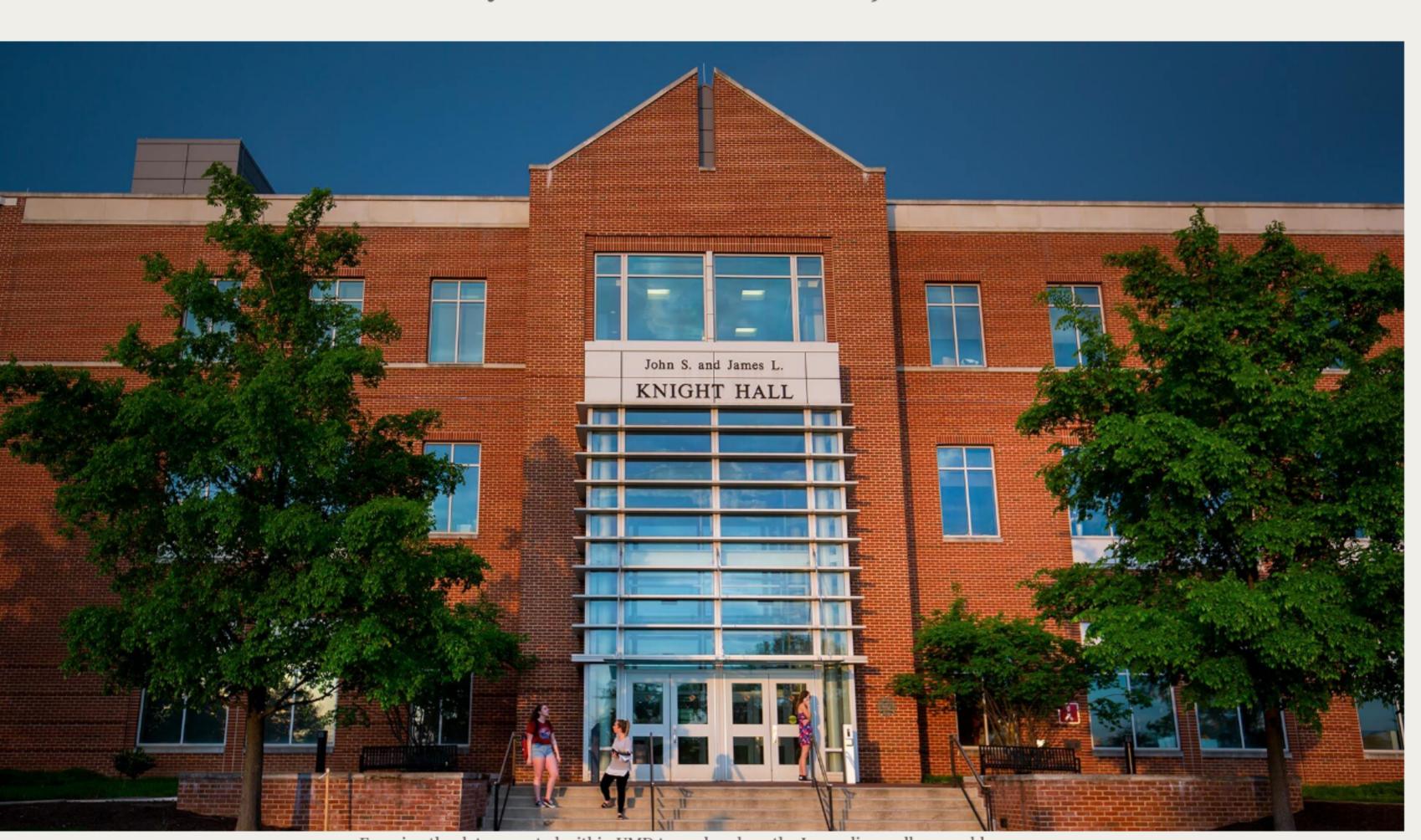
## Diversity Within UMD's School of Journalism



Examing the data reported within UMD to explore how the Journalism college could possibly perpetuade years of POC exclusion

By Mahelate Solomon Journalism 352

> The University of Maryland is facing a large lack of diversity in its classrooms according to data published by the school.

> According to the data presented by the Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment team, Maryland's, Philip Merril College of Journalism sees a large lack of people of color in both its student and faculty populations.

The published report shows that of the school's over 400 undergraduate students, only 19.5% are people of color, leaving more than half of the student body population identifying as white.

Despite Maryland's status as a predominantly white institution, the school's undergraduate class remains relatively diverse, with approximately 58.4% identifying as non-white students.

Fall 2014 Fall 2015 Fall 2016 Fall 2017 Fall 2018 Fall 2019 Fall 2020 Fall 2021 Fall 2022 Asian:U.S. Black or African Am.. Foreign Hispanic:U.S. Two or More:U.S. Download data

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Fall 2014

Fall 2015

Fall 2016

Fall 2017

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Fall 2022

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The pool of journalism employees additionally represent the same findings. Of the 130 employees within the department, 64.6% identify themselves as white.

Outside of the academic sphere, professional journalism mimics these findings as the field itself seems to lack diversity among its staff.

According to research completed by the The American Society of News Editors in 2018, only 17% percent of professional newsrooms are non-white employees.

Fall 2018

Fall 2019

Fall 2020

Fall 2021

Black or African Am.. Poreign Hispanic:U.S. Two or More:U.S. Unknown:U.S. Asian:U.S.

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This ultimately can impact the lens in which stories about diverse communities are told. According to a 2008 study conducted by H. Denis WU and Ralph Izard, researchers found that when more Asian American journalists were present in a news organization, there was an increased amount of positive coverage of the Asian American community.

Chryl Laird, an Associate Professor of Government & Politics at Maryland, notes the power of diverse newsrooms.

In her many appearances in media publications, the political scholar shares how diversity in the newsroom can impact how stories are being told.

In her appearances on NPR's Code Switch Podcasts, Laird shares how her conversations with Gene Demby, a Black journalist, assist in advocating for the advocacy and agency of African-Americans

"You know, there is a way that some punditry style is done, where you know it's about that quick, give us that soundbite," Laird says.

"I think with my research and the kind of work that I do on Black political behavior ... [Journalists of color] always acknowledge and appreciate the fact that I centered Black people."

