



Annual Report 2024-2025

**Presented By:
UMES Department of Fine Arts'
Student Workers**



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Student Statement

This report is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of our department's academic performance and activities during the 2024 – 2025 academic year. The report aims to inform stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, and the general public, about our accomplishments, operational developments, and future outlook. The report will highlight our key achievements, and demonstrate our commitment to sustainable growth and positive impact.

On behalf of all of the student of the Department of Fine Arts, we extend our sincerest gratitude to our faculty and staff, and one another who have played a part in our success and growth this year. We are deeply appreciative of the unwavering support from parents, the invaluable guidance from our Chair, Bradley Hudson, the faculty and staff, President Heidi Anderson, First Gentleman Leon Roberts, Provost Rondall Allen, Dean Christopher J. Harrington, Associate Dean Tiara Cornelius, and the meaningful partnerships with other campus departments and organizations. Your dedication and commitment have made a profound difference in our lives, and we are eternally grateful for your support.

**-The Students and Student Staff
of the Department of Fine Arts**



From the Desk of the Chair

To the Campus Community,

The Department of Fine Arts continues to be a student-centered unit. Fine Arts is always a very active area; however, 2024-25 has been an exceptionally busy and prolific year. This energy has been reflected in the activity of the department as a whole and in the individual students, faculty and staff.

Fall 2024 started with the first ever Field Day. This massive undertaking was spearheaded by Ms. Brenda Slade, Executive Assistant II, and the departmental student workers. This was a daylong event consisting of team building and community enhancing activities and contests. Food and refreshments were provided throughout the day. The President, Provost and Dean of SESA all participated. This day set the tone for the rest of the year. It forged bonds between students, faculty and staff that would enhance the culture of the department. Mr. Byrd, Dr. Hernandez and I took a group of approximately 10 students to Baltimore Con in September. This annual event is an essential recruitment and retention activity. Comic conventions give students real world experience in branding, promotion and networking.

The Envision Art Club is the heart and soul of the Fine Arts student body. During their weekly meetings, students participate in skill building activities. It also provides a much-needed social outlet for students who are typically reserved and reclusive. The annual Halloween Movie Night gives the students a much-needed evening dedicated to fun and diversion in the middle of the Fall Semester. Karaoke Nights have also become a staple of the Fine Arts department, and they are also organized through the Envision Club.

The Fall 2024 Semester was closed with our annual participation in the Ocean City Comic Con. OC Comic Con was started by two Fine



Arts alums, Josh and Mat Shockley. Students and faculty have participated in this local event since it's inception. It started on UMES' campus as Fan Con.

The Spring of 2025 has been equally busy and productive. Mrs. Lelic organized and chaperoned the largest international trip to date for Fine Arts to Italy. Over 30 students toured Italy for ten days. Students visited Rome, Milan and Venice during their travels, and they had an art exhibition in Milan. Ms. Slade assisted in preparations and shared in the chaperoning duties. The Mosely Gallery has also been a shining star this academic year. Along with the normal exhibitions planned throughout the calendar year, Mrs. Lelic orchestrated a collaboration with The Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, VA. The resulting show highlighted numerous African American artists including Elizabeth Catlett and Beauford Delaney. Another momentous first this Spring was Hawk Con. Hawk Con is the first comic book and popular media convention sponsored and organized by the Department of Fine Arts. The focus of this event was retention, recruitment and community engagement. The con was scheduled for March 1st. Various vendors and artists tabled at the event. Celebrity guests included Rodney Barnes and Leilani Shiu. All funds generated by ticket sales, donations, merchandise sales and silent auctions have been dedicated to student scholarships and to Hawk Con 2026. The Spring Formal was the brainchild of Ms. Slade and the departmental student workers. It was held in the Henson Center, and it included dinner and dancing.

Individually, students and staff from the Department of Fine Arts were also highly successful. Mr. Byrd proposed and taught the first animation courses at UMES this year. We are currently working to create an Animation Concentration. Dr. Hernandez was accepted into the Mars Attacks art book, an international, juried publication. Mrs. Lelic received honorable mention at the Photographic Center Northwest International Juried Exhibition at Northern Virginia Community College. Eli Welch was awarded a mentorship opportunity with internationally acclaimed artist, Tracie Ching, at Awesome Con



in Washington, D.C. Numerous students participated in exhibitions at Salisbury Art Space and Ocean City Art League and won prizes.

Academic Year 2024-2025 has been incredibly rewarding. The Department of Fine Arts has some of the best students in its history. We are graduating one of the largest and most impressive cohorts of students in recent years. We are working on proposals for an MFA program and an undergraduate Art Therapy program, and we are introducing animation and 3D modeling technologies in our curricula. The academic team in Fine Arts is one of the strongest on campus. All faculty members are versed in the methodologies of their given areas of expertise, and they are successful working professionals in their fields as well. Students are inspired by and motivated to be in this thriving community of artists, researchers and academicians. The Department of Fine Arts will continue to strive for excellence and to meet the mission of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Warm regards,

Bradley P. Hudson
Acting Chair, Department of Fine Arts



Department of Fine Arts

Vision Statement

The mission for the Department of Fine Arts aligns with the goals and mission of UMES. UMES Fine Arts will provide a quality education and academic experience that's affordable and comparable to any larger, more costly, private institutions. Fine Art students will be competitive in their chosen fields and will gain a skill set that will make them commercially viable.

Mission Statment

The Department of Fine Arts' vision moving forward is to attain an Art Therapy Degree and a Master's of Fine Arts program. An Animation Concentration will be added to the curriculum, and new digital technologies will be incorporated into existing classes. Facilities will be improved and expanded within the Arts and Technology Center as well.

Goals

- Low Residency MFA
- Art Therapy Undergraduate Degree
- Continuation and evolution of Hawk Con
- Animation Concentration
- Expanding the Commercial Photography Program with alternative practices and new curricula
- Expanded International Studies opportunities
- Building collaborative relationships with studios, production houses, galleries and museums



Bradley Hudson

Acting Chair, Department of Fine Arts



Brad Hudson has been an artist/instructor at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for 25 years. He developed a Sequential Arts concentration that began in the Fall of 2009. Hudson is a prolific artist. In May of 2015, Hudson attended the Wizard World Philadelphia Comic-Con. His work was seen by the Star Wars Brand Manager from Topps Trading cards. To date, he has produced over 3000 Star Wars sketchcards to be distributed internationally. In addition to Star Wars, Hudson also does illustrations for other Topps licenses including AMC's The Walking Dead, Stranger Things and Mars Attacks. Hudson has also been contracted by Upperdeck and Fler to

work on trading card series based on Agent Carter of S.H.I.E.L.D., Spider-Man, Guardians of The Galaxy, Thor Ragnarok and Avengers Infinity War under the Marvel Comics license. In the Fall of 2016, Hudson submitted a 4'x5' oil painting of a First Order Tie Fighter Pilot to be considered for the art show at the Star Wars Celebration 2017. It was accepted and Hudson attended as guest in April 2017 with Acme Arts. In 2018, Hudson was invited to create a base card illustration for the prestigious Star Wars Galaxy trading card series. In 2021, Hudson's work was accepted into two international art book publications, the 35th Anniversary Aliens Art Book and the John Carpenter's Halloween Art Book. Hudson continues to practice the art of printmaking specializing in lithography and relief printing. In 2024, Hudson was accepted to be in the Star Wars Celebration Art Show. He attended the convention in April of 2025.

Elvin Hernandez

Assistant Chair, Department of Fine Arts



Dr. Hernandez earned his M.F.A. in Sequential Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and his Ed.D. in Higher Education from Argosy University. He is an educator with over twelve years' worth of experience, as well as a practicing freelance artist in the field of comics, illustration, and commercial art. As a Sequential Illustrator, he has worked on projects for Upper Deck, Toys R' Us, and Focal press (writing and illustrating "Set The Action!", an educational book on background design for Media Artists, and Kaiser Studio Productions. He has also worked on images and marketing material for DC Entertainment, Marvel, FX, and Cartoon Network properties; he is a

current freelancer for City State Entertainment, working on both comics and gaming material. As an educator, he has taught subjects connected with visual arts and sequential storytelling at institutions including the University of the District of Columbia and the Art Institute of Washington, while also speaking on subjects connected to Sequential Art studies at events such as the San Diego Comic Con, Awesome Con, and other conventions across the country. He is originally from Puerto Rico and is fully bilingual in both English and Spanish.



Christopher Harrington

Acting Dean of School of Education, Social Sciences, and the Arts



Christopher Harrington is Chair of the Department of Fine Arts at UMES, where he has taught drawing and painting for eighteen years. He received his undergraduate degree from Binghamton University, an MA and an Ed.M. in Art Education from Columbia University's Teachers College, and an M.F.A. from the Maryland Institute College of Art's Hoffberger School of Painting. Mr. Harrington's work has been exhibited at the Hunter Museum of American Art, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Contemporary Artists Center, in North Adams, Massachusetts, and the traveling show "Roadmap" organized by the

Maryland Art Place. He received the highest honors for his work at the Period Gallery in Omaha, Nebraska. Since 2002 Harrington has had five one-man exhibitions in New York City. In 2011 his work won "Best in Any Media" at the Annual Member Exhibition, Academy Art Museum, Easton MD. In 2015 Harrington won "Best use of Medium" for the Colorexhibition at the Art Institute and Gallery and won "Best in Show" for his mixed medial collage, Tribute to the Negro Leagues, at the same gallery. Mr. Harrington has also juried, judged and curated many exhibitions at a variety of venues including the Academy Art Museum in Easton, the Art Institute and Gallery and the Mosely Gallery on the campus of UMES.



Faculty & Staff

Jesse Halpern

Photographer | Assistant Professor



Jesse started with photography at an early age in the family darkroom in the basement. Having always had a deep love for the process of image making and documenting life around him, he chose to pursue photography in university. Graduating with a degree in Advertising Photography from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2000, he moved to New York city to pursue his career as a commercial photographer. Having assisted for some of the industries' top photographers he then launched his own commercial photography business in 2002. Shooting for clients like the Village Voice, Canyon Ranch Resorts, Travel Holiday Magazine, and various other clients:

Jesse James photography had carved its place in the field of commercial photography. Many shoots and clients later the opportunity to travel and photograph in Asia presented itself, so Jesse packed up his camera bags and headed abroad. As an English and Photography teacher in Korea for the next ten years, Jesse was able to pursue his business internationally as well as his own fine-art photography projects. This inspired him to attend the New Hampshire Institute of the Arts in 2016, where he completed his Masters of Fine Arts in Photography in the summer of 2018. He has exhibited his photographs both nationally and internationally.



Mehves Lelic

Photographer | Museum Curator | Gallery Director | Assistant Professor



Mehves is an Istanbul-born artist, curator and educator based on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. In her work she ponders modernity and heritage, belonging, and the resulting relationship with the environment. She is an Assistant Professor of Art and Art History and the Director of Mosely Gallery at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She holds an MFA from Bard College and a BA from the University of Chicago. Lelic's photographic work has been exhibited internationally in venues such as the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Rotterdam Photo Festival, PhotoNOLA, Filter Photo Chicago, the Ogden Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art Baltimore,

Cosmos Arles France, the Photographers' Gallery Istanbul, and others. Her work has been published in the National Geographic, GEO Magazine, Ain't Bad, Lenscratch, C41, Aesthetica and Der Greif. She has been awarded the National Geographic Expeditions Council Grant, the City of Chicago Individual Artists' Award, the Turkish Cultural Foundation Cultural Exchange Fellowship, the Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) Conference Fellowship, and the ArtTable Faith Flanagan Fellowship. Lelic previously served as Curator and the Head of the Curatorial Department at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland and has curated and organized over 20 exhibitions, including Spatial Reckoning: Morandi, Picasso, and Villon (2023); Laura Letinsky: No More Than It Should Be (2023); Marty Two Bulls, Jr.: Dominion (2023); In Praise of Shadows: Jun'ichiro Tanizaki and Modern and Contemporary Works (2023); Mary Cassatt: Labor and Leisure (2023); Fickle Mirror: Dialogues in Self-Portraiture (2022); Jackie Milad: Vestige (2022); Norma Morgan: Enchanted World (2022); The Movable Image: Video Art by Collis/Donadio, Shala Miller, and Rachel Schmidt (2022); Hoesy Corona: Terrestrial Caravan (2022); and On Water (2019).

Collin Byrd

Digital Sculptor | Animator | Assistant Professor



Collin Byrd is a Professor of Graphic Illustration and Animation at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and currently developing the animation concentration for the Arts program. Mr. Byrd's proficiencies include 2D animation, sequential art, 3D sculpting and 3D Printing. Mr. Byrd attended the Art Institute of Washington from 2006 to 2010, and the graduate program at the Savannah College of Art in Design from 2010-2013. In 2013, he graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Animation. From there, he interned at Primal Screen in Atlanta, Georgia, as a storyboard artist. As a storyboard artist, Mr. Byrd worked with clients such as Disney designing

advertisements for the Disney Channel. After Primal Screen, Mr. Byrd returned to their undergraduate alma mater, The Art Institute of Washington, to teach 2D animation. From there, Mr. Byrd would go on to teach animation at Buena Vista University and the Savannah College of Art and Design before arriving at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. When not teaching, Mr. Byrd is constantly experimenting with the limits of artistic digital creation tools. From 3D prints of figures sculpted on digital tablets, to interactive moving comic art, Mr. Byrd is always finding new ways to push the envelope. Their pride and joy is the animated webcomic, "The Crimson Fly," an experimental superhero coming of age story for both its main character and creator, but their true calling is finding new ways to invite others to share in the joy of artistic creation. Whether its creative ways to limit spending on artistic tools, finding innovative ways of using existing tools, or pushing the boundaries of tools yet to enter the cultural zeitgeist, Mr. Byrd is always moving forward.



Murat Sener

Sculptor | Ceramic Artist | Adjunct Professor | Co-founder of MUSZ Studio



Murat Sener is a dedicated and innovative ceramic artist and sculptor who co-founded the MUSZ Studio in 2021. He is currently an adjunct professor of ceramics at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where he guides and inspires the next generation of artists. In his classes, he opens the doors to new worlds, encouraging young talents to see clay as a limitless tool. Currently, Murat holds a studio residency at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, where his studio serves as a space for creativity to flourish and dreams take tangible form.

Salih Sayar

Sculptor | Ceramic Artist | Adjunct Professor | Co-founder of MUSZ Studio



Salih Sayar is a sculptor and ceramic artist who co-founded the MUSZ Studio in 2021. He is currently an adjunct professor of ceramics at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where he leads students in mastering the fundamentals of clay. He inspires students to view art as a means of storytelling and to see their creative process as a bridge. Currently, Salih holds a studio residency at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, where his practice thrives amidst a vibrant community of artists.

Jonathan Hamos

Sculptor | Ceramic Artist | Adjunct Professor



Jonny Hamos is a ceramic artist that was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. He earned his B.F.A in Ceramics from Western Washington University in 2016. Then he went on to earn his M.F.A degree in Ceramics from Ohio University in 2024. After exhibiting works all over the country, he won the “Studio Potter Merit Award” in a ceramics national juried exhibition in 2023. Currently, Jonny is doing a teaching artist residency at Salisbury University. He teaches ceramics courses at both Salisbury University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



Brenda Slade



Having worked at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore for twenty years, with thirteen years of experience working in the C-suite, Brenda D. Slade is an Executive Administrative Assistant II in the Department of Fine Arts. She is known for her strong leadership skills, straightforwardness and ability to handle several projects at one time and delivers work on time. Prior to working at UMES, Brenda worked as a librarian at the Wicomico County Library, and as studio production manager and senior director at a

local television station, WMDT in Salisbury, Maryland and at WHNT-TV 19 in Huntsville, Alabama as weekend director. She is an alumna of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, graduating with a BA in Sociology. She currently lives in Princess Anne, Maryland with her daughter. In her free time, Brenda loves spending time with her family, crocheting, cooking and reading.



Student Staff

Jordan Garey

Major: Sequential Arts

Classification: Senior

Graduation Date: Spring 2025

Goals: I will continue to pursue multiple careers in art. When I return home, I hope to complete a tattooing apprenticeship while also continuing to nurture the connections I have made in college with free-lance work. I will continue to build my portfolio and attend conventions with the ultimate goal of working within the gaming industry as a concept artist or 3D sculptor.



Kysean Johnson

Major: Commercial Photography

Classification: Senior

Graduation Date: Spring 2025

Goals: I'm not entirely sure about what I want to do after I graduate. I know that I want to continue investing in my photography skills. To do that I want to build up my camera equipment, build up my web presence, and to assist my mentor for a while so that I can continue to brush up on studio skills while building up my cliental.





Kayla Wilkerson

Major: Art Education

Classification: Senior

Graduation Date: Fall 2025

Goals: After I graduate with my bachelor's in art education. I plan to go on and get my Master of Fine Arts with a concentration in oil painting back at UMES once the program starts. With my newly founded master's degree, I will be qualified to teach from pre-k until 12th grade and college level. My ultimate goal is to teach art at the college level just like many of my mentors and idols. While I teach, I would love to work within my community and help underprivileged students find their love of art.



Fennec Miller

Major: Commercial Photography

Classification: Senior

Graduation Date: Fall 2025

Goals: As I approach my graduation, I find myself reflecting on my passion for photography, specifically cosplay photography. As I build relationships within this community, I look forward to capturing moments that reflect their dedication and passion through my lens. I wish to continue my career in cosplay photography and open my own studio to provide professional photoshoots with scenes and sets.



Monique Pettigrew

Major: Art Education

Classification: Junior

Graduation Date: Spring 2026

Goals: After getting my Bachelor's degree in art education, my goal is to get my Master's in art therapy and to get qualified for a therapy license. With this license, I will be able to work with both adults and children. I want to be able to stay in my home city and help the people there. I would also like to own my own business to start selling the art that I make. I want to continue to discover new things while creating and to show it to people. I possibly would like to get my Doctorate in therapy.



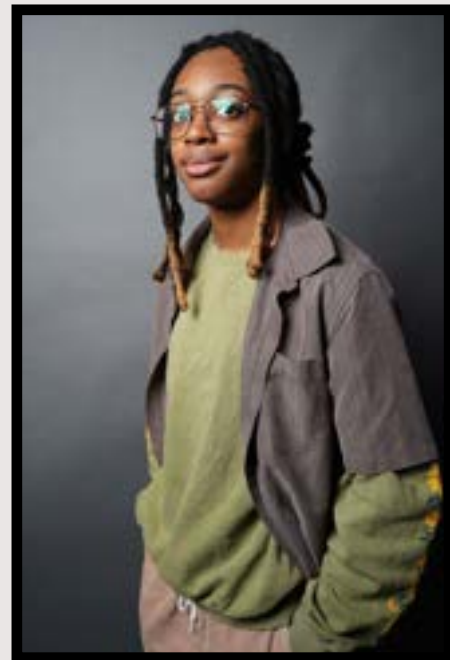
Khemet Parker

Major: Graphic Illustration

Classification: Junior

Graduation Date: Spring 2026

Goals: Once I earn my Bachelor of Fine Arts, I envision myself becoming a character, background, and concept art designer. I hope to be running my own personal small business selling original art pieces to assist in supporting my lifestyle and for personal growth. I am and will always be dedicated to creating more representation of all types of people in my art and creative endeavors. In the future, I hope to get the opportunity to travel to continue to nurture my artistic development and cultural representation.





Ava Hudson

Major: Graphic Illustration

Classification: Junior

Graduation Date: Spring 2026

Goals: After I graduate from UMES, I would like to pursue a master's degree in fine arts. I've been researching many different programs, and I am aiming for something that focuses on painting. I'd like to go further away for this because I stayed home for my undergraduate. After I get my master's, the goal is to teach art to college-level students as a professor.



Tyasia Bell

Major: Art Education

Classification: Sophomore

Graduation Date: Spring 2027

Goals: After I graduate, I'd like to get my Master's. During and after my Master's I'd like to be an elementary or high school art teacher and write and illustrate my own books, bringing awareness to children's mental health. After a couple years of teaching, I would also like to explore being an Art Therapist as well.



Nayani Lewis

Major: Graphic Illustration

Classification: Sophomore

Graduation Date: Spring 2027

Goals: After graduation I will continue my education and get a master's in art conservation, and I will continue to travel and make as much art as possible. During and after getting my master's degree I will be working around the world as an art conservator and featuring my own artwork in exhibitions overseas.



Robert Nichols

Major: Sequential Arts

Classification: Freshman

Graduation Date: Spring 2028

Goals: I plan to write a comic book on my original characters and eventually turn it into a show and even possibly a game. I'm very passionate about my characters and can't wait to develop their story, and I really want to get into animation so I can make my ideas come to life! But besides that, I really don't have any extra plans for the future other than my artistic endeavors.





Sequential Arts

Led By: Mr. Bradley Hudson, Acting Chair, and Dr. Elvin Hernadez, Assistant Chair

Overview: The Sequential Arts concentration is the art of telling stories or rather directing your own movie but on paper. In Sequential Arts you learn how to how to combine illustration and narrative elements to convey your message to your audience. As a Sequential Arts student you get opportunities to go to conventions and see people like you, with similar interest, selling their works and meet professionals in the comics industry. If you enjoy storytelling, character design, the sequential arts is where you belong.

Goals for the Students Pursing This Concentration:

- Learn the basics of character design and color theory to push narratives.
- Create your own stories to be critiqed in a manner that mirrors professional settings.
- Taking those works to the real world and getting hands on experinces selling yourself as an artist.

Assistant Chair, Dr. Hernandez's Future Goals for this Concentration:

- Update the equipment in the department and building as a whole.
- Have students embrace the change in the comics industry and take sequential jobs that are outside traditional comics.
- With the continued success of the department, one day take students to even bigger conventions such as San Deigo Comic Con and New York Comic Con.



Acting Chair, Mr. Hudson's Goals for the Students Pursing This Concentration:

- Build a portfolio geared towards your specific goals.
- Prepare your set-ups for comic conventions.
- Learn how to network.

Acting Chair, Mr. Hudson's Future Goals for this Concentration:

- Increase enrollment.
- Establish a MFA program.
- Collaborate with more existing comic companies/ establish relationships.

Quotes:

Assistant Chair, Dr. Hernandez: “The biggest areas that tend to be taking advantage of contract wise is in the arts. Musicians, Visualist Actors, people who are doing something that involves their passions as well as their craft usually get taking advantage of first, because you already love what you’re doing, so people think they can get you for a song because of that. That why you want to be able to read your contracts and know what your worth.”

Acting Chair, Mr. Hudson: “Work and dedication. Practice your craft and learn how to self-promote and know your goals, if you want to be penciler (for comics) build your portfolio for penciling. If you want to letter or do colors, build your portfolio for that. Know what your shooting for and build your portfolio in that direction.”



Graphic Illustration

Led By: Mr. Collin Byrd, Assistant Professor

Overview: The Graphic Illustration concentration has a focus on applying illustration concepts and techniques to the modern world. You will learn forms of illustration such as narrative illustration, advertisement, and graphic design. The idea that Professor Byrd wants to promote is that your art should be used for all walks of life, not just for narrative or expression. If you are interested in drawing, expression, and communication, this program is for you!

Goals for Students Pursuing this Concentration:

- Further your art experience in classes such as drawing, painting, and anatomy.
- Learn how to contribute to the art world successfully while still expressing yourself.
- Getting out of your comfort zone and exploring topic, concepts, and techniques that are unfamiliar.

Professor Byrd's Future Goals for this Concentration:

- Lean more towards digital art and modernize the technology available in the Art Department's labs.
- Getting student's art out there! – work towards having exhibits in a variety of galleries and being vendors at comic and anime conventions.
- Taking educational trips to places like the Washington D.C. museums, the Art League of Ocean City, and the Delmarva Maker Space.

Quote: “When you teach students how to [create], they teach you in return. And so, you learn new things.” – Professor Byrd on why he enjoys teaching.



Commercial Photography

Led by: Jesse Halpern, Assistant Professor and Mehves Lelic, Assistant Professor and Mosely Gallery Director

Overview: The Commercial Photography concentration focuses on preparing students on how to be financially viable in the photography industry. Students would take classes on topics like design photography, photography 4, and photography studio. The professors want students to be able to successfully make, advocate for themselves, being business savvy, while also feeding their creativity.

Goals for Commercial Photography students:

Professor Halpern:

- Helping students separate themselves from their colleagues by promoting individuality.
- Having students come up with personal projects that could lead to commercial opportunities.
- Encouraging students to experiment with their assignments

Professor Lelic:

- Providing students with a foundation of skills like Studio Lighting, Adobe Photoshop, On Site Shooting, and the Dark Room.
- Encouraging students to advocate, advertising, and being able to have a quick turnaround when working.

Future Goals for the Commercial Photography Program:

Professor Halpern:

- Nourishing a relationship with the networking group called “Peculiar Collective” that will lead to students taking trips to networking events, demonstrations, and potential job opportunities.
- Spreading the word about the program to students that are interested in studying photography, and letting it be known that we’re here and that we have modern equipment and facilities.



- Promote the program to students both locally and regionally, as well as across the U.S., encouraging them to join and become an integral part of our major.

Professor Lelic:

- Inviting artists who are working in both commercial and fine art photography to build a relationship between students and the best photographers in the field.
- Exposing students to a variety of scenarios outside of the studio, which will greatly prepare students to work in the field.
- Taking hands on observation trips to commercial photoshoots.

Quotes:

Professor Halpern: “And a lot of times I’ll refer to feeding your soul and feeding your belly, and so you have to do both in order to be successful and pursue personal projects that you want to do that aren’t necessarily connected with your commercial career, because many times those personal projects will lead to commercial opportunities and clients will see work that you’ve done in a personal capacity, and that will interest them in your photography.”

Professor Lelic: “The best commercial photographers will always have a unique voice that’s beyond just putting objects or people in front of the lens.”



Art Education

Led by: Dr. Elvin Hernandez, Assistant Chair

Overview: The art education program is a BA that prepares students educational careers in primary and secondary (k-12), throughout the state of Maryland, edTPA, and the Praxis. It connects the areas of fine arts and digital arts. There's a balance between fine arts which is painting, illustration, drawing, and ceramics that coincide with education classes like educational psychology, curriculum practices, special education, etc. The idea is to balance the development of pedagogy with skill for the students succeed in the educational field and have a better understanding of their craft.

Goals for Students Pursuing this Concentration:

- Gain prominent placement and full careers in the education field K-12.
- Develop curriculums that blend their artistic skills with their educational acumen in order to become stoic role models to their community and make UMES proud.
- Maintain their passion for the arts and let their academic careers speak to their commitment and overall joy in pursuing art education as their chosen profession.

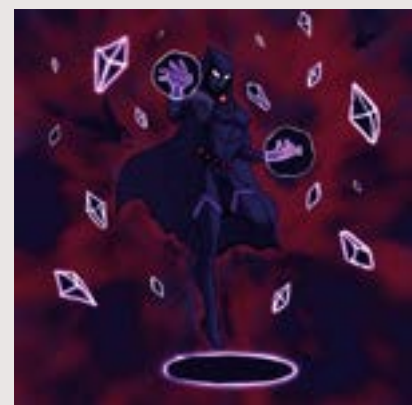
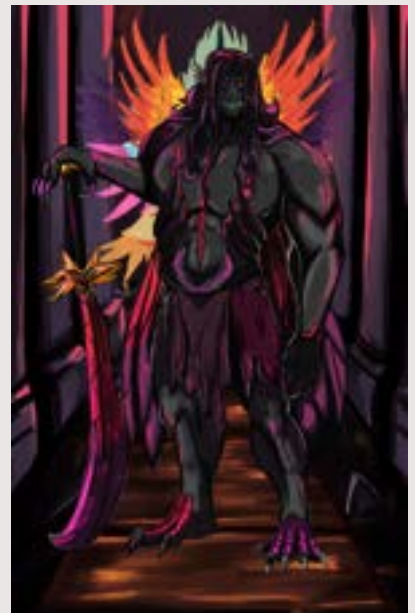
Assistant Chair, Dr. Hernandez's Future Goals for this Concentration:

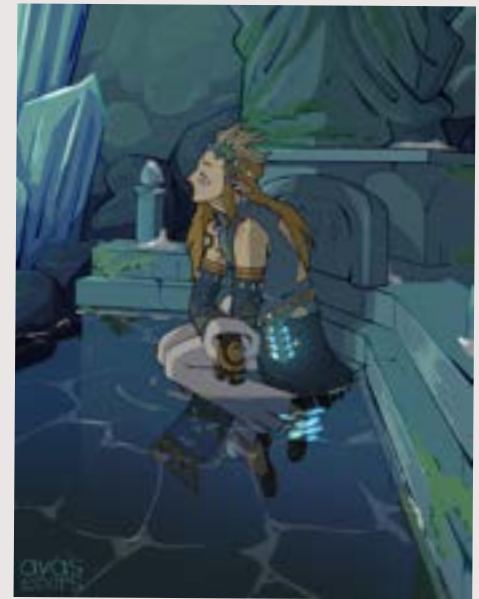
- To better serve students as a resource moving forward, not just during their time as education students but also afterwards, as they pursue their careers and move forward.
- To assist students in their testing and state requirements in order to achieve their goals of attaining educational licensing.
- To make my classroom a place where ideas can be shared, explored and further developed in order to help benefit art students throughout the state of Maryland.

Quote: "Don't wait for the opportunities in life that's in front of you, just go get em."



Student Works







Mosely Gallery

The Mosely Gallery produced six exhibitions during the 2024-25 academic year, hosted a 10-day Art History Study Abroad Program in Italy, and launched a partnership with the Chrysler Museum and Art Bridges, a national foundation that seeks to



disperse American Art in rural communities across the nation. The Fall Semester at Mosely Gallery began with the Faculty Exhibition, where the department's six professors showcased the work they produced in the past year. An Envision Club-produced pop-up Halloween Exhibition, the Lower Shore High School Student Exhibition, and the Fall 2024 Thesis Exhibition followed.

The year's headlining exhibition was Define Yourself!: Selections from the Chrysler Museum, which opened in late February. Inspired by James Baldwin's quote "I was not born to be what someone said I was. I was not born to be defined by someone else, but by myself, and myself only," and co-curated by arts students, the exhibition had an eight-week run. As part of the project, the students took a trip to the Chrysler Museum in November to take a behind-the-scenes tour at the museum and learn about cultural work with Chrysler curators, Chelsea Pierce and Nyree Dowdy.

The exhibition included artworks by seminal 20th century African-American artists, including Emma Amos, Dawoud Bey, Elizabeth Catlett, and Kwame Brathwaite, as well as contemporary artists Kara Walker and Jammie Holmes. The exhibition to date has been attended by over 500 visitors from the UMES campus and the greater Eastern Shore community of arts appreciators.



As part of the project, student docents Eli Welch, Matthew Pattison, Torrence Coffin, Jyon Woolford, Aza Turnerfolk, Stokley Drumming, Nayani Lewis, Samya Sheikh, Rren Maryott, Carter Thorn and Cheryl Wallace wrote introductory labels for the artworks, gave tours, and served as gallery attendants. Mosely Gallery and the Department of Fine Arts is looking forward to the next stage of the collaboration with Chrysler Museum and Art Bridges next year!

Mosely Gallery and the Department of Fine Arts also hosted UMES' largest Study Abroad program to date, with 30 students participating from across campus. The trip included stops in Rome, Milan, and Venice. In Milan, the students showcased their work at an international exhibition at the Cascina Cuccagna Cultural Center.

Many students exhibited their work in different exhibitions at Mosely Gallery this year, including 17 graduating seniors across the two thesis exhibitions. Senior Makiya Smith received the Fall Semester Thesis Prize as she showcased her work alongside Chase Lynch, Tyson Parker, and Lyric Snowden. In the Spring, Mekhi Armstrong, Torrence Coffin, Jordan Garey, Kayla Griffin, Sha'Darra Hamlett, Elise Johnson, Kysean Johnson, Samuel Kumordzie, Kenyon Owens, Mekhi Reed, Ava Schultz, Harrel Tomlin, and Lawrence Wheeler participated in the Thesis Exhibition. This year's student exhibition awards went to Ava Hudson (first place), Matthew Pattison (second place), and Eli Welch (third place). Nayani Lewis and Yelba Adolinama received honorable mentions.





Student Life

Fine Arts Spring Formal

On May 2, 2025, the Department of Fine Arts hosted our second annual Fine Arts Spring Formal. The theme was Under the Stars; the Richard A. Henson Center was decorated top to bottom with stars, drapes, and a glamorous gold carpet. During this event there was a divine dinner catered by Thompson Hospitality, great music curated by student workers Kysean “Von” Johnson and Monique Pettigrew, a photo booth and gold carpet run by photography students. Faculty, staff, and students were all awarded specific superlatives and gifted trophies as well. This event was created to celebrate the various accomplishments of the department and keep morale up as we conquer our upcoming finals.



Field Day

On September 7, 2024, the Department of Fine Arts and Ms. Slade hosted Field Day. A day where art students and professors alike could have fun and do outdoor activities and exercises, competing with each other. A plethora of events were held, examples being a relay race, dodge ball, water filling challenge, 3-legged race, tug of war, and an obstacle course. Teams were randomly assigned, with team leaders. Teams worked together to win games to earn points, and the team with the greatest number of points won a gold medal. Other teams also won medals as well. We had a food intermission with a taco bar. At the end there was a Dunk Tank that the professors went in, and asked trivia questions to throw the balls. Free water thermoses were given out to everyone at the event as well. A big thank you to the student workers and Ms. Slade for making it happen and putting it together.





Open Mic Night

On October 9, 2024, the Department of Fine Arts hosted the first of a successful line of Open Mic Nights in the Arts and Technology Center's painting studio. Organized by student leader and Envision Art Club President, Monique Pettigrew, students, professors, staff, and visiting guests all experienced an afternoon filled with community bonding activities. Food and drink were also provided for everyone, ensuring that the physical needs of participants were taken into account as well. Open Mic Night lasted roughly 4-5 hours, starting from 4pm and ending at 9pm; after which the student community, student staff, and professors assisted in deconstructing the event. During the event, many students were singing along to songs, performing musical numbers, comedy bits, shouting out and praising others and their mentors for being outstanding, and generally had a fun experience. It served as a great way to bond with other students, to showcase theatrical talents in the department, and even a way to get to know the professors and staff better! It was especially conducive for freshman since it was in the first quarter of the school year, so it helped freshman get acquainted with the art department, the students, and the professors better.



Halloween Party

Nearing Halloween, students and staff gathered in the Arts and Technology Center to celebrate Halloween and continued to host morale boosting community events! Food, drinks and candy were provided for everyone attending. One of the main draws of attending the Halloween Party was a costume contest, in which several students dressed up for. Students voted on films to watch utilizing the chatting application Discord, which is a student-led space under the supervision of the Envision Art Club. The participants of the costume contest had their photos taken in the in-house camera lab studio individually and as one joyous group. Votes were taken by the students to determine the winner! Yet again another great example of freshman getting acquainted with the art building, other students, and the professors.





Envision Art Club

The Envision Art Club exemplifies the core values of the Department of Fine Arts; from preparing its students for leadership roles to exercising social collaboration to practicing skills that will help students succeed in the career fieldsm, Envision has exceeded its past expectations. Every Tuesday at 11am, the 2024-2025 student body -- consisting of President, Monique Pettigrew, Vice President, Matthew Pattison, Secretary, Khemet Parker, Historian, Elise Johnson, and Treasurer, Kayla Wilkerson -- all gather in the Arts and Technology Center to start the club's meeting. Envision offers multiple benefits, from supplemental arts demonstrations from professors and peers to recreational events that strengthen the artistic arsenal of students to promoting community events in Salisbury and Princess Anne that gets the club members involved in the wider UMES community. Through the work of Envision and the Fine Arts staff and administration, there are several large-scale trips that are available for club members and other students to attend and network professionally and with peers.



The Cabinet



President
Monique Pettigrew



Vice President
Matthew Pattison



Secretary
Khemet Parker



Historian
Elise Johnson



Treasurer
Kayla Wilkerson



Department Trips

New York

Every year the Fine Arts department in collaboration with the Envision Club hosts a 3-day trip to New York City! This tradition was started by Professor Harrington and has been an annual trip for twenty years. Students stay in the Hi Hostel in Manhattan and are able to explore various parts of the city. They are also able



to visit iconic museums such as the MET, the MOMA, The Whitney and so much more. This trip is fully funded by the Art Department, so students are able to have this experience free of charge.

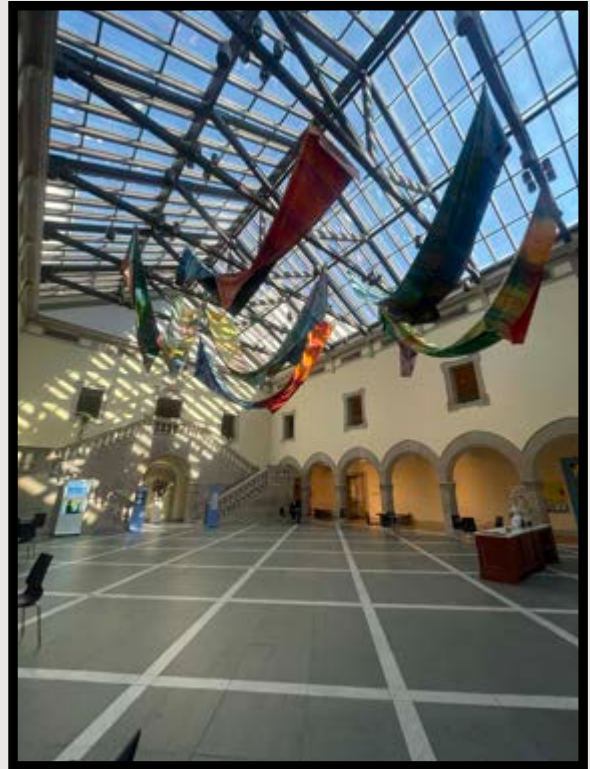
Philadelphia

This year, art students went on a one-day trip to Philadelphia. They went to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, visiting the student social justice exhibition, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. From walking up the “Rocky” steps to exploring the Reading Terminal Market, students were able to experience all the highlights of Philly.



Chrysler Museum

In preparation for the Mosley Gallery exhibition 'Define Yourself!' collaboration with the Chrysler Museum and Art Bridges students had a guided tour of the museum. In this tour we discussed the future exhibition and selected our favorite pieces from their collection.



Italy

Professor Lelic hosted the first 10-day study abroad trip to Italy. This study abroad spanned throughout Italy, starting in Rome, and making its way to Milan, then Venice. This trip's focus was on art history. Students were able to visit many iconic places such as the Vatican in Rome, Fondazione Prada in Milan, and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice. There were many more sights that students saw, and it was a great way to immerse themselves in Italian culture and art history.





Awesome Con

Acting Chair and Professor, Mr. Bradley Hudson leads a trip to Awesome Con, a convention held in the heart of Washington D.C.

This three-day convention focuses on comics, movies, television, games, and so much more. A group of students, hand selected for their artistic and marketing abilities, are taken to this convention to promote themselves and their art. The Art Department provides them with everything they need, such as tables and hotel rooms, to successfully sell their works and crafts at Awesome Con.



Ocean City Comic Con

Ocean City Comic Con is an annually held, two-day convention located in Ocean City, Maryland. Dr. Hernandez and Mr. Hudson take a group of students to this convention every year. Some of these students are picked to promote the Art Department and sell their artwork, and others just go for the experience and festivities. This convention is a great way for the Art Department to recruit local artists to the program.



Otakon

Assistant Chair and Professor, Dr. Hernandez took a group of students to Otakon, a three-day convention focused on anime, manga, and video games. This convention is located at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington D.C. Students were provided with vendor tables to sell and promote their artworks. Dr. Hernandez and the students proudly showed their hawk pride by promoting UMES' Department of Fine Arts and by recruiting potential students.



Baltimore Comic Con

Known as "America's greatest comic book convention," Baltimore Comic Con is a convention held at the Baltimore Convention Center. Its focus is on all things comics. Dr. Hernandez, Professor Byrd, and Mr. Hudson took a group of talented students to this convention. They were able to vend and sell their art. This convention provides a great opportunity for Sequential Arts students to promote their comics and ideas to companies and recruiters in the industry.





Hawk Con

Hawk Con is an annual comic and fandom convention that is held and organized by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Department of Fine Arts. The first instance of this convention was on March 1, 2025, at 30665 Student Service Center Lane, Princess Anne Maryland, on the grounds of the university's Ballroom and the rest of its Student Services Center.

Hawk Con 2025 was organized by Mr. Bradley Hudson and Ms. Brenda Slade and staffed by the student staff that is employed by the Department of Fine Arts through UMES. Utilizing the resources of the organizers, staff, university, and a generous number of volunteers, Acting Chair, Mr. Hudson conducted the university's first convention. Creating a space that many different types of consumers could enjoy, socialize, and network in was one of the primary goals of Hawk Con. It was an opportunity for other students and locals to discover more about the university, black culture, the Department of Fine Arts, and the talent of its students. Hundreds of attendees came and enjoyed panels, special guests, vendors, and events such as a silent auction and a cosplay contest.

In the months before March 1st, faculty and student staff began planning and developing their vision behind the scenes. Student staff reached out to local businesses, food trucks, organizations, and promoted the convention to the surrounding community. Not only did the student staff gain an understanding and appreciation of the Princess Anne and the tri-county area's businesses, residents, and culture, but UMES popped into the public eye as a community of dedicated and talented academics, future business leaders, and as a brimming well of potential.

During Hawk Con's 8-hour duration, all of the goals that it was set out to meet were completed. Featured guest, Bryan Tillman, hosted the panel "Creative Character Design 101", showing interested congoers how to bring forth compelling and interesting characters as is usually seen in most notable comics and shows. Panels "Keys to Success as a 3D Artist" - hosted by Bakia Parker, and "When Writer Meets Artist" - hosted by Rod Van Blake, author of novel Ancient Illumination and graphic novel Nyumbani Chronicals: The Return Home – garnered a plethora of interested and eager listeners and participants. Celebrity guest, Leilani



Shui of The Mandalorian, The Book of Boba Fett, and Obi-Wan Kenobi hosted panel, “It Ain’t Easy Being a Jawa”, as well as sold limited edition and signed merchandise, meeting fans, and enjoyed the UMES community and the atmosphere of Hawk Con. Rodney Barnes, writer on notable projects such as The Boondocks, Everybody Hates Chris, and Blackula: Return of the King, met with eager and dedicated fans and hosted a Q&A Panel to celebrate with and answer the questions of said fans, as well as inspiring newcomers to check out more of his accomplishments.

Cosplay has been one of the cornerstones of fandom and comics from the dawn of its time. Appropriately, the space was made for a cosplay contest – and the response was fierce! A swarm of creative costumed congoers flocked to the scene and stunned the venue. Professional photographers of the Department of Fine Arts captured the majesties of the cosplayers during the convention and then again during the cosplay contest. Sponsored by Ocean City Comic Con, podium placers of the contest were awarded prizes from convention staff, Monique Pettigrew and Matthew Pattison, and strutted their stuff on the runway.

Hawk Con was met with a warm wave of sponsors and supporters, who helped make the positively incredible experience that much better. Sponsors and volunteers of Hawk Con were mailed a custom-made 3D-printed sculpture, designed and printed by Mr. Collin Byrd, of the department’s Henri the Hawk with a placard that thanks them for their support. As it stands, there are several sponsors lining themselves up for the next bang of Hawk Con 2026.

Due to the resounding success of Hawk Con’s debut convention, it is an utmost priority and desire to recreate and improve on for the 2025-2026 academic year. Currently, sponsors and artists are anxious to reserve a spot for the next occurrence. Always striving to do its best, the Department of Fine Arts plans to push the boundaries of greatness and go above and beyond those goalposts.





Students at Hawk Con





From the Desk of the Dean

Mr. Harrington, Acting Dean for the School of SESA

The Department of Fine Arts exemplifies the ideals of student-centeredness and student engagement. Acting Chair, Brad Hudson and the faculty and staff of the department are dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive atmosphere for both academic and personal growth.

The department anticipates and fulfills the needs of students with initiatives including the creation of the Art Loft learning living community, EnvisionArt Club, to movie nights, karaoke nights, field trips to museums, the creation of a fully appointed student lounge and providing all required art materials. They even provide free food and water.

The real highlight of the department is the students. Every day they demonstrate support and consideration for each other. Their talents are undeniable in the classroom and in as witnessed in the Mosely Gallery. I hope that students graduate feeling prepared both academically and socially and that the bonds students form at UMES will last a lifetime. I know that the faculty and staff of the Department of Fine Arts will always remember their warmth and continue to be of support long after graduation.

With appreciation,

Christopher J. Harrington
Acting Dean for the School of SESA







UMES! ARTS

