UMBC Event Celebrates Renewal of Relationship with ASM

Since 1982, the historical collections that constitute the Center for the History of Microbiology/ASM Archives (CHOMA) have been housed in the Albin O. Kuhn Library on the campus of the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). On 30 September, an event was held in the Library to celebrate the renewal for a period of 10 years of the agreement governing this relationship between ASM and UMBC.

ASM Past President Jo Handelsman and UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski were among the 25 attendees representing the Society and the University. Several UMBC Biological Sciences faculty and emeritus faculty were in attendance as well, along with CHOMA Committee members, ASM Archivist Jeff Karr, UMBC library staff, and ASM staff members. After opening remarks by Library Director Larry Wilt, Tom Beck, Head of Special Collections, discussed the history of the relationship and the transfer of the collection from Indiana University. James Poupar, CHOMA Committee Chair, spoke briefly about past and planned activities of the Center and encouraged faculty members present to arrange a visit to tour the collections. ASM Membership Board Chair Victor Di Rita made special mention of the very popular Milestones in Microbiology program (administered jointly by CHOMA and ASM’s Communications Committee), whereby commemorative plaques are placed at sites to honor major contributions to the microbiological sciences and the scientists who made them. Jo Handelsman connected ASM’s commitment to diversity with Hrabowski’s pioneering efforts to recruit minority students to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics studies at UMBC, and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from ASM in recognition of these efforts and of his support for CHOMA. For more information on CHOMA programs and collections, visit www.asm.org/choma

Signing the agreement between ASM and UMBC (l-r): James Poupar, Chair, CHOMA Committee; Tom Beck, UMBC Head of Special Collections (standing); Freeman Hrabowski, UMBC President; Michael Goldberg, ASM Executive Director; and Larry Wilt, UMBC Library Director.