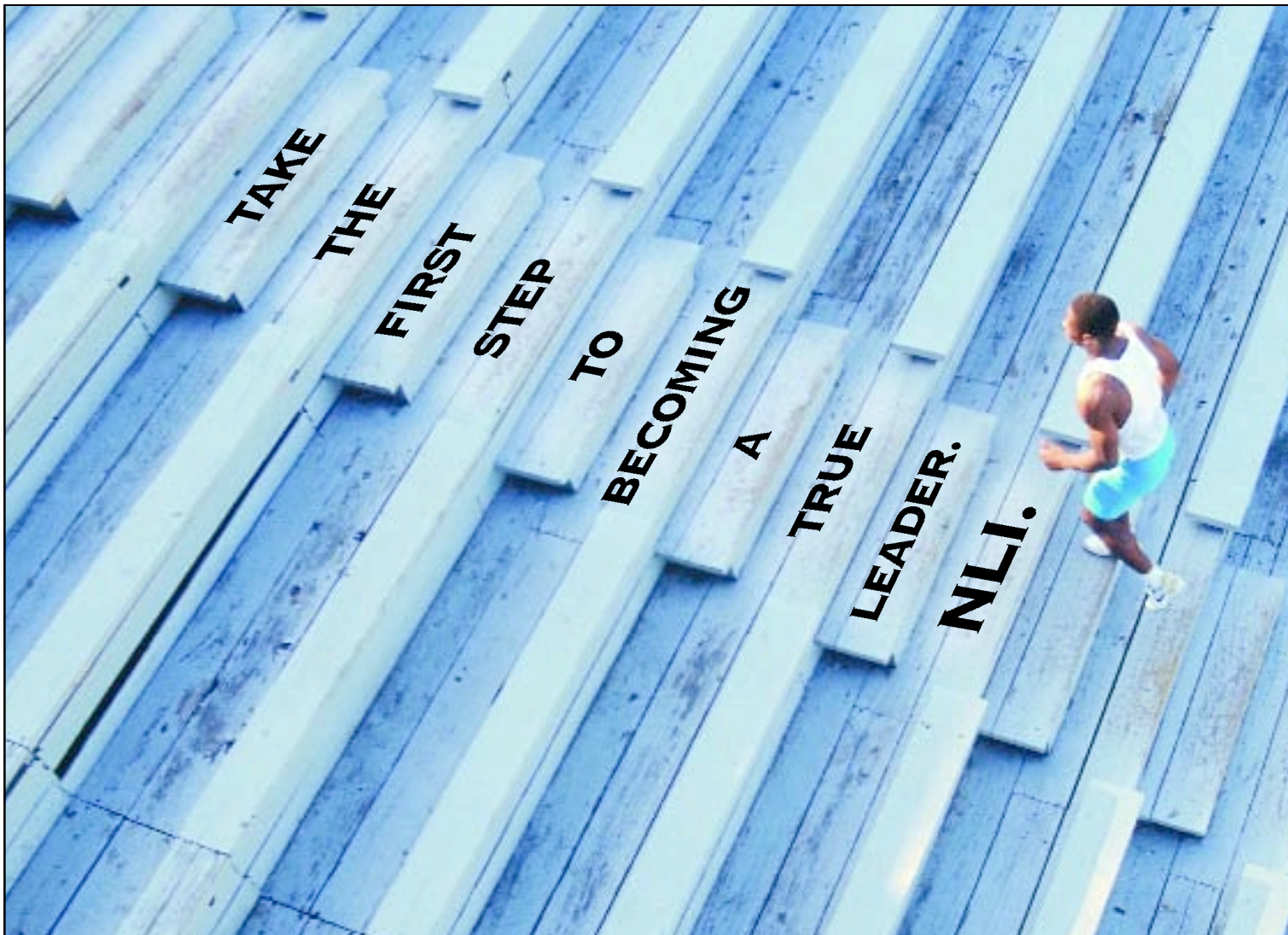
Orlando, Florida, died March 2003.

#### **Judith A. Fricot '90**

Tampa, Florida, died in 1996.

#### **Amelia L. Wright '90**

Beltsville, Maryland, died in 2003.



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## UMUC alumni are eligible to

- Apply for a UMUC Alumni Association FirstUSA affinity credit card with special rates for alumni.

- Receive a discount for GEICO Direct auto insurance, available in most states. (Call 800-368-2734 for a free rate quote.)



- Receive assistance with debt management and online bill paying from Clarion Credit Management.



- Use the alumni discount at UMUC's virtual bookstore when visiting [www.bkstore.com/umuc](http://www.bkstore.com/umuc).

- Access career services such as CareerQuest and MonsterTrak. These are free, online career services for job searches and employer matches.



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- Receive special invitations to UMUC-sponsored events.
- Purchase a UMUC class ring from Herff-Jones College Division. A portion of each sale supports UMUC scholarships.
- Get a discount on rooms and meals at UMUC's Inn and Conference Center in Adelphi, Maryland.
- Visit and use UMUC computer labs throughout Maryland and in most education centers overseas.
- Apply for membership in the State [of Maryland] Employees Credit Union. For complete information, call 410-296-SECU or visit [www.secumd.org](http://www.secumd.org).

For more details on membership benefits, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations by phone at 240-684-5125 or by e-mail at [info@umucalumni.org](mailto:info@umucalumni.org).

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*(signature required)*

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have you moved recently? Were you promoted or did you start a new job? Have you received an award? Share your good news with the UMUC Alumni Association. We'll update your record, and your achievement could be published in a future edition of the *Achiever*.

Please complete the following information and return this form today. **Photographs are welcomed.**

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

## My News:

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Mailing address:** University of Maryland University College, Alumni Association, 3501 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, MD 20783.

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