

INSIGHTS



DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
SCHOOL of THE ARTS AND PROFESSIONS
Department of English and Modern Languages

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SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

English Major will Research Local African American History

Sophomore English major Lance Morris is the inaugural recipient of the Frances Bibbins Latimer Scholarship.



Mr. Morris

Ms. Latimer, a native of Northampton County, Virginia, was an educator and the founder of [Hickory House](#), a publishing company which produced, among other works, a catalog of African American historical sites on the Eastern Shore.

She died in 2010, but Ms. Latimer's family wanted to continue her interest in researching Eastern Shore African

American history. They created the scholarship at UMES to enable an undergraduate student to utilize Ms. Latimer's research materials to write an article on local African American history and attempt to get the article published.

The scholarship award is \$2000.

Mr. Morris submitted his application because the project combines his interest in history with the opportunity to be published.

"I am interested in researching history in general and would absolutely jump at the chance to publish an article of some kind," he said.

The selection committee was chaired by the director of the university's [African American Studies program](#), Kathryn Barrett-Gaines, who will also supervise the project.

"Mr. Morris is a strong candidate. He is curious, passionate, enthusiastic and he writes very well," she said. "I cannot wait to follow him as he designs and implements a research and writing project. This will be fun."

TAKING THE CLASSROOM ON THE ROAD

UMES Students Attend Live Theater Presentation

The faculty in the Department of English and Modern Languages continues its tradition of offering UMES students the opportunity to travel to an off-campus professional theater performance.

A large group attended the [Brown Box Theater Project](#)'s presentation of a series of short plays by playwrights of Latin American descent on Thursday, March 10. The nearly 40 attendees

included students enrolled in English courses, Spanish language students and members of Sigma Tau Delta, the university's English honor society.



The production was staged at [Headquarters Live](#) in Salisbury, Maryland. Transportation and

ticket costs were funded through the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

Following the performance, the actors and directors sat down with the UMES students and other audience members for a spirited discussion of their work.

CONGRATULATIONS!

BEFORE BABY ARRIVES

Talk to your child about what being an older sibling means



CYLOE GADSON

On my 12th birthday, I took a trip to Massachusetts with my mother and a few of my friends. Before we were off on the road, my mother would read to us her appointment, I hugged along because my mother and I were like best friends. We had a great relationship.



As a younger girl, Cyloe Gadson enjoys a moment with her younger sister, Dee. Photo by Cyloe Gadson

When I arrived at the appointment, I looked over my shoulder at the appointment, but I did not say I much attention because doctors check everyone - or at least me. We left the doctor's office and my mother wanted to be just fine, so off we go on this exciting road trip to celebrate my birthday.

The first night we were there, my mother called me over to her hotel room and said she wanted to talk to me. I thought nothing of it because we always had little talks and check-ins.

I sat on her bed and she sits me on her bed and we have a "talk." Mom and Cyloe check in.

CULTIVATING LEARNING

English Faculty on CEA Conference Panel

The Middle Atlantic Group of the College English Association chose a creative theme for its annual conference held March 5 at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland.

Presentations were asked to focus on cultivation.

Submissions included "Cultivation of the Self: Bad Seeds and Beyond," "Cultivating Students within Different Ecologies," "After the Harvest: Reflection as a Way to Plant Better Seeds of Reading, Writing, and Thinking" and "Pedagogies of the Absurd; or, It's Not Easy Bein' Green."

Three members of the UMES English department—Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones and Terry Smith—presented their research during a panel titled "Cultivating Engagement, Harvesting Learning in General Education English Courses: Readyng the 21st-

Century Student for Success."

"We discussed how we are evolving as an institution in a broad sense, through general education changes, and specifically in two required English classes, Technical Writing and Approaches to Grammar," Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said.



(L to R) Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding, Ms. Vlahovici-Jones and Dr. Smith in Rockville

Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

Senior English major Cyloe Gadson's opinion essay appeared in Salisbury's daily newspaper on March 25.

MAKING MUSIC

The School of the Arts and Professions, in partnership with the university's Honors College, has invited jazz musician Kurtis Adams as a featured speaker for the school's lecture series. The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, at 4 p.m. in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Kurtis is a saxophonist who won Downbeat magazine's Best Original Composition award in 2005. He is currently director of Jazz Studies at Shepherd University in West Virginia.

Two faculty members who teach in the Department of English and Modern Languages, Amy Hagenrater-Gooding and Michael Lane, serve on the committee which organizes the lecture series.



LOCAL FINALIST

Congratulations are in order for Lorenzo Hughes who earned his bachelor's degree in English from UMES in 1996 and a doctoral degree in organizational leadership here in 2012.

He was one of three finalists in a nationwide search to replace the retiring superintendent of nearby Wicomico County schools.

While he was not ultimately the school board's final choice, he certainly gives us reason to share our Hawk Pride!



Dr. Hughes

Photo by Matthew Whittaker

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SMALL WORLD, EH?



Justin Stewart (center), Class of 2010, interned at WBOC TV in Salisbury. He now works at WJLA TV in Washington with two of his former WBOC colleagues: meteorologist Eileen Whelan and sports reporter/anchor Scott Abraham.

WORD PLAY: Debate Speak

Vocabulary Building, Courtesy of the 2016 Presidential Candidates

Guess the word that was used in each of the following sentences:

1. **Jeb Bush** used this word twice during the foreign policy portion of the debates in which he participated.
“We should use offensive tactics as it relates to cyber security, send a _____ signal to China . . . If we do that, it’s going to create a healthier _____ effect than anything else I can think of.”
2. **Ted Cruz** used this word twice to describe the international agreement on Iran’s nuclear program.
“Weakness is provocative, and this Iranian nuclear deal is nothing short of _____ . . . If I am elected president, on the very first day in office, I will rip to shreds this _____ Iranian nuclear deal.”

Answers:

1. **Deterrent**
Several candidates mentioned the idea of going on the offensive and using a display of might to avoid conflict and future hostilities. Bush mentioned beefing up cyber security, and Ted Cruz invoked the principle of “Peace through Strength,” a phrase which has ancient roots but is most often associated these days with Ronald Reagan.
2. **Catastrophic**
Ted Cruz’s hyperbolic choice of words serves as a dire prediction of the disastrous future that he sees as a result of the agreement, which was negotiated in part by Secretary of State John Kerry.

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.

READY, SET, GO!

Student Media Organizations Get to Work in Their New Studios

With less than two months training on brand new, sophisticated broadcast equipment, the university’s two student media organizations, [Hawk Radio](#) and [Discover UMES](#), are tackling weighty subjects in their productions.

Hawk Radio’s first live program in its new Engineering and Aviation Science Complex studio was March 21. It included a discussion of the racial injustice that spawned the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement.

Discover UMES, a student video production unit, addressed many of the same topics in a recent panel discussion hosted by Melissa Witherspoon and Miles Banks. English faculty members Dean Cooledge and Mignon Anderson were the featured guests. The program will be edited for air and then posted on the organization’s YouTube channel later in the semester.



This semester’s Discover UMES team (L to R): Myles Banks, Omari Carter, Malachi Johnson, Maya Speaks, Jasmin Sellers, Melissa Witherspoon, Danielle Jackson, Crystal Matthews, Nyrabia Darden-Wright, Kristen Rice, Nadja Cox and De’Jon Burgess (Not pictured: Paul Hines)



Dr. Cooledge and Ms. Anderson join Ms. Witherspoon and Mr. Banks for discussion

Discover UMES photos by Jim Glovier



Hawk Radio’s inaugural EASC broadcast



Discover UMES control room staff

COACH WATSON

Justin Watson, Class of 2004, is now the head coach of the baseball team at [Penn Wood High School](#) in Yeadon, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia.



Mr. Watson played as a Penn Wood Patriot during high school, and has assisted the team for seven years. He was also a member of the UMES baseball team during his college career.

In addition to his new head coaching responsibilities, Mr. Watson is a master control operator in the technical operations center of Comcast Spotlight in Philadelphia.

DON'T FORGET!

The department's student symposium will be held on **Thursday, April 28 in Wilson Hall.**

Presentations will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue until 3:15 p.m. Topics to be discussed include foreign languages, literature, communication, film, public speaking and composition.

The event will also feature the spring induction ceremony for the UMES chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international honor society. Join us to celebrate its new members beginning at 11 a.m.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Spanish language faculty member Carole Champagne represented [Sister Cities of Salisbury/Wicomico County](#) at the Maryland Sister States legislative reception in Annapolis on March 23.

She reports she made valuable contacts for future exchange programs with members of a delegation from Peru.



Dr. Champagne (third from right) at the legislative reception

Photo by Toivo Tagamets

OPTIONS FOR ENGLISH ED MAJORS

Students Who Qualify Will Save Money

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor's Note: *Dr. Seabrook is coordinator of the department's English Education program.*

Photo by Robin Hoffman



One of the requirements for English Education majors to be officially accepted into the [Teacher Education Program](#) at UMES is a passing score on the [Praxis Core Basic Skills Test](#), which includes reading, writing and math.

However, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) does not accept a composite score on this test. Each of these tests, if taken separately, costs \$90. It's \$180.00 if a student registers for all three tests, and \$150 if all three tests are taken on the same test date.

Here's the good news: MSDE also accepts the [SAT test](#) as a substitute for the Praxis Core Basic Skills Test if a minimum score of 1100 on the verbal and math sections (*not* the writing section) has been achieved. In addition, a composite score is permitted on the SAT.

The cost of the SAT verbal and math tests is around \$50.00. For this reason, many English Education majors attempting to be officially accepted into teacher education at the end of their sophomore year are choosing to take the SAT instead of the Praxis Core Basic Skills Test.

English Education majors learn of this option through their academic advisor and from Michael Nugent. Dr. Nugent teaches EDCI 201, the university's Praxis prep course, which is taken in the fall of the student's sophomore year in conjunction with EDCI 200, Introduction to Contemporary Education.

Some English Education majors have SAT scores from high school that meet the required minimum composite score of 1100 on the verbal and math tests. These students are then exempted from taking the Praxis Core Basic Skills Test and can concentrate on meeting the other requirements for official acceptance into teacher education, such as a 3.0 GPA and completion of specific courses as indicated on the application to the program.

The [application is available on the UMES website](#) and in the Department of Education located on the second floor of Hazel Hall. When English Education majors apply to be officially admitted to Teacher Education at the end of their sophomore year, they are also eligible to apply—as official teacher candidates—for [numerous scholarships available](#) in the UMES Department of Education.

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