

INSIGHTS

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


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THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE

Second Black Box Theater Production is a Resounding Success

The UMES Black Box Theatre, which staged its inaugural production last semester, presented its second dramatic showing last month. A three night run of Natalie Margolin's "[The Power of Punctuation](#)" played to sold-out crowds November 9-11.

The play is a comedy about text messages, romantic relationships and female friendships. English alumna Colleen Hendrickson played the role of Jenny, a brash, overbearing yet well-intentioned friend. The production's friendship triad is rounded out by Fran, played by freshman Elnora Nesbitt, and Angie, played by junior Daniela Cerritos. Associate Professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding directed the production.

Friday night's performance featured a special event: playwright [Natalie Margolin](#) and director of the original New York run Casey Griffin were in the



(L to R) Ms. Cerritos, Ms. Nesbitt, Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding, Ms. Margolin, Ms. Griffin and Ms. Hendrickson

audience and participated in a talk back after the show.

The two were asked questions about coming up with ideas for future dramas and, most pointedly, if they had any advice for pursuing a career in the arts.

Margolin said of this time in students' lives, "...now you have a blank slate. For me, no one had told me no," emphasizing the freedom and power of just going for her goal.

She encouraged students in the audience to write and to share their work. Margolin stressed the importance of gaining feedback and seeking readers, but also offered advice about that process. "Learn what to take and what to keep," she said.

The play began as a project for the playwright's undergraduate thesis. She noticed a lack of strong female leads in their twenties; to remedy that, she wrote her own.

The Black Box Theatre is a passion project for Department Chair Dean Cooledge who directed David Mamet's "[Oleanna](#)" last April.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Department's Telecommunications Program is Rebranded Digital Media

English majors have been able to take what the department described as "telecommunication" courses for several decades, and for the last few years, they have been able to formally claim the credential of a minor in telecommunications.

However, as the industry has evolved, telecommunications has become a term most associated with the nation's phone

companies. In order to more accurately reflect the curriculum being offered to UMES students who seek media careers, the program has a new name and [a video](#) to promote it.

The UMES Senate approved a change in labeling from telecommunications to digital media in a unanimous vote at its November 14 meeting. Department Chair Dean Cooledge attended the meeting. "It

passed without a hitch," he said, "There was no discussion and no dissent."

For now, courses associated with the digital media program will still carry the TELC prefix in the course catalog. The department has submitted a proposal to create a major in digital media studies. If that program is approved at the state level, courses would eventually be listed as DMST.

IT'S A GLOBAL SOCIETY

Study Abroad Opens Doors

The UMES Department of English and Modern Languages partnered with the university's [Center for International Education](#) to encourage study abroad at a recent campus forum.

Philip Broussard, who serves as interim director of the department's [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#), studied in Europe and the West Indies. He has also worked on four continents and speaks multiple languages.

"The overall purpose of my presentation was to help increase awareness of foreign language learning opportunities on campus," he said. "My talk focused on my personal experience and how learning six foreign languages throughout my life has opened doors I had no idea even existed."

Mr. Broussard was joined by an additional speaker: Janet Mingo, a staff member at [Knowledge Exchange Institute](#).

According to KEI, Ms. Mingo earned her bachelor's degree with a concentration in Japanese language at Norfolk State University. She studied abroad in Curacao and on a KEI program in Akita, Japan.



(L to R) Mr. Broussard, Ms. Mingo and Dr. Lombuso Khoza, acting director of the UMES Center for International Education

Photo by Elissa Gordon



HOLIDAY PARTY PLANNED

English majors don't despair! There will be some much needed relief for the stress that accompanies the end of a semester.

Students majoring in English and/or minoring in digital media will have the opportunity to take a break from completing final projects and studying for exams.

The final monthly social of the semester for English majors and media minors will be held December 6 from 3-4 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 2111.

This semester, in an effort to build community, the English department has hosted an informal get-together for students and faculty on the first Wednesday of each month.

Faculty organizers Sandy Johnston and Marilyn Buerkle plan to continue the gatherings next semester.



WORD PLAY: CHRISTMAS SONG ANAGRAMS



Unscramble the letters to find the title of a Christmas carol or familiar holiday song. Example: THY LION HOG (3 words)=O Holy Night (Answers on Page 4)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. SWEET GHERKIN (3 words) | 6. WORTHY JOLT ODE (4 words) | 11. HID HEALTHY NOVELTY (5 words) |
| 2. TINSEL TWO (3 words) | 7. BOOM, TWENTIETH HOTEL FELL (5 words) | 12. FLASHY ASTRONOMER FROM LEG GEL (6 words) |
| 3. EARTH SHAKING DANGER SHELL (5 words) | 8. DEPLORED, HE IS THE ODDER RUNNER (5 words) | 13. THE CHALK SLED (3 words) |
| 4. JILL BEGS LEN (2 words) | 9. DUG MAINTAIN PETROCHEMICAL (6 words) | 14. MANAGE RAIN WAY (4 words) |
| 5. LIFT SHELTER NOW (3 words) | 10. GREEN MOTEL DYSENTERY GERM (5 words) | 15. TO WISHY WASHY RARE CRUMMIES (6 words) |
| | | 16. TROUBLEDLY TRIM ME (3 words) |

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

HAVEN'T REGISTERED?

Students who haven't finalized their schedules for next semester are encouraged to consider enrolling in one of the department's digital media courses offered in the program's state-of-the-art facilities in the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex.

There are still seats available in each of the digital media courses offered in the spring 2018 semester.

"Aesthetics in TV and Film" (TELC 242) is new to the schedule. It will be taught by graphics and film instructor Joseph Davis.

The course is described as a study of the formative elements of television and film images including intensive analysis of space, time, light, color and sound.

Other media classes include Broadcast Management, TV Production, Computer Graphics I & II and Advanced Reporting.

PART ACADEMICS, PART SALESMANSHIP

Hundreds of High School Students Consider Enrolling at UMES

The English Department was well represented at the annual [Tri-County College Fair](#) held in the William P. Hytche Athletic Center on Thursday, November 2.

Not only were there three faculty members on site to discuss the merits of an English degree, the recruitment team also included an English student.

Sophomore Camille Butler attracted a majority of the attention because she brought along one of the department's video cameras.

Ms. Butler is a member of Discover UMES, a campus video crew, and she multi-tasked during the event. She was discussing the department's Digital

Media Studies program with visitors, and she was also recording interviews with participants for a story to be posted to the [Discover UMES YouTube channel](#).

This was the 16th time UMES has hosted the college fair. Hundreds of regional high school juniors and seniors have the chance to discuss their future with representatives from dozens of different institutions—all under one roof. It gives students a wide range of opportunities to consider.



Ms. Butler (left) discusses the digital media courses with prospective students.



Department Chair Dean Cooledge and Dr. Cynthia Cravens assist college fair participants.

"The university is proud to provide this valuable service to the community each year," said Jinawa McNeil, one of the organizers of the event. "It provides area students with a ... one-stop shop for higher education."

THIS IS FUN!

Local Youngsters Experience Television Magic

It turns out thinking about college and careers can start a lot earlier than high school.

That's why members of the English department participated in the third annual [Maryland STEM Festival](#), a University of Maryland Extension program that invites students from kindergarten through high school to learn more about science, technology,



Photos by Ashley Collier, 2009 English graduate

engineering and math. While a department most associated with the humanities may seem out of place at a STEM event, it offered

the opportunity to show off the English department's radio and television studios housed in the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex where the

event was held.

Practicing to be a weather person on the department's green screen was a big hit. Visitors also had some on-the-set news anchor training.

AFRICAN VISITORS

Officials from Sunyani Technical University in Ghana came to campus to sign an articulation agreement which will bring their students to UMES to study.

Their agenda included a tour of the English department's radio and television facilities.



(L to R) Vice Chancellor Kwadwo Adinkrah-Appiah and STU Registrar Samuel Ankama Obour



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TV CLASS ROAD TRIP

Students Visit Local Station

Students in the department's television production class had a rare opportunity to see the controlled chaos of a live newscast, thanks to their instructor.

Rob Wilkinson is a promotions producer at [WBOC TV](#), the CBS affiliate in Salisbury, Maryland, but when his workday there is over, he becomes a faculty member in the UMES Digital Media Studies program.

His dual responsibilities enabled his students to take a unique behind-the-scenes tour of a local station in late November.

"Having the students get a chance to see what they have been learning all semester be utilized in the real world is important," Mr. Wilkinson said. "I wanted them to have a chance to see how a television station works and to give them thoughts of how they can continue their career in the industry."



(L to R) Benyam Desta, Kadi-Ann White, Myaasha Ingram, Angel Ravelo-Peralta and Chloe' Zattau on the set in the WBOC Newsplex

Photo by Rob Wilkinson

Students used adjectives such as "wonderful" and "amazing" to describe their trip. It was also a reality check of sorts for senior Kadi-Ann White. "I learned that there is a lot of work that goes into producing a show," she said.

PROGRESS REPORT

English Composition Coordinator Courtney Harned is several steps closer to earning her [Ed.D. from Salisbury University](#). She passed her comprehensive exams in May and passed her dissertation proposal hearing in September.



Ms. Harned

Photo by Jim Glovier

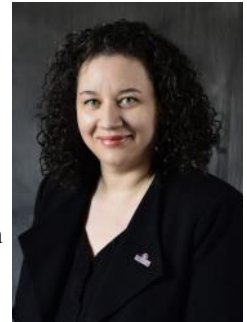
She's currently collecting data to write her doctoral dissertation. It will focus on exploring critical community issues in a middle school classroom through the English language arts curriculum.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS:

1. We Three Kings
2. Let It Snow
3. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
4. Jingle Bells
5. The First Noel
6. Joy to the World
7. O Little Town of Bethlehem
8. Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
9. It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
10. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
11. The Holly and the Ivy
12. Angels from the Realms of Glory
13. Deck the Halls
14. Away in a Manger
15. We Wish You a Merry Christmas
16. Little Drummer Boy

A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW

Assistant Professor Cynthia Cravens examines how mixed-race women are treated by two female authors in a publication that will appear next month in a new book, "Social Justice and American Literature."



Dr. Cravens

Photo by Jim Glovier

The chapter she authored, "From Tragic Slave to Harlem Housewife: the Tragic Mulatta in American Literature," focuses on characters from Harriet Beecher Stowe's "[Uncle Tom's Cabin](#)" and Nella Larsen's "[Passing](#)."

While the stereotypical interpretation of the "tragedy" of mixed-race women is that they are shunned by both races and don't have a sense of belonging to either, Dr. Cravens believes that is perpetuated by male authors.

"These two novels show that the tragedy, as it is imagined by women authors, is the disruption to their lives as wives and mothers as a result of their race," she said. "This is an important departure from the stereotype as it was written by men, and also reminds us of the narrow ways women's lives were conceived in the time period (1852-1929)."

WELL DONE!

Congratulations are in order for Kaitlin Thatcher. Ms. Thatcher passed the [Praxis Core tests](#) to gain acceptance into the [English Teacher Education program](#).

A native of Bishopville, Maryland, Ms. Thatcher transferred to UMES this semester after attending Wor-Wic Community College.

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