

# INSIGHTS

Department of English and Modern Languages  
SCHOOL of EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS  
DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

  
UMES  
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## THE WHITE HOUSE IS CALLING! *Hawk Media Manager Participates in HBCU Briefing*

Hawk Media, the English department's student-managed radio and television club, was invited to take part in a virtual White House news briefing in September.



*Mr. Thomas in the English department's TV studio.*

President Joe Biden declared September 5-11 [National HBCU Week](#). His administration marked the celebration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities with activities across a variety of agencies and departments, including the White House press office.

[Erica Loewe](#), the White House Director of African American Media, invited student reporters from 20 different institutions to join [Karine Jean-Pierre](#), White House Principal Deputy Press Secretary, for a discussion of relevant issues.

Ajani Thomas, a junior sociology major, represented Hawk Media and was

prepared to ask what obligation the federal government has to correct the disparity of funding between public HBCUs and their predominantly white counterparts.

Unfortunately, the press staff only allotted 30 minutes for the event, and questions were asked in alphabetical order by institution name. A student from Alcorn State University in Mississippi was up first, and while many members of the group were able to ask a question, Ms. Jean-Pierre never made it to UMES on her alphabetized list of participants.

The students were assured this wouldn't be their only opportunity. "We have quite a few White House officials who are looking forward to speaking with you," Ms. Loewe told them in an email the following day.



*Ms. Jean-Pierre (left) addresses the Zoom boxes from a White House briefing room.*

*Students (right) from Alcorn State to the University of the Virgin Islands*



*Ms. Jean-Pierre takes a selfie with her guests.*

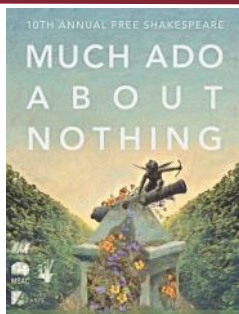
*DC photos provided by Erica Loewe*

## LIVE THEATER LESSONS

### *Students Attend Outdoor Production in Princess Anne*

Students enrolled in the English department's Introduction to Theater course had a unique opportunity to quiz a professional director in their class and then attend his production that evening.

The [Brown Box Theater Project](#), headquartered in Boston, brought its free, outdoor, Shakespeare series to the Eastern Shore again this year. The company performed in Princess Anne on September 17.



*Promotional poster courtesy of the Brown Box Theater Project*

Department Chair Dean Cooledge invited the company's director Kyler Taustin to visit his class and discuss the intricacies of staging and presenting "[Much Ado About Nothing](#)" in multiple outdoor locations.

"Watching live theater is a wonderful way to bring the printed page to life," Dr. Cooledge said. "It's a bonus for them to be able to talk to the director."



*"Much Ado About Nothing" in the Manokin River Park*

*Photo by Alissa Carr*

The Brown Box players will be back in February. The university will host an on-campus presentation of "[Mox Nox \(or Soon Comes the Night\)](#)," a story of magical realism by Patrick Gabridge.

That production is scheduled for February 18 and 19.

## CREATING COMMUNITY

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, an associate professor of English, has been invited to participate in a nine week [Lumen Circles Fellowship](#) this fall. It's an opportunity to explore a designated topic with a select group of educators around the country.



Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding's group is focused on inclusive teaching. Members will share ideas and feedback as they practice new teaching strategies and reflect on their impact.

"This year's theme of belonging and inclusivity is important as I hope to move more of my classes online and show that community, learning and engagement can be rendered in that space," she said. "I also want to create what Lumen Circles refers to as a 'brave space' for sharing about individual identity."

## SHARING IDEAS

Spanish language faculty member Edgar Larrea attended the International Conference for Peruvian Researchers held in Florence, Italy, September 20-22.



Photo of conference presentation provided by Dr. Larrea

His presentation was titled "Primera muerte de María: Subalternidad, exilio y mundos distópicos en la narrativa de Jorge Eduardo Eielson" (Maria's first death: Subalternity, exile and dystopian worlds in Jorge Eduardo Eielson's narrative).

Dr. Larrea joined the UMES faculty in 2020. He earned his bachelor degree in Peru, his master's in Spain and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.

## OFFERING ADVICE

Marilyn Buerkle, coordinator of the English department's newest degree program, digital media studies, has agreed to serve on the advisory board of [Delmarva Public Media](#).

DPM is a cooperative management structure that oversees the three local National Public Radio affiliates: WESM on the UMES campus and WSCL and WSDL at nearby Salisbury University.

Ms. Buerkle, an avid NPR listener, began her broadcast career as an on-air host for WQLN, the NPR affiliate in Erie, Pennsylvania. While she earned her master's degree at American University in Washington, DC, she occasionally served as a news anchor for WAMU, the NPR affiliate on AU's campus.



## A CALLIGRAPHY LESSON

### The Ancient Art Lives on at UMES

Students enrolled in Chinese 101 and Japanese 201 held a joint class on September 23 to practice the ancient art of calligraphy 書道, a cultural tradition shared by both China and Japan.

Language instructors Ashley Lin and Phillip Broussard began the session with an overview of [the history of Chinese calligraphy](#) which dates back more than 3,000 years. From China, the art spread throughout East Asia.

Calligraphy combines visual arts and the interpretation of Chinese and Japanese writings. UMES students learned about the history, the key principles—also known as the four treasures of the art of calligraphy—and how calligraphy 書道 is practiced in East Asia today.

Chinese and Japanese language students engaged in a hands-on activity to create their own piece of calligraphy.

The students practiced writing three characters that have the same meaning in both Chinese and Japanese. 春 spring, 福 fortune and 永 eternity.



Students and faculty display the results of their calligraphy session.

Photo by Elissa Gordon

"Calligraphy is believed to help calm and align the inner spirit and mind," Mr. Broussard said. "Students exerted the utmost concentration while writing and listening to relaxing classical Chinese music."

## BUILDING BRIDGES

Language professor Carole Champagne attended the recent annual meeting of the [Maryland Estonia Exchange Council](#) representing the [Sister Cities of Salisbury/Wicomico County](#).



The special relationship between Estonia and Maryland started in the early 1990s as part of the NATO [Partnership for Peace Program](#) at the end of the Cold War. It has led to academic relationships between Estonian universities and both UMES and Salisbury University.



Council photo provided by Dr. Champagne (pictured first row, third from right)

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## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

If study abroad is on your wish list, but you think you don't have the money to make it happen, the federal government may be able to help.



The U.S. Department of State works to diversify the pool of American students who intern or take classes outside the United States, and now is the time to apply for federal funding for a summer 2022 opportunity. The following programs have deadlines in October or November:

[Gilman International Scholarship](#)-October 5  
[Gilman-McCain Scholarship](#)-October 5  
[Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Awards](#) and [Fulbright Study/Research Awards](#)-October 12  
[Critical Language Scholarship](#)-November 12

## AUTHOR'S VISIT ON TAP

Composition instructor Dianne Pearce's publishing company, [Devil's Party Press](#), is releasing two new books this month including "[Halloween Party '21](#)," the fourth edition in a horror anthology series.



Mr. Goodridge

Photo provided by Ms. Pearce

It includes two stories written by James Goodridge. The author will hold a virtual meeting with Ms. Pearce's creative writing students next month.

A member of the [Black Science Fiction Society](#) and the Horror Writers of America, Mr. Goodridge has been writing speculative fiction since 2004. He also runs the Facebook writer's page "[Who Gives You the Write](#)."

## HARD WORK REWARDED

If the stars align, an excellent performance as an intern can lead to a job offer.

That's how it worked for Ewa Okulate who graduated in May with a double major in English and business marketing.



Photo provided by Ms. Okulate

Ms. Okulate was selected as a summer postgraduate intern at [Crooked Media](#) through the highly competitive [HBCU in LA](#) program.

"This past summer was amazing," she said. "In fact, my internship with Crooked went so well that they offered me a full time position as a social media associate and I accepted!"

The application process for next summer's HBCU in LA program is open until December 20.

## BAD KARMA FOR SOCIALS?

The English department is attempting to continue its monthly socials, held at 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, but between coronavirus precautions and Mother Nature, it's been tough.

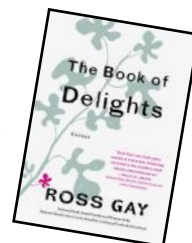
The September social started on Wilson Hall's front porch, but quickly moved indoors—socially distanced and masked—when a tornado warning was issued. We'll try for another outdoor get together on Wilson's porch on Wednesday, October 6.



September social moves indoors  
Photo by Debra Laforest

## FREE BOOKS!

Through the generosity of [Maryland Humanities](#), the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages is giving away a limited supply of Ross Gay's "[The Book of Delights](#)."



Book cover courtesy of [rossgay.com](#)

The New York Times best seller is this year's selection for the UMES "One Book" project that encourages the entire campus to read and discuss the same book.

To receive a free copy of "The Book of Delights," students are asked to email the project coordinator Amy Hagenrater-Gooding ([abhagenratergooding@umes.edu](mailto:abhagenratergooding@umes.edu)) and provide a one sentence statement describing what brings them delight. The first 20 students who send the email will receive a free copy.

## SILVER LININGS

The University System of Maryland's [Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation](#)'s fall faculty showcase, "Silver Linings: Lessons Learned From Teaching During the Pandemic," includes a presentation by UMES technical writing instructor William Cecil.



Mr. Cecil

Photo by Bill Brophy

Mr. Cecil titled his discussion "Improving Academic Writing Skills with Trauma-Sensitive Pedagogy."

"We live in traumatizing times," he said. "Current research indicates students often face personal issues that can spiral into academic failure."

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