Happy New Year SAP family and friends! We are proud to present the spring 2015 edition of Wingspan. This publication is a point-of-pride for the SAP. It is also the culmination of the professionalism and commitment of our Newsletter Committee, chaired by Ms. Marilyn Buerkle. The committee is to be commended for continuously producing this timely and well-designed publication. Hopefully, you will enjoy reading the outstanding SAP accomplishments presented herein.

Following is the Dean’s brief overview that includes selected achievements of the SAP Executive Board, students, faculty and alumni.

On August 2, we held our first, all-day, off-campus Administrative Retreat. Facilitated by Dr. Deborah L. Dickerson, an organizational consultant from Salisbury, Maryland, the retreat was productive and a learning experience for attendees. Activities were designed to engage administrators as a team; share updates on departments/programs (e.g., enrollment, highlights, etc.); brainstorm on best practices to advance the School; re-visit our strategic operational plan; and establish school-wide goals for this academic year.

We agreed upon the following strategic priorities: (1) establish a systemic and on-going process to compile data and assess selected school-performance measures (i.e., enrollment, retention, research and scholarly productivity, etc.); (2) enhance retention and graduation rates; and (3) advocate for implementing the recommendations made by the three strategic committees (i.e., Research, Faculty Mentoring, and Performing/Theater Arts four-year Degree Program). We also established a school-wide retention committee to address the second strategic priority.

The SAP Executive Board remains active and supportive in advancing the School’s strategic initiatives. As our newly elected Board President, Mr. Ken Gaudreau, Esquire, convened the fall board meeting on October 17. We are excited about his initiative to organize a 5-K run to raise funds for the School. Mr. Gaudreau, selected board members and volunteers will partner with UMES’ Office of Institutional Advancement to coordinate this fundraiser planned for fall 2015. We invite all runners and walkers to join us in this fun event.

SAP continues to celebrate the successes of our students. During our December graduation reception, 94 students were recognized for having successfully completed either their baccalaureate or graduate-degree programs. This milestone was reflected in the following degrees earned: 77 baccalaureate, 14 master’s and 3 doctoral recipients. Dr. Kathryn Barrett-Gaines, UMES associate professor and director of African-American studies, gave a poignant and inspiring keynote address.

Faculty members continue to exemplify excellence by not only preparing students for their respective careers, but also showcasing their research activities nationally and internationally. For example, Professor Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones in the Department of English & Modern Languages recently presented a paper at the international conference Otherness and Transgression in Celebrity and Fan Culture hosted by Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark. This media studies conference showcased an inter-disciplinary approach to the construction of celebrity in modern culture.

Her presentation, titled “Modern Lessons from Ancient Celebrity,” addressed the relevance of ancient visual propaganda strategies to modern celebrity promotion. In addition, two of her papers appeared in peer-reviewed publications. “From Dread to Humor: Encounters with Death in Romanian Folklore” appeared in the November issue of the CEA Critic, and “Faces of Cleopatra” appeared as a book chapter in Literary Crossroads: An International Exploration of Women, Gender, and Otherhood.

Finally, we are also proud of the accomplishments of SAP alumni. Alumni like Ms. Judy Davis (M.Ed., Special Education, ’97) and Mr. Thurmond L. Maynard (B.S., Criminal Justice, ’99) are noteworthy. Ms. Davis ran and won the primary race for the State Delegates’ seat in a new district, Maryland District 38C. Although she lost the general election, she ran a gallant campaign. Mr. Maynard was recently appointed as Director of Public Safety for Hood College. We salute Ms. Davis, Mr. Maynard and other SAP alumni who continue to make us proud.
Ernest Satchell is creating a life-sized legacy for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. It’s fitting, since he spent nearly a lifetime on this campus. Satchell graduated from what was then Maryland State College in 1963. He returned as a member of the art faculty in 1971 and assumed the chairmanship of the department just three years later. When he retired after 39 years of teaching, he was honored with the title Professor Emeritus.

Students, decades from now, will know he was here. He is the sculptor behind a new bronze statue installed on the UMES campus. The work is part of an idea that he’s been percolating since before his retirement. A master potter, Satchell envisions honoring the university’s leaders in statuary. He hopes the institution’s presidents will be memorialized in an area between Henson Hall and the Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center.

The first statue, created by Satchell and unveiled in a temporary location in a Founder’s Day ceremony in September, is an impressive 6 feet 4 inch tall John “J.T.” Williams. Williams led the institution when Satchell was a student. “He was a great president,” Satchell said. “He put Maryland State College on the map.”

Williams was in charge for 23 years. President Juliette Bell’s office is in the building that bears his name. The statue of Williams now stands proudly just outside of J.T. Williams Hall.

Satchell remembers him as actively involved in every aspect of campus life. “He took an interest in everything that was going on. He was very active in the arts; he came to all our exhibitions. He was very involved in athletics,” Satchell said. “He was really proud and very supportive.”

The next bronze to join Williams will be another man Satchell knew well. He recently finished a depiction of William Hytche, who spent a total of 36 years on campus—first as a faculty member, eventually as president.

Hytche and Williams will be full-bodied sculptures; Satchell says the remaining presidents would be created as busts, seated on granite pedestals. “They’re the two pivotal presidents,” Satchell said. “More change took place during their administrations than in any other time in the university’s history.”

Now that Williams is looking over the campus once again, Satchell imagines “J.T.” would be proud that he’s a part of a permanent tribute to the university’s leadership. “I think he would be honored that we remembered him and that we thought that much of him.”
“I’ve been thinking often lately about the idea of making dreams come true.”

Kathryn Barrett-Gaines, director of African-American studies and associate professor of African and African-American history, muses about her double life as UMES professor and radio talk show host. “I used to think dreams always had to be big grandiose plans. I’ve realized lately that dreams are simply ideas that I have had in my mind much of my life,” she said. “I realized that most of the ideas I’ve had in my mind most of my life have involved microphones.”

Barrett-Gaines often makes her way onto stage and in front of microphones. She is a stand-up comedian, actor, singer, emcee and host, and now she has her own radio show on WCEM in Cambridge on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

“This became a reality because my philosophy is to never say no to opportunity,” Barrett-Gaines said. She was invited to appear as a guest on a WCEM show toward the end of 2013. Right after her interview, the operations manager of the station came into the studio and said, “Do you want a job?”

Barrett-Gaines did not say no, and now hosts her own hour-long interview show twice a week. “The show is about the person I’m interviewing,” she explains. “Most people don’t just phone an interesting person and ask, ‘Can I talk to you for an hour?’ But, when you have your own radio show, you can!”

Her guests often ask how they should prepare for the interview. “I tell them: the show is about you! You have already prepared. Leave all the new preparation to me,” she said. “I book anyone I find interesting: film-makers, artists, historians, journalists, students, anyone who makes me want to know more. Then I research them, and we just have a conversation.”

Her guests often describe their appearance as fun. Barrett-Gaines likes to make others laugh and help other people learn, but mostly, she likes to laugh and learn.

Her show, Gaines on Gains, airs on Tuesdays at noon and Wednesdays at 11 a.m., on WCEM 1240 AM. It streams live online for listeners beyond the Delmarva Peninsula. “I have listeners in Germany, Uganda, Pennsylvania. We joke about my one listener, Kevin Chapman, in Pennsylvania. I just do the show for him,” she said laughing.

The two take-aways from this professor/talk show host: “Pay attention to the ideas in your mind, and never say no to opportunity.”

Two technical writing instructors have made it a practice to engage their students in a community project of some sort each semester. Last fall, Tonya Price and Dorothy Bell-Jackson turned their attention to the needs of local animal shelters.

“So many animals are surrendered to shelters on a yearly basis, local organizations are often overwhelmed,” Price said.

In an effort to assist those organizations, her students created awareness flyers for Westside Animal Rescue, Talbot Humane and Delmarva Cat Connection to post throughout the community.

“We are here to protect and to save animals from abuse and neglect as well as provide them with loving homes,” Karlene Morrison of the Westside Animal Rescue said. “People should know that assistance is available to them, and it is just a matter of informing people of what assistance is available and encouraging them to use it.”

As the students researched the various organizations, they discovered that each one had a wish-list of items that would make the animals’ stay at the shelter a little more comfortable. They decided they could help.

Technical writing students, in classes taught by Bell-Jackson and Price, organized what they called “Thanksgiving Dinner for the Animals.” During the month of November, students donated over 200 items, including dog and cat food, blankets, batteries, paper towels, toys and treats.

The donations were delivered to the grateful organizations just before the Thanksgiving holiday. “It just touches us so deeply when people out of the blue just come and offer their compassion and support,” Morrison said.

The project was as beneficial to the students as it was to the animals; one student commented that this project had a special place in his heart because it reminded him of his personal experience as a foster child and his dependence on others’ generosity. He was excited for the opportunity to “pay it forward.”
Christopher Harrington, chair of the UMES Department of Fine Arts, and Susan Holt, the Mosely Gallery director, both received awards for their artwork in the fall members show at the Art Institute and Gallery in Salisbury.

Holt received the award for Form, Integrity and Expressive Power for her drawing “Us/Them” from her series “Questioning Duality.” The image was made with graphite on paper and is a rendering of another work of the same name that was created by manipulating wire screening.

In both pieces, the viewer initially sees an abstract pattern of meandering, intersecting lines and subtle gradations. On closer inspection the words “US” at the top and “THEM” at the bottom emerge. The lines forming the letters twist, turn and merge in the middle grey area between the words, implying the interconnectedness of the two labels that are generally defined as mutually exclusive.

“I have been investigating different ways to visually illustrate the concept of questioning duality since graduate school,” Holt said.

Her visual culture research led to readings on colonial era anthropology which revealed the prejudice of scientific observers who attributed characteristics to their subjects based on their perceived “otherness.” In response, she made pen and ink drawings where lines forming the words “observer” and “observed” overlap several times in an overall composition of expressive fine lines. She often uses ephemeral materials such as light and shadow in her work to underscore the subjective and transient nature of these ideas.

Harrington’s oil-on-canvas painting, “Three Hour Portrait Study,” won honorable mention. Every summer he completes an assignment from one of his painting classes in order to perfect his own practice and also inform his teaching methodology.

“I strongly believe that professors should create assignments that they themselves would like to do,” he said.

The portrait was created in one three-hour session with a live model. During the session, while working on the finished study, he also created a parallel series of paintings that he stopped at various stages. He took photographs documenting his process.

All this proved invaluable back in the classroom as he was able to show his students the evolution of the painted image: what the painting looked like after the first stage of applying a neutral ground color to the white canvas, then, painting only the shadows and, finally, adding the highlights.

The term “study” refers to the old masters’ practice of doing an initial, quickly rendered painting to capture the essence of the subject or to try out several viewpoints or compositional schemes. Like a sketch in preparation for the finished piece, studies often have a directness and fresh quality that viewers appreciate because it allows a glimpse into the artist’s process.

“I don’t generally exhibit these demonstrations,” Harrington said. “But I am glad the judge appreciated the effort.”
Shore read “Welcome to Wallops UMES!”

A group of UMES student teacher interns and their professors took advantage of the first of many professional development opportunities available through the Maryland HBCU/NASA/STEM Network. The objective is to make future classroom teachers aware of the instructional resources NASA can provide in an effort to encourage the study of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects in 21st century classrooms. In addition to UMES, the network includes Bowie, Coppin and Morgan State Universities.

The students got a V.I.P. tour of the facility, including a visit to the mission control center. NASA staff explained the flight center’s history and described their intention to foster a sustainable partnership with the HBCU network.

Richard Warren, a graduate student who completed the Master of Arts in Teaching program in December, plans to take advantage of the resources as he begins his new job as an eighth grade biology teacher at Crisfield High School in Somerset County. He described the tour as “awesome.”

“This experience was very useful,” Warren said. “NASA, quite frankly, is in our backyard here on the Eastern Shore, yet sometimes we don’t know everything that is going on in terms of projects or missions. Learning about this enables us to translate some of this knowledge to our kids in the classroom.”

The tour was arranged by Jamie Lewis, coordinator of professional development schools in the UMES Department of Education. In addition to Lewis, the students were accompanied by faculty members Patricia Goslee and Etahe Johnson.
I was sitting at work one day when I got the email. I had just graduated from UMES in May, had moved to Charlottesville, Virginia a mere 8 months before, and had started my first job as a high school English teacher. I loved my job and was getting used to living in a new town.

When I saw that the subject of the email was Peace Corps Invitation, I knew that my new life would be put on hold. I had applied to the Peace Corps during my junior year at UMES, but the staggeringly-long application process had pushed it to the back of my mind. After a few minutes of gaping absent-mindedly at the laptop, I opened the email. Nicaragua. I was going to Nicaragua.

I called my mom, ran down the hall to tell my co-workers and texted a few of my friends. I was in shock. I had always wanted to join the Peace Corps, but now, when it was finally a reality, I had no idea how to feel. The excitement I had initially anticipated was now more of a stew of nerves and questions, brewing in my stomach. It was March. In August, I would be getting on a plane to a developing country and would teach English for 27 months. I wasn’t ready.

To say the least, the next six months were strenuous. I was flooded with questions on a daily basis. I had a monstrous number of doctors’ appointments: TB testing, medical history reports, you name it. I received an email a day with readings upon readings to complete before service; I was enrolled part-time in graduate school and barely had time to do the reading there!

Then – probably the most daunting prospect about my preparation – learning Spanish. A friend told me about Duolingo and I quickly downloaded it. I had work to do.

The week before I left for Nicaragua, I cried every night. I was not ready. I imagined a group of granola-eating, fluent Spanish-speaking, too-cool-for-me hippies awaiting me at our staging event in D.C. I wasn’t prepared to teach English to non-native speakers; I could barely get through teaching The Odyssey to ninth graders!

The day my mom dropped me off at the hotel in D.C. was the scariest day of my entire life. We pulled up to the hotel doors, and I asked her to take me home. Instead, she parked her car, wrested my two massive suitcases through the under-sized hotel door, told me she loved me and left me in front of an intimidatingly-gray elevator. There was no turning back.

As I write, it is the end of December, and I have been in Nicaragua for almost five months. I participated in language and technical training in a small town, in the department of Masaya, for three months and have been in my permanent site, a slightly larger town also in Masaya, for two months. I live with a family of four: my host mother, her husband, their daughter and their granddaughter. I have my own room, running water, a hot shower and easy access to the internet. My family is very well-educated and the thirst to learn English in my community is everywhere.

In February, the Nicaraguan school year starts, and I will be teaching English in two different public schools in my community with three different Nicaraguan counterparts. In the meantime, I am teaching a variety of community English classes and participating in cultural and community events with my host family.

I am nowhere near being done with my service, but I can say with confidence that moving to Nicaragua was the best decision of my life. Although I am challenged every day by language barriers, rude men in the streets and extreme heat, I know that I made the right decision, not in coming here, but in changing my life.

The other night, one of my
Kaize Bey-Keys, a UMES criminal justice major, can add a new credential to her resume. In 2014 she became a circumnavigator.

Bey-Keys and her older sister Kasie, a student at Norfolk State University, sailed around the world as part of the Semester at Sea program administered by the University of Virginia. They joined more than 500 college students aboard a massive academic cruise ship, equipped with classrooms and a library, which took them to a dozen countries.

The tour started in San Diego; 112 days later, the sisters had been to Hawaii, Japan, China, Vietnam, Singapore, Burma, India, Mauritius, South Africa, Ghana, Morocco and England.

It was an unlikely trip for a city kid whose only prior experience with boating was taking a water taxi in her hometown of Baltimore. The adventure was big sister Kasie’s idea. “No matter what, my sister was going to go, so I just followed her,” Bey-Keys said.

Initially she was seasick, and it took a while to teach her legs that walking on a ship was not exactly the same as walking on dry land. “We wobbled for a while,” she said.

Students each brought just one suitcase and one carry-on bag. The trip lasted nearly four months. Packing was a challenge. They needed summer clothes in Ghana, but it was snowing when they visited the Great Wall of China.

While on board, the young women attended classes and earned college credit. In port, there were a few scheduled activities and lots of time for exploring. Bey-Keys was able to reinforce her biology lessons at the Singapore Zoo, watch films in Cape Town as part of her African cinema course and study astronomy on starlit nights at sea.

“It was an amazing experience,” Bey-Keys said.

In some ways the journey was life-changing. She saw poverty firsthand. “It puts things into perspective,” she said. “Like throwing away food—I can’t do that anymore. I’ve seen starving children face-to-face.”

She also experienced discrimination.

“Being female, a person of color and a foreigner—that was three strikes against me in India,” she said. “There were some uncomfortable moments.”

In addition to the classroom lessons, Bey-Keys said she learned some life skills. She can employ a wide variety of international greetings. She became an experienced price negotiator with shopkeepers. And, she learned not to take for granted any of the benefits of living in the United States.

Circumnavigating the globe hasn’t changed this student’s career goal—she would like to work in forensic crime scene investigation for the F.B.I.—but she has caught the travel bug. Now she wants to head to South America, one of the few continents not on last year’s itinerary.
The UMES Department of English and Modern Languages marked an important academic milestone at the end of the fall semester. The department held its first student symposium on December 4. Faculty member Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones organized the event with funding from the Division of Academic Affairs. It was a chance for students who plan to attend graduate school to practice their research and presentation skills, but Vlahovici-Jones also saw the symposium as a retention tool. “It was an opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for academic success, to practice engagement in academic conversations, to benefit from peer models,” she said. “And, above all, it was an opportunity for them to build confidence in their own abilities.”

More than 30 students accepted the challenge. They presented their ideas in forums which were divided according to the broad variety of subject matter addressed in the department. Topics included creative writing, foreign language, public speaking, literature, telecommunications and technical writing. There was also a session devoted to “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” the department’s selection for its inaugural “Just One Book” program, designed to engage the entire campus in a discussion of a single book.

Members of the UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, served as moderators for the symposium. Kelsey Tate, a member of the honor society, will graduate in May. She sees participation in the event as an important component of her education. “Professional development is just as vital as classroom instruction; combined, they are so beneficial for students,” Tate said. “The opportunities are out there; it is up to us to take advantage of them.”

THE RIGHT to be DISABLED

The School of The Arts and Professions held its first lecture series event of the 2014-15 academic year on October 30. Deborah Simpers delivered an address titled “The Right to Be Disabled.”

The presentation offered an exploration of how individuals with developmental disabilities have struggled to achieve and maintain their human rights in the U.S. over time. Born with spina bifida and now a double amputee, Simpers discussed the legal, legislative and social advances made for people with developmental disabilities since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s.

Todd Matthews, a social sciences faculty member and chair of the lecture series committee, described the talk as “an important discussion of a far too often neglected topic in the area of human rights, presented by someone who has overcome lifelong challenges related to disability. The students and others in attendance really gained a lot from hearing and seeing Ms. Simpers, who is a powerful advocate and important voice for the rights of the disabled.”

Simpers has had a long career working in the Developmental Disabilities Administration. She has trained staff in the areas of individualized planning and human rights, and presented workshops on crisis resolution and power struggles. She is currently in the dissertation phase of her doctoral degree.

In addition to Matthews, the School of The Arts and Professions lecture series committee includes faculty members Mignon Anderson, Cheryl Bowers, Michael Lane, Marcelle Schiff, and Nelseta Walters-Jones. They welcome suggestions for future interesting lecture series speakers.
James O’Barr, a man with rock star status in the world of sequential art, visited UMES during the fall semester. The sequential arts program and the Mosely Gallery hosted the internationally acclaimed artist, writer and creator of “The Crow” on October 6 and 7.

“The Crow” is a comic book series which was later adapted into a film of the same name. The story eventually spawned three film sequels and a television series.

The artist attended the opening of the campus exhibition of “Dark Dreams: The Art of James O’Barr.” The event was well attended by UMES faculty, students and many local comic book fans. Afterwards, there was a screening of the first “Crow” movie in the Student Services Center theater.

Before the film presentation, O’Barr took questions from the audience. The artist remained on campus the following day and conducted portfolio reviews and drawing demonstrations.

O’Barr’s visit yielded an additional visitor. Russian-born illustrator and animator Konstantin Komardin shares an art agent, Renee Witterstaetter, with O’Barr and joined them on the trip.

Komardin also did drawing demonstrations and a presentation of his award winning animation.

“UMES art students were amazed and inspired by the work and instruction of both internationally revered artists,” said Brad Hudson, assistant professor of visual arts and coordinator of the UMES sequential art program.
It’s a story so memorable it has been staged multiple times on Broadway, shot as a film and several different television productions, and has served as inspiration for two more plays and a musical.

It was also the 2014 fall theater presentation of the UMES Drama Society.

“A Raisin in the Sun,” written by Lorraine Hansberry, chronicles the Youngers, an African-American family on the South Side of Chicago, struggling to live the American dream. The original production, starring Sidney Poitier and Ruby Dee, ran on Broadway from March of 1959 through June of 1960. It garnered four Tony nominations and was named the best play of 1959 by the New York Drama Critics’ Circle.

More than 50 students—many of them from the School of the Arts and Professions—were involved in the campus production, both on stage and behind the scenes as costumers, technical crew and make-up artists.

Longtime drama society director Della Dameron-Johnson was particularly excited by the influx of new and talented freshmen and sophomores. “It looks like they’ll be with us for a while,” she said.

Coincidentally, “A Raisin in the Sun” is inextricably linked to the career of one of the university’s most famous graduates. Starletta DuPois, Class of ’68, has performed all of the female leads in the production over the course of her screen and stage career. She earned an NAACP Image Award for her 1989 portrayal of Ruth Younger opposite Danny Glover on PBS; she won the London theater equivalent of Broadway’s Tony award for best actress in 2011 for her portrayal of Lena Younger.
African-Americans are more inclined to give back to their communities compared to their white counterparts, according to a 2012 research report on philanthropy from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. That spirit of generosity is evident in the Department of English and Modern Languages where alumni often share both their time and their expertise.

At the start of the fall semester, three communication professionals returned to their alma mater to offer candid advice to students who seek radio and television careers. Christina Taylor, Justin Stewart and Kyla Bibbins described their jobs and offered specific suggestions to students who hope to duplicate their success.

“I think it’s important for alumni to share their real world experiences with current students because it gives them a chance to learn from our accomplishments and mistakes,” Stewart said. “It gives them a dose of reality.”

Stewart, Class of 2010, is a production assistant at WJLA TV in Washington, D.C. Taylor, who graduated in 2009, directs live newscasts at WAVY TV in Norfolk. Bibbins earned her degree in 2013 and is an on-air host on Power 101.7, a radio station in southern Delaware.

The trio offered practical, wide-ranging advice: don’t be afraid to take risks; internships are critical; be careful how you use social media; get experience on Hawk Radio or the Discover UMES YouTube channel before you graduate; it’s a very competitive industry; expect long hours and low pay.

“It makes a significant impact when recent graduates reinforce the realities I share in the classroom,” Marilyn Buerkle, the faculty member whose class the alumni visited, said. “I’m very proud of our alumni and their successes, but I’m especially proud that they care enough to come back and help others.”
Graduates from the UMES Department of Fine Arts continue to find their skills in high demand. Kason Washington, who graduated in 2012 with an applied design degree and a concentration in graphic illustration, is one of the department’s many success stories.

“I always knew I wanted to do something professional as an artist since I was in kindergarten,” Washington said.

He got his wish.

“T got excited each day to go to work because I learn a lot of new things, and I get to do what I’ve wanted to do since I was a child,” he said.

Washington works for Quevera, a company that provides software engineering, graphic design services and other technology-based solutions to its customers. It’s headquartered in Columbia, Maryland, but Washington works on the Eastern Shore in the firm’s Dorchester County office. He designs a wide variety of products including websites, portals, brochures, stationery and promotional materials.

“I work out of the Cambridge branch where we focus on graphic design for the government, schools and colleges, health care and business,” he said. “T have worked on designs for Dorchester County public schools, individuals running for political office, local businesses and government.”

He also supervises interns from Cambridge-South Dorchester High where he once served as an assistant track coach. “UMES taught me to research, ask questions, go beyond what’s asked, and how to lead others,” he said. “T all these skills are what I am passing on to the interns … so they can be ahead of others when they attend college.”

While at UMES, Washington was both a student and a leader. He served as vice president of the student art club, Envision, and was an active member of the Alpha Nu Omega fraternity.

He continues to exercise his leadership skills at his second job. In addition to his responsibilities at Quevera, Washington is the co-founder and CEO of a clothing line called 7K Imaging Company.
In this time of simmering tension between citizens and police, Clifford Glover III is applying his knowledge, training and passion to the problem.

A UMES history major, Glover graduated summa cum laude in 2012. He is in his final year at the University of Maryland School of Law and has already been offered a position as a full-time associate at Funk & Bolton, P.A., a Maryland law firm. After he passes the bar this summer, Glover’s focus will be building the firm’s law enforcement practice in policy and administrative prosecution of police officers.

Glover approaches his graduation in May, already experienced in law and law enforcement. He spent last summer in Cape Town as an intern at Legal Aid South Africa, the public defender of indigent people. He worked with an attorney in the Specialized Commercial Crimes Court, which hears fraud and corruption cases. He currently serves as vice-president of the University of Maryland Association of Legislative Law and on the law school’s Student Bar Association. He also organized an attorney general candidates’ forum at the school during the 2014 election cycle.

Glover’s success is not by chance; he makes things happen for himself. During his first summer in law school, he barely survived financially while working for a nonprofit organization. He spoke with the general counsel of the nonprofit about the potential of working at an area law firm. Following her advice, Glover contacted more than 30 firms in and around Baltimore, D.C. and Annapolis.

In searching the website of Funk & Bolton, he noted that one of the partners had addressed the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Given Glover’s earlier years of volunteering with the Montgomery County Police Department, he offered to volunteer for the partner during the following semester. She is now his boss at Funk & Bolton. His volunteer work at the firm led to an offer of a summer associate position, which led to a job offer during his final year of law school, which ultimately led to an offer as a full-time associate.

UMES history professor Kathryn Barrett-Gaines expects we’ll hear more from this graduate. “Cliff Glover is one of the highest performing history majors in UMES recent history,” she said. “He has only begun to realize his potential in the law.”
The following essay was written by UMES criminal justice major Chidi Omerennah. It appeared in The Daily Times in Salisbury on December 12, the day she graduated with honors. Omerennah is from Upper Marlboro, Maryland. She plans to attend law school at Howard.

Today is a wonderful and remarkable day in my life that was far from a certainty almost 26 months ago.

When I started my academic journey 4½ years ago, everything looked so new and unfamiliar. What propelled me, however, was my faith, which says whatever the mind can conceive, it can achieve.

On Oct. 25, 2012, I nearly died in a horrific automobile accident near the University of Maryland Eastern Shore campus. I'm told it took three hours before the Jaws of Life pried me from my car.

I was flown to Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, where I spent several weeks in the Intensive Care Unit.

Most of the time, I was on a breathing machine. I spent several months in the hospital and endured multiple surgeries. Lying in that hospital bed, my faith was tested.

My family was and is very supportive and they constantly reminded me that a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step forward. But I couldn't walk, so what was I going to do? Why should I continue trying?

Honestly? I felt like giving up.

The doctor could not tell me if I was going to walk normally again, and that was my biggest fear. I decided the only way to make it was to overcome that fear.

I began pushing harder and harder each day, waking up early and attempting to take more and more steps. If I fell, I knew I had to get up.

My classmates and professors visited me, and that made me realize I needed to get better, return to school and finish what I started. With each step, I was learning how to walk again. I also took new steps in building a stronger mind.

I no longer took my academics for granted. I truly understood they were building blocks to my future.

My performance improved in my classes. I promised myself I would walk again, and I also promised myself that not only would I go back to school, but I would work harder than ever.

And I did. Today is proof.

My message is that my faith in God, support from my family and friends, and most importantly my belief in myself got me through this horrible situation.

I wouldn't wish what happened to me on anybody, and thankfully none of my classmates had such an experience. I've told many of them you don't have to wait to be T-boned by a car to believe in yourself, or for it to serve as motivation.

Our journey into adulthood started four years ago, so this is sort of a pit stop for celebration.

To the Class of 2014: believe in yourself as you have all these years — even in the darkest moments — because anything is possible.

For those who are about to enter a career — congratulations. Use this time for relaxation and mental rejuvenation before entering the workforce.

For those still looking, continue to believe in yourself. Work harder, search longer and I believe you will eventually find what you are looking for.

And for those continuing on in their education; stay focused and strive for the best.

We all have bright futures.

Today, my classmates and I pause to celebrate the rest of the journey we are about to begin.
Curtain Call

The School of The Arts and Professions owes a debt of gratitude and bids a fond farewell to two of its longtime department chairs. Karen Verbeke and Bob Harleston have announced their retirements.

Verbeke joined the UMES faculty in the Department of Education in 1990. She became chair of the department and director of teacher education in 2001. Under her leadership, the education department has grown from eight to 14 full-time faculty members and from 14 to 17 approved degree programs. It gained national accreditation for the first time and has been reaccredited with four commendations.

In addition to those institutional accomplishments, Verbeke points to the achievements of her students as evidence of her success. “I am … incredibly proud of the accomplishments of our graduates,” she said, describing her reaction when she learned of the appointment.

Dameron-Johnson, known affectionately to her students as “Mama D,” taught in the English and Modern Languages department for nearly 40 years. She founded the UMES Drama Society and served her entire career as its advisor; she was also advisor and artistic director for the UMES Gospel Choir.

In order to be considered for emeritus status, a faculty member must have retired from at least 20 years of contiguous service and have made outstanding and exceptional contributions to the university.

Enjoying some personal time is on Harleston’s mind as well.

After rising to the rank of general in the U.S. Army and serving a stint as the warden at the Eastern Correctional Institution, a state prison near Princess Anne, Harleston joined UMES as a fulltime faculty member in 1991. He helped to create the Department of Criminal Justice and became its first chair in 1998. The bachelor degree in criminal justice has grown to be the largest undergraduate program on campus.

If news of Harleston’s retirement sounds familiar, it’s because this isn’t the first time he’s left. He originally retired back in 2006, but has returned to campus three times to fill temporary vacancies as department chair.

He simply couldn’t say no when asked to return. “Because I’m concerned about the success of the department and its students,” he said. “I think there is so much that can be done in moving the department forward.”

He’s done his share. In addition to the bachelor degree in criminal justice, Harleston supervised the creation of a master’s program. He’s also currently overseeing an effort to increase the number of courses his department offers online to provide greater flexibility for students.

Even though he has booked a jazz cruise and has big plans for enjoying his grandchildren—Harleston’s schedule will still be filled with what he does best: encouraging people who want to improve their situation. He will continue to mentor high school students in nearby Wicomico County and will work with inmates as a volunteer at the prison where he was once in charge.

Search committees have begun the process of finding successors to these two illustrious colleagues.
Thinking about…

...supporting a program in the School of The Arts and Professions?
...providing scholarships for students or professional development for faculty?

Please contact the Division of Institutional Advancement at 410-651-6676 or click on online giving at www.umes.edu.

Thank you!