From Capstone to Gemstone to Keystone: And Now Marquee Courses?

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BACKGROUND

The University of Maryland, College Park, is a major public research university located on 1,250 acres of rolling land along the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. high-tech corridor.

Fall 2007 Enrollment
Undergraduates: 25,857
Graduates: 10,157
Total: 36,014

Academic Programs
Colleges and Schools: 13

Undergraduate Majors: 127
Graduate Degrees: 112

Students: 51 (Fall); 31 (Spring)

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Colleges and Schools: 13

Undergraduate Majors: 127
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Summer 2007: Strongly marketed library services to professors of new Marquee Courses.
GRE: science courses for non-science majors beginning Fall 2007.

LIBRARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS

Gemstone Librarians teach 16 one-hour GEMS 100 library sessions.

Team Librarians teach GEMS 202, one-hour sessions that help new teams formulate topics and choose the most helpful resources.

- Work closely with undergraduate teams on three-year projects
- Provide general reference/research advice for sophomore and freshmen teams

Marquee Courses in Science and Technology

- Signature program developed at the University of Maryland
- National need to understand and appreciate science, engineering, and mathematics
- Provide solutions to present and future world challenges

Marquee Courses 2007
ADSC 200 Weather and Climate – How weather and climate affect daily activities (Dr. Hudson)
BSCI 120 The Insects: Pollinators in Crisis – Insects and the pollinator crisis (Dr. Armstrong)
ENEE 189W Engineering Issues in Medicine – Rudimentary principles of medical devices (Dr. Lawson)
ENMA 150 The Materials of Civilization – New materials shaping history and civilizations (Dr. Brbere)
GEOL 124 Biogenesis: Making a Habitable Planet – Life shaping Earth environments (Dr. Farquhar)
PHYS 105 Physics for Decision Makers: The Global Energy Crisis – Physics of energy (Dr. Goodman)

Our roles:
- Enabling students and their mentors to make the most of library resources and expertise
- Work closely with undergraduate teams on three-year projects
- Provide general reference/research advice for sophomore and freshmen teams
- Review sophomore team thesis proposals and junior team draft theses
- Attend Fall Junior Colloquia and Spring Undergraduate Research Day poster sessions
- Help critique senior team Thesis Rehearsals
- Attend Final Thesis Conference
- Attend Gemstone Citation Ceremony – students, mentors, and librarians in full academic regalia

Summer 2007: Strongly marketed library service to professors of new Marquee Courses.

We matched library resources to specific Marquee class topics.

- CORE science courses for non-science majors beginning Fall 2007
- Library resources and expertise will be shown to a wider population

FUTURE STEPS

University of Maryland Ten Year Strategic Plan, 2008-2018
- Approved May 2008 after year-long discussion, comment, and hearings
- Article in student newspaper The Diamondback (May 13, 2008)
- Strategic Plan, as at many other U.S. colleges and universities, aims to restructure general education to reflect more contemporary concerns

We can use our experience in marketing and instructing Marquee Courses to reach other new classes and professors

- Library resources and expertise will be shown to a wider population
- Team-teaching exhibits the expertise of individual librarians, bringing multiple perspectives to courses that value plurality and critical thinking