

INSIGHTS

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


UMES
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PARLEZ-VOUS FRANÇAIS?

French Language Immersion Program Under Consideration

Does earning academic credit while studying French on a Caribbean island sound interesting?

The [UMES Honors Program](#) and the English department's Foreign Language Instructional Center ([FLIC](#)) are exploring a partnership with [l'Université des Antilles](#) in Martinique that could make that scenario a reality for UMES students.

For five days over the winter break, FLIC Director Phillip Broussard and Honors Program Director Michael Lane, who teaches some of the department's French courses, teamed up to visit and perform a feasibility assessment.

Their goal is to develop and implement a recurring short-term, bilateral, summer exchange program focused on language learning.

"The most impressive thing about the trip was honestly everything Martinique has to offer," Mr. Broussard said. "From its tropical escapes and diverse landscapes, to spectacular biodiversity and marine life, Martinique is a unique island."

[Martinique](#) is located in an area known as the Lesser Antilles, about three and a half hours by air from Miami, Florida. It's the outermost region of the European Union. Its people are French citizens, and the primary language of communication is French.

The first UMES faculty-led French immersion program to Martinique

is expected to take place during the Summer of 2021.

Broussard hopes this will create the momentum necessary to build other language immersion programs.

"Ultimately, this program and other language immersion programs contribute to UMES's mission to develop comprehensive international programs, support student study abroad and form linkages with a unique international institution," he said. "All while allowing students to gain invaluable experiences and learn more about themselves and their own language and culture."



Photos by Mr. Broussard

CONGRATULATIONS!

English Faculty Member Joins Staff of Academic Affairs Division

Cynthia Cravens, who has taught literature, film and composition courses in the Department of English and Modern Languages since 2012, has a new job at the university. Provost and Vice President for



Dr. Cravens

Photo by Jim Glovier

Academic Affairs Nancy Niemi has selected Dr. Cravens to serve as the university's first director of faculty development.

"Dr. Cravens has been a trusted colleague to many UMES faculty. The search committee recognized that it was these strong working relationships that demonstrated Dr. Cravens' fit for this position," Dr. Niemi said when she announced the appointment. "As the semester commences, I know we will see teaching and learning excellence flourish on our campus to a degree even greater

than it has."

In addition to her work in the classroom, Dr. Cravens has been a member of the planning committee for the UMES Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference, chair of the Advisory Committee for Faculty Development and a Provost Fellow of Faculty Development in 2018-19.

Dr. Craven's book, "Geniuses, Addicts, and Scribbling Women," will be published by Lexington Books later this year.

NEW YEAR, NEW JOB

English Graduate has New Responsibilities

La Toya (Fewell) Rosser, who earned her UMES English degree in 2006, began a new job in the [School of Business at George Washington University](#) last month.



Ms. Rosser

Ms. Rosser is now program manager *Photo courtesy: G.W. School of Nursing*

for the university's human resources programs in its business school. She had previously served as a program associate in G.W.'s School of Nursing.

Ms. Rosser has been busy since she left the UMES campus. She earned a [master of arts degree in communications from Trinity University](#) in 2009. Then in 2018, she earned a second master's degree, this time an [M.A. in education and human development from George Washington](#).

YOU'RE INVITED

The English Department's first monthly social of the semester will be held from 3-4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, in Room 2111 in Wilson Hall. There will be food, fun and free books.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Digital Media Student is Selected

DON'T FORGET

The deadline to add or drop a course, to seek permission to take more than 18 credits or to take a class at another institution is Monday, February 3.

A scholarship for a UMES engineering major isn't typically news in an English department publication, but engineering students aren't typically adding a digital media minor to their degree.



Ms. Brewington

Photo courtesy: IPC

Shelby Brewington isn't typical. She will graduate in May with both credentials.

She was one of 23 students nationwide who were recently awarded \$1,000 scholarships from the [IPC Education Foundation](#), part of an international trade organization that represents all facets of the electronics industry.

Ms. Brewington is completing her digital media minor with an internship at a local television station this semester.

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BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Students in the English department’s news writing class had to set their alarms plenty early for a tour of [WBOC TV](#) in nearby Salisbury, Maryland.

Their instructor, Kimberly Holmes-Wiggins, is a co-anchor on the station’s morning newscast, which begins each weekday at 5 a.m. She invited her class to join her for the broadcast in early December.



UMES students pose with the early morning anchors on the WBOC set.

Photo provided by Ms. Holmes-Wiggins

PUBLISHED AUTHORS

Creative Writing Students Collaborate

The students enrolled in the department’s creative writing class last semester created a book, which is [available for purchase on Amazon](#). It helps that their instructor, Dianne Pearce, owns a local publishing company, [Devil’s Party Press](#).

“It’s something we will continue to make a regular part of the course in future semesters as the students loved it,” Ms. Pearce said. “And they all get a publishing credit!”

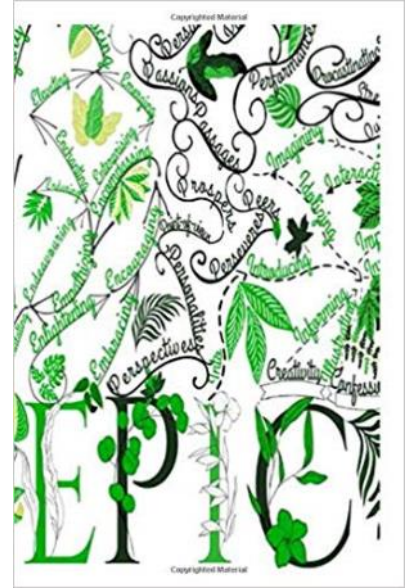


Ms. Pearce

Photo by William Cecil

The book, titled “Epic,” is a collection of short stories, haikus and poems written by Asha Cole, Kamille Duckett, Danielle Forehand, Indiyah Harmon-Parker, Savonn Lanier, David Lewis, Deandre Loving, Michael Milliner, Avery

Montgomery, Isaiah Nance, Caleb Nicolas, Shemar Parker, Ashantie Pernell, Jason Sierra, Carlisa Smith, Taylor Sweeney and Jalen Thomas.



Cover art provided by Ms. Pearce

UMES held its 23rd winter commencement on Friday, December 13.

Photos of English majors by Marilyn Buerkle and Jim Glover

DRONE INSTRUCTION

The department's digital media program is housed in the same building—and on the same floor—as the university's [aviation sciences](#) facilities. The neighborly relationship fosters collaboration.

The aviation faculty generously offered their expertise on the Federal Aviation Administration's regulations for drone operation in January, as media staff members prepare to be certified in the use of drone-mounted cameras.



Members of the aviation sciences faculty teach members of the digital media technical staff about federal rules that govern drone operation.

RESEARCH PRESENTED

Students enrolled in Cynthia Craven's African American Cinema course were able to discuss what they learned, at the conclusion of the fall semester, with an audience that included members of the department's faculty.

The final exam in the course required an in-class presentation which included fielding questions from the professors.



Junior Freddie Walls (far left) begins a presentation in ENGL 457, African American Cinema

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Students joined their professors at the last department social of the fall semester for food and fellowship, and faculty gathered for a second holiday celebration at the home of their colleague Michael Lane.

Photos by Marilyn Buerkle and Jim Glovier

ALUMNA IN THE NEWS

LaBasha Alexander, who earned her UMES English degree in 2013, was featured recently in a weekly newspaper in her home state of Washington.

Ms. Alexander works as a progress and completion advisor in the Career & Advising Center at [Green River College](#) in Auburn, Washington.

The [newspaper story](#) highlighted a new Green River program which provides child care stipends of up to \$500 per month to students with young children. Ms. Alexander explained to the reporter the critical importance of that support to students who qualify.



Ms. Alexander

Photo Courtesy: Auburn Reporter

BUSY STUDIO CREW!

As the fall semester drew to a close, President Anderson had several occasions which required her to record video messages in the English department's television studio.

Student crews manned the equipment as she responded to two requests for her thoughts about the importance of HBCUs. They also assisted as she recorded her holiday message to the campus.



President Anderson and student TV crew
Photo by Jim Glovier

JAPAN: SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SMELLS

Language Professor Describes Her Excellent Adventure

By Carole Champagne

Editor's Note: Dr. Champagne is a professor of foreign languages and coordinator of the department's Spanish language minor. This report was written during her winter break trip to Japan.



Photo of Dr. Champagne by Jim Glovier

All photos in Japan by Dr. Champagne

Konichiwa!

Yesterday I attended the [5G DOCOMO Open House](#) in Odaiba, a port city west of Tokyo. I was the only foreign woman in the convention center. After explaining that I was an educator who uses AI and the Cloud for online education, I had no problem registering. Fascinating technology included Magic Leap Virtual Retinal demonstrations, and robot police and healthcare assistants.

Today I will visit [Nikko](#), an ancient UNESCO World Heritage Site in the northern mountains. I will have an entire Garden House to myself in [Hakone](#)

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: MARCH 3

The [Gilman International Scholarship](#) is a federal program designed to enable students of limited means to experience study abroad. UMES students have been successful in seeking Gilman funding. Most recently, Samantha Hernandez won a scholarship and will be spending the spring semester studying in Peru. [Carole Champagne](#) serves as an advisor for the Gilman program on our campus.

[National Park](#) near Mt. Fuji. It will snow, so I will probably not have a clear view of the sacred mountain. A Lake Ashi cruise is popular in favorable weather.

While venturing on trains and metro, I am the only foreigner in a sea of Japanese locals. My apartment in Ota City is high tech, with panel controls for every machine. During 11 days around the corner from a major medical center, I have not seen one foreigner. I am completely immersed in the culture and understand all locations, directions and some conversations and characters.

35 million people live in the Tokyo metropolitan region. I have not seen one scrap of trash, one homeless or refugee person, graffiti, vandalism or heard yelling or honking. Young people have colorful hairstyles, but no tattoos or piercings. Some girls wear manga outfits, but most dress conservatively. I enjoy communicating with locals, who are extremely polite.

In the upscale neighborhoods that are more architecturally and artistically impressive than Fifth Avenue or the Champs Elysees, I noticed a few American and European people. I heard French only once, but I spoke to five different Spaniards and helped them with directions. A woman from Madrid and I enjoyed a lively conversation in an otherwise silent metro car packed with rush hour commuters.

Spanish is a more global language than Japanese. Mandarin Chinese is the most important Asian language, a major Japanese international business partner.

My first day was a shock to the senses, especially to my sense of smell. Food markets flooded me with scents that I have never experienced before. My first experiences of Albanian bunkers and Guatemalan jungles were more familiar to the senses.

Artificial illumination is more futuristic than any nightscape in New York City.

The adventure will continue ... Sayonara!



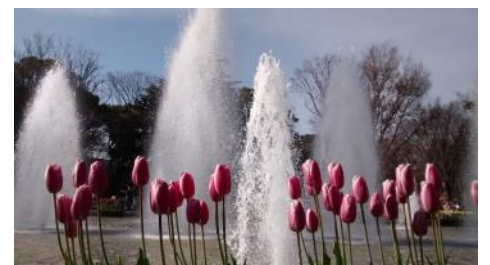
Five-story Pagoda



The Nissan Building



Ueno Toshyugo Shrine



Grand Fountain

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