

# INSIGHTS

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

  
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## SHE LANDED A DREAM JOB...

*Look Who's Snapping Selfies With the Boss!*

When Sandra Joseph, Class of 2012, took what she described as a “leap of faith” and left her job, her family and her friends in New York City for a new position with the [Fox Networks Group](#) in Los Angeles, little did she know, in less than a year, she would be working for Oprah Winfrey.

“(At Fox) I got to work on a few amazing movie campaigns and, most importantly, network and learn more about marketing,” she said. “After working on the movie lot, I realized that I wanted to do more.”

In December, Ms. Joseph accepted a full



*Ms. Joseph with Ms. Winfrey at OWN's holiday celebration (left) and seated in the network's office (right)*

*Photos provided by Ms. Joseph*

time position at [OWN](#) (the Oprah Winfrey network) in West Hollywood as a standards and practices production specialist.

She is responsible for watching and reviewing all production show content that airs on the OWN network to make sure it meets company standards.

“I can't believe that I get to say that I work for Oprah,” she said in a recent email.

A highlight of Ms. Joseph's first month at OWN included attending the network's holiday party where she met her boss and snapped the selfie she shared with us.

## AND, SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE!

*Justin Stewart Joins the Staff of “Early Today” at NBC in New York*

Look out New York City; a Hawk has landed.

Justin Stewart, Class of 2010, is still adjusting to a new sleep schedule—or more accurately—lack-of-sleep schedule. He started the new year with a new job as a segment producer for the “[Early Today](#)” show at NBC. He reports to work at 10 p.m.

“I now sleep during the day like a vampire in order to be well rested for my shift,” he said. “We air shows at 3 a.m., 3:30 a.m., 4 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.”

Mr. Stewart was working a day shift in



*Mr. Stewart at his new employee orientation*

*Photo provided by Mr. Stewart*

established network in the number one TV market,” he said.

the newsroom of [WTTG](#) in his hometown of Washington, D.C. when he got the offer to join the “Early Today” team.

“Transitioning to a new show, in a new state, is a major adjustment ... but I could not turn down the opportunity to grow as a producer for a well-

Mr. Stewart writes stories as assigned by the program's senior and executive producers. In addition to writing the copy the anchors will share with a national audience, he also selects the pictures, soundbites, graphics and other elements that, in his words, “bring the story to life.”

Those stories, typically, are 15 to 30 seconds in length. “So I have short amount of time to paint the picture for the viewer,” he said.

In his first three weeks on the job, Mr. Stewart has produced serious segments including the recall of products suspected of salmonella contamination and fun features such as an ice rink reunion for the stars of the movie “The Mighty Ducks.”

# TEACHER TRAINING AHEAD

## Recent English Graduate Wants to Make a Difference



Not every graduate leaves the university with a definite plan for his or her future, but when English major Tyshera Wilhite crossed the stage to receive her diploma in December, she already knew exactly what was next on her agenda.



Ms. Wilhite

Photo provided by Ms. Wilhite

Ms. Wilhite learned in early December that she has been selected to participate in the [Baltimore City Teaching Residency](#) program. It's designed to provide accelerated training for professionals and recent graduates who want to become classroom teachers in specific "high demand" subjects including English, mathematics and certain sciences.

Since 2002, the Baltimore program has trained over 2,000 teachers who are on the front lines of a city school system where more than a third of the students do not graduate on schedule. It's estimated that the program's teaching fellows have interacted with 380,000 students.

Ms. Wilhite, who is a Baltimore County native, said the critical need for accomplished educators is what motivated her to apply to the highly competitive program.

"I knew how the children learned back home in Baltimore," she said. "Many of the students don't care about what they are learning because the teachers don't care. I want to be one of those teachers that care. I want to really help my students reach their full potential."

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding was one of Ms. Wilhite's UMES English professors.

"She is a delightful student who worked hard in class," Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said. "She was great in class discussions and in offering insight to keep things going, so I'm sure she will do well in this setting."

After a rigorous six week training program, Ms. Wilhite will be required to meet the state teaching certification requirements which include passing the [Praxis](#) core and subject specialty exams.

After the intense preparation provided by the program, Ms. Wilhite will begin teaching English in a Baltimore City public school in September.

There are also affiliated programs that prepare teaching fellows in Los Angeles, New Orleans, Indianapolis and Las Vegas.

# NEXT STOP: LAW SCHOOL

## Fannie Angelos Scholars Announced

Two close friends have both been selected as [Fannie Angelos Scholars](#).



(L to R) Ms. Johnson and Ms. Magruder

Photo provided by Ms. Johnson

Congratulations are in order for Emani Johnson, an English major with a minor in criminal justice, and Ashley Magruder, a criminal justice major with a minor in English.

Their stellar academic performance at UMES—Ms. Johnson graduated in December with a 3.5 GPA; Ms. Magruder's GPA is currently 3.8—helped both to qualify for the prestigious

[University of Baltimore](#) program. It is designed to assist students who attend HBCUs in Maryland and aspire to attend law school.

The program provides, among other things, extensive preparation for the [LSAT](#), the standardized exam required for law school applications.

If students complete all of the program requirements satisfactorily and reach a specific minimum LSAT score, they may be eligible to attend UB's law school free of charge.

The Angelos Scholars program describes itself as "the most successful diversity program of its kind for legal education." The program won the American Bar Association's [Diversity Leadership Award](#) in 2017.

# HUNGRY?

DON'T FORGET.  
YOU'RE INVITED!



The Department of English and Modern Languages will hold its first monthly social of the semester for English majors and minors on **Wednesday, February 6, in Wilson Hall, Room 2111, from 3 to 4 p.m.**

**On the first Wednesday of every month, join us for conversation and homemade treats.**

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# BACK TO WORK!

## Writing Center Reopens for Spring '19 Semester

UMES Writing Center Director and English faculty member Terry Smith and her student tutors are ready to assist students. The center opened with the start of classes on January 28.

Sarah Jones, who graduated with a B.S. in environmental science in December and has been a peer tutor for the past two years, will be Dr. Smith's new general assistant. Returning tutors include three English majors: Tatianna Carpenter, Jessica Clatterbuck and Kia Proctor.

Dr. Smith plans to recruit two new tutors beginning in early February. Strong writers are encouraged to apply; they must be recommended by a faculty member.

The center will continue its practice of both face-to-face and online appointments, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend online appointments are

also available.

Students can check appointment availability and schedule tutoring sessions through the writing center tab in Blackboard or at <https://umes.mywconline.com/>.



(L to R) Dr. Smith, Ms. Carpenter, Ms. Clatterbuck, Ms. Proctor, Daniela Cerritos and Ms. Jones

Photo by Jim Glover

# YEARS OF PRACTICE

A member of the English department, who's had a fair amount of practice talking for a living, volunteered to serve as the official pronouncer at a local spelling bee. Bill Brophy, a digital media staff member, was a professional radio announcer before he began his career in academia.



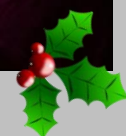
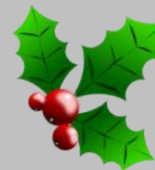
Mr. Brophy congratulates winner Kamryn Noble.

Photo by Bill Robinson

Mr. Brophy did his pronouncing at the Deal Island Elementary School spelling bee on January 29. His colleague, faculty member Marilyn Buerkle, will be the official pronouncer for the Eastern Shore's regional bee, hosted by UMES on March 2.

# DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

There were plenty of opportunities for members of the English department to enjoy each other's company at the end of the fall semester. These photos capture the excitement of graduation, the comradery of the final student social of the year and the festive spirit of the faculty pot-luck lunch held at the Princess Anne home of Honors Program Director Michael Lane.



# WANT TO LEARN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

## *FLIC Makes a New Interactive Software Program Available*

The UMES Department of English and Modern



Languages, home to the university's Foreign Language Instructional Center (FLIC), is offering the entire campus the opportunity to learn a foreign language of their choice, at their own pace.

FLIC is launching a new software program called [Mango](#). It's an online language learning source which offers instruction in more than 70 languages, from Azerbaijani to Yiddish.

"While Mango will be a valuable resource for students enrolled in language classes,

we hope it encourages more of our campus community, including faculty and staff, to become language learners," said FLIC's interim director Phillip Broussard.

The program promotes its instruction as a "fun-infused way" to learn a new language through "realistic and culturally accurate conversations." There is special emphasis placed on practical applications with sections labeled Greetings, Asking for Help, Ordering Food, Getting Around Town, etc.

Mango also offers unique elements including the ability to eavesdrop on a conversation between native speakers and some guidance on how to flirt in another language. It even includes a library of

foreign language films.

The program can be accessed through the [FLIC website](#) by clicking on the Mango Languages menu link. There is also a link available through the [alphabetical listing of electronic databases](#) on the Frederick Douglass Library's webpage.

Mango Languages is available to the campus community through a [Title III](#) grant financed by the U.S. Department of Education.



## ON THE ROAD

### *Plans for Conference Presentations*

Both students and faculty in the English department will be traveling to conferences soon.

The [College English Association: Middle Atlantic Group](#) will hold its 2019 conference on March 9 at Bowie State University. The theme of the event is "The Post-Disciplinary Academy."

UMES English faculty members Terry Smith and Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones plan a panel presentation titled "Course Redesign in Critical Post-Disciplinary English General Education Courses."

"It draws on our recent work standardizing the materials for basic composition and speech courses," Dr. Smith said. "We'll discuss our use of open educational resources, consistent rubrics, Blackboard delivery of course content and assignments, and general education assessments tied to those courses."

Later in the month, Dr. Smith, who serves as director of the [UMES Writing Center](#), will join two of the center's peer tutors in a presentation at the [Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association's](#) annual conference. It will be held March 22 and 23 at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

That conference theme is "React, Respond, Reimagine." Senior English majors Jessica Clatterbuck and Tatianna Carpenter will join Dr. Smith for a presentation titled "Adapting Online Tutoring by Reacting, Responding, Reimagining." They will present both qualitative and quantitative research on students who choose online tutoring over face-to-face sessions.

"This will be the first opportunity for both of these tutors to attend and present at the conference," Dr. Smith said. "They are excited about the opportunity for professional development and professional networking."

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If freshman English major Christian Ferguson's name sounds familiar, it may be because you read his guest column late last year in Salisbury's daily newspaper. As part of Amy Hagenrater-Gooding's English 101 Honors course, he wrote a column extolling the virtues of cooking as a way to teach math, science, geography and literature.



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