

INSIGHTS

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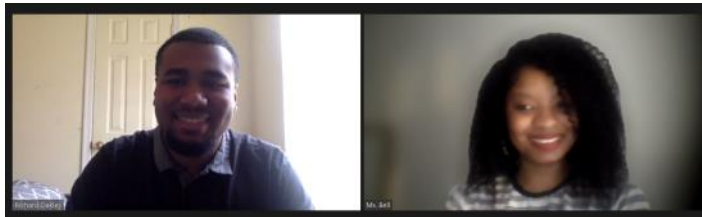
IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL *English Alumni Collaborate in Baltimore Middle School*

They both earned their English degrees at UMES. They both graduated with honor. They took many of the same classes with some of the same instructors, but they never met.

Sade Bell graduated in 2008. Richard Oakley earned his degree in 2019.

Mr. Oakley is in a teacher trainee program in the Baltimore public school system; Ms. Bell is a [Blueprint Literacy Coach](#) working with Mr. Oakley's team at Booker T. Washington Middle School to improve student achievement in English and language arts classes.

The [Urban Teachers](#) program chose Mr. Oakley, through a competitive selection



Mr. Oakley and Ms. Bell after a virtual professional development session

Photo provided by Ms. Bell

process, to teach in his hometown. In exchange for a four year commitment, he is paired with an experienced team of educators while he earns a master's degree in education from [Johns Hopkins University](#).

"It is exciting to see that UMES is producing great educators," Ms. Bell said.

"It has been a pleasure to see him become more confident in his work. It makes me proud to know that we share some of the same experiences being UMES alumni."

Seven months into his assignment at Booker T. Washington, Mr. Oakley has been working in a virtual classroom. Ms. Bell knows new teachers will adapt to a post-pandemic world, but says it will take some adjustment.

"The virtual space is very different from teaching daily with a class full of students," she said. "They will probably miss the days of virtual when things return to normal."

WRITER, DIRECTOR, ACTOR *Junior English Major Does It All*

Christian Ferguson is the director of the English department's virtual presentation of "Soul-Searching" this spring. He's also the playwright, and he's one of the actors.

Mr. Ferguson has always envisioned a career as a storyteller.

"Being able to come up with your own stories, your own unique characters, and send a message to people ... to possibly change their outlook on life is an amazing feeling," Mr. Ferguson said in a



Mr. Ferguson

*Photo by
Monica
Ferguson*

scholarship application before his arrival at UMES. "Directing my story on stage is my goal at UMES given the opportunity ... before graduation."

He's ahead of schedule.

The junior honors student, originally from Lanham, Maryland, directed his first UMES theater production in 2019 as a freshman. This semester, he



Mr. Ferguson (far right) with the cast of "I Ate Lunch Today" after his 2019 debut as a director

directs a play he wrote.

"Soul-Searching" is the story of a high school student who has lost his mother to illness and turns to music for consolation.

"Although times have been hard with the coronavirus and social injustice," Mr. Ferguson said, "I hope I could put some 'soul' in the audiences to motivate them to do something special in such tough times."

The play will be recorded and posted online before the end of the semester.

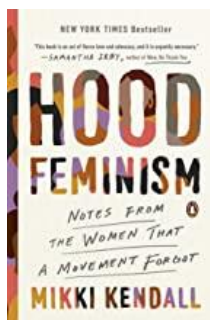
FEMINISM ON THE AIR

Women's History Month Event Organized by English Faculty Member

When Dean Marshall Stevenson asked English professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding to produce an event to celebrate Women's History Month, she took a page from her social sciences colleague Kathryn Barrett-Gaines.

"I actually chose the book talk formula after attending Dr. Barrett-Gaines's talk on '[White Rage](#)' for the USM Women's Forum," she said. "While she did a lecture format, she was very inclusive in using the chat and it felt like a conversation."

The book Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding chose for a campus discussion on March 30 was "[Hood Feminism: Notes From the](#)



Book cover from Amazon.com

[Women that a Movement Forgot](#)" by Mikki Kendall.

"Kendall explores how the women's movement is largely a white movement," Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said. "I wanted to talk about the pitfalls of feminism, what we can learn by bringing



(L to R) Dr. Cravens, Ms. Wells and Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding discuss feminism with the Hawk Radio audience.

more voices to the table, and how feminism can be a useful tool for this generation."

Rather than a lecture hall, her forum for discussion was [Hawk Radio](#), the student managed campus radio station. She invited Cynthia Cravens, director of the university's [Center for Teaching Excellence](#) and a former English professor, and English major and Junior Class President Ciani Wells to join her for a conversation in the Hawk Radio studio.

The station's online delivery system enabled the discussion to reach beyond the geographic limits of our campus, and offered the opportunity for callers to offer their opinions as well.

The discussion was recorded and will be posted online for later playback with other programs hosted by the university this year.

LIFELONG LEARNING

English faculty member Terry Kundell has been busy.

In addition to her responsibilities as director of the [UMES Writing Center](#) and coordinator of the university's [English Proficiency Exam](#), she squeezed in attendance at two regional conferences which directly impact her responsibilities.

As a member of the executive board of the [College English Association: Middle Atlantic Group](#), she helped to plan the group's virtual event, "Writing and Teaching Justice," which she attended on March 6. Then, on March 26, she attended the virtual conference of the [Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association](#). Its timely theme was "Access & Equity: Writing Centers in Times of Disruption."



Dr. Kundell

Photo by Jim Glovier

SHARING IDEAS

A group representing UMES faculty, staff and students attended the 24th annual Bay to Ocean Writers Conference, sponsored by the [Eastern Shore Writers Association](#), on March 20.

UMES attendees included Alissa Carr, English Department Chair Dean Cooledge, Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, Brittany Hall, Shannon Hinman, Melissa Green-Moore and Melody Newman.

This year the conference was held via Zoom. It included a keynote address by poet [Truth Thomas](#) and 30 individual sessions grouped in six subject areas: beginning fiction writers; advanced fiction writers; memoir and other non-fiction; poetry; the craft of writing; and publication, promotion and social media.



"INSTANT NOODLES"

[Devil's Party Press](#) (DPP) publisher and adjunct creative writing instructor Diane Pearce has unveiled a new creation that she describes as "hot and free."

It's "[Instant Noodles](#)," an online literary magazine. In a recent DPP newsletter she promotes it this way: "Just like a quick lunch, Instant Noodles offers literature on your terms. It's perfect for reading on your lunch break, and is a fulsome collection of thoughtfully curated fiction, memoir, poetry and art."

It's free to read and free to submit.

DPP's mission is to promote the work of authors over 40, so those who submit work must be at least 40 by the publication date.



Graphic provided by Devil's Party Press

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NEXT STOP? GRAD SCHOOL

Jessica Clatterback, who graduated magna cum laude last May, is headed to graduate school on the shore.



Ms. Clatterback

The former tutor and assistant director of the [UMES Writing Center](#) will begin Salisbury

University's [Master of Arts in English: Rhetoric, Language, and Composition program](#) this fall. Ms.

Clatterback was also given a graduate assistantship to cover her tuition, provide her with a stipend, and allow her to teach ENGL 103: Composition and Research.

She credits her experience in our writing center as excellent preparation for the program.

Photo by Jim Glovier

CONGRATS ON THE NEW JOB!

Monica (Simmons) Lee, who earned her UMES English degree in 2003, has been named the first director of client delivery at [Simple Technology Solutions \(STS\)](#). Working with leadership, her responsibilities will include contract execution, compliance and reporting.



Photo provided by Ms. Lee

STS highlighted her federal experience in announcing her arrival. "Ms. Lee offers extensive experience in clinical information system implementation, sustainment, and program management. Before joining STS, Monica served as a senior program manager overseeing large-scale IT projects and working with the [Defense Health Agency](#)."

Ms. Lee earned a [Master of Science in Administration degree](#) from Trinity Washington University.

THE LOST GENERATION

Teaching Fitzgerald and Hemingway in Brazil

Language professor Carole Champagne has been selected to teach during the [Global July 2021](#) program at the Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora in Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Dr. Champagne

The program brings together college students from around the world to be taught by UFJF faculty and their colleagues from partner universities worldwide. This year, because of the pandemic, the event will be held virtually.

Dr. Champagne earned both her master's and doctoral degrees in the [Languages, Literatures and Cultures program](#) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She'll utilize that combined expertise to

teach "A Moveable Feast: The Lost Generation in 1920s Paris" this summer.

"We will explore literary works, visual arts, and musical and performing arts of [The Lost Generation](#), while focusing on literary production by Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Stein, Dos Passos, Joyce, and other expatriates," Dr. Champagne said. "While I am saddened that I cannot teach on campus (in Brazil) this summer ... I hope that UMES students can accompany me when I teach my summer course on the Minas Gerais campus in July 2022."

Students are not required to know Portuguese to participate in Global July. Most courses are taught in English by professors from universities throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union and some Latin American countries.

Photo by Jim Glovier

AWARD WINNERS

English Faculty Acknowledged

Three English faculty members have been recognized by the university's [Center for Teaching Excellence](#).

Sandra Johnston and Mark Zockoll are part of an inaugural group of 15 professors who earned the center's "Student Choice for Teaching Excellence Badge of Distinction."

They were both mentioned by name during a CTE survey last semester. The questions were designed to gauge the results of our pandemic-induced pivot to online learning from a student perspective. The questions were generalized; the CTE staff did not expect students to make comments about specific instructors. However, both Drs. Johnston and

Zockoll were singled out for high praise from students in their classes.

The Center for Teaching Excellence also rewarded the efforts of associate professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding. She was one of three campus faculty members to successfully compete for a 2021 Teaching Innovation Fellowship. She will receive a summer stipend while she redesigns a course on Afrofuturism, a concept she first introduced as a "special topics" elective.

She intends to create a signature diversity course which will critically examine an interdisciplinary movement tracking technology, art, history, and science toward an empowering future through an African American lens.

Photos of Drs. Johnston and Hagenrater-Gooding by Jim Glovier; Dr. Zockoll's photo provided by Bill Robinson



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