

INSIGHTS

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


UMES
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UMES BLACK BOX THEATER DEBUTS

English Department Unveils Wilson Hall Performance Space

Interim English Department Chair Dean Cooledge has transformed what was once the Wilson Hall television studio into a small performance space where he plans to present plays which will “provoke discussion, debate and disagreement.”



The inaugural production, scheduled for April 21-22 and 28-29, has provoked disagreement on an international scale.

David Mamet’s “[Oleanna](#)” can be seen either as a depiction of sexual harassment or as an exercise in political correctness, depending on the audience’s perspective.

When the two-character play debuted in 1992, observers compared the dynamic

between the older, ambitious, male college professor and his female student to that of Supreme Court Justice nominee Clarence Thomas and his subordinate Anita Hill, the woman whose accusation of sexual harassment nearly derailed his appointment.

More than 20 years later, Dr. Cooledge provides a plot twist by switching the characters’ gender roles.

In the UMES production, the professor will be played by writing center staff member and UMES English graduate Colleen Hendrickson. The role of her male student

will be played by junior English major Lance Morris.

Neither are strangers to UMES audiences; both have performed in past UMES Drama Society productions.



Ms. Hendrickson and Mr. Morris



Photos by Jim Glover

Dr. Cooledge, who will direct “[Oleanna](#),” recently traveled to New York to see Mr. Mamet’s newest production, “[The Penitent](#).”

“I got to meet and talk to his wife, Rebecca Pidgeon, who played Carol (the student who

accuses her professor of harassment) in the original production of [Oleanna](#),” Dr. Cooledge said.

SPEAKER SCHEDULED

English Education Grad Returns to Campus

Corey Haynes, who earned her UMES degree in English education in 2013, has been invited to serve as the featured speaker at the university’s 64th annual honors convocation on Thursday, April 6.



Ms. Haynes at her commencement ceremony in 2013

Ms. Haynes was a member of the UMES volleyball team, graduated summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA, and was named outstanding student in the Department of English and Modern Languages at an earlier honors convocation.

Following graduation, Ms. Haynes served as a [Peace Corps](#) volunteer teaching English in Nicaragua. She has also earned a [master’s degree in social foundations](#) from the University of Virginia.

OLEANNA

April 21, 22, 28 and 29

Tickets must be secured in advance. The performance is FREE to students, \$5 for others.

Performances begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. There will be NO late seating.

UMES S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G BEE

English Department Abuzz

IMPROVING RETENTION

As an entity infused with the love of language, it is not surprising that the UMES English department played an integral part in the annual [Eastern Shore Regional Spelling Bee](#) hosted by the university on Saturday, March 4.



(Above, L to R) Mr. Hoffman, Ms. Collier, Ms. Buerkle and Mr. Rudasill

(Right) Ms. Welch

Photos by Todd Dudak

The official judges for the event included two English alumni, Robin Hoffman ('04) and R. Hardy Rudasill ('06). Another

graduate, Ashley Collier ('09) helped to handle logistics. All three are university staff members. The official pronouncer was English faculty member

Marilyn Buerkle.



Twenty-seven students competed. The champion, Erin Welch, an eighth-grader from St.



Francis de Sales Catholic School in Salisbury, will compete in the [national bee in Washington, D.C.](#) next month.

The interim chair of the English department, Dean Cooledge, attended the 20th annual regional [HBCU Summit on Retention](#). The conference was held March 16-18 in Ocean City. The event was hosted by Bowie State University.



Dr. Cooledge (second from R) joins other UMES colleagues, including President Bell, at the Ocean City event.

Photo provided by Dr. Cooledge

WORD PLAY: POMPOUS PROVERBS

An Exercise in Brevity and Clarity

Change each statement into a well-known proverb.

Example: Fondness for notes of exchange constitutes the tuberous structure of all satanically inspired principles.

Answer: Money is the root of all evil.

1. One pyrus malus per diem restrains the arrival of the Hippocratic apostle.
2. The individual of the class Aves, arriving before the appointed time, seizes the invertebrate animal of the group vermin.
3. Every article which coruscates is not fashioned from aureate metal.
4. Freedom from guile or fraud constitutes the most excellent principles of procedure.
5. Folks deficient in ordinary judgment scurryingly enter areas on which celestial beings dread to set foot.
6. Liquid relish for the female anserine fowl is the individual condiment for the male.
7. Be adorned with the pedal encasement that gives comfort and protection from earth's surface.
8. Cleave gramineous matter for fodder during the period that the orb of the day is refulgent.

Word Play, provided each month by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, explores the creative use of language.

CONNECT THE DOTS

English Courses Offer Unique Opportunities

English is not an island. That was the theme of the spring conference of the [College English Association Middle Atlantic Group](#) held March 11 at the University of the District of Columbia.

Four faculty members from UMES demonstrated the concept during a panel discussion titled “English is Not an Island: Connections between English Courses and Other Disciplines.”



(L to R) Ms. Green-Moore, Dr. Smith, Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding and Ms. Johnston

Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

Two of the presenters, Melissa Green-Moore and Sandy Johnston, described how they used current events and contemporary social issues in their classes.

“Allowing students to explore issues of national importance resulted in rich class discussion and provided exceptional opportunities to help students examine issues from multiple perspectives, critically analyze sources and make compelling arguments of their own,” Ms. Johnston said.

Terry Smith offered suggestions on how technical writing instruction can assist students in career planning.

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding discussed her experience when her literature class collaborated with fine arts students on the production of a graphic novel.

BALTIMORE BOUND

While many English majors may have headed across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge for a spring-break vacation, two faculty members were headed to Baltimore for the 48th annual conference of the [Northeast Modern Language Association](#) to present their research.

Cynthia Cravens’ paper looked at the ways book reviews shape the public’s perception of novel-writing and novelists. Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones presentation was titled “Masculine Authority and its Feminine Edge: Stability and Change in Roman Imperial Coinage.”



Ms. Vlahovici-Jones and Dr. Cravens

Photo by John Casey

IT’S A TEAM EFFORT!

English Department Assists C.A.A.S.

The university’s [Center for Access and Academic Success](#) (CAAS) employs a variety of strategies to help students complete their education including workshops, tutoring sessions and a mentoring program.

The CAAS staff recognizes that the pressure surrounding midterm exams can be intense, so they recently held what they called a “jam session.” The SSC ballroom was set up as a huge, late-night study hall, but periodically the angst surrounding the impending exams was diffused by games and prizes.



When CAAS asked for help, the English department answered. Several faculty members attended the event, and English students and staff provided a “pop-up” writing center.

Photo by Kaydian Jones

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
2. The early bird catches the worm.
3. All that glitters is not gold.
4. Honesty is the best policy.
5. Fools go where angels fear to tread.
6. What is good for the goose is good for the gander.
7. If the shoe fits, wear it.
8. Make hay while the sun shines.

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