

INSIGHTS

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


UMES
December 2018
Volume 32 Issue 4

ANOTHER BLACK BOX SUCCESS

“I and You” Held Over for an Encore Performance

An unexpected plot twist at the end of the English department’s Black Box Theater production of “[I and You](#)” brought an immediate—and vocal—audience reaction on opening night.

In fact, over its original three night run, Nov. 8-10, and during an encore performance on Nov. 27, audience members continued to be surprised by its unusual ending.

The two-character play, written by [Lauren Gunderson](#), revolves around two high school students, one of whom is critically ill, and was staged on a set designed to look like a homebound teenager’s bedroom.

Graduating English major Richard Gordon served as faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding’s assistant director through weeks of rehearsals. He also worked on the theater itself, painting walls and hanging curtains.

The two stars of the play were freshman aviation science major Dakota Ferraro and senior Shakuria Davis who



(L to R) Mr. Gordon, Mr. Ferraro, Ms. Davis, Department Chair Dean Cooledge and Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding pose on the set of “I and You.”

Photo by Alissa Carr

is double majoring in biology and computer science.

“This was a play that was filled with quick, snappy dialogue,” Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said. “Our actors worked so hard to learn so many lines. When you realize that all those play rehearsals were in addition to their academic responsibilities, I was really proud of Dakota and Shakuria’s fabulous performances.”

PRIZE WINNING HONOR STUDENTS

English Majors Present at Annual African American Honors Conference

English majors Sydney Campbell and Ewa Okulate won their division in the research presentation competition at the annual convention of the [National Association of African American Honors Programs](#) held Nov. 14-17 in Concord, North Carolina.

The theme of this year’s conference was “On Higher Ground: Energizing Exceptional



(L to R) Ms. Okulate and Ms. Campbell

Photo by Dr. Lane

Minds For Extraordinary Excellence.”

“Sydney and I did a presentation on black women in literature and why their voices should be heard across HBCU campuses,” Ms. Okulate said. “We believe that the topic is important because black women have done

so much for literature, and we don’t hear about them enough in our classes.”

The two young women argued that there should be a literature course across all HBCU campuses that focuses on black female authors and their achievements, past and present.

Ms. Campbell and Ms. Okulate were joined on their trip by six other students in the [UMES Honors Program](#) and the program’s director, Michael Lane.

The conference, [hosted by Livingstone College](#), was held at the Great Wolf Lodge Resort.

DON'T FORGET, YOU'RE INVITED!

The department will hold its final monthly social of the semester for English majors and minors on Wednesday, December 5, in Wilson Hall, Room 2111, beginning at 3 p.m.

COMPETITIVE PERSUASION

Students enrolled in Jennifer Keane-Dawes' public speaking class engaged in debates judged by graduate students and English faculty members in November.

Some of the topics debated included the death penalty, animal testing, euthanasia, abortion and the value of a college education.



(L to R) Judges included faculty member Cynthia Cravens and Class of 2013 English graduate Andre Walsh.

OUR BEST SALES PITCH

The Department of English and Modern Languages began November by joining dozens of UMES recruiters and representatives from other colleges and universities at the annual Tri County College Fair. The event was held November 1 in the William P. Hytche Athletic Center.



(L to R) Department Chair Dean Cooledge and faculty member Marilyn Buerkle
Photo by Leon Lewis

IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT

The Academic Affairs office has announced the members of the 2018-2019 [Promotion and Tenure Review Committee](#). They include Associate professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, a faculty member in the Department of English and Modern Languages.



Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

The committee is required to include seven members—three full professors and four associate professors. They are selected to serve by a vote of the UMES faculty.

The committee will review the materials of those faculty members who seek promotion and/or tenure after they have been screened by both a department-level review committee and the dean of the affiliated school.

FOCUSED ON LANGUAGE

Phillip Broussard, director of the [UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center](#), participated in the 50th annual conference of the [Florida Foreign Language Association](#), held recently in Orlando.

The two-day event, attended by over a dozen Japanese language instructors with several years of experience teaching Japanese at the university level, helped shed light on the challenges facing Japanese language learners. Mr. Broussard introduced Japanese as a UMES language option this semester.

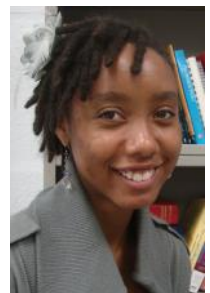


Mr. Broussard (far right) and his fellow conference attendees pose with arms extended in an ancient Japanese greeting.

Photo provided by Mr. Broussard

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

Jessica Land, a former UMES writing center tutor who earned her English degree in 2016, drew on her experience as a liver transplant recipient to write [her first published article](#) with a media company called [The Tempest](#).



Ms. Land

"I am super excited and proud of this, so I just wanted to spread the joy," she said in an email to one of her English professors. "Thank you all for the support and love you have given me so I could have the courage to do this!"

Ms. Land's article focuses on the research that may enable a human body part to be replicated by a 3D printer. Her first person essay is titled "Need a Liver Transplant? Scientists Could Just Print You One."

SPORTS SHOW MOVES TO EASC STUDIO

Digital Media Students Practice Their Skills on Weekly Production

Hawk pride? It's contagious.

You can catch it by watching a sports show produced by student crew members in the English department's television studio, a sophisticated production facility located in the Engineering and Aviation Science Complex.

"[Hawk Talk](#)" originally started as a radio show, recorded at the now defunct M Street Grille. When the restaurant closed over the summer, senior Langston Frazier helped to facilitate the switch from audio to video.

He partnered with digital media staff member Bill Brophy to round up a student crew. The members of [Discover UMES](#), a student video organization supervised by the university's marketing staff, were happy to help.



(L to R) Hosts Langston Frazier and Will DeBoer interview UMES basketball forward A.J. Cheeseman.

Photo provided by Bill Brophy

The crew includes Asha Cole, Ben Desta, Kamille Duckett, Chris Ingram, Courtnee Logan, Juwan Richardson and Bryanna Turman. Some of the students are English majors training for careers in media, but others joined Discover UMES simply as a

creative way to engage with the campus community and have some fun.

The sports program will stream on the [UMES athletics website](#) through the university's basketball season but, in addition to basketball coverage, it will also feature athletes and coaches from other UMES teams.

Mr. Frazier co-hosts "Hawk Talk" with Will DeBoer, director of broadcasting for UMES athletics. Mr. DeBoer serves as play-by-play and color commentator for the UMES

basketball team. When the academic year concludes, Mr. DeBoer dons another familiar sports cap—he's the director of broadcasting for the [Delmarva Shorebirds](#), a minor league baseball team affiliated with the Baltimore Orioles.

EAT. SMILE. REPEAT!

[Hawk Radio](#), the student managed radio station supervised by the English department, held a successful bake sale outside its EASC studio on Nov. 2.

If you missed it, don't worry; there's another planned for Friday, Dec. 7.



Hawk Radio bakers and sales staff

SPEECH IN ACTION

Class Discussion Spurs Volunteerism

For the second year in a row, Jennifer Keane-Dawes invited an expert to discuss sexual misconduct on college campuses in her public speaking class.

Three students enrolled in the class volunteered to serve on the university's Title IX Sexual Misconduct Board following the lecture and discussion led by attorney Wele Elangwe on the relationship between speech and the perception of sexual misconduct.

"The lecture was aimed at encouraging students to understand that public speaking is contextual and has wide ranging implications beyond the publicly



Members of the Title IX Sexual Misconduct Board, pictured with President Anderson, following their training

Photo provided by Dr. Keane-Dawes

uttered word," Dr. Keane-Dawes said.

K'Niqua Fredericks, Augustus Roberts and Jordin Watkins received three days of intensive training to serve on the board.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. UMES prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Inquiries regarding the application of federal laws and non-discrimination policies to university programs and activities may be referred to the Office of Equity & Compliance/Title IX Coordinator by telephone at (410) 651-7848 or by email at titleix@umes.edu.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

English Education Majors Begin Internship Assignments

English Education majors Kaitlin Thatcher and Jenna Crockett have begun their year-long journeys as teaching interns in local school systems. Ms. Thatcher's first placement is in [Snow Hill Middle School](#) under the mentorship of Linda Schafer, and Ms. Crockett's first placement is in [Pocomoke High School](#) under the mentorship of Aimee Bergonia, a graduate of the [UMES Educational Leadership](#) program.

Internships provide a valuable opportunity for English Education majors to apply the instruction they have received for three years on best practices in the classroom, as well as utilizing their own exploration of language and literature through their English courses.

As interns, Ms. Thatcher and Ms. Crockett are establishing classroom routines, designing instruction that meets state

objectives and determining if their students have met those objectives. Their mentor teachers and the interns' university supervisor, Courtney Harned, provide support throughout the process, helping the interns reflect on what's happening in their classrooms.

Ms. Thatcher and Ms. Crockett have designed learning activities which encourage students to discuss and share their understanding of texts so that the entire class learns and grows from the interaction.

Ms. Crockett recently guided ninth grade students through a discussion of internal and external conflict in Ray Bradbury's "[Fahrenheit 451](#)," connecting the theme of conformity to students' lives.

Ms. Thatcher is teaching the text "[I am Malala](#)." Her sixth grade students are considering the value of civil discourse.



(L to R) Ms. Thatcher and Ms. Schafer show students how to use textual details to support opinions.

Photo provided by Ms. Schafer

One goal of these lessons is for students to take ownership of their learning, presenting and supporting their positions with evidence from their experiences or the text.

Word Play: Wellerisms

Wellerisms, named after sayings of Sam Weller in Charles Dickens's novel "The Pickwick Papers," make fun of established clichés and proverbs by showing that they are wrong in certain situations, often when taken literally. In this sense, Wellerisms that include proverbs are a type of anti-proverb. Typically, a Wellerism consists of three parts: a proverb or saying, a speaker, and an often humorously literal explanation.

Example:

"So I see," said the blind carpenter as he picked up his hammer and saw.

Match these proverbs/sayings to the speaker and the literal explanation for the saying:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| A. "Much noise and little wool" | 1. "(Proverb/Saying)," the old woman said when she kissed her cow. |
| B. "Simply remarkable!" | 2. "(Proverb/Saying)," said the undertaker as the coffin fell out of the car. |
| C. "I stand corrected." | 3. "(Proverb/Saying)," said the Devil when he sheared a pig. |
| D. "Everyone to his own taste" | 4. "(Proverb/Saying)," said the teacher when asked for an opinion about the new dry-erase board. |
| E. "We'll have to rehearse that." | 5. "(Proverb/Saying)," said the man in the orthopedic shoes. |



Tony and Sam Weller
Lithograph by Harold Copping

Word Play is provided each month by Dr. Barbara Seabrook

Answers on Page 6

TEACHING ENGLISH IN JAPAN

English Alumnus is on an Asian Adventure

When Jordan Ballard earned his English degree in 2015, he was interested in international travel.

His search for opportunities abroad has taken him to Sugunami, Japan. It's an area with more than 500,000 people, described as a "ward" in the western portion of Tokyo. He teaches conversational English to children as young as 3 and as old as 12.

"Best decision of my life," he said.

Now he's hoping to convince other UMES English graduates to join him. The company he works for wants to hire additional U.S. graduates for jobs that begin early next year.

He approached several of his UMES English instructors and asked them to extend his invitation to December graduates.

"I'm reaching out because I would like to

recruit some graduating English majors who are looking for a job opportunity overseas," he said in an email sent to some English faculty. "I'm currently teaching English in Japan and have found it to be a rewarding and enriching life experience."

He believes a UMES connection would be an asset.

"With a recommendation from me, along with a degree in English, I'm confident that they would get the job," he said.

Mr. Ballard can be reached by email at ballardjordan36@gmail.com.



Photos provided by Mr. Ballard

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

English Graduate Chases Her Dreams

November was a big month for Tahja Cropper, a 2015 English graduate.

She returned to the "nest" to begin a new job as a member of the UMES public relations and marketing staff, and she appears in two episodes of season six of the political drama "[House of Cards](#)" released by Netflix on Nov. 2.

A longtime member of the UMES Drama Society, Ms. Cropper was selected to serve as a background (non-speaking) actor for the critically acclaimed television series. While her scenes were shot earlier this year, she wasn't permitted to reveal her participation until the episodes were released.

"All I could tell my friends was something big is coming," she said.



Ms. Cropper

Photo by Clinton Brandhagen

Ms. Cropper will continue to seek freelance acting opportunities. Eventually she would like to write and produce entertainment programs.

Her official title at her new full-time job at UMES is publications coordinator. She will be responsible for coordinating the design and production of the *The Key*, the campus-wide newsletter; *Rhythm & Hues*, the university's arts and entertainment calendar; and the Monday e-mail from the public relations staff which alerts the campus community to weekly events and opportunities.

Ms. Cropper is familiar with those tasks. She was a student employee in public relations during her undergraduate days.



Ms. Cropper appears as a member of the White House press corps. (Above, standing taking photos second from right and below, standing left)

Screenshots provided by Ms. Cropper



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

Foreign Language Instructors Participate in the Celebration

The English department's [Foreign Language Instructional Center \(FLIC\)](#) was a key component of the university's recent celebration of [International Education Week](#), Nov. 12-16.

Students enrolled in the university's Arabic classes assisted their instructor, Tegwa Alla, in creating a display of pertinent artifacts to help visitors to the university's international festival on Nov. 15 better understand the cultures associated with Arabic speaking nations.

The display included items related to fashion, food and music, but perhaps the most entertaining component of FLIC's participation in the festival was the painstaking process of applying henna tattoos to interested visitors.

FLIC's director, Phillip Broussard, was also involved in the weeklong celebration. He was a featured speaker at an event focused on study abroad opportunities Nov. 14.



(Above) Ms. Alla discusses the cultural artifacts at the FLIC table. (Below) Festival visitors received temporary henna tattoos. Photos by Debra Laforest



As a person who has learned six languages and lived and traveled in over a dozen countries, Mr. Broussard understands what it takes to live and study abroad.

He emphasized the importance of following local rules and customs and trying to understand why people do things differently as one of the methods to a successful study abroad trip.

The [Boren Award](#) scholarship was highlighted in his talk as one of the more lucrative scholarship opportunities. If awarded, Mr. Broussard said it could fully fund a student's study abroad travel, tuition, and room and board, and also provide a path to a job in the federal government after graduation.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS:

1. D; 2. E; 3. A; 4. B; 5. C.

WHO DONE IT?

New Crime Anthology Released

Dianne Pearce, an adjunct composition instructor in the UMES English department and the publisher at [Devil's Party Press](#), has announced the release of the fifth literature anthology from the press. It's titled "[Suspicious Activity](#)."

The anthology is a collection of poetry, memoir and short story with the common theme of crime.

"All of the stories are riveting. It's remarkable to me how the writers interpreted the theme," Ms. Pearce said. "Some of the stories are traditional like Raymond Chandler, some are almost horror they are so creepy, some are sci-fi, some cop-drama."



Cover art provided by Ms. Pearce

The anthology will make its debut on December 8 at a party at [Browseabout Books](#) in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Authors at the event will read from their work and will sign copies of the book.

A JOB WELL DONE

English faculty member Jennifer Keane-Dawes was recognized for her 10 years of service at UMES during a recent campus celebration.



(L to R) President Heidi Anderson with Dr. Keane-Dawes
Photo by Jim Glover

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.