

UMB Nursing Students Meet "Sim Man" New Lifelike Patient Simulator Talks, Breathes, and Even Sweats



UMB Lab Coordinator, Mary Pat Ulicney, MS, RN helps nursing students Domingo Baez-Diaz and Augustin Nguen Kam work on "Sim Man."

This spring, UMB nursing students are welcoming a newcomer to the USG campus: an \$88,000 human patient simulator who - for lack of any other name - is called simply "Sim Man 3G." This high-tech teaching tool is wireless and provides students with an uncannily realistic experience that mimics working with a living patient. In fact, the entire clinical simulation lab, which underwent a complete renovation in the fall of 2009, is designed to replicate an actual hospital setting as closely as possible, explains Mary Pat Ulicney, MS, RN, the lab's coordinator.

The UMB School of Nursing at USG includes over 200 undergraduate students.

What is most important to students, Ulicney points out, is that they have access to an advanced simulation lab before attempting to work with human patients. "It's like training pilots on a flight simulator, so that they can make any mistakes safely on the ground," Ulicney says.

USG nursing students use the lab regularly to practice their skills. In addition to the new "Sim Man," the lab also has a "Sim Baby" a pediatric version. The lab also has 10 hospital beds, IV pumps, and a new medication cart that barcodes drugs and employs a scanner similar to what is being used today in clinical settings.

UMB School of Nursing recently acquired a Guldmann lift for the USG lab, one of only three such devices in use in nursing schools on the east coast. The lift trains students in how to safely move patients up to 500 pounds. Before the arrival of the new apparatus, nursing students at USG had to be transported to the Baltimore campus to learn how to use one.

The USG simulation lab is also used to test students on their newly acquired skills. The goal, says Ulicney, is to promote critical thinking, effective decision-making and patient safety in a secure environment, all of which UMB's USG's nursing graduates will take with them into the communities they seek to serve. ■

USG'S First Graduating Class in Respiratory Therapy Prepares to Help Community Breathe Easier:

Salisbury University's Prestigious Program Brings a Breath of Fresh Air to the Metropolitan Region

This spring, the first USG students will receive their Bachelor of Science degrees in Respiratory Therapy from Salisbury University. SU's program on the Eastern Shore was the only accredited baccalaureate respiratory therapy program in the state of Maryland before expanding to The Universities at Shady Grove in the fall of 2008.

At USG, students have access to a variety of innovative learning methods, explains Respiratory Therapy Program Coordinator at USG, Adriana Guerra, MPH, RRT. They attend lectures via video-conferencing with faculty at Salisbury University, engage in hands-on laboratory training at the USG campus, and participate in clinical rotations at local health care facilities, including Shady Grove Adventist Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital.

"Working with community hospitals and health care facilities is very important to our students," Guerra says. Students are required to complete a clinical practicum as part of their training.

Respiratory therapy is a health care profession that specializes in the optimal health of the cardiopulmonary system. It is a highly specialized field in great demand. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of respiratory therapists is expected to grow 19 percent over the next few years. It is also very competitive: for the fall of 2010, the incoming USG class will be capped at 20 students.

Salisbury University's graduating students at USG will be accredited as respiratory therapists and also be certified in three highly sought sub-specialties: pediatric advanced life support; neonatal resuscitation; and advanced cardiac life support, making them very marketable, says Guerra.

Since the program began in 1984, SU Respiratory Therapy

graduates have achieved a perfect record in National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) exams. Guerra expects to continue that impressive level of achievement at USG.



Respiratory Therapy students learn with hands-on training by Adriana Guerra, SU's Program Coordinator.

Kendall Award Winners Exemplify the Best at USG:

Armed with a Sense of Humor and a Strong Commitment, Faculty and Staff Members Honored for Work with Students

Nancy Noben-Trauth, Ph.D, lecturer and assistant director of the University of Maryland, College Park Biological Sciences program at USG, was recently presented with the Kendall Excellence in Teaching Award. Each academic year, The Kendall Award in Teaching honors a faculty member who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to student success and teaching excellence at USG.

The late Stephen Purcell, program coordinator for the University of Baltimore at USG, posthumously received the Kendall Outstanding Service to Students Award, which recognizes a staff member who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to student services at USG.

The Kendall Awards were established through the generosity of USG supporters Clifford and Camille Kendall.

Dr. Noben-Trauth's keen sense of humor, energy and enthusiasm are the hallmarks that led to her designation as this year's Kendall Award faculty winner. In the fall of 2008, she came to UMCP's Biological Sciences program from the George Washington University School of Medicine where she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Tropical Medicine. She earned her doctorate in Microbiology at the University of Iowa, followed by research positions at the Max Planck Institute, the Jackson Laboratory and the National Institutes of Health.

Stephen Purcell, who died suddenly in November 2009, was recognized for his unflagging efforts to make The Universities at Shady Grove a student-friendly campus. In his dual role as both admission and program director for all five UMB programs at USG, Purcell was often students' single point of contact and he worked tirelessly, including evenings and weekends, to assist them in any way he could.

Dedicated and caring, Stephen Purcell's presence on campus will be sorely missed by the USG community. In his honor, the first Stephen Purcell Memorial Scholarship will be awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year.



Denise Purcell-Smith accepts the Kendall award on behalf of her brother, Stephen Purcell from (left to right) Mike Priddy, Chair, USG Board of Advisors, Brad Young, Chair, Scholarship Committee, USG Board of Advisors and Stewart Edelstein, Executive Director, USG



Dr. Nancy Noben-Trauth, Ph.D

New Wednesday Lunchtime Forum Encourages Debate:

USG Community Shares Viewpoints (and Sandwiches)

Every Wednesday, Sunil Dasgupta, Program Director of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Political Science Program at USG, has been inviting students and faculty members from all nine partner universities as well as USG staff to join him for a noontime current affairs discussion group. Initiated in February of this year, Dasgupta facilitates each session to engender more free-flowing debate, create a healthy dialogue and help promote an engaged and vibrant USG campus, he says.

Dasgupta, who was formerly a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution and a professor at George Washington University, has been on the UMBC faculty since July 2009.

"Student and faculty interaction is generally limited to the classroom but I want our students to have greater contact with their professors," Dasgupta explains. "At these discussions, we model how to have an informal academic debate. It's never personal, but it can be quite heated, which is what we want," he says. The concept is to focus on ideas, rather than individuals. Recent discussion topics have covered everything from the new American populism to Iran-US policy and relationships with Pakistan and China.

Members of the USG community are welcome to bring their lunches to Room 4124 in Building III. Dasgupta has humorously titled the sessions "Wednesday Wipeout!" The alliterative name derives from the press conferences held by the U.S. military command during the Vietnam War that wartime reporters tagged the "Friday Follies."

The UMBC Political Science Program at USG currently has more than 35 students, and continues to grow. The number of political science courses at USG is expected to nearly double by this fall. A Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science gives students a wide range of rewarding career options in government, law and the public policy sector, among some of the possibilities.



Students and faculty from all 9 Universities get swept up in the "Wednesday Wipeout" discussions with Sunil Dasgupta, UMBC Political Science Program Director



Erwin Hesse, UMCP, Criminology & Criminal Justice at USG speaks to the Legislature.

USG Students Share Their Extraordinary Success Stories with The Maryland Legislature:

Many Others Still Need a Helping Hand

This February, two outstanding USG students shared their moving life stories before the Maryland House of Delegates Appropriations Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to illustrate the importance of their education at The Universities at Shady Grove and the critical need to fund public higher education.

Erwin Hesse, a senior in the UMCP Criminology and Criminal Justice program at USG, told delegates of his academic struggles in high school while hanging out with the "wrong" crowd. Though he barely graduated, as an only child he felt an obligation to his mother so while working full time during the day, he enrolled in the criminal justice program at Montgomery College. During his final semester at MC, he was required to visit inmates at the local jail, where he was shocked to encounter two former acquaintances from high school. "From that moment on, I realized how differently my life could have turned out," Hesse told the committee.

Hesse needed an affordable pathway to earn his bachelors degree and achieve his dream of going to law school. USG provided the best combination of academics, student services and financial assistance to allow him to complete his undergraduate education while still living at home in Montgomery County. He is a recipient of a Camille and Clifford Kendall Scholarship.

Wanting to give back, Hesse decided this year to enlist in the U.S. Army. Immediately after his graduation this spring, he will serve his country as a paralegal specialist for three years before attending law school.

USG junior, Shahin Shahrivar, told senators a riveting story of his family's fall into homelessness, on the very day he graduated high school. For two years, he worked double shifts to be able to support his mother and himself until they could get settled again. But through it all, Shahrivar never lost sight of his goal to attend college and make a better life. He enrolled in Montgomery College and received the Gordon Macklin transfer scholarship to complete his undergraduate degree at USG, allowing him to keep his job and stay with his mother in Montgomery County.

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The USG Priddy Library: Where Seeds of Learning are Planted and Ideas Blossom (And Now You Can Even Drink Coffee There!)

For many sleep-deprived USG students, being allowed to drink coffee and other beverages in the gleaming Shannon J. and Michael D. Priddy Library is reason enough to celebrate the arrival last summer of Irene Munster as the new Associate Director/Head of the Library at the Universities at Shady Grove.

"I want everyone to be comfortable and feel at home here," Munster explains about the new drink policy.

But more importantly, Munster has brought to USG her love of academia and an appreciation of thinking outside the box, a quality she recognizes at this innovative campus. Munster heads all Shady Grove Library activities and maintains relationships with the nine university partners. She arrived in the United States six years ago after moving here from her native Argentina. One of her two sons recently completed his undergraduate and graduate degrees at University of Maryland, College Park.

The USG library is a modern, sophisticated and spacious facility filled with natural light in a green building that boasts bamboo floors, among its many elements. A glass-enclosed lounge area with easy chairs and couches fitted with power ports for electronic devices looks out on to a garden filled with plants native to the region, ideal for students between classes. Adjacent to the large airy main reading room are eight enclosed study rooms that can be reserved by groups and allow conversation. In addition, three modules with more than two-dozen computers are available to students.

"We're trying to be more pro-active in learning and adapting to our users' needs and how we can best meet them in this changing environment," Munster says. With many students adept at using new technologies, the library strives to be a step ahead as much as possible.

For Munster, working with nine partner universities at USG is a challenge that she embraces. "At the library, we help plant seeds and from those seeds, everything will grow here – the possibilities are endless," she says.



Library staff member, Cara Schoen takes time to explain the many resources available at the USG Priddy Library.



Main Reading room in the Priddy Library



Students at USG work diligently at the Library's computer hubs.



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USG Students Share Their Extraordinary Success Stories with The Maryland Legislature, *continued*

Today, Shahin is a high-achieving student in the Entrepreneurial Fellows Program in UMCP's R.H. Smith School of Business at the USG campus. As a future business leader, he also looks forward to one day giving back to the community, in gratitude for the public education that has allowed him to seize opportunities and succeed. ■



USG Community Day

Saturday, September 25, 2010

Save the Date!