UMES welcomes a new president this summer

Dr. Juliette B. Bell will be the institution’s 15th leader and the fourth woman to hold the post since its founding in 1886. Her selection culminates a two-decade journey through the ranks of higher education that began at Fayetteville (N.C.) State University for the biochemist who grew up in rural Alabama.

Bell, 57, calls the opportunity to be UMES president a “dream come true.”

She initially chose a career as a scientist, doing research at the National Institute of Environmental Health Science and for the National Science Foundation. She also spent a year in the late 1970s working as a substitute middle school teacher in Beaufort, S.C.

Bell comes to Princess Anne with a wealth of experience as a hands-on teacher and researcher.

UMES alumni welcomed her with an announcement that they will underwrite a special award to recognize those students, who like Bell, excel in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Recipients will be upperclassmen who “demonstrate an aptitude in scientific research and a commitment to advancing the number of minorities and women pursuing careers in (those academic) disciplines.”

The gesture clearly touched Bell, known as an educator who actively encourages students to pursue careers as scientists, engineers and mathematicians.

Bell credits her late parents, whom she said emphasized the importance of education, with instilling a work ethic that has served her well as an adult.

The first in her family to graduate from college, she earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Talladega (Ala.) College in her hometown. Her Ph.D. in chemistry with a biochemistry concentration is from Atlanta University (now Clark-Atlanta University) and she did post-doctorate work in biochemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Following her post-doctoral fellowship, she worked as a senior staff fellow and research biologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Bell was part of a team of researchers that studied an enzyme “responsible for linking … billions and billions of building blocks that make DNA,” the genetic code that determines a person’s identity and health. She was one of the first to identify ways to manipulate that enzyme in order to measure its ability to accurately make DNA under a variety of natural and experimental conditions.

In 1992, she accepted an appointment as a chemistry professor and director of biomedical research at Fayetteville State. She also was able to pursue her scientific interests with a National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award and a Minority Biomedical Research Support grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Bell made full professor at FSU in 1998, directed its Biomedical Research Program (1993-2006) and also established the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (2002-2006).

“Despite Dr. Bell’s promotions within the institution,” said Kimberly Wiggins, a former student. “She still maintained camaraderie with her students and mentees, something unexpected of faculty in her position.”

Bell was founding dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences at Fayetteville State from 2004 to 2006 and provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs from 2006-2008.

She accepted an interim appointment in September 2008 to be chief academic officer at Winston-Salem State, where she is credited with securing an endowed professorship in physical therapy as well as implementing an academic program review. The following spring, she returned to Fayetteville to resume her research work and to focus on writing a book on mentoring students in science.

In August 2009, Bell was named chief academic officer at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, a historically black institution with an enrollment of 2,500 students.

At Central State, she oversaw the academic agenda, including improving student performance, developing new programs and enhancing academic excellence. She restructured the academic colleges to create the first College of Science and Engineering, developed an academic unit to support retention of freshmen and transfer students, oversaw the implementation of the university’s first online courses and enhanced international education programming.

“As a leader, Dr. Bell had a robust sense of reality.
Harvesting the sun

Farming has played a central role at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore since its founding in 1886.

Crops and livestock were grown for sustenance in the early years and more recently for cutting-edge research. In the 21st century, the university looked skyward for a new kind of harvest – harnessing the sun's energy.

UMES and a private-sector partner, SunEdison, activated a solar collection system in the spring 2011 that demonstrates the institution's commitment to being a leader in the production and consumption of eco-friendly energy.

A grid of 7,800 panels sits on 17 acres once used to grow corn and other crops on the east side of campus off West Post Office Road (MD Rt. 388).

The panels are configured to rotate slowly, following the sun across the sky, to maximize the amount of energy collected – even on a cloudy day.

At the time it began producing energy, the site was the largest concentration of photovoltaic modules in one location in Maryland, according to SunEdison.

The activation culminated four years of efforts by UMES' Division of Technology and Commercialization to find efficient ways of reducing energy costs. The solar farm is capable of generating an estimated 15 percent of the electricity the campus uses.

SunEdison designed, built and operates the solar farm. The Beltville, Md.-based company financed it at no cost to taxpayers or UMES, which retains ownership of the land.

In return, UMES purchases power from the solar farm at long-term predictable rates to offset the university's demand from the grid. It is designed to reduce UMES' reliance on commercially produced electricity for two decades.

When the campus is closed and electricity demand is low, UMES has the capability of transferring electricity generated by the solar farm to the energy grid and receiving credit toward future bills.

The solar farm's success has UMES looking for other ways to cut its energy costs. One possibility is through a partnership with a company that makes wind-powered turbines.

UMES leaders also are hopeful such alternative energy projects will spur business growth and entrepreneurs to step forward with economic development ideas that will benefit the community the university serves.

UMES joins Oak Ridge Associated Universities

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore joins 105 doctoral-granting institutions as an associate member of Oak Ridge Associated Universities. ORAU brings together university faculty and students to collaborate on major scientific initiatives that help keep America on the leading edge of science and technology.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities selected UMES as its 27th minority institution at its annual meeting in March themed, “STEM Education—Making a Difference by Changing the Focus of the Conversation.” The consortium has worked for over 50 years to cultivate mutually beneficial collaborative partnerships involving academia, government and industry that will enhance the scientific research and education enterprise of our nation.

“Building institutional capacity through ‘smart partnerships’ can lead to advancements in science education and research,” Cathy Fore, director of collaborative initiatives in ORAU’s University Partnerships Office, said at a recent site visit to UMES. “Scientific collaboration leads to joint initiatives that are beneficial to all involved.”

As a nonprofit corporation, ORAU also manages the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education for the U.S. Department of Energy. ORAU directly supports the energy agency's national agenda and creates opportunities for collaboration through partnerships with other federal agencies, the academic community and industry. The Institute focuses on scientific initiatives to research health risks from occupational hazards, assess environmental cleanup, respond to radiation medical emergencies, support national security and emergency preparedness and educate the next generation of scientists.

Through Institute programs, Fore said, the ORAU supports the missions of filling the pipeline of future science and engineering leaders and increasing minority representation in science and engineering degree programs. ORAU is also a key partner with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, both located in Tennessee.

Dr. Ali B. Ishaque, associate professor of natural sciences at UMES and the university's liaison to ORAU, will coordinate efforts by the university to take full advantage of what the consortium has to offer.

“Faculty and students can vie for and be awarded grants for travel to federal facilities to conduct research among scientists, participate in summer internships and other opportunities,” Ishaque said. “Faculty development and research collaboration is also a part of membership in ORAU.”

For UMES, membership also means another step toward receiving Carnegie re-classification of the university from a master’s focused institution to that of a doctoral research university.

"It is a prestigious designation,” Ishaque said. “It demonstrates to the academic community that each year the institution is engaged in research activity that produces and sustains the awarding of significant numbers of doctoral research degrees across disciplines.”
Magazine lists UMES among best black colleges

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is viewed by peers to be one of America’s leading historically black institutions.

The most recent “U.S. News & World Report” survey ranked UMES 25th among the nation’s historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) — three notches higher than the previous year. UMES has been ranked in the upper tier of HBCUs the past five years.

According to the periodical, it asks presidents, chief academic officers and admissions’ deans to rate HBCUs on which deliver the best undergraduate education.

The survey uses a formula that takes into account retention and graduation rates as well as faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

SAT scores and enrollment have increased steadily over the past five years at the university. This past fall, UMES enrolled a freshman class of 780 to bring its student body to 4,500. When three new science degrees come online, these students can choose from 34 undergraduate degrees, 13 master’s degrees and seven doctoral degrees—one being the three-year Pharm.D. program added in 2010.

A low student-to-faculty ratio (17 to 1), emphasis on testing and accreditation (26 of the academic programs are peer accredited) have produced improvements in a student retention rate of nearly 70 percent.

U.S. News reports that 52 percent of the students who apply to UMES are accepted.

UMES student-athletes recently earned the university an honor from the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference. In the four-year period from 2001 to 2004, 90 percent of the athletes earned their degrees, tops among the 13 MEAC members and good enough to garner the university a $25,000 award.

Alumni and university supporters have responded to these positive trends by making record-breaking contributions. A year ago, the school completed its seven-year capital campaign, raising nearly $15 million — topping a goal of $14 million.

UMES is first among its three University System of Maryland HBCU peers. When the 2012 statistics arrive at the end of August along with students and faculty members for the start of the new academic year, it will be interesting to see where in the rankings the Hawks will have landed.

Ninety percent of UMES athletes graduate

Ninety percent of the student-athletes who competed for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore between 2001 and 2004 earned their degrees, the highest graduation rate in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference for that four-year period.

The performance marked the third consecutive year UMES had the best “Graduation Success Rate” among MEAC’s 13 members and has improved each of those years. A year ago, the rate was 84 percent and two years ago it was 77 percent.

“It is a great honor to win this award for the third straight athletic season,” athletics director Keith Davidson said. “It shows how successful our athletic program has truly been. The success academically our student-athletes have had shows the quality of people we are recruiting and that the university is doing its part in preparing student-athletes for life after college.”

UMES received a $25,000 check from the conference in recognition of the achievement.

UMES joins the ranks of business school elite

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore has 26 peer-accredited academic degree programs, including the undergraduate business program recognized by AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Educators and business leaders agree that students in accredited business schools are viewed as well-prepared candidates for entry-level jobs when they graduate.

UMES joins an elite group of institutions that has achieved accreditation from AACSB International. As of April 2012, only 648 schools of business — roughly 5 percent worldwide — have earned this hallmark of excellence in management education.

“AACSB accreditation represents the highest achievement for an educational institution and its college of business. The dean, faculty, directors and administrative staff of UMES are to be commended for their dedication and commitment to continuous improvement, and for their role in earning initial accreditation,” John J. Fernandez, AACSB International’s president and chief executive officer, said.

Dr. Ayodele Alade, UMES business dean, called the recognition a humbling experience.

To achieve accreditation, the school develops and implements a plan to satisfy 21 quality standards addressing faculty qualification, strategic management of resources, faculty and student interaction, as well as a commitment to continuous improvement and achievement of learning goals in degree programs.

UMES was visited and evaluated by business school deans with detailed knowledge of management education who applied accreditation standards widely-accepted in the education community.

UMES is Maryland’s eighth university to earn accreditation.

The UMES business department began in 1958 with one program in business administration. As the university and the department grew, more bachelor’s degree programs were added, including accounting, business administration with concentrations in finance and marketing and business education.

Approximately 400 students are enrolled in the Department of Business, Management and Accounting.
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore’s marked its 125th academic year in 2011-12 by celebrating a journey from an institution founded as a secondary school for Negroes in post-Civil War America to a vibrant, culturally diverse university taking on 21st century challenges.

It opened Sept. 13, 1867 with nine students in a Colonial-era farmhouse set on 16 acres, a modest tract that remains the physical and emotional heart of what has grown into a 745-acre campus.

Leaders of the Methodist Episcopal denomination in Maryland believed that by providing instruction for former slaves and freedmen earned a chosen that made its productive citizens.

The notion took root in Baltimore, where Centenary Biblical Institute (Morgan College) opened in 1867. Enrollment grew steadily over the next two decades, leading the church to look at expanding to the Eastern Shore.

Benjamin O. Bird, a Centenary graduate, was the first instructor. Bird and his wife shared teaching responsibilities. By the end of its first year, the Academy served 37 students. The Rev. Jacob E. Dunn soon followed them to Princess Anne to serve as an instructor.

The campus grew almost eight fold to slightly more than 120 acres and was commonly known as Princess Anne Academy. When Bird died in 1897, Portia E. Lovett Bird became the Academy’s principal and held the post for two years.

Much as it had in the early days, the college had to justify its existence throughout the 1960s and 1970s. There were calls for turning the college’s property into a prison, converting it into a poultry research facility, scaling back the curriculum to make it a community college and placing the campus under the jurisdiction of the University of Maryland in College Park.

The latter was given serious consideration because the federal government was pressuring the state to be more aggressive in desegregating its flagship university.

As Williams exited in the summer of 1970, so too did the name of the institution over which he presided for 23 years. The new name was the University of Maryland at Princess Anne.

Alfred Emery Wright took over from Williams and was interim leader until replaced by Archie L. Buffkins in 1971.

By the mid-1920s, Kiah envisioned his school embracing a curriculum modeled after those of Tuskegee and Hampton. College-level instruction in agriculture and home economics was introduced. Graduates of the Academy would have a foundation to finish their studies at other, more comprehensive four-year colleges – typically in another state.

Unable to support branch campus, Morgan transferred administrative control of Princess Anne Academy to the University of Maryland in the late 1920s. That enabled the state to keep blacks and whites pursuing higher education segregated at two public land-grant institutions while remaining in compliance with regulations to receive federal aid.

Legal pressure influenced the state of Maryland in 1935 to agree to pay Morgan $100,000 to acquire the Academy, a move widely viewed as a buffer against integration. A year later, official documents referred to the institution as Princess Anne College, a reflection of such “increased offerings” as agriculture, home economics and mechanical arts.

The man who guided the college after Kiah died in December 1936 was Robert Alexander Grigsby. He presided over an institution that more vigorously embraced the traditional land-grant mission of teaching agriculture, home economics and mechanical arts along with college-level instruction in the arts and sciences.

College records show the first class of 17 students completed work on four-year degrees and graduated in June 1938. Tuition for in-state students remained free.

As the nation emerged from the Great Depression, the college’s image also changed. Money from the federal Works Progress Administration poured in to improve utilities and construct three brick “fireproof” buildings, two of which still stand.

Those investments signaled that despite the criticism about its academic programs and fluctuating enrollment, Princess Anne College was becoming a fixture on the Eastern Shore.

World War II brought its own stresses and opportunities. During the 1944-48 school year, records show, enrollment hovered around 50 students. When Grigsby retired in 1947, the University of Maryland’s governing board hired John Taylor Williams, who ushered in a dramatic new period in Princess Anne. Williams was the first leader to hold the title of school president. A year later, the institution became Maryland State College – ‘a fitting symbol for its new life;’ a course catalog declared.

Williams’ impact was immediate and long-lasting. Drawing on his experiences at other colleges, he organized the academic programs into four areas: agriculture, home economics, mechanical arts and arts and sciences.

By the 1950s, Maryland State was recognized as a “Division of the University of Maryland in Princess Anne” – not merely a branch campus.

Maryland State continued to embrace its reputation of reaching out to students who otherwise might not continue their education beyond high school.

The civil rights movement empowered blacks and the downtrodden to stand up for equality. Maryland State students protested about campus life; food, housing and outdated classroom buildings. They also saw vestiges of Jim Crow in the surrounding community, and showed their displeasure with acts of civil disobedience.

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UMES’ team most successful in collegiate bowling

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is home to one of collegiate bowling’s most successful programs over the past five years. The UMES women’s bowling team won four national titles in that span, the most recent in April when it brought home the NCAA's 2012 Division I crown.

The UMES squad defeated east coast rival Fairleigh Dickinson University four-games-to-two. It was the Lady Hawks second consecutive NCAA win and the university’s third since 2008. “It’s the greatest feeling ever,” rising senior T’Nia Falbo said after the match.

The 2011 team also won the U.S. Bowling Congress' Intercollegiate Team Championship, another national tournament featuring the best bowlers from two- and four-year colleges as well as club teams. No college team — men’s or women’s — had ever won both titles in the same year until UMES accomplished the feat.

The 2012 win was particularly gratifying for the team and the university. Long-time coach Sharon Brummell resigned half-way through the season to take an administrator’s job at Georgetown University in Washington.

Into the breach stepped Kristina Frahm, a two-time national champion and 2011 alumna, to serve as interim coach. The victory over Fairleigh Dickinson in the finals makes Frahm the first person in NCAA history to win a national title as a bowler and a coach.

The 2011-12 Lady Hawks had a strong regular season, but were not considered strong title contenders when the tournament field was announced. In addition to Frahm, the 2011 championship team featured seasoned veterans Martha Perez and Maria Rodriguez, who also graduated a year ago.

Nevertheless, UMES had a solid corps of experienced bowlers returning — Falbo, Paula Vilas, Angie Ramirez and Megan Buja. Those unflappable four plus newcomer Mariana Alvarado formed the quintet that brought home the 2012 hardware.

College bowling employs the ultimate team approach to crown its champion in a best-of-seven match. Each school uses five bowlers in a single game, so each participant rolls two frames. Frahm tapped Vilas, the team’s emotional sparkplug, to lead off in the first frame and put Falbo in the anchor slot to handle the pressure of finishing the game.

In the deciding sixth game, Falbo came through in a tense back-and-forth contest with three strikes in the final frame to seal the victory for the team — and the tournament’s “Most Outstanding Performer” honors.

Native speakers teach the courses in a state-of-the-art classroom designed specifically for the study of foreign language. “It’s something not available anywhere else in the region,” Gharbi said.

More than 33 classes have been taught by the Department of English and Modern Languages in the facility this academic year. Conversation Partners were a value added component of the program developed by FLIC to give students taking Arabic or Chinese the opportunity to practice the language outside the classroom. The center also provides foreign language instructors opportunities to attend conferences for professional development.

Unique to FLIC are the non-credit courses, which allow the university to assist various target groups within the community. Spanish and Haitian Creole courses were offered for professionals in healthcare, law enforcement, pharmacy and social work. UMES students enrolled in physician assistant, pharmacy and dietetic programs also received training in Spanish specially designed for working with Spanish-speaking patients.

“This month nearly 50 Somerset County public school teachers will be taking a Spanish course to help them better communicate with their Hispanic students and families who are enrolled in Somerset’s English as a Second Language program,” Gharbi said. It is an example, she said, of how the university’s Foreign Language Instructional Center is helping to meet local school needs. A group of nuns from the Seton Center in Princess Anne also took advantage of FLIC to study Haitian Creole to aid them in their mission trips to Haiti.

FLIC is also a site for foreign language proficiency testing. Gharbi said. The center administers the Oral Proficiency Interview on behalf of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language. The ACTFL certificate is used as evidence of language proficiency in academic and workplace settings.

In its inaugural year, the Foreign Language Instructional Center at UMES made strides in expanding the university’s mission of internationalization by increasing the number of foreign languages available to the campus and community.

“UMES has gone from teaching two foreign languages—French and Spanish—to five,” said Tammy Gharbi, acting program coordinator for the new foreign language center.

Students who learn foreign languages have an advantage when it comes to finding a job, she said. “This just opens up the world to them.” Demand, she said, is especially high from the U.S. State Department and private employers for critical-need languages such as Arabic and Chinese.
A statistical snapshot 2011-2012

The UMES Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment provided this snapshot of the student body during the 2011-2012 academic year.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Enrollment</th>
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<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<td>Master’s candidates</td>
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<td>Other Graduates</td>
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<td>Dorchester</td>
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<td>Fulltime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part time</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 Number of students who enrolled in the Delaware Conference Academy Sept. 13, 1886
4,509 Number of students enrolled in the University of Maryland Eastern Shore 125 years later
11,000 Number of living UMES alumni
3 Number of instructors who taught at the Academy when it first opened
16 In acres, the size of the campus in 1886
745 In acres, the size of the campus now
23.8 In acres, the size of the historic Academic Oval
519,473 The number of holdings in Frederick Douglass Library
0 Tuition Marylanders paid to attend Maryland State College in the 1950-51 school year
$25 Tuition out-of-state residents paid to study at Maryland State in 1950-51
$4,493 Annual tuition Marylanders will pay to study at UMES during the 2012-13 school year
$12,629 Annual tuition out-of-state residents will pay to study at UMES during the 2012-13 school year
$2,400 The Academy's estimated operating budget in 1892-93
$124,599,334 UMES’ operating budget for the 2011-12 school year
$100,000 Amount the state paid Morgan College to acquire the Princess Anne branch campus in 1935
$18.1 In millions, the value of UMES’ endowment as of the spring 2012

Academic Programs

**BACHELOR OF ARTS**
- Art Education
- African American Studies
- Elementary – Special Education
- English
- History
- Music Education
- Sociology

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**
- Accounting
- Agribusiness
- Agriculture (general)
- Applied Design
- Aviation Science
- Biochemistry (2011)
- Biology (general)
- Business Administration
- Business Education
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Construction Management / Technology
- Criminal Justice
- Engineering
- Engineering Technology
- Environmental Science
- Exercise Science
- Human Ecology
- Hotel and Restaurant Management
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Physician Assistant
- Professional Golf Management
- Rehabilitation Services
- Technology Education
- Urban Forestry

**BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES**
- General Studies

**MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING**
- Secondary Teacher Initial Certification

**MASTER OF EDUCATION**
- Career and Technology Education
- Counselor Education
- Special Education

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**
- Applied Computer Science
- Chemistry (2011)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences

Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies (2011)
Quantitative Fisheries and Resource Economics
Organizational Leadership
Toxicology

**DOCTOR OF EDUCATION**
Educational Leadership

**DOCTOR OF PHARMACY**
Educational Leadership

**DOCTOR OF PHILosophy**
Food Science and Technology
Marine-Estuarine-Environmental Sciences
Organizational Leadership
Toxicology

**DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

UMES is accredited by:
- The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- American Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistant (ARC-PA)
- American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), Commission on Accreditation
- American Dietetic Association Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE)
- National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
- Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE)
- American Chemical Society (ACS)
- American Council for Construction Education (ACCE)
- Professional Golfers’ Association of America (PGA)
- Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration (ACPHE)
UMES Points of Pride

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore was founded Sept. 13, 1886.

At the 2012 spring commencement, UMES awarded a record 560 degrees.

All 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore city are represented in the student body. Prince George’s County, the Baltimore area and the Lower Shore lead the state in sending undergraduates to Princess Anne.

During the just completed academic year, 178 international students from 71 countries were enrolled at UMES.

UMES is home to a school of pharmacy; two classes already are enrolled and the university eagerly awaits the arrival of its third class this summer. Hundreds of applicants are seeking one of the 60 seats in each entering class.

The University is considered a leader within the University System of Maryland in the development of the Course Redesign Initiative.

UMES has 26 academic degree programs that hold peer-review accreditation.

The most recent was the university’s undergraduate business degree program – it earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

The business school is working with IBM to forge a unique partnership that is producing graduates who can work on Wall Street and in the financial world that use the latest computer technology to process millions of transactions each day.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which recently announced it was extending its support for another five years with a $15 million grant for the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center.

Between 1991 and 2011, sponsored research at UMES grew 686 percent – from $3 million to $23.6 million in that 20-year span.

UMES recently completed a seven-year fundraising campaign with $15 million in gifts, more than double its previous campaign total. The majority of those donations established endowed scholarship funds.

UMES is home to a 17-acre solar-collection system that is setting the standard for Maryland colleges and universities to be more “green.”

The university has been a key cog in the economic development wheel on the Lower Shore, serving as a business incubator for start-up businesses that have helped create new jobs in this region, including Hardwire, MaTech and a dozen more in the past year.

The UMES women’s volleyball team did something no other team at this institution has done in the sport; it won a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship in the fall of 2011.