

INSIGHTS

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



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MAKING MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Students Attend Communications Job Fair in Washington, D.C.

A group of 20 UMES students interested in media careers traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to attend the annual communications job fair hosted by Howard University.

This year, because the traditional campus location in Howard's Blackburn Center was unavailable, the event was held in the [Newseum](#), a D.C. museum dedicated to journalism.

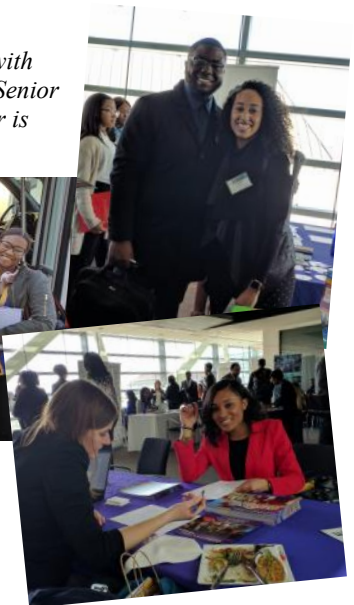
The students were able to attend panel discussions with industry professionals in the morning and meet with recruiters in the afternoon.

Their trip was made possible by the generous support of former CBS news producer Bill Jones, Class of '78, and his wife Willetta.

(R) Senior Juwan Richardson poses with recruiter. (Below) Senior Tatianna Carpenter is interviewed.



(Group L to R) Freddie Walls, Tatianna Carpenter, Jaala Waller, Chloe Zattau, Luis Garcia, Marie Hassan, Aeriell Moore, Christian Ferguson, Richard Oakley, Ahleesha Bryant, Tamia Hopkins, Ben Desta, Briana Nero, Zariah Matthews-Moore, Kamille Duckett, Mohamed Ahmed, Joshua Dacres, Juwan Richardson, Ewa Okulate and Kia Proctor



HAWKS RETURN TO THE NEST

Career Forum Includes Advice From Former UMES English Majors

The student managed radio station supervised by the English department sponsored a recent "Hawk Radio Week" of events. While many of those events were opportunities for students to socialize, there was also a chance for them to consider their futures.

A panel discussion with media professionals featured three former English majors and a current adjunct faculty member who offered advice from their unique perspective in a variety of media careers.

Tahja Cropper is a member of the

UMES public relations staff. Kyla Bibbins and Lonnie Friend are both on-air personalities at [Power 101.7](#), a Delaware radio station, where they are better known

to their listeners as Kola Kol and Lonnie Legend. Kimberly Holmes-Wiggins, who teaches a course in interviewing, discussed her career as a television news anchor.



Ms. Cropper, Ms. Bibbins, Mr. Friend and Ms. Holmes-Wiggins offer their career advice.

Photo by Jim Glover

All of the panelists urged students in the audience to gather as much experience as they can before they graduate, emphasizing the importance of internships and participation in student organizations including [Hawk Radio](#) and the university's student video

crew, [Discover UMES](#).

Additional Hawk Radio Week photos appear on Page 4.

TELLING OUR STORIES

English Faculty and Students Attend Regional Writers Conference

The UMES Department of English and Modern Languages was well represented at the 22nd annual [Bay to Ocean Writers Conference](#) sponsored by the [Eastern Shore Writers Association](#).

Department Chair Dean Cooledge was joined by faculty members Bill Cecil, Melissa Green-Moore, Shannon Hinman and Dianne Pearce, and a group of students including Tatianna Carpenter, Jessica Clatterback, Christian Ferguson, Dianne Smith and Patrick Varney.

The event was held March 9 at [Chesapeake College](#) in Wye Mills, Maryland.



(Above) Ms. Green-Moore, Ms. Smith, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Clatterback, Dr. Cooledge, Ms. Carpenter and Ms. Hinman at Chesapeake College

(Below) Ms. Pearce leads the “Don’t Die with Your Story” presentation.

Photos by William Cecil



“The conference was an amazing experience for anyone with an interest for writing,” Ms. Smith said. “I left with an abundant amount of valuable information that can be applied to my writing.”

There were 30 sessions which the group

described as “keyed to the interests and needs of writers at all levels, from beginners to best-selling authors.”

One of those sessions was led by Ms. Pearce, a UMES adjunct composition instructor. She and her husband, David Yurkovich, the founders of [Devil’s Party Press](#), presented “Don’t Die with Your Story.”

“We spoke about how to start a workshop, tell your friends you are writing, build a writing community, publish—through a blog, a literary magazine, a publishing company, and self-publishing— find writing communities on Facebook and basically make sure you do not die with your story unheard,” she said.

COURSE REDESIGN

Composition and Speech Courses Discussed

English faculty members Terry Smith and Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones traveled to Bowie State University on March 9 for the [College English Association: Middle Atlantic Group](#)’s 61st annual conference: “The Post-Disciplinary Academy.”

They collaborated on the presentation of a session titled “Course Redesign in Critical Post-Disciplinary English General Education Courses.”

Ms. Vlahovici-Jones serves as the coordinator of the UMES Fundamentals of Contemporary Speech course, and Dr. Smith is the coordinator of ENGL 101 and 102.

Both the speech and the composition courses are part of the required general education curriculum for all UMES undergraduate students.



Ms. Vlahovici-Jones and Dr. Smith in front of the Bowie bulldog

Photo by Ken Kundell

The recent and ongoing redesign of those courses was the basis of the UMES English faculty members’ conference presentation.

Topics discussed included the reliance on open educational resources, the need for consistency of teaching materials and rubrics, and the challenges posed when the majority of the classes are taught by adjunct instructors.

HUMANITIES IN HIGHER ED

English Department Chair Dean Cooledge attended the annual meeting of the [National Humanities Alliance](#) in Washington, D.C., on March 11.



The event included multiple sessions on recruiting undergraduate students to study the humanities. It also focused on ways its members can document the positive impact of the humanities.

“The breakout sessions focused on studying the humanities and strategies towards that,” Dr. Cooledge said. “So unlike other years that have focused on public humanities or other institutions, this year focused a lot on higher education.”

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THIS COULD BE YOU!

Somerset Boys Think About Media Careers

A group of 5th grade boys from Greenwood Elementary School in Princess Anne toured the UMES digital media facilities on March 7.

The youngsters are part of a local G.R.I.T. mentoring program led by Sgt. Tony Morton from the Maryland State Police Princess Anne barrack. He describes his efforts as opening the young men up to “the possibilities in life.”

They had an opportunity to consider a future in radio and television during their visit. The eleven boys, with the assistance of senior English major Ben Desta, got “hands on” experience as they practiced both on-camera and radio and TV control room responsibilities.



Photos by Jim Glovier

SPELLING BEE CHAMPS

The English department played a prominent role as the university hosted the [Maryland Eastern Shore Regional Spelling Bee](#) on March 2.

Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle was the official pronouncer at the event. English graduate Ashley Collier returned to campus to serve as a judge and, inside a bee costume, senior English major Marie Hassan provided comic relief.



*Bee officials with winner Austin Loar
Photo by Joey Gardner*

PRESIDENTIAL PROMOTION GLOBAL PARTNERS

Roger Davis, who earned his UMES English degree in 1991, has been named president of the [Community College of Beaver County](#) in Monaca, Pennsylvania, north of Pittsburgh.



Dr. Davis

Dr. Davis has been serving as interim president at the institution since May of last year. His appointment to the permanent position came in late February after a unanimous vote of the school’s board of trustees.

Prior to assuming the role of interim president, Dr. Davis had been CCBC’s executive vice president and provost since 2016.

Spanish language faculty member Carole Champagne attended the [Maryland Sister States](#) legislative reception held recently in the Senate Office Building in Annapolis.

Among others, there were representatives from Brazil, Peru, Estonia and Turkey in attendance.



Dr. Champagne (far right) with Maryland Sister States colleagues

Photo provided by Dr. Champagne

JOB WELL DONE

The [2019 Delaware Press Association Awards](#) have been



announced, and the results brought a smile to the face of adjunct composition instructor Dianne Pearce.

[Devil’s Party Press](#), her publishing company, earned numerous awards including three in the anthology category for three different publications. The company also won two awards for book design.

One of DPP’s novelists, David Dutton, won first place for the novel “One of the Madding Crowd,” and Ms. Pearce won an award of her own for her poem “What I Learned from William Carlos Williams About Love.”

APRIL SOCIAL SCHEDULED

The Department of English and Modern Languages holds a social from 3-4 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month in Room 2111 in Wilson Hall. Join faculty and friends for food and fellowship at the next social on Wednesday, April 3.



Scrabble Slam players at the March Social

Photo by Freddie Walls

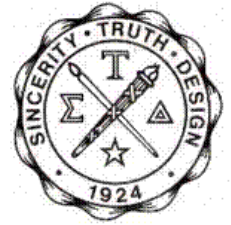
DON'T FORGET!

The 66th annual UMES Honors Convocation will be held on Thursday, April 4, at 11 a.m. in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center.

The event recognizes those students who achieved dean's list status (a 3.5 or higher GPA) for either the spring 2018 or fall 2018 semester, departmental distinction (a 3.7 or higher GPA for the same period), and also singles out one outstanding student for departmental honors from each academic department on campus.

NEW MEMBERS

UMES's Psi Mu chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, will welcome its new members in a formal induction ceremony to be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 17 in Room 3104 of the Engineering and Aviation Science Complex.



Four students, including Benyam Desta, Nyla Green, Ewa Okulate and Patrick Varney, are scheduled to join the organization.

There are over 900 active Sigma Tau Delta chapters in the U.S. Approximately 9,000 members are inducted annually.

Family and friends are invited to attend the UMES ceremony. Refreshments will be served following the induction.

HAWK RADIO WEEK: February 25-March 1



**Monday-Bake Sale
Tuesday-Career Forum
Wednesday-"Shazam"
Thursday-"Silent Library"
Friday-Talent Show**



Photos by Bill Brophy, Marilyn Buerkle, Jim Glover and Leon Lewis

Insights is published monthly during the academic year. It is written and edited, except as noted, by communications instructor Marilyn Buerkle. Copy is proofread by composition instructor Sandy Johnston. Photos are by Marilyn Buerkle, except as noted. If you have information you would like to appear in this publication, contact our editor at 410-651-8349 or email her at mlbuerkle@umes.edu.