

INSIGHTS



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SCHOOL of THE ARTS AND PROFESSIONS
Department of English and Modern Languages

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2014 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

English Majors Travel to D.C. for Thurgood Marshall College Fund Event

Two UMES English majors were selected to attend the prestigious annual Leadership Institute hosted by the [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#) (TMCf).

Seniors Tahja Cropper and Kelsey Tate went through a competitive application and interview process and, although the organization said this year's emphasis would favor the selection of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students, the two English majors were chosen as part of a larger group of UMES attendees.

Ms. Cropper and Ms. Tate both described the event as "life changing."



(L to R) Ms. Cropper, UMES President Juliette Bell and Ms. Tate attend the Leadership Institute's awards gala.

Photo by Sarra Malik

The conference was held in Washington, D.C., November 9-13.

This year's theme was "Developing Minds ... Delivering Dreams." It brought representatives from a vast array of private and public sector employers together with students from more than 40 publicly-supported historically black colleges and universities for workshops, networking and job interviews.

Johnny Taylor, the TMCf president and CEO, urged conference participants to make the most of the opportunity. "Avail yourself of the abundance of sound wisdom and experience offered for your benefit," he said.

LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Language Classes are More than Vocabulary

Lisa Zheng, who teaches the department's Chinese language classes, is following in the tradition of UMES French and Spanish instructors by offering her students an opportunity to experience culture through food.

The nearly 20 students enrolled in CHIN101 gathered recently for the [Mid-Autumn Festival](#), where they listened to traditional music and ate authentic Chinese noodles and mooncakes, while one of their classmates made a presentation on the cultural significance of the holiday.

Dr. Zheng, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and an adjunct instructor in the English department, provides her language

students with an introduction to speaking, reading and writing Mandarin Chinese, emphasizing the mastery of pronunciation and basic characters.

She only had one rule for the students who attended the Mid-Autumn Festival.

"Students must practice their chopstick skills," she said. "No spoons or forks allowed."



Chinese 101 students enjoy noodles, mooncakes and Jasmine tea.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Conference Focuses on Male Students of Color

David Johnson, an assistant professor in the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages, attended this year's annual Quest conference hosted by Baltimore Community College.



Dr. Johnson

The theme for the two-day event was "Closing the Achievement Gap for Males of Color: Constructing the Pipeline from K-12 to Higher Education."

Photo by Joseph Davis

"The theme rendered engaging discussions," Dr. Johnson said. "The keynote speaker, [Mr. Damion Cooper](#),

director of Baltimore's Office of Neighborhood Relations, suggested that the point, or origin, for closing the achievement gap for all students—especially males of color—is in K through 12 education. He went on to conclude that teachers are not being prepared to teach diverse students the knowledge and skills needed for success in higher education."

Discussion sessions offered many suggestions for closing the gap for men of color. Topics included resuscitating community support, creating cross-campus partnerships and examining how media coverage and stereotypes have led to damaging public policy and economic disparities for African American males.

Dr. Johnson described the daily panel

discussion as a highlight. On the second day, it was "Saving Males of Color at the K-12 Level by Building Relationships for Fostering Academic Success."

"The consensus was that teachers at the K-12 level, as well as professors on the college level, must empower themselves with a desire to build trust with all students," he said. "But it's even more important with male students of color as a result of their overwhelming negative experiences."

The conference ended on a note of optimism, encouraging participants to dedicate themselves to equitable instruction and comprehensive development of positive learning strategies so that all students might celebrate success.

HONOR SOCIETY ROAD TRIP

The annual convention of the [National Council of Teachers of English](#) (NCTE) was held Nov. 20-23 at the Gaylord National Resort near Washington, DC. The theme of this year's event was "Story as the Landscape of Knowing."

Because of the close proximity, three UMES English professors made the trip and took members of the English honor society with them. Jacqueline Brice-Finch, Dean Cooledge, and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding were joined by the five students pictured below.



(L to R) Sigma Tau Delta members Liz Ranger, Kia Morsell, Kelsey Tate, Aundrea Townsend and Briyana Hubbard

Photo by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding

TEACHERS OF LANGUAGES

Two UMES language professors traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the annual conference of the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) Nov. 21-23.



(L to R) Drs. Champagne and Book visit the Alamo.

Carole Champagne and Jacalyn Book chose from 600 educational sessions covering a wide spectrum of language-related careers.

Photo provided by Dr. Book

"This has been an incredible conference," Dr. Book said. "I have seen presentations with refreshingly new ideas of teaching culture and motivating students to learn a foreign language. I have interacted with colleagues and have arrived at some exciting new techniques to try with my students."

A MESSAGE OF SUCCESS

English faculty member Will Rose was the keynote speaker at the recent induction ceremony of the UMES chapter of the [National Society of Collegiate Scholars](#).

The local group was chartered in 2011. It recognizes high achieving freshmen and sophomores with a 3.4 grade point average or higher who rank in the top 20 percent of their class.

Mr. Rose offered members of the organization insight on achieving academic and professional success.



Mr. Rose with members of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Photo provided by Mr. Rose

I'VE BEEN THINKING



By Kelsey Tate

Editor's Note:

Ms. Tate is an English major from Burtonsville, Maryland, who will graduate in May.

A member of the UMES Honors Program, she works as a peer tutor in the UMES Writing Center. Ms. Tate also serves as Miss Senior in the UMES Royal Court and as the parliamentarian of the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.



As I returned to campus from the [National Council of Teachers of English](#) (NCTE) convention in Washington, D.C., I found myself thinking about all the conferences I've attended as a UMES student.

When many students hear terms such as "conference" or "convention," their first thought may be: boring! However, this is not always the case.

I have attended several conferences that have had such an influential impact on my life. These include the [National Association of Student Affairs](#)

[Professionals](#) (NASAP) Leadership Conference in Georgia; [The King and Queens Konnection](#) in Tennessee; [The Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association](#) (MAWCA) Conference in Pennsylvania; [The Thurgood Marshall College Fund](#) Leadership Institute in Washington; and, most recently, the NCTE convention.

Whether multiple days or just one, each of these events provided invaluable information that enhanced my life academically, socially and professionally.

I attended each of these conferences as a result of involvement in campus organizations. NASAP and the King and Queens Konnection were sponsored through the UMES Student Government Association. Attendance at MAWCA was through my employment as a writing center tutor. I found out about the Leadership Institute through the honors program. Lastly, I was able to attend the NCTE conference through my membership in Sigma Tau Delta.

These conferences taught me there is more to college than just academics. College is a time to grow, learn and mature, and what better way to do that than by travelling and having genuine life experiences.

Jasmine Roberts, who earned her English degree at UMES, speaks highly of her experience at NASAP. "NASAP, for me, was an amazing experience. To be in the presence of so many student leaders who all shared a common goal of making their student body better is encouraging," she said. I would have to agree.

These conferences have all been of different genres and impacted me in different ways, but the most important thing is, there *is* an impact.

Whether it is leadership training; career training packed with interviewing, resume and professional tips; or educational training offering an array of tutoring techniques; I encourage you to seek out conference opportunities. Professional development is just as vital as classroom instruction; combined, they are so beneficial for students. The opportunities are out there; it is up to us to find and make use of them.

"I've Been Thinking" is a monthly column written by members of UMES's Psi Mu chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society. Throughout the academic year, the column will explore a variety of topics of interest to the campus community.

FALL THEATER PRODUCTION

UMES Drama Society Continues to Attract Talented Students

The [UMES Drama Society](#), under the direction of former English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson, staged the award-winning play, [A Raisin in the Sun](#), as its fall theater production.

More than a dozen English majors joined their campus colleagues on stage and behind-the-scenes for a four night run beginning October 30.

Dr. Dameron-Johnson said one of the most rewarding elements of this year's show was the influx of new and talented undergraduates.

"We have some new freshmen and sophomores who are really good," she said. "And it looks like they'll be with us for awhile."



Above (L to R): Orret Cush, Lance Morris, Courtney Milligan and LaKendra Brown at a Raisin in the Sun rehearsal.

Photos by Jim Glovier

Below (L to R): Patrick Lieb, Orret Cush, Skyler Offer and Tourissa Alcindor during a Raisin in the Sun performance in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center.



WORD PLAY:

Acronym . . . Abbreviation . . . Initialism *What's the difference?*

An **abbreviation** is a shortened form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole. Some examples: U.S.A (United States of America), lb. (pound), Dr. (doctor) and oz. (ounce).

Acronyms and **initialisms** are both types of abbreviations, but there is a distinct difference based on how the abbreviation is pronounced.

- An **initialism** is an abbreviation that is *pronounced one letter at a time*, such as FBI and DVD.
- An **acronym** is an abbreviation that is *pronounced as a word*, such as AIDS and LASER.

Sometimes the new word created by the combined letters is used in everyday language because it can speed up communication; however, the frequent use of abbreviations can result in not knowing what the abbreviation really means.

Do you know what the famous Swedish furniture company abbreviation - IKEA - really means? It is a short form for Ingvar Kamprad Elmtaryd Agunnaryd. IKEA was founded by Ingvar Kamprad in 1943. The name of the farm and village where he grew up was Elmtaryd and Agunnaryd.

Identify each of the following abbreviations as an **acronym** or **initialism**:

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| 1. SNAFU | 6. LED |
| 2. HTML | 7. RADAR |
| 3. UNICEF | 8. ATM |
| 4. ZIP (code) | 9. ESL |
| 5. SCUBA | 10. NATO |

Answers on Page 5.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Members of [Hawk Radio](#) are embracing the spirit of holiday giving. They participated in the Salvation Army's [Red Kettle Campaign](#) as bell ringers in the Student Services Center. They also helped pack Thanksgiving meals for the less fortunate in Somerset County.



(L to R) Dathen Dawkins, Candynce Newbill and Jordan Johnson

Photo by Leon Lewis

A FOND FAREWELL

[Discover UMES](#), a student video production crew, will lose a longtime member this month. Da'Vone Freeman joined the organization as a freshman in 2011; he will earn his English degree at the end of the winter term.

"He has stayed with the program longer than any other student," said Alissa Carr, the university's director of marketing and supervisor of Discover UMES. "We will miss him immensely."



Mr. Freeman at Hawk Hysteria 2014

Photo by Jim Glover

ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 4
(All rooms in Wilson Hall)

Creative Writing
9:30-10:45 a.m. Rm.2111

Modern Languages
9:30-10:45 a.m. Rm.2106

Just One Book
9:30-10:45 a.m. Rm. 2113

Communications
11-12:15 p.m. Rm. 2111

Technical Writing
11-12:15 p.m. Rm. 2106

Public Speaking
12:30-1:45 p.m. Rm. 2113

Literature
12:30-1:45 p.m. Rm. 2111

SPEED INTERVIEWING

Members of the English department's Telecommunications Advisory Board returned to campus for another round of speed interviewing. Representatives from Delmarva Broadcasting, The Daily Times, IHeart Media, MTS Broadcasting, WBOC TV and WESM FM conducted mock interviews to help UMES students polish their presentation skills.



Three minute mini-interviews underway

ENGLISH EDUCATION UPDATE

Recent Graduates Take the Next Step

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor's Note: Dr. Seabrook is an associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages and coordinator of the department's English Education program.

Corey Haynes, who earned her B.A. in English Education in 2013, is completing her [Peace Corps](#) training in Managua, Nicaragua, in preparation for a teaching assignment. The training includes instruction about the culture, customs and language of the country where the Peace Corp volunteer will be placed. More details of Ms. Haynes' Peace Corps adventures will be shared in future articles.

Congratulations to Briana Fulton, who passed the Maryland state-required teaching licensure tests. Ms. Fulton received her UMES English Non-Teaching degree in 2013. She is now a graduate



student in the UMES Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program. She recently earned passing scores on both of the required PRAXIS II tests: English Language Arts, Content and Analysis; and Principles of Learning and Teaching, Grades 7-12.

The PRAXIS II tests are required for not only the graduate students but also the undergraduate English Education teacher candidates as they prepare for a career as an English/Language Arts teacher in Grades 7-12. Passing scores are required to be eligible for enrollment in the teaching internship.

Ms. Fulton will complete the teaching internship for the M.A.T. program and graduate in Spring 2015.

[The M.A.T. program](#) is designed for those who have a minimum of 36 credit hours in their content area and want to complete the Maryland requirements for teacher certification. The 16-month program begins in the Winter Term, requires 39 semester hours of professional education coursework and leads to the Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE FOUR:

1. Acronym - Systems Normal, All Fouled Up
2. Initialism - Hypertext Markup Language
3. Acronym - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
4. Initialism - Zone Improvement Plan
5. Acronym - Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.
6. Initialism - Light Emitting Diode
7. Acronym - Radio Detecting and Ranging
8. Initialism - Automated Teller Machine
9. Initialism - English as a Second Language
10. Acronym - North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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 Ronald Webster. 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.