

INSIGHTS

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


U M E S
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COMING TO UMES? MAJOR IN ENGLISH! *The English Department Welcomes a Wide Range of Prospective Students*

Attracting new students is the responsibility of every academic unit, and the English department takes that responsibility seriously.

English faculty, staff and students regularly participate in official recruitment events that bring high school students and their parents to our campus. Most recently, department faculty and [Hawk Radio](#)—the student radio station supervised by the English department—manned tables at an open house on March 9 in the Student Services Center to encourage prospective students to consider an English degree.

Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle was on hand to discuss the department's [minor in digital media](#). "Thanks to Bill Brophy, a

member of our technical staff, we had some jazzy new video presentations to attract attention," Ms. Buerkle said. "It's a great way to show off our facilities."

Another way to showcase the English department is to play host to young people long before they're thinking about college. A fun field trip can make a positive impression that lasts.

That philosophy fueled two recent tours for local elementary and middle school students. A group of 4-H students from Worcester County visited the department's radio and TV facilities on March 7, and another group from the Sarah Peyton School in Somerset County took the same tour on March 15.



(Lto R) Staff member Leon Lewis joins student DJs Christopher Robinson, Morgan Winkler, Chiamaka Copeland and Ife Akinwumi at recruitment event.



(Above) 4-H visitors in the TV control-room (Left) Somerset students and their instructor in the Hawk Radio studio



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JAMES POLK *Former English Faculty Member Turns 103!*

A much loved and long-serving member of the UMES English faculty, who still lives on the Shore, turned 103 on March 15.

The university extended birthday greetings to James Polk, who taught 17 years in the UMES English department, in a post on its Facebook page. That post prompted best wishes from some of his former students.

In her online response, Eunice Bedminster credited him with "saving" her college education.

"As a freshman I was so upset that I didn't get the English class I wanted that I was ready to go back home to the Virgin Islands ...," she wrote. "Dr. Polk overheard me and told me to settle down, he'd get me in a class."

Ronald Perry was another former student who remembered his instructor fondly. "I vividly remember your lectures and your encouragement," he wrote. "Thank you."



Photos of James Polk as they appeared in a UMES yearbook.



THEATER COMPANY DEBUT AT UMES

Boston-Based Brown Box Theatre Project Performs on Campus

On Thursday, March 15, a dream of the Department of English and Modern Languages came true. [The Brown Box Theatre Project](#) performed for the first time on the UMES campus.

“It took five years to make it happen, but in the grand scheme of things, that’s not long to wait for a dream,” said faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding who set the initiative in motion.

UMES Director of Marketing Alissa Carr and English Department Chair Dean Cooledge made it happen. They worked collaboratively to arrange funding and support to showcase live drama for the campus community.

Brown Box’s mission is to “break down barriers that separate the masses from live theatre by bringing the very best in performance, design and collaboration to unconventional venues and underserved



Students pose with cast and crew following the production.

Photo by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding

destinations to reach the widest audience possible.”

English faculty members have taken students to shows staged by Brown Box at the Teackle Mansion in Princess Anne and Headquarters Live in nearby

Salisbury, but always wanted to have the company present on campus in the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts.

The Thursday night performance of [John Kuntz’s play “The Hotel Nepenthe”](#) gathered an audience of both students and local community members. It was a one night showing of a play that just finished a successful run in the Boston area.

Junior English major Joshua Dacres wishes more people could experience live theater productions. “I applaud the Brown Box Theater Project for trying to break that barrier by providing theater at a reasonable price,” he said.

Next up in Brown Box’s arrangement with UMES: [“The Broadway Jukebox.”](#) described as a musical cabaret event. It’s scheduled for May 22.

SUMMER CAMPS ON TAP

The English department plans two types of day camps this summer. There will be separate sessions offering high school aged students the opportunity to learn more about Arabic, Chinese or Japanese language and culture; the other is a TV production camp for local middle school students.

The department offered information about the camps to interested parents at the Summer Engagement Expo organized by Wicomico County Public Schools. The event was held at James M. Bennett Senior High School in Salisbury on March 15.



*UMES Presentation at Summer Expo
Photo by Bill Brophy*

WORD PLAY:

More “Sniglet Mania”

WORDS THAT AREN’T IN THE DICTIONARY BUT SHOULD BE!



Sniglets are imaginary words that demonstrate the creative use of language. The Washington Post stages an annual sniglet contest; readers combine or alter words found in the dictionary to create a new word with a sometimes humorous definition.

See if you can guess the meaning of the following sniglets.

Remember, you will not find these imaginary words in the dictionary! (Answers on Page 4)

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Cinemuck | 2. Poufulation | 3. Wheelberg |
| 4. Smellucination | 5. Transtexting | 6. Kidoozled |
| 7. Fizzlibrium | 8. Entremanure | 9. Chorecast |
| | 10. Ambaguous | |

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

SPELLING B-E-E

English Department Plays a Prominent Role

Feel free to call faculty member Marilyn Buerkle "Queen Bee." English graduate Ashley Collier is her pal "Honey Bee."

They earned their honorary titles as volunteers for the annual Eastern Shore Regional Spelling Bee sponsored by UMES.

Ms. Buerkle is the event's official pronouncer. Ms. Collier, a member of the Class of 2009 and formerly the university's social media coordinator, has served in a variety of roles since the Bee's inception; this year she was one of three judges.

The 2018 Bee took place Saturday, March

3, in the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts.

James "Jake" Gordy, a seventh-grader from Somerset Intermediate School in Westover, Maryland, was the winner. His championship word was "morality."



Above, Bee volunteers at work (L to R): Alissa Carr, Ms. Buerkle, Ms. Collier, Cliff Harcum and Erica Murphy



Volunteers pose with winner Jake Gordy
Photos by Joey Gardner

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

One of the goals for the students enrolled in the department's Senior Capstone class is to write for publication.

The semester is only half over and Jasmine Taylor, a senior English major from Prince Georges County, Maryland, has been published.

She wrote an essay titled "[A Testimony For My Curls](#)" that appears on a beauty site known as [Black Naps](#), which bills itself as a "source for everything natural hair."

Cynthia Cravens, who teaches the class, has urged her students to write about topics that interest them and pitch them to outlets that focus on that topic.



Ms. Taylor

Photo by Jim Glovier

FILM FESTIVAL PARTICIPANT

Torrez Wise, Class of 2005 and the creative force behind [WiseRebel Films](#), was a busy man at the [Ocean City Film Festival](#), March 9-11.

He was one of the nearly 100 filmmakers whose work was selected for presentation at the second annual event, and he also was invited to conduct a workshop on the creation of music videos.



Mr. Wise

Facebook photo

"[The Sign](#)," a feature length documentary that he co-directed, was screened on March 10 at the Fox Gold Coast Theater. It explores the controversy surrounding a Confederate marker at the Wicomico County courthouse in Salisbury.

BRIDGES NOT BORDERS UMES Faculty Members Share Their Experience

A group of English faculty presented a panel titled "Bridges Not Borders: Making Texts Affordable and Meaningful" at the annual spring conference of the [College English Association, Middle-Atlantic Group](#), held March 10 at the University of the District of Columbia.

Terry Smith, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones and Mari-jo Ulbricht discussed the department's ongoing effort to reduce textbook costs through the use of open educational resources in the basic composition, technical writing and speech courses.

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding focused on the success of the department's Just One Book program. The use of a common reader at UMES began in the English department, but has since spread to other courses and departments. "We are all



(L to R) Drs. Hagenrater-Gooding and Smith, Ms. Vlahovici-Jones and Ms. Ulbricht at the CEA-MAG conference

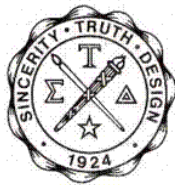
Photo by Ken Kundell

coming at this topic with ways to work on recruitment and retention and get students motivated to learn by eliminating hurdles such as economic constraints and disengagement," she said.

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CEREMONY SCHEDULED

The UMES Psi Mu chapter of the international English honor society [Sigma Tau Delta](#) will hold its induction ceremony for new members at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, in Room 3104 of the Engineering and Aviation Science Complex. Guests are welcome.



There are over 900 Sigma Tau Delta chapters in Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. Members are eligible to apply for a variety of scholarships valued at up to \$5,000 each.

DON'T FORGET!

You're invited to the next English Department Social, April 4, 3 p.m., in Wilson 2111.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS (Questions on Page 2):

1. The combination of popcorn, candy and soda on movie theater floors that makes them sticky
2. When cats get scared and puff out their tails
3. A large lump of ice that builds up behind a car wheel when it is driven through snow
4. Thinking you smell something you really don't
5. Sending a text to the wrong person on your iPhone while texting with two people at the same time
6. Used to describe parents who erroneously assume that other people find the pranks of their offspring as charming as they do
7. The point at which a warm soda or soft drink may be poured over ice in a glass without letting the fizz overflow before the glass is filled
8. A high-flyer dealer in fertilizer
9. A particularly bad weather forecast that implies shoveling or scraping ice from a windshield
10. Unable to decide which purse goes better with which dress

BAY TO OCEAN 2018

Eastern Shore Writers Association Conference

A group of UMES English faculty members attended the annual writers conference sponsored by the [Eastern](#)

[Shore Writers Association](#) on Saturday, March 10, at Chesapeake Community College in Wye Mills, Maryland.

The UMES contingent included Bill Cecil, Dean Cooledge, Melissa Green-Moore, Shannon Hinman and Dianne Pearce.

Ms. Pearce attended sessions that looked at writing beyond the traditional printed page.

"I very much enjoyed the conference because I learned more about blogging, which I do with my UMES students," she said. "I also learned about podcasting, which I think is the future in many ways."



(L to R) Ms. Pearce, Ms. Green-Moore, Dr. Cooledge and Ms. Hinman

Photo by Bill Cecil

The conference also encouraged the ambition of those who hope to publish their writing.

"Part of what stifles my writing is the feeling that because I'm not published, I'm not a writer. But the conference really emphasizes: if you write, you're a writer. So just do it," Ms. Hinman said. "That's what I took from it—to prioritize my writing and the publishing will come later."

A RETURN TO THE NEST

Najha Jones, Class of 2013, returned to campus recently to visit with her former professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding. She brought good news about her career and some valuable advice for current students.

Ms. Jones started a new job in January as a technical writer at [ActioNet](#), an IT company headquartered in Vienna, Virginia.

"Becoming familiar with IT jargon has been a crucial aspect of this position," she said. Her advice for future technical writers? "I highly recommend getting fully acquainted with Microsoft Word, or doing Word formatting training."



Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding and Ms. Jones

Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Seeking Support for the Humanities

English Department
Chair Dean
Cooledge and
faculty member



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

Cynthia Cravens attended a regional application writing workshop presented by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) on March 9 at Morgan State University. The event was led by Dr. Mary Macklem, NEH Senior Program Officer, and included an overview of NEH programs, initiatives and opportunities.

A particularly productive portion of the program was a mock application review panel which outlined how to construct strong, well-supported grant applications.

“It really cleared up the whole grant writing process,” Dr. Cooledge said. “The success rate is low, but there are lots of opportunities.”

Dr. Cooledge also points out that our location gives UMES an advantage. “The NEH office in Washington is a resource that we should use,” he said. “We can take advantage of our proximity and visit their offices.”



Washington was the next stop for Dr. Cooledge, and the humanities were still on his agenda, but he wasn't headed to the NEH offices.

On March 12, he attended the annual meeting of the [National Humanities Alliance](#), an advocacy coalition dedicated to advancing humanities education, research, preservation and public programs.

The keynote address at the meeting was delivered by [Jon Parrish Peede](#), President Trump's nominee to lead NEH.

MONEY MESSAGING

Jasmine Walden, Class of 2013, has been working in marketing and public relations since she graduated. She's currently putting her skills to work at a unique company.



Ms. Walden

Photo provided
by Ms. Walden

Ms. Walden is a marketing promotion specialist with the [dfree® Global Foundation](#). It describes itself as “the only faith-based, wealth-building system” for African Americans. “I am super happy in this position,” she said. “The family dynamic here is amazing.”

Among other things, Ms. Walden is responsible for a podcast called “[In the Black](#).” It's an opportunity to use some of the skills she honed on campus as general manager of [Hawk Radio](#).

A TV PROMOTION

Danielle Jackson set her sights on a job in journalism long before her 2016 graduation, and now she's moving a step up on her career ladder.



Ms. Jackson

Photo by Bryna
Zumer

Ms. Jackson has been working behind the scenes as an assignment editor and occasional producer at [WMDT TV](#), the ABC affiliate in Salisbury. On March 5, she began a new position as an assignment editor at [WBFF TV](#), FOX 45, in Baltimore.

In television, a move to a larger city is considered a promotion; a metropolitan newsroom will be equipped with additional resources and more staff than its rural counterpart.

A TEACHER LEADER

Sade Bell, who earned her UMES English degree in 2008, has always been a leader, but now it's in an official capacity.



Ms. Bell

Photo provided
by Ms. Bell

Ms. Bell, who teaches at her alma mater, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Baltimore, has been selected to participate in the [Teacher Leaders Program](#), a nationwide effort to identify and bring together a select group of teachers to learn how to take active leadership roles in their schools, unions and communities. The program is sponsored by the [American Federation of Teachers](#) and supported by the [Baltimore Teachers Union](#).

“I am currently researching how effective teacher collaboration can impact student efficacy in the classroom,” she said. “The emphasis of the research is to consider how altering the school schedule could allow for teachers to collaborate properly.”



LEARN JAPANESE

The Department of English and Modern Languages will offer JAPN 101 for the first time during the Fall 2018 semester. Why Japanese? The country is the third largest economy in the world with a declining birthrate and an aging population—it will need foreign workers, and you'll be ready!

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