

INSIGHTS



DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
SCHOOL of THE ARTS AND PROFESSIONS
Department of English and Modern Languages

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INTERIM CHAIR APPOINTED

Department of English and Modern Languages has a New Leader

Associate professor Dean Cooledge is now the interim chair of the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages.

A longtime veteran of the faculty, Dr. Cooledge first joined UMES as an English department lecturer in 2000, was granted tenure as an assistant professor in 2004, and in 2010, was promoted to associate professor.

He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Trinity University and both his MA and Ph.D. in English from the University of Arizona.



Dr. Cooledge

Dr. Cooledge is proud to take the helm of what he describes as "an excellent department."

"The faculty work well together, and are good about meeting the demands of the university," he said. "So in that way it is an easy department to manage."

He recognizes, however, that the department's influence reaches every student on campus.

"We teach a lot of students, and our courses are critical for students' success in the rest of the university," he said. "Because of this, quality of instruction is critical and is my top priority. It is imperative that high standards are

maintained across all sections of the department."

He begins his responsibilities at a busy time for the department. It will undergo an external program review this semester, and Dr. Cooledge plans to complete the development of a fully online undergraduate degree in English, begun by his predecessor, Jacqueline Brice-Finch. He also will initiate the development of a bachelor's program in media studies.

"At the same time, we need to utilize our faculty resources more efficiently and improve graduation rates," Dr. Cooledge said. "My long-term goal is to reduce the number of times our majors repeat courses and help them graduate in four years."

TELECOMMUNICATIONS' NEW HOME

Engineering & Aviation Science Complex Houses Radio & TV Studios

After nearly two decades of planning, the English department's telecommunications program has moved to its new home.

The university's Engineering and Aviation Science Complex—located at the southeastern most end of the campus, near the headquarters of the physical plant staff— opens for business this semester.

In addition to housing the math, computer science, engineering and aviation science departments, the building also includes the faculty and staff associated with the English department's telecommunications minor. The two student media

organizations, Hawk Radio and Discover UMES, will be located in the new facility as well.

Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle served as the English department's liaison to the design and construction team.

"We are making a significant upgrade in the hands-on production tools used in instruction. It's really a quantum leap," she said. "I feel confident we will experience a dramatic increase in enrollment as students who seek media careers see what we have to offer."



The Engineering and Aviation Science Complex

Photo by Jim Glover

HIGH PROFILE GRADS

English Department Featured at Commencement

The Department of English and Modern Languages played a prominent role in the university's most recent commencement ceremony in late December.

Professor Terry Smith reprised her role as one of the officials who announces each of the graduates names as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas. However, the department was also front and center during the inspirational speeches which mark each ceremony.

English major Tahja Cropper, a native of Princess Anne and the first member of her family to earn a college degree, was selected to deliver the student



Ms. Cropper

Photo by Jim Glovier

commentary on behalf of her colleagues.

She told her audience, "the world is waiting for us to make a difference ... Take your passion, your

curiosity, and your intelligence and direct it towards your responsibility to the world. Leave your mark."

The featured speaker at the event also had a direct link to the English department.

Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist and author Leonard Pitts took a moment as a proud father before he began his address to note that his daughter, Onjel, was earning her bachelor's degree in English. He also acknowledged her infant daughter, Maya, who was sporting a tiny cap and gown to celebrate her mother's accomplishment.

His advice to the graduates? "Persist. Always persist," he said. "When in doubt, persist. When you are not so sure what to do, persist."



Leonard, Onjel and Maya Pitts

Photo by Ashley Collier

ANOTHER MILESTONE

Joscelyne Swift Tyler, who graduated from UMES with a degree in English education in 2012, was awarded a master of science degree in education, specializing in elementary reading and literacy, from Walden University in December.



Ms. Tyler

Photo by Charles Tyler

The advanced degree, combined with her three years of teaching experience at Somerset Intermediate School in nearby Westover, Maryland, qualifies her for the Advanced Professional Certificate in Teaching from the state of Maryland.

Ms. Tyler was selected as the outstanding student in the English department at the 2012 honors convocation. She completed her undergraduate degree with a 3.9 cumulative grade-point-average

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER GRADUATES!



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIUM

English Honor Society Induction Included at Event

The Department of English and Modern Languages held its third student symposium in Wilson Hall at the end of the fall semester.

Five different sessions focused on a variety of subject areas within the department, including communications, composition, creative writing, literature and public speaking.

Student presenters discussed their work, offered advice and reacted to constructive criticism from an audience made up of students, faculty and family members.



Discover UMES producer Myles Banks discusses his video presentation, "Hands Up, Don't Shoot."

Last semester, for the first time, the symposium also included the formal induction ceremony for the newest members of the UMES Psi Mu chapter of the international English honor society Sigma Tau Delta. Two seniors, Colleen Hendrickson and Danielle Jackson, and one sophomore, Lance Morris, were officially welcomed to the group.

To be eligible for inclusion, students must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, have completed a minimum of three college semesters and are pursuing either an English major or minor.



New honor society inductees (L to R): Danielle Jackson, Colleen Hendrickson and Lance Morris

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, one of the symposium's organizers who also serves as an honor society advisor, was happy with the new format. "It provides a larger audience for a much deserved celebration of student achievement," she said.

MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

From Local to Global Governance

By Carole Champagne

Editor's Note:

Dr. Champagne is a professor of foreign languages who serves on Maryland's International Consortium and is a board member of the Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County.



The Embassy of Estonia has invited me to formal ceremonies as well as informal cultural events. In early December, at the invitation of Eerik Marme, Estonia's ambassador to the United States, I participated in the E-Governance Conference. I first met the ambassador in 2014 while serving on the executive committee of the Maryland Estonia Exchange Council.

Ambassador Marme granted permission for former UMES professor Marion Keenan and the current chair of the UMES Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Ernest Boger, to represent

Salisbury Sister Cities with me at the Embassy of Estonia.

Impressed by the economic and political support of the Departments of State and Commerce, as well as the World Bank, I initiated agreements between Salisbury and Wicomico County and Datel Ovela, the U.S.-based division of the Estonian E-Governance Academy.

After the conference, Carl Pucci, the CEO of Datel Ovela, called me from Reykjavik, where he is implementing E-Governance for the Icelandic government. He told me that Marju Kõrts, Estonian Secretary of Economic Affairs, would accompany him to Salisbury to meet local government officials.

Despite Winter Storm Jonas, a productive session with city and county officials resulted in follow-up plans with Maryland partners at Towson University's Center for Geographic Information Systems.



*Dr. Champagne pictured with international, federal, state and regional colleagues at the E-Governance Conference
Photo by Toivo Tagamets*

Collaboration with Jack Lenox, director of the combined Salisbury/Wicomico County Department of Planning, Zoning, and Community Development; Salisbury City Council member Laura Mitchell; and Salisbury Fire Chief Richard Hoppes, will result in quality, low-cost, efficient, and convenient services for residents of the

Eastern Shore.

Mr. Pucci reminded officials that his E-Governance systems may be adopted by the State of Maryland. Maryland's Secretary of Planning David Craig, whom I met at the Estonian embassy, and the city of Annapolis are already on board.

Linking state, national, and international entities to action at the local level is very rewarding.

WORD PLAY: Political Speak

Egalitarianism in language is a concept which refers to the idea that if something needs saying, the language will adopt it, regardless of its origin in a social class. A farmer or a cowboy can coin a word as easily as a statesman or a scholar. The principle of equal rights for all indicates egalitarianism of the English language, a language for which anyone can create new words. As words make their way into common usage, they are added to the Oxford English Dictionary. Some words officially added to the language and the dictionary were initially used as slang.

Recently, it seems that some presidential candidates are exercising their right to not only create new words but also use words already in the English language in a different context. This semester, WORD PLAY will explore the vocabulary of the presidential contenders and the possible origins of those words.

WHAT WORD WAS USED IN EACH OF THE BLANKS BELOW?

1. During a Republican debate, Donald Trump used this word when he said, "I say, not in a _____ way, I've made billions and billions of dollars dealing with people all over the world."
2. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie used this word when referring to Hillary Clinton. "The fact that she had a private email server in her basement, using national security secrets running through it, it could've been hacked by Russians, the Chinese, or two 18-year-olds on a _____ wanting to have some fun."

ANSWERS AND ORIGIN:

1. Braggadocious, a 19th century adjective, was created from the noun braggadocio, which means vain and empty in boasting.
2. Toot, a slang term not often used today, originally meant to drink copiously.

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

EDUCATION UPDATE

English Ed Majors Complete Requirements

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor's Note:

Dr. Seabrook is coordinator of the department's English Education program.

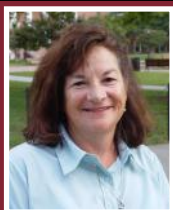


Photo by Robin Hoffman

Kutresa Ward, an undergraduate majoring in English education, is completing the first placement of her teaching internship in a ninth grade classroom at [Snow Hill High School](#) with mentor teacher Lauren Draheim. Following that placement, Ms. Ward will move to a local middle school to complete the requirement for 12 internship credit hours.

During the internship, students are also enrolled in EDCI 400/Senior Seminar, the capstone course which meets weekly

to discuss the internship experience. Culminating projects in the course include electronic professional portfolios, action research, unit plans, diversity plans, and evidence of the ability to incorporate science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts into English instruction. Interns are required to teach the STEM lessons for evaluation by the placement coordinator, Jamie Lewis, and their UMES supervisor Barbara Seabrook.

Congratulations to Brandon Anderson and Zoe Sonnier, who have passed the [PRAXIS](#) CORE test as required by the State of Maryland for teacher certification. Passing that test is a requirement for official acceptance into teacher education at UMES.

The UMES English education program prepares students to teach English and Language Arts in grades 7-12.

CONGRATULATIONS!

In addition to her DJ duties at Power 101.7, Kyla Bibbins, UMES Class of 2013, is now a co-host of a local entertainment television program.



QBETV is a 30-minute show which airs Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. on WRDE Coast TV, an NBC affiliate located in Sussex County, Delaware. The program is also available on demand.

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