



# Douglass Notes

**August 2022**

## Library Hours

### Fall Semester

(August 29th - December 15th)

#### Sunday

3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

#### Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

#### Friday

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Director's Chair



**Sharon D. Brooks**  
Acting Director of Library Services

Welcome Class of 2026, transfer and returning students, new and returning faculty and staff to the beginning of a new semester! The months since our last newsletter have been productive ones. Significant developments this year have included receiving a grant award in the amount of \$500,000 for the UMES Historical Digitalization Project from the office of Senator Chris Van Hollen. This is in addition to the grant for \$49,818 that was received last year from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. These funds will enable the library to provide digital access to its archives, including its unique history and that of African Americans on the Eastern Shore. For more on these exciting initiatives, please see the feature article below.

As we begin the semester, we will continue to ensure that the health and safety of all patrons and staff is maintained. Take time to visit and become acquainted with the library staff and the resources that are available for class assignments, research, teaching and learning. We wish you all a healthy and successful semester!

## Digitization of the Special Collections and Archives by Joseph Bree

Special Collections has been showcased in several initiatives over the last two years to digitize its archives and make them available to researchers.

In 2021, the library received a grant of \$49,818 for the purposes of curating, promoting, sustaining and interpreting the archives. This area had not been maintained to archival standards and budget constraints restricted the hiring of a trained staff. As this project developed, interns were hired to organize and inventory the collection. Three students, Ashane Beckford, Ayanna Lynn and Whitney Wilson, spent hours sorting through archival collections and organizing them in protective sleeves and archival boxes. The archives were quickly transformed from an overcrowded storage room to a place where materials could be easily located.

Once these materials were accessible, a faculty reading group was formed under the leadership of Dr. Vlahovici-Jones to study college catalogs from the 1930s-1940s. In April 2021, the group presented UMES Back in the Day, highlighting interesting features from these catalogs. Besides Dr. Vlahovici-Jones and the three student interns, Dr. Barrett-Gaines, Dr. Forristal, Dr. Norwood, Sharon Brooks and Janet Eke presented. A second session was held in November focusing on how UMES survived WWII. In addition to these sessions, the library also created displays for public viewing. With the assistance of Dr. Stevenson, Dr. Harrington and Susan Holt, a display of African Art was exhibited from donations from the estate of alumnus, C. Payne Lucas ('59), co-founder of AfriCare.

In April 2022, grant funds of \$500,000 were obtained to help digitize the library collection. During a campus visit on April 12th, Senator Van Hollen viewed some of these materials that included negatives, photos and college catalogs from the early years of UMES. A committee is currently developing a strategic plan to determine the resources needed and content to be digitized.

The archives were further highlighted on April 29<sup>th</sup> in a webinar series entitled Once Upon a Time. These segments focused on the early years of Princess Anne Academy, its transition to Princess Anne College and then to Maryland State College in 1950. Dr. Eric Jodlbauer and Rev. Ernest Lyght spoke on Princess Anne Academy. Dr. Vlahovici-Jones, Sharon Brooks, Dr. Barrett-Gaines and Dr. Forristal presented on Princess Anne College, and three alumni, Norman Tilghman, Peggy Stewart and Ernie Satchell, retold their experiences at Maryland State College.

This summer, Tranita Barnett, a Hospitality and Tourism Management major, was hired as an intern to begin the digitization process. Thus far, she has digitized over 200 items and thousands of pages from documents like the school newspaper, college catalogs and student handbooks. These items give us a glimpse of the past to help us learn lessons for the future. When asked what she has learned from her experience in the archives, Tranita observed, "Students have been brave from the beginning – from the university's starting, through the civil rights period and to today."



Senator Van Hollen presents a \$500,000 check to Dr. Anderson, Dr. Norwood and Ms. Brooks

## Library Staff Updates

### Employee of the Month Award:

Michelle Turner, Library Assistant, was honored for her dedication and exemplary service for the last few years.



### University Service Awards:

- 40 Years: Sharon Brooks
- 25 Years: Karen Cannon, Bonita Jones, Alvin Justis
- 20 Years: Joan Harmon

### Promotion and Tenure:

Janet Eke was promoted to Serials and Electronic Resources Librarian II.

## E-Resources: Ebooks and Policy Commons

The digital collection within the library continues to grow. Currently, the library subscribes to 265,000 ebooks from two vendors. Ebooks can be accessed through the library catalog or by using the links under “ebook” on the Alphabetical List of Databases page.



- EBSCO Comprehensive Academic Collection...230,000 titles
- EBSCO Ebook Collection.....32,000 titles
- ProQuest Ebook Central.....3,000 titles



For public policy research, try Policy Commons that provides publications and reports by think tanks, NGO’s and IGO’s. This resource is free for one year through CRL.

### Committees, Presentations and Training:

#### UMES History Project Presentations

##### NeMLA: Finding Fun and Fellowship in the Archives

March 11-12, 2022: Sharon Brooks and Janet Eke presented along with other project members at the NeMLA Conference in Baltimore.

##### UMES Once Upon a Time: Three Chapters in our History

April 29, 2022: Sharon Brooks presented with other members and Janet Eke provided research content for A Day in the Life of Devenia Pinder, a student of Princess Anne College in the 1940s.

#### Library Consortium Committee Appointment

January 2022: Joseph Bree was appointed to the USMAI Access Services Committee.

#### Chronicle of Higher Education Virtual Forum

June 13, 2022: Janet Eke attended the session entitled *The Future of Academic Libraries*.

#### American Library Association Conference

June 23-28, 2022: Sharon Brooks, Joseph Bree and Janet Eke attended ALA in Washington, DC. Among the numerous sessions attended, topics included digitalization, emerging technology for libraries, copyright and undergraduates, access services issues and information literacy. Exhibitions by more than 500 vendors allowed attendees to see first-hand the new products and services available and in use by libraries around the country. Besides meeting with numerous vendors that provide services to the Frederick Douglass Library, tours were made of the Library of Congress, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the National Museum of African Art.

#### STAR Power Day Camp

June 27-July 1, 2022: Joseph Bree participated in this camp that exposed students to TV production and movie making.

#### Association of African American Museums Conference

August 10-12, 2022: Sharon Brooks attended the AAAM conference in Miami, FL under the theme *Renewal, Revival & Remembrance*. Session topics included preservation of historical and current materials, challenges of preservation, emotional and mental trauma working with museum collections, oral histories, the role of Black Museums and grant funding. Tours were given to the History Miami Museum and the Black Archives Historic Lyric Theatre Exhibit, *If These Streets Could Talk: A Visual Exploration of Black Miami*.

### Newsletter Committee:

- Janet Eke, Editor
- Joseph Bree
- Joan Harmon
- Bonita Jones
- Michelle Turner



<https://wwwcp.umes.edu/fdl/>

### For inquiries, please contact:

- Reference Desk: (410) 651-7937
- Circulation Desk: (410) 651-7691

[refuser@umes.edu](mailto:refuser@umes.edu)