

# 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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## ENGLISH GRADUATE IS A BIG WINNER “Sports Jeopardy!” Champion Honored at Athletic Event

Earl Holland, a sports journalist who earned his UMES English degree in 2005, won \$40,000 on the streaming game show, “Sports Jeopardy!”

He amassed his winnings by surviving eight consecutive matches on the weekly program.

Mr. Holland’s amazing—and profitable—win streak was acknowledged on November 13 during the first home game of the season for the UMES men’s



*Mr. Holland on the set of “Sports Jeopardy!” during his seventh win*

*Photo provided by Sony Pictures*

basketball team. He took center court to receive a handful of gifts from

Athletic Director Keith Davidson and a well deserved round of applause from Hawk fans.

The show’s third season was recorded in California during the summer, but Mr. Holland was sworn to secrecy about the outcome of the contests, forcing his supporters to tune into the [Crackle](#) network each Wednesday with their fingers crossed. For eight weeks since the



*Director of Athletics Keith Davidson applauds Mr. Holland’s accomplishment at a recent men’s basketball game*

*Photo by Todd Dudak*

season began in October, Mr. Holland remained a champion, earning the respect of program host and well-known sports personality [Dan Patrick](#) who began calling Mr. Holland the “Duke of Earl.”

Mr. Holland has long been an expert at recalling arcane details in competitive

situations. While an undergraduate, he was a member of the UMES academic team, serving as its captain during his senior year.

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

### *The Department of English and Modern Languages Gets Involved*

The [UMES Center for International Education](#) organized a number of campus and community events in recognition of [International Education Week](#), November 14-18.

Faculty and staff of the Department of English and Modern Languages were participants in the observance.

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne, who studied abroad as a student and who now reviews applications for a U.S. funded study abroad scholarship program, was invited to discuss the benefits of international study. The [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#)

(FLIC) provided name tags in Chinese and Arabic at the international festival, a celebration of campus diversity including food, music and dance. Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle was part of a panel discussion on international etiquette.

The week’s festivities concluded with an invitation to the community to join university participants for a sampling of



*FLIC volunteers create name tags for people who attended the international festival.*

*Photos by Ejay Esiobise*

international coffees and teas served at Hawk’s Corner in downtown Princess Anne.

International Education Week is a joint project of the U.S.

Departments of State and Education. It began in 2000, and currently,

more than 100 countries participate. It is designed to promote international education as a key to greater global understanding.

# SHARING GOOD NEWS

## *Aspiring Reporter Selected as Student Commencement Speaker*

Senior English major Damisha Brown is looking forward to her graduation this month, eager to begin her job search in the highly competitive field of broadcast journalism.



*Ms. Brown as an intern at WMDT TV in Salisbury*

Before that search begins in earnest, she'll be adding an impressive credential to her resume.

*Photo provided by Ms. Brown*

Ms. Brown has been selected to deliver the student commentary at the winter commencement ceremony on December 16 in the Hytche Athletic Center.

Students interested in the prestigious assignment must complete an application process which includes recommendation letters from both faculty and fellow students. They also must audition their remarks before a selection committee.

Ms. Brown plans to encourage her colleagues to create the positive stories

she believes some news organizations neglect to report.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Ms. Brown will complete her undergraduate degree in just three and a half years.

Not that we're bragging, but she is the second English major in a row to graduate early and be selected as a December commencement speaker. Tahja Cropper completed her degree in three and half years and delivered the student commentary in December of 2015.

## WORD PLAY: International Anagrams

Each set of letters can be rearranged to spell the name of a country and its capital.

Example: RAN IN HEART

Answer: Tehran, Iran

1. SPAM DID RAIN

3. GRAY COP TIE

2. RIVET IN A SAUNA

4. HUG FAT SILK BANANA

Answers available on Page 4.

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

## RECRUITMENT STARTS EARLY

### *Local Scout Visits Radio and TV Studios*

Joel Rambo is a 9-year-old [Webelos Scout](#) working on his [Maestro badge](#), a project designed to help him better understand music-making and all the other sounds around him.

Among other things, the badge requirements suggest he visit a facility with a piece of equipment



*Ms. Buerkle assists Joel with his microphone in the TV studio.*

known as an audio mixer. His mom tried calling a local radio station who pointed her to UMES and its new audio and video equipment.

Telecommunications coordinator Marilyn Buerkle invited the home-schooled Snow Hill resident to visit and gave him and his mother the grand tour of the radio and TV studios in the Engineering and Aviation Science Complex.

*Joel checks out audio production equipment. Photos by Jim Glover*



# BECOMING STRATEGIC READERS

## English Faculty Member Presents Research in Atlanta

Courtney Harned, lecturer in the Department of English and Modern Languages and doctoral student at Salisbury University, presented at the [National Council of Teachers of English](#) annual convention in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 19.



Ms. Harned

Photo by Jim Glovier

Ms. Harned and two members of her doctoral cohort, Heather Porter and Christina Camillo, presented “From High School to College: Supporting Students’ Self-Advocacy of Literacy Skills.”

The presentation addressed the transition from secondary to postsecondary reading

expectations where students are required to develop strategic reading comprehension skills and adapt to increasingly complex texts.

Ms. Harned and her co-presenters examined college literacy expectations and how instructors can imbed comprehension strategies in curriculum and promote student agency through peer to peer interaction and also reflexive journals that promote self-regulated behaviors.

Ms. Harned discussed student

perspectives regarding the transition to college and the benefits of using journals to promote student reflection on comprehension strengths and challenges.

The presentation ended with best practices for promoting strategic, self-regulated readers, helping students successfully navigate college instructional delivery.



Ms. Harned (at podium) makes NCTE presentation.

Photo provided by Ms. Harned

Dr. Judith Franzak of Salisbury University chaired the session.

There’s more travel in Ms. Harned’s future. She and Ms. Porter will also

present research at the [American Educational Research Association’s](#) Spring 2017 annual convention in San Antonio, Texas.

## LANGUAGE LEARNING

French language instructor Jacalyn Book attended the recent meeting of the American Conference for Teachers of Foreign Languages in Boston.

“The keynote speaker, Mike Walsh, was exceptional,” she said. “(He) emphasized that the ability to communicate, empathize and understand cultural

sensitivities may be all that distinguishes jobs that will be replaced by machines with those that will be handled by human beings in the future.”



Dr. Book at ACTFL convention

Photo provided by Dr. Book

## ONLINE TUTORING

The UMES Writing Center, under the direction of English faculty member Terry Smith, offers online tutoring.

Five of the center’s nine peer tutors offer online sessions through [My Writing Center Online](#). Clients schedule the e-tutor’s time and then submit a document and any related assignments/rubrics. The e-tutors use Word’s “insert comments” and “track changes” features to respond to the writing.

Dr. Smith is studying the interactions and will present “Electronic Response to Student Writing in Online Writing Center Appointments” at the UMES Innovations Conference in January. She has also applied for a grant from the [International Writing Centers Association](#) to do research on the center’s online sessions: who uses them, why they use them, how well they work, etc.

## YOU’RE INVITED

TO THE SIGMA  
TAU DELTA  
INDUCTION



CEREMONY ON  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2.

SIX NEW MEMBERS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH  
HONOR SOCIETY INVITE  
YOU TO JOIN THEM AT 7  
P.M. IN ROOM 2111,  
WILSON HALL .

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## CHINESE HOSPITALITY

The Chinese culture places great emphasis on the dinner party as a place to build relationships, but only if you behave properly.

Language professor Nydia Gregory invited a visiting scholar from Shanghai University to deliver a lecture on Chinese etiquette in the Foreign Language Instructional Center on November 9.



Dr. Gregory introduces Qu Hongjian  
Photo by Ejay Esiobise

## STATE DEPT. SCHOLARSHIP

A representative of the U.S. Department of State's [Critical Language Scholarship Program](#) visited UMES November 1 at the invitation of foreign language faculty member Carole Champagne.

Students learned the program is an intensive overseas language and cultural immersion for American undergraduate and graduate students. Each summer, scholarship recipients spend eight to ten weeks at over 20 sites abroad. They earn the equivalent of a full year of college-level language study in one of 14 languages the U.S. government has designated as critical including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Japanese, Urdu, Russian, Turkish and Swahili.

The scholarship program covers nearly all expenses including round-trip travel, room and board, course materials and instruction.

## THEATER DEBUT

A former UMES student turned playwright, Barry Battle, saw his creative vision come to life when English Professor Emeritus Della Dameron-Johnson directed his "Rotten Apple." The production was staged in the Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center November 2-6.



Mr. Battle, Dr. Dameron-Johnson and English Department Chair Dean Cooledge  
Photo by Jim Glover

## SEEKING OUTSIDE INPUT

### Learning Through Interaction with Other Academicians

UMES sent a team of faculty and administration members to Indianapolis, Indiana, this semester to the [Assessment Institute](#), a program founded and operated in partnership by Indiana and Purdue Universities. The conference is billed as "the nation's oldest and largest event focused exclusively on outcomes assessment in higher education."

The team included English faculty member Terry Smith. "Each of us attending from UMES was focusing on a different area, with my focus on assessment in general education since I am chair of the General Education Committee," Dr. Smith said. "I received invaluable information."

Next stop for Dr. Smith was Baton

Rouge, Louisiana, where she joined her fellow officers from [Phi Kappa Phi](#), the nation's oldest, largest and most selective honor society. "Working with a team of vice presidents who are as committed to Phi Kappa Phi as I am and to working with chapters in our regions to help them grow is really exciting," she said.



Dr. Smith and UMES colleagues in Indianapolis (above) and with Phi Kappa Phi officers in Baton Rouge (above right)



Photos provided by Dr. Smith

### WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. Madrid, Spain
2. Vienna, Austria
3. Cairo, Egypt
4. Kabul, Afghanistan

**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](mailto:mlbuerkle@umes.edu).**