Who Are We?
by Jennifer Neumyer

Be on the lookout for historical photos from our Archives to appear on the Special Collections webpage once a month. They are unidentified people and undated and we could use your help. Students, direct your relatives to the web page who are alumni. Faculty you too can be a great resource for us. Just go to www.umes.edu/fdl and look under Library Department websites for the link to the Special Collections and Archives page. It is titled Who Are We? Send responses to Jennifer Neumyer at jnenumyer@umes.edu or phone 410-651-7696.

For the Spirit...

“The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.”
—Arthur C. Clarke

Answer to the Trivia Question.

I am Thomas H. Kiah - Principal-UMES 1910-1936

Visit the Frederick Douglass Library’s Archives/Special Collections Department to find out Little known UMES History Facts.


RefWorks Trial available to the UMES community

The Frederick Douglass Library is pleased to offer a trial of RefWorks for students, faculty, and staff of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. RefWorks is an online citation management tool. This tool allows users to import citation information directly from the library databases. Another great feature is the ability to grab information right off the web and import the bibliographic information into RefWorks. RefWorks is available 24/7 whenever and wherever you are. Using the Write-n-Cite feature of the program empowers students to quickly and correctly create in-text citations and their bibliography. RefWorks provides the ability to create references in many different formatting styles including MLA, APA, CSE, and hundreds of others.

To begin using RefWorks, go to the Frederick Douglass Library homepage and click on the RefWorks icon to create your own account and to view tutorials. If you need additional information, please stop by the Reference Desk or e-mail us at refdesk@umes.edu. T.M. Mastrodonato (personal communication, May 2, 2011)

Library Summer Session Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Closed Weekends

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Greetings!

In the two months since I assumed the role of Dean of the Frederick Douglass Library (FDL), I have been encouraged by the overwhelming support and cooperation offered by the entire library staff during this leadership transition. With the cost of scholarly serials – paper and electronic – outrunning both indicators of inflation and university budgets, the FDL continues to face new challenges and difficult decisions over the coming months in the way that we allocate our limited resources. In the publishing market, the annual 10% increase for journal subscriptions as well as 6% annual increase for books to allow for publishers’ price increases is much faster than our library budget. Significantly, Librarians are working closely with faculty from each department to ensure that the best possible decisions are made under these difficult circumstances. The library will continue to use all the means available to us to supply the literature needed by UMES faculty, staff and students. We will continue to identify ways to reduce duplication; step up efforts to raise private funds, and participate in library consortia to extend our buying power for single library’s collection can provide for all of the information needs of our user community.

As the summer session gains momentum, the FDL is busy planning a number of initiatives and activities that will help improve services for library faculty, staff, students and other users of the collections. To this end, we are evaluating the use of the library and determining how to efficiently and effectively change user space needs (information commons, study rooms). We will move forward with our long-term plan to provide ample and varied study spaces for our users, with emphasis on collaborative studying as well as life-long learning, and thereby moving beyond the caretaker role of libraries. The FDL must become known as “the place” both physical and virtual, where groups can gather to work together, share knowledge and expertise but keep the core business – information literacy – in focus. In order to better serve our users, we plan to implement exciting changes that will affect the collections, staff, space and users alike.

With the continued support of the library staff and the UMES community, I look forward to guiding the FDL through these challenging times.
Legacy of Jessie Cottom Smith  
by Theresa Dadoson  

According to Marvella Rounds’ article in The Centennial Issue of Douglass Notes [vol. 2 #2, December 1986], when the Maryland State College (now known as University of Maryland Eastern Shore) was founded in 1952. It is a small liberal arts institution that is considered to be the first Historically Black College (HBCU) in Maryland.  

In 1966, the Frederick Douglass Library was opened. It is named after the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass who was born in Maryland and played a significant role in the fight against slavery.  

Faces in the Frederick Douglass Library  

Josephine Downsh (AKA) Josephine Brown Holden is a native of Pocomoke City, Maryland. She began her career at an early age, and has been employed at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in the Frederick Douglass Library for 42 years. She has received her Bachelor’s degree in Education and a Master’s degree in Library Science. She is currently the Supervisor of Instruction and Development. She has served in many capacities, from being the Library Director to the Associate Director, and is currently an employee of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She has served in the library for over 42 years and has been an employee of the Frederick Douglass Library for over 30 years.  

Interview with Jessie Cottom Smith by Dr. Ellis Beteck  

The Frederick Douglass Library is home to the Library of Congress System (LCS), which is used to arrange materials into an information library system called ALEPH. The ALEPH database was purchased by the library. The cataloging department in the library consists of a 3 member team of employees who have a combined library experience of 93 years. The cataloging department is responsible for cataloging materials, including books, periodicals, and other media materials, dissertations, thesis, and a variety of other materials. The library staff and faculty are trained in the use of online searching and integration of bibliographic instruction into their reference services. The Funds for The Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE PROJECT) was sponsored by the School of Library and Information Science at Atlanta University. Ruth Poole, the Reference Librarian,Georgia to participate in this training. The library was simply evolving.  

In 1997, the renovation of the library doubled the size of the library, added a classroom and a research lab for the students, as well as study rooms on all three floors of the library. All of these additions and new services were initiated by the current director. How could one individual accomplish so much within such a short period?  

The Director created the library with sterling credentials. B.A. degree in History from Maryland State College (1950) and a MS degree in Library Science from Columbia University (1955). She was the recipient of the Andrew W.Mellon Foundation (1957-1974) for Administration Management at Stanford University, and had a Certificate of Advance Library Development from Miami University in Ohio (1979). Obviously, Jess was an industrious employee, as well as an assiduous employer who assembled a core of hardworking staff to help her attain the accomplishments listed above. It was not difficult to bestow on this visionary leader the exceptional honor in the presence of one hundred and fifteen guests who turned up to witness the award ceremony and naming of the Jessie Cottom Smith Library Exhibit Room. Many more wonderful tributes in her honor.  

Interview with Jessie Cottom Smith by Dr. Ellis Beteck  

The Frederick Douglass Library celebrates National Library Week with an Open House to create your own story @ your library. Libraries are places for new beginnings. Whether you are getting your first library card, learning new computer skills or planning a trip, the library is the place where your story begins. This National Library Week (NLW), we join our nation’s library libraries in celebration with the theme of Create your own story @ your library.  

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore’s Frederick Douglass Library celebrated National Library Week with an Open House to introduce our new Dean, Dr. Ellis Beteck on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.  

“Every day, libraries across the county are helping people create their own unique stories,” says Library Dean, Dr. Ellis Beteck. “Whether it is by opening a book, exploring distant lands, or by learning how to use new technologies to find a job, people at our library are creating the stories for themselves.”