

INSIGHTS

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



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“LEAD BY YOUR ACTIONS” English Major Delivers Commencement Address

For the second time in two years, an English major was the student speaker at the university’s winter graduation ceremony. Damisha Brown, like Tahja Cropper in 2015, completed her degree in three and a half years.



Ms. Brown
Photo by Jim Glovier

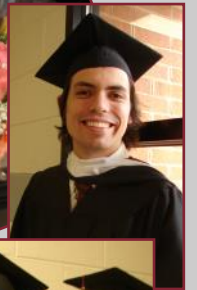
She reminded the more than 300 graduates that “all eyes are on you ... I

encourage each of you to not just lead by your words, but by your actions. Tell your story through your actions, because how you live cannot be erased.”

Ms. Brown, a native of New Castle County, Delaware, graduated cum laude, earning a 4.0 GPA in her final semester.

She plans a career in broadcast journalism and used her experience interning in two television newsrooms to provide imagery in her address.

“You are now watching UMES 16. My name is DaMisha Brown, and today we celebrate the commencement of a class undefeated and confident. We celebrate the first official day of the rest of their lives.”



CELEBRATING OUR BEST Outstanding English Student Recognized

As it does each semester, The School of Social Sciences, Education, and The Arts celebrated its graduates at a dinner and awards ceremony.

The event was held on December 6, less than two weeks before the UMES commencement ceremony.

The program, hosted by SESA Dean Ray Davis, featured a keynote address by Angela Williams, the university’s director of retention. Williams told the students they should think big.

“Get your hustle on,” she said. “Greatness resides in you.”



Mr. Robinson and Dr. Cooledge

Department of English and Modern Languages. Mr. Robinson graduated magna cum laude with a 3.5 GPA.

That evening, Trey Robinson from Capitol Heights, Maryland, was named the outstanding graduate in the UMES

12/16/2016

FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES

Faculty Member has New Responsibilities

Associate Professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding will now divide her time between classroom teaching and a new set of responsibilities.



Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

Photo by Jim Glover

She has been named the faculty development coordinator in the [Division of Academic Affairs](#).

“I am excited about returning to faculty development as I got my start working for the Faculty Development Center at Radford University as a graduate student,” she said. “We think about education and learning for our students all the time, but

faculty need to feel enriched, supported and encouraged to provide the level of engagement students need in the classroom.”

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding will work with faculty members across the campus to identify professional development opportunities. She will also deliver teaching and learning workshops and will research new strategies for teaching success.

Her appointment is yet another connection between the Department of English and Modern Languages and Academic Affairs. She will report to Robin Hoffman, the interim assistant vice president for academic affairs who earned his UMES English degree in 2004.

ELECTION RESULTS

Shannon Baxter Sneed, a UMES English department graduate in 2002, took her seat on the [Baltimore City Council](#) on December 8. She was one of eight new members on the 15-member council.

Following her UMES graduation, Ms. Sneed was a journalist. She went on to earn a graduate degree in communications from Morgan State University.



Ms. Sneed (center)

Photo by Mark Dennis

SIGMA TAU DELTA

Honor Society Welcomes New Members

Six English majors were inducted into the Psi Mu chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, in a formal ceremony held December 2 in Wilson Hall.

The new members include Jenna Crockett, Leslie Hendrickson, Jennaya Hield, Kia Proctor, Jasmin Sellers and Melissa Witherspoon.

They pledged to advance the study of the chief literary masterpieces, to encourage worthwhile reading, to promote the mastery of written expression and to foster a spirit of fellowship among students specializing in English.

English majors with a 3.3 GPA or higher are eligible to apply for membership.

Editor's note: Ms. Crockett is not pictured because she was unable to attend the event.



FELIZ NAVIDAD

Spanish language students in classes taught by Nydia Gregory celebrated the end of the semester at a fiesta in the [UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center](#).

Students, faculty and staff enjoyed Spanish food and music. The event culminated with the breaking of a piñata stuffed with candy and prizes.



Photo by Ejay Esiobise

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STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

The English department hosted its fifth student symposium on December 1. The event is held once each semester.

There were presentations by 23 students in three sessions divided by topic: social issues, literature and film, and creative writing.



Justin Atkins discusses the societal impact of hip-hop music.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Graduate Finds New Way to Teach Dickens

Donald Brown, who earned his B.A. in English education in 2015, recently experimented with an innovative approach to teaching the Charles Dickens novel "[Great Expectations](#)."

It started with Dickens' description of a moldy cake, covered in cobwebs and riddled with bugs.

"Before I started teaching the novel, I was told by many that Dickens is irrelevant and a tough sell," Mr. Brown said. "I was able to make it work. The students had a great time as they recreated [Miss Havisham's cake](#) based on details from their reading."

Since graduation, Mr. Brown has been teaching 9th grade honors students at [Martinsburg High School](#) in Martinsburg, West Virginia. He has been involved with the creation of new initiatives to

increase student achievement and also serves as the English Data Team leader. "Our team's hard work has made a difference for our students," he said. "The 9th grade English team at my school showed the most student achievement growth compared to the other four schools in the county."



The students' cake is topped with stuffed mice and gummy worms. Photo by Donald Brown

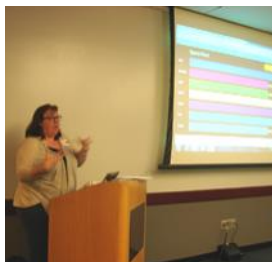
TEACHING & LEARNING

English Faculty Offer Ideas

UMES held its inaugural [Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference](#) on January 11 in the Student Services Center.

The event was designed to create a productive discussion of successful teaching techniques among regional educators. In addition to UMES participation, faculty from [Salisbury University](#), [Wor-Wic Community College](#) and [Eastern Shore Community College](#) were invited to attend.

After a keynote address by Barbi Honeycutt from [FLIP It Consulting](#), there were 20 different presentations during the daylong event. Six of them featured



Ms. Miller engages her audience in an educational game played on smart phones.

faculty members from the Department of English and Modern Languages. Dean Cooledge, Bonni Miller, Terry Smith, Mari-jo Ulbricht and Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones offered their insight to conference attendees.

"I was sincerely impressed with the vibrant and collegial atmosphere of our first teaching and learning conference, as well as with the organizers' dedication to making this event a success," Ms. Vlahovici-Jones said.

Despite a snowstorm that closed the university earlier in the week, more than 100 people attended the conference.



Ms. Vlahovici-Jones discusses how knowledge can be transferred through online course design.

"JITNEY" ON BROADWAY

"[Jitney](#)," the last play in what's known as [August Wilson's Century Cycle](#)" is often considered the playwright's weakest play.

Dean Cooledge traveled to New York recently to see it performed on Broadway. "I've taught "Jitney" several times and these actors brought these characters to life in ways I'd never imagined," he said.

Dr. Cooledge teaches a class on August Wilson's plays. In 2007, he taught the first course in the country to cover all ten of the plays in the "Century Cycle."

The plays earned that label because each production occurs in a different decade of the twentieth century.



Dr. Cooledge outside the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre

Photo by Kelly Tsujioka

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Television Production Course has New Instructor in Spring 2017

As he has at the conclusion of each of our recent semesters, Paul Butler invited the students from his television production course (TELC 238) to visit the local TV station where he anchors the evening news.

His fall semester students visited WBOC TV, the

CBS affiliate in Salisbury, Maryland, on December 6. They watched a live noon broadcast and interacted with staff



Students enrolled in TELC 238 pose on the news set at WBOC TV

Photo provided by Daminique Vargas

members in front of and behind the cameras.

It was the last time Mr. Butler would lead that tour as a teacher. After six years as an adjunct instructor, he has decided his schedule is too full to continue to teach.

While the department will miss him, the tours will continue. The new TELC 238 instructor, Rob Wilkinson, is also a fulltime employee at WBOC.

Mr. Wilkinson is a member of the station's Creative Services department. He produces commercials and on-air promotions.

He has extensive experience working with much of the equipment and software that the

English department now uses in its new telecommunications facility. He, like Mr. Butler before him, plans to invite his class to tour WBOC.



Mr. Wilkinson

Photo by Karen Cottingham

WORD PLAY: De-clarified Proverbs

Change each of these statements into a well-known proverb.

**Example: A rotating lithohidal fragment never accrues lichen.
A rolling stone gathers no moss.**

- 1. Precipitancy creates prodigality.**
- 2. Tenants of vitreous abodes ought to hurl no lithophilous fragments.**
- 3. It is not proper for mendicants to be indicative of preferences.**
- 4. Compute not your immature gallinaceans prior to their being produced.**
- 5. It is fruitless to become lachrymose because of scattered lacteal fluid.**

Answers available on Page 5.

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

CBS VETERAN RETIRES

Bill Jones, a 1978 UMES English graduate and a generous donor to the Department of English and Modern Languages, is going to spend more time with his grandchildren and, we hope, more time on our campus.



Mr. Jones
Photo provided by
Talon Media

Mr. Jones, who has worked as a producer for [CBS News](#) for the last three decades, will officially retire February 17.

His career as a broadcast journalist began while he was still a college student. He worked at [WBOC TV](#) as the first African American to serve as a fulltime, evening news anchor on the Eastern Shore.

PUBLISHED AUTHOR

Congratulations are in order for English education major Jenna Crockett.



Ms. Crockett

[Her discussion](#) of the adaptation of “Me Before You” from novel to film was published recently in [The Artifice](#), an online arts magazine.

Ms. Crockett, a native of Virginia’s Eastern Shore, is member of the [UMES Honors Program](#). She created her article last fall as an honors assignment in her American Literature class, taught by Cynthia Cravens.

STUDY ABROAD

The deadline is approaching for a federal scholarship program designed to assist [Pell Grant](#) students who want to study abroad.



[Gilman scholarship](#) money is available for summer 2017 international programs; applications must be received by March 7.

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne is the certifying campus advisor at UMES.

“A high percentage of applicants win the award,” Dr. Champagne said. “Almost 50% of the UMES students who have completed an application have won the award.”

TV STUDIO RE-IMAGINED

Following the telecommunication program’s move to the new Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex, the former television studio in Wilson Hall was dismantled.

While the equipment was outdated, it could still be used for basic instruction; so it was donated to [Wicomico High School](#) in Salisbury, Maryland.

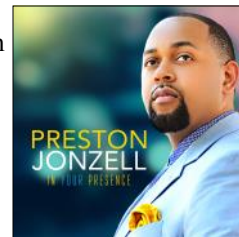
Now that the former studio has been cleared, Interim Chair Dean Cooledge plans to create a small performance space which he has dubbed the Wilson Hall Black Box.

“The mission will be to offer unique theater productions designed to provoke discussion, debate and disagreement,” Dr. Cooledge said.

MAKING MUSIC

Two young men, both with connections to the UMES English department, have dreams of hitting it big in the music industry.

Preston Gross, who performs as Preston Jonzell, earned his bachelor’s degree in 2010 and works now in the [UMES School of Graduate Studies](#).



A member of both the UMES concert and gospel choirs during much of his college career, Mr. Gross has released a single, “[In Your Presence](#),” which is available through online retailers.

Jonathan Morris, who performs as J.Mor, is a senior English major. He has released a seven track EP titled “[7 Days](#),” also available online.

“A lot of the work ... was closely related to a lot of the things I learned as an English major,” Mr. Morris said. “‘I Too Am America’ is a play on Langston Hughes’ poem which is recited in the song ... I studied Hughes’ poem under the direction of Dr. Cooledge in my African American literature course.”



WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE FOUR:

1. Haste makes waste.
2. Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
3. Beggars can’t be choosers.
4. Don’t count your chickens before they’re hatched.
5. No use crying over spilled milk.

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