UMES President Juliette B. Bell announced the appointment of Dr. Alton Thompson as interim provost and vice president of academic affairs. His first day was Monday.

Thompson assumes the post of the University's chief academic officer vacated when Dr. Patrick R. Liverpool resigned for health reasons at the end of February.

“Dr. Thompson brings to this assignment a wealth of experience and a broad understanding of the role of provost at an 1890 land-grant university in the 21st century,” Bell said. “I am pleased to welcome him as part of my senior leadership team.”

Thompson has served as Delaware State’s provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs since July 2010. He submitted his resignation from Delaware State, effective March 4, to assist UMES while it conducts a national search.

Prior to his arrival in Dover, he spent a quarter century at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, where he taught, did research and served as chair of its Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. From 2008 to 2010, he served as North Carolina A&T’s interim provost and vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Thompson has also been a faculty member at North Carolina State University in Raleigh and Norfolk State University.

His academic specialty is studying the relationship of statistics, research methods, demography and rural sociology. His research has resulted in the publication of 25 articles in refereed journals, seven book chapters and a book titled “Quality of Life among Rural Residents in North Carolina: Community and Life Satisfaction” (1985). A focus of his research is agro-medicine, “the application of health and agricultural sciences to promote medical and protection of farm households, farming workers, and consumers of agricultural services and products.”

His other research interests include rural poverty/development, labor economics and the structure of agriculture, all of which he has conducted with more than $10 million in grants to support his work.

“Dr. Thompson is well respected in academic circles and has distinguished himself in research, grant-writing and as an author,” Dr. Bell said. “He will continue the University’s trajectory from excellence to eminence, as we conduct a national search for the next provost and vice president for academic affairs.”

THOMPSON / continued on page 6

Wor-Wic and UMES sign honors program agreement

UMES’ Richard A. Henson Honors Program has a formal student-transfer agreement with its counterpart at Wor-Wic Community College. Those signing the Memorandum of Understanding Feb. 22 were, from left, Dr. Michael Lane, UMES’ honors program director; former UMES Provost Patrick Liverpool; Dr. Stephen L. Capelli, Wor-Wic’s senior vice president for academic affairs; Melissa Reddish, an English instructor and Wor-Wic’s honors program director; and UMES’ Vice Provost Kimberly Whitehead and Registrar Cheryl Duffy. The agreement allows for a “more seamless transition of Wor-Wic’s honors graduates to our program here at UMES,” Lane said. The National Collegiate Honors Council, he said, “identifies transfer articulation agreements as among ‘best practices’ for honors programs and colleges.”
UMES vies for “Retool Your School” awards

UMES is in the running for three “Retool Your School” grants from Home Depot with a $100,000 maximum award. This is the fourth year UMES has entered the competition specifically for the nation’s historically black colleges and universities.

The university won a $10,000 grant in 2013 to underwrite improvements to the Student Services Center, Murphy Hall and the Clusters with paint and repairs.

“Our chances of winning $50,000 have increased this year with the introduction of a new ‘cluster structure,’ which pits similar sized schools against each other,” said Veronique Diriker, UMES’ director of development.

The Atlanta-based home improvement retailer is in its seventh year sponsoring the competition. This year, schools have been divided into three clusters based on enrollment—4,000 and over, 1,200 to 3,999 and 1,199 and under. Within those clusters, three grants will be awarded; a “Tier 1” award of $50,000, “Campus Pride” award for a possible $30,000 and a “Tier II” award of $20,000. UMES submitted three proposals for consideration, Diriker said.

The first is upgrading the William P. Hytche Athletic Center’s lobby with an interactive Hall of Fame, a gallery of “Legends” honoring past champions and current athletes and teams, and an expanded trophy case.

Creating a “Hawk Circle” as a social hub and focal point between the Student Services Center and the Hytche Athletic Center is the next. A suggested bronzed Hawk statue could “hatch” a new tradition for the campus community. Benches and landscaping would enhance the area.

The final proposal is to update landscaping adjacent to the brick entrance signs at UMES and Hytche boulevards.

The Campus Pride Grant, Diriker said, goes to the school in each cluster with the most online votes and social media activity.

“Get your vote in today and every day,” Diriker said.

Sixth-grader Maya Matava of Hebron won the 2016 Maryland Eastern Shore Regional Spelling Bee this past weekend.

The 12-year-old representing Salisbury Middle School emerged the champion after 90 minutes, demonstrating her ability to spell as well as define words flawlessly over 16 rounds.

The winning word was “herbivore” after Maya correctly spelled “empanada” to put herself in a position to win the event.

The runner-up was Lochlyn Carmean, a Fruitland Intermediate School fifth-grader who dueled Maya head-to-head for three rounds before stumbling on the word “stipple.”

Both spellers were matched word-for-word for five rounds by eight-year-old Ayati Sangwan, a soft-spoken fifth-grader from North Salisbury Elementary School.

Maya will represent a four-county region – Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester – at the Scripps

Sixth-grader Maya Matava

Spelling Bee champ
“So much more... below the surface”

Mariah Dennis stood before UMES benefactors earlier this academic year and spoke with a quiet confidence about how their generosity opened doors and impacted her life.

As a rising junior, Dennis spent her summer at the renowned Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts getting experience as a research assistant “analyzing hydrothermal vent larvae” typically found in deep waters off Mexico.

The following summer, she worked alongside a University of California at Davis researcher studying a brain protein linked to glioblastoma and other cancers.

Dennis ended her remarks at the annual donors’ reception by disclosing her post-graduation goal: she’s hoping to become a veterinarian specializing in marine mammal care.

She is the youngest of three siblings in a household headed by public school educators who worked hard to pay for college for the older two.

Dennis was looking for a more intimate learning environment that also fit the family’s budget – and was close to waterways where she could test herself in classes emphasizing marine science.

When the Richard A. Henson Honors Program offered her a full-ride scholarship four years ago, she was able to follow in the footsteps of an older cousin and enroll at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The senior biology major has taken full advantage of the opportunity. When Dennis walks across the stage May 20 to receive her degree, she estimates she’ll do so with nearly 160 credits, aided in part by classes she took herself in classes emphasizing marine science.

Dennis performed with UMES’ gospel choir her sophomore year, has worked as a student-mentor in the campus Writing Center and has been a four-year participant in the University’s Honda Campus All-Star Challenge national quiz tournament team.

Between her freshman and sophomore years at UMES, Dennis worked back home in Salem County, N.J. with developmentally disabled adults. She took away valuable lessons about finding the right mix of empathy and support for people of lesser abilities.

“It made me appreciate those who are dedicated to helping people in need of a little extra support in their lives,” she said.

Dennis can trace her interest in marine life to her childhood, when she tagged along on educational field trips organized by her parents for their students, visiting aquariums in south Jersey as well as Baltimore.

“I fell in love with dolphins,” she said. “They’re my favorite marine mammal.”

As a youngster, Dennis remembers fondly the attraction of science and all those fields of study that end in “ology.”

“I was pretty sure at an early age what I wanted to do,” she said. “I just had to find the one that fit me.”

“Today, when I look out over the water, I’m reminded there is so much out there that you can’t see below the surface,” she said. “Pursuing the unknown challenges me.”

Beginning July 1, UMES’ School of the Arts and Professions will have a new name, the School of Education, Social Sciences, and the Arts (SESA).

“In addition to recognizing education’s distinction as the only nationally accredited program in the school, the new name also more clearly recognizes and reflects the other programs within the division,” said Dr. Ray Davis, the school’s dean.

The name change came at the request of UMES’ senior administration to reflect more clearly the programs offered in the academic unit, Davis said.

A committee chaired by Dr. Lily Tsai and composed of representatives from each of the five departments was charged with the task of presenting names for consideration to Davis, faculty and staff at a school-wide meeting and ultimately, the administration.
Dr. Rajnish Sharma, an assistant professor in UMES’ Department of Engineering and Aviation Science, received a 2016 Office of Naval Research Summer Faculty Research award. He will conduct Guidance, Navigation and Control research at the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Atlantic in Charleston, S.C. when the spring semester ends.

“This award demonstrates the quality of our engineering faculty (members) and their ability to engage in cutting-edge engineering research in a major naval laboratory,” said Dr. Yuanwei Jin, interim chair of the department.

The 10-week research session, Sharma said, aims to further develop theoretical and experimental bases in precise satellite communication, space servicing and monitoring, accurate observation and circumnavigation. Each of these areas, he said, require “robust planning of orbital trajectories, satellite attitude maneuvers, tracking, guidance and accurate control of spacecraft used for data estimation, collection and other applications.”

The summer research project will augment current investigations on how to build co-operative CubeSat Design and Control for aerospace applications.

This, according to Sharma, should help UMES’ engineering department “develop and submit collaborative interdisciplinary proposals for potential opportunities for funded research to establish a lab facility under the topic of ‘Space Mechanics and Control’.”

Sharma earned a doctorate in aerospace engineering from Texas A&M University. His research interests include optimal control theory, feedback methods, trajectory optimization, cooperative control, dynamic differential games and applications, spacecraft dynamics and attitude control, flight mechanics and stability, robotics/mechatronics and nonlinear systems.

Inaugural Eastern Shore Crab Boat Engineering Competition

Thanks to UMES and partners, Kelvin Educational and the U.S. Army, high school students can hone their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math skills for the inaugural Eastern Shore Crab Boat Engineering Competition.

The event, which takes place April 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science in Cambridge, Md., was inspired by the Cargo Ship Engineering Challenge held for several years at Baltimore’s Inner Harbor.

“Teachers expressed an interest in holding a similar challenge on the Eastern Shore,” said Tyler Love, program coordinator and assistant professor of technology and engineering education at UMES.

The competition’s theme, he said, was chosen because organizers believe it is something Maryland students can relate to—crabbing.

“It provides a great opportunity to increase interest in STEM at local schools,” Love said, “while requiring students to apply their math and science knowledge to design a solution like a real engineer.”

Teams of four to 10 students, he said, will be judged on their boat design proposals, a written report showing calculations and discussing environmental impacts of crabbing, their boat’s performance and their response to judges’ questions at the event.

To date, Love said, eight teams are set to compete representing Harford, Anne Arundel, Queen Anne’s and Worcester counties in Maryland as well as a team from Middleton, Del.

Registration for this event is free and all participants will receive lunch and a T-shirt. Register by March 18 by emailing Love at tslove@umes.edu. Visit umes.edu/tech/teresources.html#hs for more information.
Stevens receives $216K to study black sea bass habitats near Ocean City, Md.

Dr. Bradley Stevens, the distinguished research scientist for UMES’ NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center received a $216,394 grant from the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. Stevens and his advisee, Cara Schweitzer, an LMRCSC-funded doctoral candidate 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, Md. The project is titled, “Hab in the MAB: Characterizing Black Sea Bass Habitat in the Mid-Atlantic Bight.”

The ACFHP received the funding for this project from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in August 2015, and subsequently requested proposals dedicated to research and/or restoration addressing black sea bass habitat issues in the Mid-Atlantic region.

UMES student earns marine biology internship in California

Ciara C. Schnyder, a junior majoring in environmental science at UMES, earned a summer internship at The Diversity Project, a 10-week research program funded by UCLA’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative and the National Science Foundation.

Schnyder will study coral reefs of the Indo-Pacific Ocean and molecular genetics during the experience. She is a National Science Foundation CREST Center for the Integrated Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics student, a former intern in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at UMES and a participant in the NOAA Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center.

“Since I have been a part of the Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center, many opportunities have been brought to my attention that have become beneficial in my environmental science / marine biology path,” Schnyder said. She lists learning to gather and analyze scientific data and becoming familiar with new laboratory techniques among them.

“Because I am from California,” Schnyder said. “I feel this internship will introduce me to graduate programs in southern California that I can apply to this summer and in the fall semester of my senior year.”

Partner institutions in previous years have included the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and University of California, Santa Barbara. The goal of the project is to expand participation of underrepresented minority students in marine and evolutionary biology.

“Because I am from California,” Schnyder said. “I feel this internship will introduce me to graduate programs in southern California that I can apply to this summer and in the fall semester of my senior year.”

Partner institutions in previous years have included the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and University of California, Santa Barbara. The goal of the project is to expand participation of underrepresented minority students in marine and evolutionary biology.

Courtesy of Patrick Makary, NOAA-LMRCSC communications assistant at UMES
Athletics

Hawks athletics wrap-up

The UMES women’s cheerleading squad took third place in the annual skills and routine competition in the kick-off event at the 2016 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament in Norfolk.

The men’s and women’s basketball teams, unfortunately, were unable to advance beyond the first round of this year’s tourney.

The Lady Hawks won 10 MEAC games this season and seven home contests overall.

All-conference honors went to freshman Ciani Byrom and sophomore Moengaroa Subritzky for their performances during the regular season. Subritzky earned All-MEAC First Team honors while Byrom was selected to the All-Rookie Team.

The men compiled a 10-win season, seven of which were against MEAC opponents. The Hawks had a 7-4 home record.

Three Hawks were recognized for their regular season play: senior Dominique Elliott and Devin Martin were named to the All-Conference Team while freshman Dontae Caldwell received All-Rookie honors.

The baseball team has played 12 games already – all on the road and all but one south of the Mason Dixon line – compiling a 4-8 record with five more road games before the start of MEAC play at home against Coppin State March 19.

The softball team has compiled four wins in 12 tries and will be taking its annual spring break swing through MEAC country next week with games against Savannah State, S.C. State and N.C. Central before returning to Princess Anne Saturday, March 19 for a three-game series against Delaware State.

The Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference announced its Bowlers of the Week for March 2 and the Hawks swept the honors. Sophomore Melanie Copey was named the ECAC Bowler of the Week, while freshman Danielle August earned Rookie of the Week accolades.

UMES returns to the lanes with the United States Bowling Congress Sectionals today in Las Vegas.

The golf team knocked off some winter rust by participating in two Florida-based college tournaments over the past two weeks with an eye on traveling to Tallahassee, Fla. in early April to compete in the three-day FAMU Rattler Invitational.

THOMPSON / continued from cover

Thompson earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from North Carolina Central University in Durham, a Master of Science in sociology/demography and a doctorate in rural sociology/demography from The Ohio State University.

He is a member of the Food Systems Leadership Institute’s Board of Commissioners and serves on the board of directors of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, Carolina Farm Credit and the Rural Advancement Fund International. In 2009, Thompson was inducted into the U.S. Department of Agriculture / Cooperative State, Research, Education and Extension Service Hall of Fame.

“1 am delighted to be a member of the senior leadership team at UMES as we work collaboratively with a talented faculty to operationalize and execute the vision for the University, centered on a standard of academic excellence.”

Thompson said. “As an 1890 land grant university with a rich heritage, I look forward to engaging the faculty and staff in advancing collaborative learning, discovery and engagement in strategic and transformative ways.”

He is married to Dr. Cynthia Carlton Thompson, professor emeritus in the School of Technology at North Carolina A&T. They have one daughter, Melanie, and one granddaughter, Makiya.

SPELLING BEE / continued from page 2

National Spelling Bee in Washington this May.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore sponsors the annual competition as an outreach initiative to local schools, which employ UMES graduates or provide practice-teaching opportunities for university students.

Maya, who competed a year ago as a representative of North Salisbury Elementary, bested 51 other spellers to win the 2016 title, which included a keepsake medallion and Webster’s Third New International Dictionary.

For the first time, the Regional Bee at UMES included a home schooled student and two Worcester County competitors who attend Snow Hill Middle School.

After the competition, Maya told those offering congratulations she was nervous under bright lights in the Ella Fitzgerald Center.

Her body language on stage, however, belied that assertion. She strode to the microphone confidently, used one hand as a tablet to “write” the word with the other, just as many national-level competitors do, and rarely hesitated as she plucked off each word presented to her with ease.

“I was the one who was nervous,” her mother, Lynn Matava, said. “I’m not sure this has sunk in for her or me, yet.”
Career Services hosts internship fair

UMES student Hanna Savoie speaks to a representative from the Opportunity Finance Network during spring internship fair hosted Feb. 25 by UMES’ Office of Career Services.

UMES students celebrate leap day birthdays

Three 20-year-olds share something in common in addition to being UMES students—a birthday on Leap Day. Feb. 29. Diamond Barnes, left, Jessica Whaley and Joshua Williams met for the first time on campus on their birthday for an interview with WMDT TV-47. Williams, a sophomore from Edgewood, Md., said he soaks up “the extra love I get from my family when it comes around.” Whaley, a junior from Laurel, Del., said she plays along with the joke of being five instead of 20. “Sometimes you do feel either five or 20… it gives me the right.” Although the three said they usually celebrate on Feb. 28 on non-leap years, Barnes, a freshman Baltimorean, said one year she celebrated Feb. 28 and March 1.

Physical Therapy receives donation of hydraulic beds

Students in UMES’ Doctor of Physical Therapy Program train in how to move patients in acute care beds similar to the ones they will see in their clinical internships, said Dr. Michael Rabel, chair. Pictured from left, are: Molly Gigioli, Trevor Hirsch, Karis Coad, Larry Holland, Kristen Russo, and assistant professors at UMES, Drs. Michelle Gorman, director of clinical education, and George Steer, cardiopulmonary physiology. A hospital equipment refurbishing and resale company, MST and Associates, donated four Hill-Rom beds with a combined value of $4,500 to the program’s Acute Care Laboratory.

Want to know more about Planned Giving?

Visit UMESlegacy.org, UMES Division of Institutional Advancement’s new Planned Giving website.

This information tool can answer your questions about the value of an estate/planned gift for your philanthropic contribution to UMES.

Be sure to watch videos provided for each gift option.

A new recognition program, the Hawk Legacy Circle, offers membership to donors of estate/planned gifts to the university.

To discuss your interest in a legacy gift, call Stephen McDaniel at 410-651-7789 or email slmcdaniel@umes.edu.

RUN OF WALK FOR A PURPOSE

5K STRIDES FOR EPILEPSY

Check-in begins at 8am
Race starts at 9:30am

When: April 2, 2016
Where: Salisbury
You Park

First 100 to register will receive a free T-shirt and goodie bag

Register Online at www.umes.edu/epilepsy5k

CURE EPILEPSY

United Network Allies

PROGRESS EQUALLY BENEFIT

Registered:
unitednetworkallies.org/1003022

Facebook.com/UMES5KforEpilepsy
THE UMES MISSION

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the state’s historically black, 1890 land-grant institution, has its purpose and uniqueness grounded in distinctive learning, discovery and engagement opportunities in the arts and science, education, technology, engineering, agriculture, business and health professions.

UMES is a student-centered, doctoral research degree-granting university known for its nationally accredited undergraduate and graduate programs, applied research and highly valued graduates.

UMES provides individuals, including first-generation college students, access to a holistic learning environment that fosters multicultural diversity, academic success, and intellectual and social growth.

UMES prepares graduates to address challenges in a global, knowledge-based economy while maintaining its commitment to meeting the workforce and economic development needs of the Eastern Shore, the state, the nation and the world.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Inquiries regarding the application of Federal laws and non-discrimination policies to University programs and activities may be referred to the Office of Equity & Compliance/Title IX Coordinator by telephone (410) 651-7848 or e-mail (titleix@umes.edu).