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I am pleased to edit and present to you the second publication of The Graduate Student magazine, which is a continuation of the recognition of accomplishments of graduate students in programs housed in the Schools of Arts and Professions, Agricultural and Natural Sciences, Business and Technology, and Pharmacy and Health Professions. The students’ accomplishments are a testimony to the faculty, department chairs, school deans, staff, and administrators for their support of graduate education and have resulted in UMES’ new Carnegie Doctoral Research University (DRU) status. I thank President Juliette B. Bell for her support and vision to put in place measures to retain the DRU status.

To accomplish our growth, several long-term strategies were employed. These included embracing the UMES mission and vision and adapting the graduate school’s strategic operational plan to implement the vision, creating and fostering a graduate culture and community through campus and extra-mural advocacy; founding an active Graduate Students Association in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation Studies; including graduate students in the shared governance structure through their representation on the Graduate Council; introducing best practices such as training for teaching/research assistants and offering several series of professional development workshops ranging from financial management, public speaking, preparing for the job interview, to proposal writing in collaboration with the office of Sponsored Programs. We centralized and improved the graduate admissions process through the implementation of common standards and faculty review procedures.

Additional long-term strategies included increasing graduate enrollment; revising graduate faculty standards and academic policies; implementing time-to-degree completion measures; collaborating with program directors on advising strategies; assisting with doctoral program closure and revision; assisting with new program development; employing targeted disbursement of limited graduate assistantships to support recruitment in STEM Ph.D. programs; lifting the ceiling on the amount of funding that faculty may pay research assistants from their grants; introducing an annual Regional Research Symposium to support graduate and undergraduate research; initiating the feasibility study for an Animal Welfare Facility to support faculty research; developing a writing program for graduate students; outfitting the Graduate Computer Lab in Waters Hall with the writing software ENDNOTES; building collaborative graduate education relationships with the graduate schools in the University System of Maryland; and marketing graduate education at UMES to the local, regional, and national audience through graduate school publications.

The initiatives resulted in the highest graduate enrollment in the university’s history, the highest number of graduate degrees awarded, and the highest number of research degrees awarded. According to data from the Office of Institutional Research, our growth in the number of degrees awarded has fluctuated from the 10-year low of 71 in 2006-2007 to a high of 131 in 2011-2012. The number of graduates from the doctoral research programs since UMES’ last accreditation increased from a low of 10 in 2006-2007 to 20 and above for four years including 2013-2014, the year of the Carnegie data review. That number is expected to rise to 24 for 2015-2016.
I want to commend Dean Keane-Dawes for the mature and visionary leadership that she is providing to the School of Graduate Studies. The School’s mission supports the University’s land-grant focus by providing the infrastructural support necessary for the development and implementation of transformative, high-quality, graduate and professional programs that prepare leaders for the complexities of our knowledge-based, global economy. This is achievable in collaboration with an excellent team of faculty, staff, and administrators who are dedicated to providing challenging curricula, seamless student services, and professional development opportunities for students.

Graduate students help our faculty to be more productive. They also strengthen the research enterprise in very significant and positive ways, some of which are outlined in this publication, The Graduate Student. The productivity of master’s degree-seeking students transitioning to doctoral research work and the productivity of graduate students in the doctoral research programs will be two of the major factors in retaining UMES’ new designation as a Carnegie Doctoral Research University.

As our new Academic Affairs Strategic Plan continues to unfold, our research enterprise will be elevated, and our graduate programs will be a targeted investment for excellence.

I would like to congratulate UMES on the honor of earning Carnegie Classification as a Doctoral Research University. With this designation, UMES not only joins a select group of universities nationally, but also joins UMD and UMBC as one of three Carnegie-classified Doctoral Research Universities in the University System of Maryland. Offering excellent doctoral programs in such fields as marine-estuarine-environmental sciences and food science and technology, UMES plays a critical role in advancing basic and applied research of signal importance to Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The Graduate School of UMD looks forward to expanding its productive collaborations with the School of Graduate Studies of UMES.

The University System of Maryland is a critical driver of the economic engine of Maryland. Much of the job growth is expected to be in sectors that require advanced education. Carnegie’s elevation of UMES to a Doctoral Research University is recognition of the growth in doctoral education at UMES and the increase in research productivity by both graduate students and faculty. This further solidifies the importance that the university plays in providing graduate education to Maryland, particularly in support of businesses and industry on the Eastern Shore. I am very pleased with the development and look forward to even greater collaboration between both graduate schools.
Congratulations on your recent designation as a Doctoral Research University . . . . There are 335 institutions of higher education recognized with one of three distinctions in the DRU category, according to the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education 2015 Update Facts and Figures . . . . The extraordinary efforts of your university team have garnered a quality distinction of academic excellence in awarding doctoral degrees and expenditures of federal funds. Becoming a DRU is a quality indicator, demonstrating the university’s commitment to quality doctoral education and excellence of graduate faculty members who are engaging graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in developing and sharing new knowledge. In addition, this category will allow your institution to compete for additional funding for academic research and training of future scholars. [As graduate dean] at an HBCU, I am extremely proud of the fact that we are part of that 7% designated as Doctoral Research Universities. Jennifer, I hope we can spread the word through the Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools.

I am happy to learn that UMES has been classified as a Doctoral Research University by the Carnegie Foundation. Please accept my heartiest congratulations. The most important factor that contributes to this designation is graduate education and research. Indeed, at North Carolina A&T State University, we have recognized that breadth and quality of graduate programs are key to earning and maintaining this highly coveted designation. Earning this distinction has provided us an expanded platform to offer greater opportunities to students, compete actively for research funding, and engage more effectively in economic and community development in our state. I wish you and your colleagues all the best as UMES joins the Carnegie Doctoral Research University community.

This accomplishment for UMES speaks to the quality of the programming at HBCUs at a time when the value/relevance of our institutions is being questioned by some throughout the nation. This accomplishment by UMES also demonstrates to students across the country that their institution and programs are viable and worthy of consideration. Congratulations!
The 33 students who graduated from the Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) program in fall 2015 have passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE). The class of 2015 was the first and only class of students to earn the Master of Medical Science (Physician Assistant) degree from a Historically Black College and University. UMES was the only Historically Black University to offer the degree program. To be eligible for PANCE, a student must graduate from a program accredited by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Several factors, including student persistence, the competitive criteria for selecting students to the graduate program, the rigor of the three-year graduate curriculum, the quality of faculty instruction during their residency, and the dedicated supervision and training by medical practitioners at clinical sites, contributed to the students’ success in the program and on their exams. Many of these newly certified Physician Assistants are now practitioners working alongside medical doctors in facilities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and beyond.

Among those who have gained employment are

Sarah Abdella, MMS; PA-C
Abdella is employed by Peninsula Regional Medical Center and Community Behavioral Health in Salisbury, MD.

Lionel Kum, MMS; PA-C
Kum is employed by Natesan Medical Group in Salisbury, MD.

Lawrence Tawiah, MMS; PA-C
Tawiah is employed by McCready Health in Princess Anne, MD.

Carina Song, MMS; PA-C
Song is employed by Baltimore Washington Medical Center’s Emergency Department in Baltimore, MD.

Leah Nagorsky, MMS; PA-C
Nagorsky is employed by George Washington University Hospital’s Emergency Department in Washington, DC.
ORLD Graduate Authors Executive Order Signed into Law by President Obama

Dr. Priscilla W. Clark is the Program Director for the Presidential Executive Fellowship Programs within the federal government’s Office of Personnel Management. In 2015, she was appointed as the Executive Leader for Senior Executive Service (SES) Reform within the White House’s Office of Management & Budget, in which the Executive Order she initially authored was signed into law by the President of the United States on December 15, 2015. The Executive Order focused on strengthening the recruitment, hiring, and development of the Federal Government’s senior executives.

Dr. Clark is currently a member of the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) 2014-2015 Senior Executive Service Career Development Cohort, where she serves as the Director of Clinical Health Services responsible for the largest occupational health system in the government, supporting approximately 1.8M federal employees across the federal workforce. Dr. Clark earned her Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from UMES.

ORLD Graduate is Assistant Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools

Dr. Lorenzo L. Hughes is the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction at Dorchester County Public Schools. As the chief academic officer, he provides innovative leadership, direction, and management for the instructional programs from kindergarten to twelfth grade, including special education and alternative education. The senior member of the Superintendent’s Executive Leadership Team, Dr. Hughes develops, executes, and assesses instructional priorities; interprets policies for staff, students, and community; and is responsible for instructional improvement, long-range planning, budget development, and community relations. Some of his major accomplishments as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction include these: securing several million dollars in grants to augment instructional and student services programs, including the Race to the Top grant for $1,044,678; improving graduation rates (DCPS had the second most improved graduation rate in Maryland over the past five years and exceeded Maryland’s rate in 2014); reducing the graduation gap between African American and white students (16.47% in 2011 to 2.91% in 2014); and initiating a partnership with Discovery Education.

Dr. Hughes earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Education from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, a Master of Education in School Leadership and Instruction from Wilmington College (now Wilmington University), and a Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.
Voice of America Radio Interviews ORLD Students

Miss Wele Elangwe and Mr. Fanuel Chirombo are second-year students in the Ph.D. program in Organizational Leadership. Elangwe is a lawyer, with a master’s degree in Business Law from University of Yaounde II in Cameroon, and a master’s degree in International and Human Rights Law from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indiana. Chirombo is a librarian with a Master of Library Science degree from University of Maryland College Park and a Master of Science degree in Management and Health Care Administration from University of Maryland University College.

When Elangwe and Chirombo signed up for Dr. Tyrone Chase’s class in Social Marketing Strategies for Non-Profit Organizations, they had no idea that, within a semester of taking the class, they would use theoretical frameworks to create Ignite Africa and be guests of Voice of America to talk about their role in development in Africa. Ignite Africa is a non-profit organization designed to meet literacy needs of university students in Zimbabwe, Chirombo’s country of national origin. Ignite Africa has collected more than 500 academic textbooks for Midlands University, courtesy of a partnership with Salisbury University. “The boxes are already packed,” said Elangwe. “Salisbury University wanted to get rid of the books, so we contacted Midlands University. They were very excited when they heard about the books and will be paying to have them shipped. We are just waiting for that aspect to be finalized.”

“We intend to do more than just books,” said Chirombo. “We are hoping to collect used cell phones and donate them as part of our next project. There is a great need for many things we take for granted in this country.”

The marketing plan for Ignite Africa will be submitted in partial fulfillment of their course requirements.

ORLD Graduate Appointed Dean of Students

Dr. Benita Rashaw is the Dean of Students at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). As a recent December 2014 graduate of the ORLD, she was promoted to her current position. “As the Dean of Students, I provide direct oversight of the Office of Campus Life and University Engagement and Lifelong Learning. Both areas are premised on providing enriching out-of-classroom experiences and leadership development to students. Recently, I was appointed by President Bell to serve on the campus data analytics team charged to work closely with other USM institutions and leaders to provide a detailed review of UMES’ interventions available to aid in student success and pathway to completion.”

FACT-FINDING AT A GLANCE


Q. What is the role of a graduate school?
The primary purpose of a graduate school in a university is to define and support excellence in graduate education and the research and scholarly activities associated with it. The graduate school, as part of the central administration of the university, is ideally suited to fulfill this purpose, which is reflected in a wide range of roles.

Q. Why is the graduate school necessary?
Programs are housed in respective schools, but it is the graduate school that articulates a uniform vision of excellence for the entire graduate community. It establishes through the faculty a set of policies that define good practice and ensures that program-specific and graduate-school standards approved by faculty are observed. It maintains equitable standards across all disciplines and supports graduate-student services. It advocates for graduate education.

Q. Does the Board of Regents for the University System of Maryland have a policy on the administration of graduate education?
“Each institution shall provide for the administration of its graduate programs. Institutions that have doctoral programs shall have procedures for the appointment of its graduate faculty.” Board of Regents, June 21, 1990
The ORLD program is very rigorous. I know that, when I complete this program, I can truly say and know that I have earned my degree and that I am a scholar. I am reminded of the advice an older family friend gave me in regard to my academic pursuit: "The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night" (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). The ORLD program has helped me to better understand and appreciate this advice.

Wayne Rose
Vice President for Information Technology
Bowie State University
Ph.D. Student
Organizational Leadership Program

ORLD Graduate is Assistant Professor at University of Southern Mississippi

Dr. James Fox is an Assistant Professor in Leadership at the University of Southern Mississippi, a position he has held since 2014. He has many years of executive and administrative leadership experience in the P-12 educational setting. Dr. Fox is also a pastor, having earned his Master in Divinity (M.Div.) degree from Trinity International University, Deerfield, Illinois, in 1992. His leadership expertise includes accreditation, building expansions, fund-raising, strategic planning, leadership development, and many change initiatives. He earned a MS in Educational Leadership and Administration from Cairn University and a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Prior to USM, he held adjunct positions at both Cairn University (in Pennsylvania as well as their international campus in Kandern, Germany) and Delaware State University. Dr. Fox’s research interests are authentic leadership, teacher leadership, faculty trust, personal and social identification, and servant leadership.

ORLD Graduate is Senior Program Manager for Organizational Leadership at US Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Darlene Jackson-Bowen (second from left) is the Senior Program Manager for Organizational Development and Leadership for Federal Occupational Health, US Department of Health and Human Services. She earned her Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from UMES. She has over 26 years of professional experience as a leader and consultant with state and federal agencies, the private sector, universities, and the healthcare industry. Jackson-Bowen is also a Physician Assistant (PA) with extensive patient-care experience in multiple medical sub-specialties. She is also a healthcare administrator. She is the former Chair of the Physician Assistant Department at UMES and established the first Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant program at a minority-serving institution. The first cohort in the Medical Science program graduated in fall 2015. Dr. Jackson-Bowen served as the Principal Investigator on grants/endowments, totaling over four million dollars, from Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Blades Foundation, Maryland Higher Education Commission, and US Department of Education-Title III Training for HBCUs.

Darlene Jackson-Bowen, Ph.D., PA (center)
President Juliette B. Bell was the first plenary speaker at Graduate Education Week activities on April 18, 2016. She outlined to graduate faculty members her commitment to the growth of graduate education and research at UMES. “We have done well in obtaining the doctoral research classification,” President Bell said, “but we must now turn our attention to putting the necessary steps in place to retain it.” She announced that she had formed a committee to discuss and make recommendations on what needs to be done to retain the classification. She also outlined several strategies that will help in the process. The full text of President Bell’s presentation is available at www.umes.edu/grad.
Alaskan Native Researches the Relationship between Aluminum and Alzheimer’s Disease in STEM Ph.D. Program

Marvin Webb is from Muldoon, Alaska, just outside of Anchorage. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in Toxicology at UMES. When asked why UMES, he said: “I chose to study at UMES because I wanted to experience an HBCU, as most schools in Alaska lack people who look like us.”

Webb, who earned his bachelor’s degree at UMES, is working with his research advisor, Dr. Ahmed Elnabawi, to build a hypothesis on previous research studies that a possible interaction exists between exposure to aluminum and increased risk of Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) pathogenesis. They are investigating whether exposure to aluminum increases an individual’s risk of developing conditions seen in the pathogenesis of AD. The aims of their present study are as follows: (i) to investigate whether aluminum influences the formation of NFTs or amyloid plaques and (ii) to elucidate the underlying mechanism(s) of aluminum neurotoxicity. Results of in vitro experiments of aluminum-induced neurodegeneration will provide relevant evidence that aluminum can induce some of the Alzheimer’s-like changes.

UMES Researcher Does Stability Testing on Drug Samples

Nerissa McKenzie graduated with the MS in Toxicology and has been working as a Research Associate II within the Analytical Bio-Technology group at MedImmune in Gaithersburg, MD, for the past three years. MedImmune is a subsidiary of Astra Zeneca and produces drugs, including some for respiratory infection. Her group performs the lot release and stability testing of pre-clinical and clinical drug samples. McKenzie is from Jamaica and grew up in Prince Georges County, MD. Her advisor was Dr. Jennifer Hearne.

Jhamillya Rice, a Ph.D. candidate in Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences, proudly displays her research catch. Rice is researching Accumulation of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) in Gray Seals (Halichoerus grypus) and the Potential Utility of Non-Invasive Methods as a Means of Determining Exposure. Her advisor is Dr. Eric May.

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Licensed Pilot Researches Sustainability Issues: 
Earnings Ph.D. from UMES

Xavier Henry is from the island of Antigua and will earn his Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology at UMES on May 20, 2016. He is a licensed pilot and has led and collaborated extensively on numerous research efforts related to air transportation, remote sensing, and natural resource management funded by the US Department of Agriculture, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Henry’s doctoral research focused on the development of an algal biorefinery to address the global trilemma, which highlights issues of sustainability concerning future societal progress and the need to adopt innovative and sustainable alternatives. Increasing demands for cheap proteins have led to the degradation of many sensitive ecosystems, while the continued reliance on fossil fuels for energy poses serious risks to global climate. Aquaculture is an alternative to traditional terrestrial protein production. Shrimp aquaculture, in particular, is characterized by fewer inputs and may be done intensively although eutrophication is often a concern. In the energy space, biofuels, like bioethanol, hold great promise although issues related to reliable and cheap feedstocks still remain.

His research was supervised by a husband and wife team of his primary advisor, Dr. Madhumi Mitra, and her husband, Dr. Abhijit Nagchaudhuri, professors in the departments of Natural Sciences and Engineering Sciences respectively. Henry’s research was supported by Dr. Mitra’s USDA funded projects in Bioenergy and Bioproducts and her Evans Allen project in Sustainable Bioenergy.

Henry’s research has focused on the integration of algae into future food and energy production systems. Algae possess several traits that make them suitable for these types of activities: they grow quickly, do not compete with traditional food crops for resources, and produce a wide array of economically attractive compounds. Some of these compounds can be used to enhance feeds for animals or even converted to renewable fuels like bioethanol and biodiesel. Furthermore, algae can also be used to clean up polluted ecosystems and nutrient-laden processes like fossil fuel combustion, waste water treatment, and even aquaculture. Systems that make use of algae in such instances are known as biorefineries. Biorefineries can even make use of nuisance algae species, like the seaweed Gracilaria, which commonly forms expansive unsightly blooms in the bays and coastlines of Delmarva.

Henry has proposed the development of an algal biorefinery based on the integrated farming of white-leg shrimp, the microalgae Chlorella and Spirulina, and the seaweed Gracilaria. The white-leg shrimp and seaweed are grown organically in an enclosure called integrated multitrophic aquaculture (IMTA) system. The IMTA system, which he has designed and built, can be constructed from materials readily available at a local hardware store and can be sited far away from sensitive coastal ecosystems. In the system, the seaweeds absorb nutrients (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus compounds) released from shrimp waste and uneaten feed, thereby “cleaning” the water and improving their husbandry. At the end of the growing season, truly local organic shrimp can be sold on the market while the seaweed is harvested and converted to bioethanol, a renewable fuel. The energy used to power the IMTA operation can come from fossilized or renewable fuels; both will release carbon into the atmosphere. In the biorefinery, however, some of this carbon is trapped by the microalga, which is grown in a specialized system called a photobioreactor (PBR). In the PBR, precise conditions can be maintained that increase the amount of carbon that can be sequestered, resulting in more microalgal biomass production. This biomass is then harvested, processed, and fed back to the shrimp in the IMTA, thereby reducing feed costs. Results from the study have indicated that significant benefits can be realized through this integrated approach: improved productivity, reduced environmental impacts, and the creation of alternate revenue streams.
UMES Graduate Awarded Ph.D. at Penn State, Post-Doc at US Department of Agriculture

“During my graduate work at UMES, I developed skills for planning and executing research aimed at studying the environmental fate and transport of pollutants in agricultural systems, and assessing various management scenarios for reducing undesirable impacts. These technical skills helped lay the foundation for my graduate work. The soft skills I developed at UMES, such as creativity, resourcefulness, and persistence, are critical to my success in new research and work environments in a fast-changing world.”

Dr. Senorpe Asem-Hiable is now a Research Agricultural Engineer and post-doctoral fellow at the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, Pasture Systems, and Watershed Management Research Unit. “I work with a multidisciplinary team performing a national life-cycle assessment of beef production and consumption in the United States. My work contributes to the development and evaluation of process-level relationships for whole-farm assessments of the environmental and economic impacts of beef production in the nation,” said Asem-Hiable.

Dr. Asem-Hiable, a native of Ghana, earned her master’s degree in Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences from UMES in spring 2010. She studied Analysis and Occurrence of 17Beta-estradiol in Runoff and Leachate from Soils Amended with Poultry Litter. Following the completion of her studies at UMES, she was admitted to do her Ph.D. research at Penn State University, where she focused on Estrogen Occurrence, Transport, and Biological Effects Resulting from Wastewater Reuse in Irrigation and Aquaculture.

“During my graduate work at UMES, I developed skills for planning and executing research aimed at studying the environmental fate and transport of pollutants in agricultural systems and assessing various management scenarios for reducing undesirable impacts. These technical skills helped lay the foundation for my graduate work. The soft skills I developed at UMES, such as creativity, resourcefulness, and persistence, are critical to my success in new research and work environments in a fast-changing world.” She was advised by Dr. Isoken Aighew and Dr. Anthony Nyame.

UMES Graduate is Senior Researcher and Farm Manager at Perdue Farms

Anthony Pokoo-Aikens is Senior Research Farm Manager at Perdue Farms and will receive his Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology from UMES in May 2016. He has been working at Perdue since June 2007 and manages a research complex (personnel, facilities, and operations) to ensure the quality of research data. The main research focus is breed and nutritional trials.

In 2010, Perdue Farms awarded Pokoo-Aikens the Perdue Farms Prime Excellence Award for his work. Since 2015, he has been working on research trials that are currently helping Perdue Farms make decisions on breed and feed. His dissertation research at UMES is focused on Poultry Nutrition: Live Performance and Meat Quality of Broilers Fed Diets with Varying Levels of Synthetic Methionine.

He explained that his research is significant because “Synthetic methionine is an important added supplement in poultry diets. The birds cannot produce synthetic methionine in their bodies, so it must be added to the feed. The feed most commonly used by the poultry industry (soy meal and corn based) does not usually contain enough synthetic methionine, another reason why synthetic methionine must be added. In 2012, the USDA reduced the allowable amount of synthetic methionine in organic broiler diets from five pounds per ton of feed to two pounds per ton of feed. There is a concern in the poultry industry that the USDA may further reduce or eliminate the allowable amounts of synthetic methionine. This concern may be tied to the fact that the European Union currently has banned the use of added synthetic methionine in organic broiler diets. As a result, my research looked at the effects of using added synthetic methionine that is at, above, and below the current USDA required synthetic methionine level, as well as a diet with no added synthetic methionine (2, 4, 1, and 0 pounds of methionine per ton of feed, respectively). My research would give answers to the organic broiler industry and insights into the implications of reducing the allowable amount of added synthetic methionine. Insights would include whether or not the industry is losing anything from the reduction of added synthetic methionine and answers as to what to expect if or when the USDA bans or further reduces the current 2 pounds of synthetic methionine per ton of feed in the areas of live performance and meat quality.” He is advised by Dr. Jennifer Timmons.
UMES Graduate is Environmental Protection Specialist at US Department of Agriculture

Dr. Adam Tulu graduated from the Ph.D. Program in Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences at UMES and was hired by the US Department of Agriculture. His job is to review and write scientific summaries of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to identify potential environmental risks of petitions on Genetically Modified Crops (GMOs).

His dissertation was entitled *The Separate and Joint Effects of PAH Legend Benzo[a]pyrene and PCB-42 on the Expression of the CYP1A and CYP19A Genes in Atlantic Tomcod (Microgradus tomcod)*. It focused on applying biochemistry, ecotoxicology, statistical modeling, and laboratory techniques to evaluate the effects of toxic contaminants with respect to human health.

“Choosing UMES as my learning institution was the best decision I ever made. I give my deepest gratitude to my advisor, Dr. Ali Ishaque, who helped me broaden my understanding and was always concerned with my progress in scientific work. In fact, UMES faculty were always accessible and willing to sacrifice valuable time to help their students advance their research. I feel very fortunate to have Dr. Rosemary Jagus at UMCES-IMET, who gave me the freedom to pursue my research goals at her lab. I fully owe UMES, especially for the financial support from the NOAA-EPP program on the road of discovery and achievements of my goals.”

Penn State Graduate Earning Ph.D. at UMES; Received Outstanding Academic Scholarship from Perdue Farms

Jabari Hawkins is a doctoral student in the Food Science and Technology Ph.D. Program and is working with Dr. Salina Parveen on a project titled “Changes in Salmonella Typhimurium throughout the Lifecycle under Environmental and Antimicrobial Stresses.” Hawkins earned his bachelor’s degree in Food Science from Penn State University and subsequently worked for two years for the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and Agricultural Marketing Service before returning to do his graduate work.

Hawkins was among 10 recipients to earn a competitive $3,000 scholarship from the Food Marketing Institute Foundation in fall 2015 to aid in a pursuit of a career in the food industry, improving food safety and protecting public health. This award was presented at the Safe Quality Food Institute’s International Conference in Indianapolis, IN. He also received the Perdue scholarship for outstanding academic performance.

Hawkins is currently enrolled in a 6-month co-op with Perdue Farms Inc. in the Research and Development Department. This is a great opportunity for him to gain valuable knowledge in key areas such as meat quality, product development, packaging, processing, and sensory. Paired with a mentor to help with professional growth, he will be integrated into the business to identify objectives and projects.

Hawkins has a manuscript accepted for publication by the *Journal of Food Protection*. The article discusses the use of eco-friendly antimicrobial agents (lauric arginate, electrolyzed water, and vinegar) to effectively reduce *Salmonella* (a common foodborne pathogen) on raw chicken meat. The focus of the Food Science and Technology program at UMES on *Salmonella* and poultry is vital since the poultry industry is one of the largest on the Delmarva Peninsula. Hawkins also presented his research at several regional and national conferences. His advisor is Dr. Salina Parveen.
Ph.D. Student Researches Thyroid Hormone Regulation of Herpes Virus Replication and Co-Authors Nine Peer-Reviewed Publications

Robert Figliozzi is a Ph.D. student in the Toxicology program and began his doctoral research on thyroid-hormone regulation of Herpes-virus replication and transcriptional regulation of Herpes Nucleotide Kinases following a year of working as a research lab technician with Dr. Victor Hsia, Chair of the Pharmacy Department. His research interests include neuronal cell culture, zebrafish models of human disease, DNA viruses, and DNA viruses as potential anti-tumor therapies.

With the support of his research advisor, Dr. Hsia, Figliozzi was instrumental in starting a pilot research project using zebrafish as a human disease model for herpes infections. He has presented his research at the International Herpes Workshop. He has co-authored nine publications. Figliozzi won the prestigious Joseph M. Okoh Research Award at the UMES School of Graduate Studies Regional Research Symposium in 2013 for his poster presentation entitled “Thyroid Hormone Treated, Differentiated, Human Neuro-Endocrine Cells Exhibit Hormone-Dependent Viral Gene Silencing/ Reactivation Similar to HSV-1 Latent Infection.”

In the future he hopes to continue his research and pursue his dreams of establishing biotechnology R&D firms. He plans to teach the sciences at the collegiate level, thereby strengthening the relationship between industry and academics through more collaborative research. Figliozzi earned his bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Salisbury University.
Dr. Salina Parveen (center) in the Food Science and Technology Research Lab with former graduate student Dr. Meshack Mudoh (left) and Miss Chanelle White, an advisee of Dr. Fawzy Hashem and a Ph.D. student in Food Science and Technology.
Samuel Mwangi, a former graduate student conducting poultry research in the Food Science and Technology program. Dr. Mwangi graduated in fall 2015 and is a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Agriculture at UMES. The title of his doctoral research was *Evaluating the Effects of Dietary Zinc and Manganese Imprinting Diets on the Performance of Broiler Chicks*. His advisor was Dr. Jennifer Timmons.
She has found it in her job as Community Outreach Specialist at the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scouts Council.

“The Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay outreach mission mandates that we engage girls who experience ongoing adverse challenges as well as those who are economically deprived. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience engages girls via three unique processes: girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning. Confronted with their individual challenges, many of the girls in our outreach troops would not be able to have such experiences,” said Dr. Booker.

The Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay also play the critical role of encouraging the girls to become scientists. In an interview with the News Journal in February 2016, Dr. Catherine Houghton, a STEM specialist with the Girl Scouts, said that a study found that there is significant interest in STEM among young women, but that few scouts felt that this was a viable option for them.

Dr. Booker works to encourage the girls that STEM professions are viable. “The intangible rewards are plentiful,” said Dr. Booker. “One can almost feel the heightened anticipation for future opportunity as the girls ask question after question. My training at UMES allows me to enhance many of the activities we present to the girls. Most of our activities have science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as their reoccurring theme. My background also allows me to explain and give the girls a deeper understanding of the science behind each project and the possible career paths each discipline offers. Helping the scouts to build courage, confidence, and character and setting the stage for future female Ph.D.s is my reward.”

Dr. Booker’s dissertation was entitled The Use of Biomarkers to Assess Intersex Characteristics of White Perch (Morone Americana) Due to Exposure in Six Tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Her advisor was Dr. Eric May.
Toxicology Graduate is Research Microbiologist at US Food and Drug Administration

Nicole Addy is enjoying her job at the US Food and Drug Administration. Since graduating with her master’s degree in Toxicology in 2014 from UMES, she has been serving the FDA as a Research Microbiologist. At her laboratory in Laurel, MD, Addy assists in the optimization of DNA isolation that will be utilized with detection and molecular characterization technologies and evaluates the sensitivity and specificity of detection technologies in leafy greens, spices, and high-priority food matrices identified by the FDA. In addition, she is involved in a project to evaluate sample-processing techniques prior to enrichment, pre- and post-enrichment pooling techniques, and analysis directly from enrichment following the pooling procedure for the rapid identification and stereotyping of S. enterica from produce and spices. Addy also prepares reports, protocols, manuscripts, and presentations from the results of her studies. She is a Fellow of the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) and completed her undergraduate work at UMES.

“I am from Champlin, MN, but my parents are from Liberia and Ghana, West Africa. I chose UMES because I was eager to attend a HBCU on the East Coast. Since I grew up in the northern Midwest, I was very interested in gaining an experience at a diverse school far away from home. It was easy to assimilate to the campus life and culture, which is a small and family-oriented environment. It provided me a good opportunity to know my classmates and professors,” Addy said. Her advisor was Dr. Jennifer Hearne.

Food Science Graduate Appointed Dean of Agriculture Faculty

Mark Gooden, a former graduate student in Food Science and Technology conducting doctoral research in Use of Plants as Potential Natural Dewormers for Small Ruminants. Dr. Gooden earned his Ph.D. and returned to his native Jamaica where he is now Dean, Faculty of Agriculture in the College of Agriculture, Science, and Education in Port Antonio, Portland. His advisor was Dr. Jurgen Schwarz.
Bradley Stevens, Ph.D., the distinguished research scientist for the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC) at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, received a $216,394 grant from the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP). Stevens and his advisee, Cara Schweitzer, an LMRCSC-funded Ph.D. student in the Marine Estuarine and Environmental Sciences Program, will use the funds to study black sea bass habitat characteristics, fish abundance, and fish diets near Ocean City, Maryland. Their project is titled, *Hab in the MAB: Characterizing Black Sea Bass Habitat in the Mid-Atlantic Bight*. Schweitzer earned her master’s degree in Biology from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and her bachelor’s degree in Biology from University of Missouri, St. Louis.

The ACFHP received the funding for this project from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in August of 2015 and then conducted their own request for proposals dedicated to research and/or restoration addressing black sea bass habitat issues in the Mid-Atlantic region.

“The ACFHP looks forward to working with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, ASMFC Artificial Reef Committee, and National Fish Habitat Fund (as the granting agency) on this project over the next few years,” said Lisa Havel, Ph.D., the ACFHP Coordinator. “[We are] confident in Dr. Stevens’ and Ms. Schweitzer’s ability to collect results that will inform both science and management.”

According to Stevens, there is currently little published data on the importance of habitat or prey community structure on black sea bass feeding ecology. This project aims to help determine if there are differences between artificial and natural habitats. The team will use SCUBA, photography, videography, controlled angling, and stable isotope analysis to conduct this research.
Rehabilitation Counseling Program: Preparing Counselors for the Profession

For several years, the master’s degree program in Rehabilitation Counseling has been producing rehabilitation counselors who have been successful not only in the Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor Examination to practice in Maryland, but also in the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Licensure Examination (CRC) to practice nationwide. The program continues to be very productive as students receive the full instructional benefits from all five graduate faculty members who themselves are nationally certified Rehabilitation Counselors. Among students who have received national certification are Jennifer Potts and Bryan Gere.

Marine Corps Veteran Graduates from UMES; Receives National Rehabilitation Counseling Certification

Jennifer Potts is an honorably discharged Marine Corps veteran and a graduate of UMES. She earned her master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling in 2014 from UMES and her undergraduate degree in Rehabilitation Services in 2012, also from UMES. Following her 2014 graduation, she passed the CRC exam and received her first credential of Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. She then went on to obtain dual graduate licensure for the State of Maryland in Professional Counseling and Addictions. Potts is now employed at a non-profit, Catholic Charities USA, working as a Clinic and School-Based Therapist (Elementary Level). She is also continuing her education at Capella University, working on a Ph.D. in Advanced Studies in Human Development. She was advised by Dr. Lakeisha Harris, CRC.

UMES Trained Rehabilitation Counselor Completes Ph.D. Program at Southern Illinois University

UMES’ Bryan O. Gere, MS, CRC, will graduate with a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation in May 2016 from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Gere received his MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from UMES and his MBA from Rivers State University of Science and Technology in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Following his graduation from UMES, he was qualified to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) and a member of the National Council of Rehabilitation Educators (NCRE).

Gere’s research interests include innovations in employee training, institutional memory management, and fiscal management of state vocational rehabilitation agencies and community rehabilitation programs. He is a recipient of the Dorothy Dykema Endowed Scholarship (2013), the Lorenz/Baker Award (2015), and the Dissertation Research Award (2015). His doctoral dissertation is entitled Leader-Member Exchange and Subordinates’ Turnover Intent in Rehabilitation Agencies.

Gere is published in Rehabilitation and Counselors Journal. His advisor at UMES was Dr. Lakeisha Harris, CRC.

Mother and Daughter to Graduate May 2016 with Rehabilitation Counseling Degrees

Erica Williams was a student in the MS program in Rehabilitation Counseling for only a few weeks when she would go home and report to her mother, Deborah, all of the fun things that she was doing and learning in the program. This continued for a while, and, one day, Deborah thought to herself: “If she is having so much fun doing this, then maybe I ought to try it.” A year later, she did, enrolling in the program in fall 2013. Deborah Williams and her daughter were on their way towards earning the degree. They studied and encouraged each other. Deborah said she felt good about the choice because both of her children were grown, and she and their dad, Eric (an information technologist at UMES), had invested themselves in rearing them. Nevertheless, Deborah still had her full-time job in the UMES Counseling Center, and it was challenging balancing her studies with work and family. Erica also had a full-time job as a recruiter, but she made the necessary sacrifice to complete the program. Both mother and daughter say that what makes them most proud is the accomplishments of each other. Both plan to earn certification and work as Rehabilitation Counselors. They were advised by Dr. Lakeisha Harris, CRC.
Talareah Campbell, a graduate student in the Counselor Education program in the Education Department, is making an impact on elementary students in our region while promoting positive connections between UMES and the local community. During her internship in school counseling at Fruitland Primary School in Wicomico County, Talareah saw a need for promoting positive behaviors and goals for a group of young African-American boys in grades 3-6. In her dual roles as a school counseling intern and Student Services Coordinator/Compliance Assistant in the UMES Athletic Department, she saw a solution: connecting UMES with the elementary school through a volunteer mentoring program. Talareah recruited and trained volunteers from the UMES Men’s Basketball Team to serve as mentors for her project.

Derrico Peck, also a graduate student in the Counselor Education program and a UMES basketball player, and teammates Dominique Elliot, Maurice Coleman, Marc Seylan, Mark Blackmon, Devin Martin, and Thomas Rivera, are serving as mentors. They visit the school weekly to meet with the boys individually, attend class with them and support them during instructional time, and even occasionally serve as a partner in physical education class.

As part of this program, Talareah invited the boys and their families to attend the last regular season UMES home basketball game against Delaware State. The boys were very excited to not only see a college basketball game, but also to watch their beloved mentors play and bring home a win for UMES. They went out on the court after the game to greet their mentors, toured the locker room, posed for photos with their mentors and parents, and received UMES basketball-themed goody bags. One of the boys had the opportunity to go out onto the court to proudly stand with his mentor as he was recognized as a graduating senior. Talareah was pleasantly surprised to see the school principal and teachers at the
game to support the students. “When I saw those teachers and principal come to that game, I was really excited, and I thought that this is what it is all about: creating community. I think it’s important for UMES to support the community and for the community to support UMES,” she said.

Talareah created this project for her “Student Impact Study,” a requirement for her internship in school counseling, which is supervised by Dr. Gretchen Foust, Assistant Professor in the Counselor Education department, and Ms. Peggy Dickerson, school counselor at Fruitland Intermediate School. Ms. Dickerson is an alumna of the UMES Counselor Education program and was in the first class of students to graduate from UMES with a school counseling certification.

Talareah is hoping that her project will positively impact the behavior of the students. But her aspirations go beyond the assignment. She is planning a UMES Day, where the boys and their mentors can come to campus to do some basketball drills with the team and enjoy visiting some of the campus facilities. She hopes the program continues to grow and expands to include mentoring for girls, and she plans to keep the partnership going after her internship ends. Talareah communicated her vision for the project: “My goal, in addition to making an impact on students, is to bridge the gap between UMES and the local community. This program gives students the opportunity to be inspired and become motivated to pursue college and future dreams.”
UMES’ Hector Malagon is the 2016 recipient of the ProQuest/ Council of Historically Black Graduate Schools Thesis Award. He is a graduate of the Marine Estuarine Environmental Science program and was supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC) at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). His thesis is entitled *Population Dynamics of Young of the Year Summer Flounder (Paralichthys Dentallis) in Maryland Coastal Bays*. The award was presented by Dr. Marlene Coles, Associate Director at ProQuest, to Malagon at the Council’s 46th Annual Conference in Charlotte, NC, on February 18, 2016.

Malagon is a biologist and trained meteorologist who moved from Cuba in 2005 and served in the US Navy for five years before joining UMES in 2012. Following his graduation from UMES, he joined the US Environmental Protection Agency as an Environmental Protection Specialist at the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics in Washington, D.C.

“I have received an extraordinary experience from LMRCSC that I could not have been able to get at another school,” Malagon said. “[The LMRCSC] also provided funds for tuition and helped me to participate in critical extracurricular workshop training and international science meetings.”

Malagon was advised by Paulinus Chigbu, Ph.D., Director of the LMRCSC, and adopted a specialization in ecology. At that time, Malagon was interested in the benthos community, and his goal was to work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). To align his interests with the mission of NOAA, Dr. Chigbu recommended that he select a fish species for his thesis research. Malagon chose the summer flounder population because it is considered to be the most important predator on the benthos community.

Specifically, Malagon’s research targeted the young of the year age group for this species and studied the dynamics of this population in Maryland Coastal Bays. He described the seasonal pattern of distribution, abundance, and habitat utilization in the bays using Geographic Information System (GIS) and multivariate statistical methods and software. He also described the dynamic of population parameters as growth rate, recruitment, and mortality for each of the bays and compared them with 23 years of studies. The database was provided by Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Malagon’s own sampling process during the last three years.

He concluded that “this fish population could face food limitation in the ecosystem even though estuaries in general have been described as a highly productive ecosystem, and also this age group could be facing dispensatory mechanisms as ‘predation’ that keep the population at low abundances and unstable stages, making harder the process to rebuild the fish stock for fishery activity.”
UMES STEM Graduate Student Wins First-Place Award at American Fisheries Society Conference

Mason King, a graduate of the Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences program, won first place in the student poster award from the American Fisheries Society’s Water Quality Section last fall. His poster was entitled “Urea Production by Drainage Ditch Sediments in a Coastal Agroecosystem: Resolving the Multiple Impacts of Anthropogenic Eutrophication on Coastal Fish and Fisheries.” The poster was co-authored by May, E. B., Hughes, L. A., Allen, A. L., Hashem, F. M., Buda, A. R., & Bryant, R. B., and was presented at the Society’s 145th annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. King graduated with his MS in fall 2015. His research was entitled Urea Release by Intermittently Saturated Sediments from a Coastal Agricultural Landscape. King came to UMES from Ohio University. His advisor was Dr. Eric May.

UMES Graduate Student Wins Two Top Research Awards within the University System of Maryland; Wins Another in Alabama

Felix Buabeng, a Ph.D. student in the Food Science and Technology program, won first place in the oral and poster session at the University System of Maryland PROMISE AGEP Research Symposium and Professional Development conference at the University of Maryland College Park on February 12, 2016.

His competitive presentations were based on his doctoral research, investigating the use of gas-permeable membrane modules to capture and recover gaseous ammonia inside confined poultry houses. His research also combines innovative solar heat collection system and exchange technology with in-vessel biofiltration/composting technology as alternative means of supplying heat to poultry houses during cold weather instead of using propane gas. This is very important because it satisfies several USDA strategic goals, which include assisting rural communities to save money by using lower cost locally available solar heat to heat poultry houses instead of higher cost propane or fuel oil, and by ensuring private working lands use non-renewable fuels that generate greenhouse gases.

In fall 2015, Buabeng won the second-place graduate poster award for his research at the 73rd Professional Agricultural Workers Conference that was held in Tuskegee, AL, from December 8-11, 2015.

He is advised by Dr. Fawzy Hashem and Dr. Patricia Millner.
Adebola Daramola, a Ph.D. student in Food Science and Technology, presented her research at a poster session of the Golden Key International Honor Society’s Summit in July 2015. Her paper was entitled, “Phytochemical Compounds and Antioxidant Activities in Corn Distillers Grains.”

“The event afforded me opportunities to present my research and attend several workshops, which were of great value to my experience as a graduate student. I attended workshops like “Dressed to Impress” by F. Lynn Hamric, “Building an Attitude of Excellence” by Dr Kevin T. Colaner, and the “The Leader in You” by Myee Gregory. I joined a Career Panel and was part of many other educational workshops. Indeed, it was an eye-opening experience and extremely beneficial to me as a graduate student,” said Daramola.

Robert Maser, a graduate student in the Career and Technology Education M.Ed. program, received Governor Hogan’s proclamation following his nomination as the 2016 Gerald Day Graduate Student Scholarship Awardee for the State of Maryland. The proclamation reads in part:

“. . . On behalf of the citizens of this State, in recognition of your demonstration of scholarship in your graduate studies in technology education and meeting high teacher candidate standards in technology and engineering education . . . we are pleased to confer upon you this Governor’s Citation.”

Maser received the award at the Annual Awards banquet for the Technology and Engineering Education Association of Maryland (TEEAM) on February 18th at the Engineers Club in Baltimore. Maser is a Project Lead the Way teacher at Deep Creek Magnet Middle School in Baltimore County. His current research study is analyzing the impact of secondary-level Project Lead the Way coursework on the transition to high-paying engineering jobs by African-American students. The results of this study are important to school districts beyond just Baltimore County. Officials from the Maryland State Department of Education have expressed interest in the final study. Maser is graduating with his master’s degree on May 20, 2016. His advisor is Dr. Thomas Loveland.
Dr. Thomas Loveland, Director of the master’s program in Career Technology Education, shares pointers with graduate student Wanda Lewis. Lewis, who graduated from the master’s program, teaches Business Education in Harford County at Edgewood High School. Loveland said, “She was a delight to work with, and the results of her capstone research study were reviewed at multiple levels of Maryland education.” Her study examined the impact of Career and Technology Education (CTE) Programs on the graduation rate of African-American students in Harford County (Maryland) Public Schools and investigated which career clusters are most effective in positively impacting their graduation rate. It was determined that the Health and Human Service Cluster and the Business, Finance, and Information Technology Cluster are the most effective due to high enrollment and students concentrating in these career clusters. Based on the findings of this research, educational leaders in Harford County and other counties in the State of Maryland will be able to justify positive programming decisions toward CTE programs.

On Wednesday, February 10, 2016, the 3rd year Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) students (Class of 2016), along with assistant professor, Cindy H. Gill, PT, DScPT, M.Ed, held meetings with delegates, senators, and staff members to discuss current issues that interest physical therapists in the state of Maryland. The students met with delegates Carl Anderton, Jr. (District 38B), Christopher Adams (District 37), Sheree Sample-Hughes (District 37), Senator Adelaide Eckardt (District 37), and aides of Senator James Mathias, Jr. (District 38B).

“Day on the Hill was an interesting experience. It was fascinating how open many of the delegates were to speaking with us on the various issues presented that day. It was rewarding to be able to fight for our profession and our scope of practice directly to those who hold the vote in their hands.”

~ Brian Lloyd, DPT student, Class of 2016

“My experience at Day on the Hill was a great one . . . . It’s extremely important for us as students to support our profession and stay up-to-date on topics that are being addressed in proposed bills. By the senators and delegates seeing us face-to-face and taking their time to hear what we have to say about the specific bill, we can make a difference.”

~ Alexa Biffoni, DPT student, Class of 2016

“The Day on the Hill in Annapolis was a great learning experience. Prior to that day, I had no knowledge of the process of passing a bill. The delegates and senators took time to listen to us, which allowed them to hear the message from a different perspective.”

~ Kelvin Wong, DPT student, Class of 2016

Assistant Professor Dr. Cindy Gill and Alumni (Class of 2016) Hanh Nguyen, PT, DPT; Jessica Lovins, PT, DPT; and Mary Chenette, PT, DPT, presented an oral (platform) presentation to the Women’s Health Section titled “Building Better Bones Now! The Effects of an Osteoporosis and Bone Health Education Program on the Knowledge, Beliefs, and Self-Efficacy of High School Girls.” Dr. Gill also presented a poster to the Orthopedic Section, “Changes in Trapezius and Rhomboid Muscle Thickness in Response to Varying Angles of Glenohumeral Abduction Using Real-time Ultrasonography” by authors Cindy H. Gill, PT, DScPT, Med, and Katharine Jessen, PT.
Graduate School Offers Professional Development Workshops

Each semester, the Graduate School conducts several workshops for graduate students in keeping with best practices in graduate education. In addition, professional development workshops are required by the University System of Maryland. Ms. Wele Elangwe, Coordinator of Student Services, is responsible for organizing the workshops, which include training for teaching assistants, résumé writing, writing the dissertation, money management, and public speaking.

UMES Graduate Students take a photo break in the Graduate School’s conference room with Dr. Renetta Tull (fourth from left in front), Associate Provost for Graduate Student Development and Postdoctoral Affairs at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Dr. Tull was conducting a workshop on “When Faculty Say ‘X’…” The students are part of the Promise AGEP (Maryland’s Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate). They attend several workshops at UMBC and the University of Maryland College Park to engage with their peers in dissertation house and scholarly communities. They also present research, and this spring two first-place awards were won by UMES. On April 19, 2016, UMES’ Graduate School and the Graduate Student Association held its first independent PROMISE workshop “Navigating Graduate School.” The students will be at UMBC on May 20, 2016, to attend an NSF workshop.

Graduate Dean Jennifer Keane-Dawes (at the head of the table) responds to a question from a graduate student at the PROMISE AGEP workshop facilitated by Dr. Renetta Tull. Several of the students had just returned from meeting with the Middle States Accrediting Team. The students at the workshop were from the United States, Israel, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Cameroon, Zimbabwe, India, Iran, Sri Lanka and represented several STEM disciplines, including Social Sciences. Undergraduate students from the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) also attended the graduate student workshop.
Undergraduate Honors Students enroll in Graduate Schools

Kadijah Felder-Patterson is a student in the UMES Honors Program and will graduate with the bachelor’s in Social Work and the bachelor’s in Sociology in May 2016. Miss Felder-Patterson, a New Jersey native, served as a student intern in the Graduate Dean’s Office from August 2013 to May 2016 where she was honored with an award based on competencies that employers and graduate schools expect. Felder-Patterson has been accepted to the MSW program at Clark Atlanta University and will begin her studies in May 2016. Her advisor is Dr. Michael Lane, Director of the Honors Program.

Morgan Chandler enrolled in UMES in the fall of 2012. Her major is Rehabilitation Psychology. She is a Richard A. Henson Honors Scholar with a 3.8 GPA. She served as an undergraduate intern in the Graduate Dean’s office, and received several commendations for her work. Chandler has been accepted to the Master’s degree program in Forensic and Legal Psychology at Marymount University for the fall 2016 semester. Her advisor is Dr. Michael Lane, Director of the Honors Program.

Criminal Justice Student plans to join US Army Military Intelligence

Saadia Elenae Feliciano is a graduate student in the Criminology and Criminal Justice program and one of 20 family members to earn a degree from UMES. The Philadelphia native has served on various committees and has made her mark in several clubs during her stay at UMES. She was the Vice President of the UMES chapter of Alpha Phi Sigma (National Criminal Justice Honor Society). She was later elected President of the national chapter. UMES achieved a historic milestone in which all of its candidates who ran for office in the national organization won. The benefit of the national UMES presidential slate is that UMES is now the national student headquarters of National Alpha Phi Sigma and will remain so until 2017. Feliciano is also the Senior Class Senator, as well as a member of the Search Committee for Chair of the Criminal Justice Department. Following her graduation in May 2016, Feliciano plans to join the US Army and work in the field of military intelligence.

“I am glad to have been her undergraduate and graduate advisor and to be serving as the chair of her thesis committee,” said Dr. Emmanuel Onyeozili.
School of Graduate Studies Relocates to the New Engineering and Aviation Science Building

During the week of January 11, 2016, the School of Graduate Studies moved to its new location, Suite 3041-3046 of the Engineering and Aviation Science Building. The plan to include the School of Graduate Studies in the new building is dated from as far back as 1996. According to Dr. Maurice Ngwaba, a graduate of the Ph.D. program in Organizational Leadership and UMES’ architect, “The Engineering and Aviation Science Building was contained in the USM approved Facilities Master Plan 1996-2006. It included Graduate Studies.” The enhancement of graduate education had been an institutional focus and was further highlighted in the 2003 Strategic Plan with the announcement of the Carnegie Doctoral Research University re-classification initiative.

Forty-two years after the first graduate program was offered at UMES, the Graduate School’s re-location from the daycare center to the new building was a move welcomed by many, including administrators, staff, graduate students, and graduate faculty. To the graduate community in particular, the re-location represented an institutional investment in the value and importance of graduate education at UMES.

“The School of Graduate Studies has come a long way,” said Elizabeth Hall, Contract and Grants Associate and the first administrative assistant to serve the Graduate School 42 years ago. “I remember when graduate studies was just an office in J.T. Williams Hall, and the Vice President for Academic Affairs had overall responsibility for it. The dean at the time was Dr. George Marx and, after him, was Dr. John Mishler and then Dr. Ignasias. I think.” Hall said she cannot remember when the office was moved to the Child Development Center, “but gosh, it was many, many years ago.”

On the morning of the move, the Graduate Studies staff gave thanks. Rev. Ronald Bell, UMES alumnus and pastor of the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Princess Anne, then blessed the offices occupied by Graduate Studies and the Dean of the School of Business and Technology.
IN MEMORIAM

Paul Montalvo age 24, of Gaithersburg, MD. He was a Ph.D. student in the Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences program with a research focus on larval fish health in the Choptank River.

The Graduate Student is published in support of the Title III Activity “Enhancing Qualified Graduate Programs Research Capability.”
OVERVIEW
The graduate program leads to a Master of Science in Cybersecurity Engineering Technology. The program is offered completely online with courses being offered three times per year, i.e., fall, spring, and summer terms. The 33 credit program consists of 12 semester hours of core courses and 21 semester hours of elective courses. The program focuses on:
- Network Security
- Mobile Wireless Networking and Security
- System Integrity for Cybersecurity
- Cybersecurity Administration

ADMISSION STANDARDS
Admission requirements include a bachelor’s degree in a technology-related field, such as: Engineering Technology, Computer Science, Information Technology, Software or Computer Engineering, Networking, Information Security or related disciplines.

Applications from candidates with bachelor’s degrees in non-technical fields may be considered for admission if they provide evidence of work experience in the field of Cybersecurity (such as a letter from their current supervisor) and possess one or more industry standard security certifications.

All applicants must show a strong record of academic achievement, as indicated by official transcript(s), three letters of recommendation, and satisfactory scores on either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

ADMISSION PROCEDURE
Complete and submit a graduate application from the UMES School of Graduate Studies website at https://www.umes.edu/grad.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?
Feel free to contact us by telephone or email. We will be excited to talk with you or mail you additional information on our program.

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