

INSIGHTS

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



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ORIGINAL PRODUCTION PLANNED *UMES Students Will Stage a Virtual Performance*

A cast is in place, sets are being constructed, and rehearsals will begin soon for an original theater production faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding will direct this semester.



Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding began this creative journey nearly a year ago. She was looking for a theatrical vehicle to share a message of body positivity.

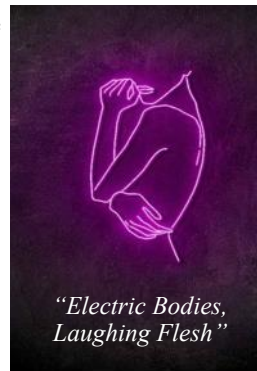
She considered staging one of a number of well known plays and, instead, decided the campus community would serve as the playwrights. Students enrolled in her honors composition class were given the

option to write a monologue focused on body image. She was pleased with the results.

“I love all these kids,” she said. “Their honesty is beautiful.”

Department chair Dean Cooleedge offered the same assignment in his Intro to Theater class. In addition, an open call for submissions was circulated to all faculty, staff and students.

Nine monologues were selected for presentation, but not all the authors were interested in becoming actors. Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding turned to the department’s acting class and to a student spoken word club for volunteers.



Pandemic precautions have made live theater a risky proposition, so on the heels of senior English major Christian Ferguson’s radio play in December, Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding began to imagine a unique presentation for what she has titled, borrowing from poet Walt Whitman, “Electric Bodies, Laughing Flesh.”

Enlisting the aid of her digital media colleagues, she has settled on recording the monologues in the department’s television studio, one at a time. They will be edited into a single presentation connected by verses from Whitman’s poetry that reinforce the theme.

It is likely that the final product will be posted online for “on demand” viewing in April.

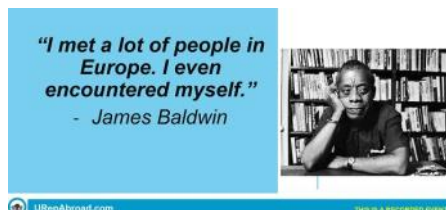
SEE THE WORLD: STUDY ABROAD!

Virtual Discussion Encourages African American Students to Travel

Visiting other countries can lead to self discovery. In order to reap the benefits of international travel, more African American students should study abroad.

That was one of the takeaways from a [virtual panel discussion](#) presented by [URep Abroad](#) on February 23. URep is an organization that was founded to be sure the underrepresented get a seat at the international table.

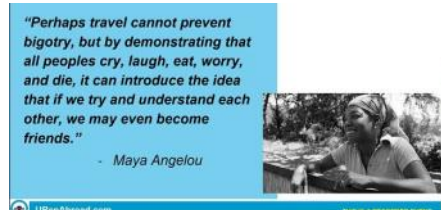
The English department’s [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#) (FLIC) and the [UMES Center for International Education](#) (CIE) invited students to hear



an all Black panel discuss a wide range of topics related to African Americans who travel internationally.

The panelists “shared the view that they were perceived more positively abroad than they were in the U.S.,” according to

FLIC Director Phillip Broussard. “(They) no longer needed to worry about police brutality, the proliferation of guns, micro-aggression and racism.”



The panelists all credited learning a new language as the impetus for their travel.

CREATIVE ADVENTURE

Faculty Member Will Attend SXSW 2022

Faculty member Dana Little is headed to Austin, Texas, later this month to attend the annual [South by Southwest](#) (SXSW) conference.



Dr. Little

Photo by Jim Glover



She says she plans to focus on the latest trends driving change in the media landscape, from innovations that may alter the use of

media in education to methods that balance trends and breakthroughs against a world that has grown more skeptical about the benefits of the digital revolution.

The event, which began as a music festival in 1987, is now the leading conference for innovation in the arts as they converge in digital spaces, attracting creatives and educators on a global scale.

Dr. Little, who plans to upload SXSW video and audio clips to her Canvas courses while she's away, is excited about the value her attendance will bring to her students. "(It) is an opportunity to promote and recruit attendees and speakers for UMES digital media studies course material and for Hawk Media group members, helping with opportunities for interviews and connections."



Photo by Dr. Little from a virtual reality exhibition at SXSW 2019

SPREADING THE WORD

Hawk Media, the student production crew of the department's digital media program, partnered with the [UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions](#) to produce videos promoting coronavirus vaccinations in February.

The project featured on-camera testimonials from vaccinated Somerset County, Maryland, high school students.



Control room staff during production

THE WAY FORWARD

English faculty members Terry Kundell and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding will present at the 64th annual conference of the [College English Association Mid-Atlantic Group](#) later this month.

The theme of the conference, which will be held virtually on March 12, is "The Way Forward." Drs. Kundell and Hagenrater-Gooding titled their panel "A Way Forward: Form AND Function in Instruction and Pedagogy." They will discuss the change in the form of the delivery of classes and the function of those classes at UMES from two different perspectives.

Dr. Kundell will address the University's mid-year shift in learning management systems from Blackboard to Canvas, and Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding will outline revisions to two courses in the honors curriculum by integrating pedagogical partnerships as a means of assessment.

A CAREER BEGINS

Tatianna Carpenter, who earned her UMES English degree in 2019 and a [master's in government from Johns Hopkins University](#) in 2021, is now an editorial review assistant at CNN in Atlanta. The start of her new job coincided with Russia's invasion of



(Above) Ms. Carpenter at her UMES graduation and (Right) outside CNN headquarters in Atlanta (UMES photo by Jim Glover, CNN photo provided by Ms. Carpenter)

Ukraine. In Ms. Carpenter's words it was "an exciting experience" and "quite the first week!"



LENDING A HAND

Two of the English department's biggest fans of live theater attended the one woman play, "[The Fannie Lou Hamer Story](#)," in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center on February 17, but they weren't in the audience.

Department chair Dean Cooledge and student playwright Christian Ferguson were upstairs serving as members of the technical crew. They volunteered to operate the stage lighting for the production, one of the university's Black History Month events.



Mzuri Moyo Aimbaye portrays civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

Photo by Edwin Linderkamp

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SUMMER DAY CAMPS ARE PLANNED

Annual Language Learning and TV Production Experiences Continue

Planning has begun for the Department of English and Modern Languages summer day camps for local youngsters.

This year the popular Summer Language Experience, offered by the department's [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#), will expand from one to two weeks and, for the first time, participating students will have a choice of language instruction; both Japanese and Chinese will be offered.

While the primary focus is the language itself, the Language Experience classes are infused with traditions, cuisine and other cultural elements.

The Japanese and Chinese programs will accept students who are entering 8th through 12th grades this fall. The instruction will occur simultaneously July 11-22.

Dates have not been selected yet, but the

[Digital Media Studies program](#) will offer its fourth Star Power day camp.

Students beginning 7th, 8th or 9th grade this fall are invited to participate in a week of hands-on video production.

Star Power culminates with a Hollywood-style

premiere of the student's mini-movie for their friends and family members.



(Above) Students in a 2019 Arabic language camp present a musical performance.

Photo by Debra Laforest



(Above) Prior Chinese language students observe a demonstration of the ancient art of calligraphy before they get to try it themselves.

(Left) Last year's Star Power students make shot selections in a digital editing session and run cameras for a studio production.

TELLING THE MATH STORY

An experiment designed to increase the academic success of first semester freshmen will lead to a unique coupling of a mathematics and an English course next fall.

Incoming freshmen who are enrolled in MATH 103, Topics for Mathematical Literacy, taught by the math department chair Tiara Cornelius, will also be enrolled in an ENGL 101, Principles of Composition I, section taught by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding.

The two professors hope to convince their students that they can approach a math problem the same way a literature plot is analyzed or an essay is constructed.

English students have to be able to isolate, identify and interpret important points and/or plot elements; this instructional experiment will demonstrate that the same set of skills can be applied to solving math problems.

Most often the phrase "thank you for your service" is reserved for members of the U.S. military, but at UMES an annual awards event is held to thank faculty and staff for their service to the university. The pandemic canceled last year's event so, this year, employees who marked career milestones in both 2020 and 2021 were honored. Here are the members of the Department of English and Modern Languages who earned our thanks:



Andrea Johnson
5 Years



Archana Gupta
5 Years



Kim Galloway-Holmes
10 Years



Amy Hagenrater-Gooding
10 Years



Melissa Green-Moore
20 Years



Dean Cooledge
20 Years



Photos by Jim Glover

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