



USM WOMEN'S FORUM

NEWSLETTER



Letter from the Past Chair, Patricia Ilowite

Dear Friends,

As my term as Chair of the USM Women's Forum (USMWF) draws to a close, I would like to reflect on the many ways the Forum has continued to grow and evolve to best enhance the status of women throughout the USM. More women have become aware of our organization due to the efforts of our Executive Council members, and through our annual conferences.

In 2011, the USM Women's Forum 20th Annual Conference was held at my institution, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). I am proud to say that, by many measures, the conference was a great success. Every year since 2009, we have drawn increasingly larger attendance to our conference, thanks to our programming that offers something for everyone. Dr. Jay Perman, President of UMB, and Professor Paula Monopoli from the University of Maryland School of Law at UMB were both outstanding keynote speakers. The day was one of celebrating the wonderful network that this Forum has built with faculty, staff, administrators, and students. It continues to provide the bright women of the USM an opportunity to share and collaborate, taking good ideas and possibly making them better. It is through networking that collaboration can be born. Collaboration among the women of the USM can create a synergy that can propel research or education into a new dimension.

Interest in participation on the USM Women's Forum has also continued to grow. From this interest, two new USMWF campus groups have been founded. Salisbury University's Women in Leadership student organization is a new USMWF chapter for the students at Salisbury. The University of Maryland, Eastern Shore (UMES) is also building a local chapter for students, staff, and faculty. I am sure this growth will continue, as we learn from each new organization. Check the USMWF semi-annual newsletters to find out what activities might be planned within or near your institution.

Although I am sad to step down as Chair as my term draws to a close, I know that the USMWF will continue on its successful path under the new chair, Hermetta Hudson from the University of Maryland Extension. Hermetta is planning another terrific conference for this fall at UMES, as described in this newsletter. I hope to see you there!

21st Annual USM Women's Forum Conference at University of Maryland Eastern Shore



The University System of Maryland Women's Forum (USMWF), 21st Annual Conference, will be held on **November 9, 2012 (8:00am – 4:00pm)**, at the Richard A. Henson Center, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD.

Our conference theme "**Empowerment**" will be demonstrated through a variety of presentations- presentations which will seek to promote the USMWF mission to *enhance the status of women and to encourage and strengthen their participation in all facets of the University System of Maryland and their lives.*

The USMWF annual conference brings together students, staff, faculty and administrators who have an interest in issues that relate to enhancing the status of women. Conference participants will become empowered through educational tracks which will focus on either (1) financial/economic; (2) work-life balance; (3) diversity; (4) communication barriers (i.e. gender/race/disabilities) and (5) generational facets associated with developing balance between professional and personal lifestyles.

Salisbury University's USMWF Student Group Launches Success!

By Danielle Hart

"Embrace your power to empower!"



During Spring 2012 students at Salisbury University launched their own USMWF student organization, *Women in Leadership (WIL)*. The purpose of the Women in Leadership organization is to empower students to reach their full leadership potential while perusing higher education. It is a student organization formed as part of the University System of Maryland Women's Forum (USMWF). *Continued on Page 2--*

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The Women in Leadership organization allows students to discover and learn from unique challenges facing women in the leadership roles. The organization also provides a foundation network of women in leadership roles in order to teach students how to use available resources to build their own professional network.

Danielle Hart, a Marketing and Environmental Studies double major at Salisbury University (*pictured left with SafeRide president*), is the president and co-founder of the Women in Leadership organization on their campus. "I find it very important for women to understand they are just as powerful as men in today's society, and I want to help motivate our campus to succeed in leadership roles." She began planning and forming the organization with the help of the group's advisor, Kimberly Clark-Shaw of the Seidel School of Education at Professional Studies and Professor Paula Morris of the Perdue School of Business at Salisbury University. The group has a full executive committee and over sixty members and it is still growing.

The group officially announced the launch of their organization on February 22nd with a guest speaker Rosemary Reed who is the director of *Double R Film Productions* in Washington D.C. At the group's launch, Salisbury University's president, Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach provided opening remarks. Since the groups' launch success, they have continued to invite women leaders to speak on campus as well as develop and promote mentorship opportunities for students, including a networking meet-and-greet co-sponsored by Career Services. The organization's events have been well-attended by both female and male students on campus and has garnered tremendous support from the campus community. Every event sponsored by WIL has been attended by the university's provost, Dr. Diane Allen, as well as faculty, staff and students from various academic disciplines and other student organizations. WIL is committed to reaching out demonstrating the "importance of women perusing leadership roles in the community and professional world."



Women in Leadership Receives \$1500 Grant

The USM Women's Forum would like to acknowledge the hard work and effort put forth by the Salisbury University's Women in Leadership student organization. They have recently received a \$1500 grant to assist with Fall programming. This inaugural grant was given by The Women's Fund at the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore. The grant will assist to facilitate workshops to assist students to become a more marketable organization through consulting and education.

Women in Leadership (WIL) was founded in Spring 2012 as part of the University System of Maryland Women's Forum. This organization is dedicated to empowering students in reaching their full leadership potential during their pursuit of higher education.

Join me in Congratulating WIL with this wonderful accomplishment!

Additional information can be found at :

<http://www.wboc.com/story/18826077/su-student-organization-receives-1500-grant>

UMCES Students: Rosemary Fanelli and Jennifer Bryan Win 2012 Drach-Mellody Award



UMCES— Chesapeake Biological Laboratory is pleased to announce that graduate students Rosemary Fanelli and Jennifer Bryan are the recipients of the 2012 Drach-Mellody Navigator Awards. These awards are supported by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Drach and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Mellody. Mr. Drach has been active member of the UMCES Board of Visitors and is passionate about restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Working together with his former USAF colleague, the Drach-Mellody Navigator award seeks to support training of the next generation of environmental scientists to ensure a sustainable Chesapeake Bay for future generations. The recipients of the award have been selected annually by the CBL faculty since 2007.

Rosemary Fanelli is a student with Professor Margaret Palmer and studies the water chemistry of rivers and streams that flow through urban areas before entering the Bay. Jennifer Bryan is working in natural marsh ecosystems that fringe the Patuxent River. These marshes, dominated by wild rice, provide important ecosystem services.

Interested in Contributing?

Do you have any thoughts that you would like to share with the USM Women's Forum? If you would like to comment on a USM Women's Forum Newsletter, or contribute to a future newsletter, please send your comments to the members of our Public Relations Committee at pilowite@af.umaryland.edu.