

INSIGHTS



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

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A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IS UNDER WAY *Department Welcomes New and Returning Students, Faculty and Staff*

A warm welcome is extended to more than 20 new UMES English majors. They include both freshmen and transfer students. Among their ranks are several athletes and a number of students who were selected to participate in the UMES Honors Program.

There are also some new faculty members in the department. However, while the appointments have just occurred, some of the faces will be very familiar.

Cynthia Cravens first joined the department as an adjunct faculty member during the 2012/2013 academic year; as of this



Dr. Cravens

semester, she's a full-time assistant professor. Ron Webster is also no stranger to the department. Dr. Webster taught at UMES from 2002 to 2011. He returns to the classroom after a brief attempt at retirement.

At press time, the department was finalizing the employment of additional faculty.



Dr. Webster

After a lengthy search, the university has also hired a new technical associate. Leon Lewis will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the radio and television equipment used in the English department's



Mr. Lewis

Photo by Lisa Morgan

telecommunications classes. He will work closely with members of [Hawk Radio](#), the university's student-managed internet radio station, and he will also manage [the English department's website](#).

Mr. Lewis comes to our campus after a decade at PSAV Presentation Services where he served as director of event technologies at the [Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina](#) in Cambridge, Maryland.

FEEL FREE TO USE THE FRONT DOOR *Wilson Hall Construction Project Draws to a Close*

After two years, the chain link fence surrounding most of Wilson Hall is finally down and the front door is back in service.

A two-pronged construction project, begun in the summer of 2012, improved accessibility for disabled students by providing more gently sloping concrete ramps and mechanized doors.



August 2012

Additional excavation around the building enabled the installation of new steam pipes.



August 2014

The project was originally scheduled for completion in November of 2012.

One student recently noted that English majors who are members of the Class of 2016 will be using Wilson's front door for the first time in their junior year.

For now, they'll have to add a little muscle as they come and go. The contractor still needs to make some adjustments to the entrance; the new concrete porch is slightly higher than the old one which makes the front door stick slightly as it opens and closes.

ONE BOOK

Can reading one book make a difference?

The UMES English department thinks so and plans to prove the point through its inaugural Just One Book program. Faculty members Amy Hagenrater-Gooding and Courtney Harned, sponsored with a grant from the Division of Academic Affairs, hope to encourage interdisciplinary discussion and reading through the power of one book. The selection for this academic year is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

UMES faculty and students began their inquiry into this non-fiction work on August 21 by attending a presentation and book signing at Salisbury University. The neighboring school had just finished its summer reading program focused on the same book.

Gathered in SU's Perdue Hall, Jeri Lacks Whye and David Lacks Jr., grandchildren of Henrietta Lacks, treated the audience to a slide show of their family's journey. From



Henrietta Lacks

her cancer diagnosis and the subsequent culturing of Henrietta's cells, without her knowledge or permission, to the current research partnership between the National Institutes of Health and the Lacks family, the presentation highlighted the evolution of critical scientific breakthroughs and considered the ethical questions they engender.

Writing center tutor

Courtney Rhoades found the discussion thought provoking. "As a pre-medical student, it's easy to analyze the ethical and unethical," she said. "But it is also important to remember the changes throughout the generations. Though the cells were used without the permission or knowledge of the family or of Mrs. Lacks, these cells went on to improve the medical world's understanding of cells, DNA, and debilitating viruses."

Faculty from UMES have been preparing for this program for quite some time. Last year, professors in the Department of English and Modern



Some of the UMES group at the Salisbury University event included (L to R) Honors Program Director Michael Lane, Physician Assistant faculty member Linda Trotman, Writing Center Director Terry Smith, English Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch, Hospitality and Tourism Chair Ernest Boger, Just One Book Program Coordinator Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, Development Director Veronique Diriker and Writing Center tutor Courtney Rhoades. Photo by Dean Cooledge

Languages traveled to Delaware State University to see a similar presentation featuring other Lacks family members.

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding says, "Our program is a bit different. While we are reading the same book, we are incorporating the text into a focused panel in an upcoming student symposium and using the text in multi-level, multi-disciplinary classes throughout the academic year rather than a summer only approach." While this is an ambitious task for the first year of the program, she is encouraged by the support the project has received, evident by the significant UMES presence at the SU presentation.

LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES

Aundrea Townsend, a senior English major who serves as president of the English honor society at UMES, doesn't wait until the last minute to complete her assignments. She read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* over the summer.

She was so impressed with the subject matter that she wrote about it when invited to be a guest columnist in the "Voices" section of *The Daily Times*, the daily newspaper in nearby Salisbury.

In the August 29 edition, she offered this assessment: "Skloot's ability to tell the



Ms. Townsend

Lacks' family story sincerely and inform readers of the scientific debate – whether or not humans have rights to their tissues once removed from their bodies – was a brave task."

She concluded her editorial with a description of the role race played in the case. "The most chilling concept in the story was that African Americans were being used as test subjects and treated as subhuman. Their worth seemed to be identical to that of a mouse. I encourage you to read this book; we should all know

our history."

Terry Smith, director of the UMES Writing Center and an officer in the UMES chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, hopes to encourage other students to write about the book by sponsoring an essay contest. She secured a \$1,500 Phi Kappa Phi literacy grant and will use a portion of that money to offer cash prizes.



Dr. Smith
Photo by Dean Cooledge

WORD PLAY:

Travel Trivia

Perhaps your summer vacation included travel around the country, and you discovered that many states have nicknames. Nicknames for states often vary depending on political, regional, or cultural ideologies. Some state governments—whether to promote tourism, civic pride or to recognize unique historical accomplishments—align their constituents toward certain values by legislating official state nicknames.

Wyoming, the Equality State, commemorates its role as the first state in the nation to grant women the right to vote. America’s Revolutionary and Civil Wars served as inspiration for several state nicknames. For example, **Alabama** is the Yellowhammer State because this was the nickname of a group of Confederate soldiers who wore yellow cloth on their arms. **Colorado**, which became a state 100 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, is known as the Centennial State.

Nicknames can also be an expression of regional identity or natural resources such as **Idaho**, the Gem State, or **Alaska**, the Last Frontier State.

Can you match states in our region with their nicknames based on your reading and knowledge?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. New Jersey | A. The Keystone State |
| 2. Pennsylvania | B. The Empire State |
| 3. Maryland | C. The Mountain State |
| 4. Virginia | D. The Garden State |
| 5. Delaware | E. The First State |
| 6. West Virginia | F. The Old Dominion State |
| 7. New York | G. The Free State |

Check your answers on Page 6.

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

SWITCHING SIDES

Two English faculty members spent their summer as students. Both are pursuing doctoral degrees at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Ms. Johnston

Sandy Johnston took five classes in her second summer pursuing a [Ph.D. in Composition and TESOL](#). Melissa Green completed four classes to begin the IUP [Ph.D. program in Literature and Criticism](#).



Ms. Green

Teachers make good students; both professors have 4.0 grade point averages.

WELCOME TO THE BAR

Adjunct English instructor and UMES English alumnus Richard Rudasill is multi-tasking these days. He earned a law degree from the University of Illinois in 2009, and earlier this year was sworn in as a member of the Maryland Bar.



Mr. Rudasill and his mother, Catherine Rudasill, following his swearing-in ceremony in Annapolis

While he will continue to teach basic composition at UMES, Mr.

Photo by Maurice Waters

Rudasill has been selected to participate in the [Maryland Appointed Attorney Program](#) and will represent indigent clients at initial proceedings before a District Court commissioner.



Congratulations to the nearly 30 English majors who were awarded their bachelor degrees at our commencement ceremony in May!

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

UMES English Major Participates in Prestigious Internship Program

By Tahja Cropper

Editor's Note: Tahja Cropper is a junior English major from Princess Anne. She is a member of the university's honors program and an officer in the UMES Drama Society. Her plans for a summer internship began nearly a year in advance. After an application process that included a personal interview, she was selected by the Louis Carr Foundation as one of seven students nationwide to earn paid internship placements in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

Being selected as a Louis Carr Intern was an absolutely exciting and enlightening experience. Through the [Louis Carr Internship Foundation](#) (LCIF), I was placed at the [American Advertising Federation](#) (AAF) in Washington, DC.

Spending the summer as an intern in the nation's capital was amazing.

The AAF is the oldest trade association for advertising. As an intern in the Education Services and Mosaic Center department of

the AAF, I gained valuable insight into the workings of a corporate environment, program planning, sponsorship, recruitment and public relations while assisting with AdCamp, a summer program that educates high school students about careers in the advertising industry.

The Louis Carr Internship Foundation was founded by Louis Carr, President of Media Sales for BET Networks. The LCIF provides paid internships in the communications industry to students of color.

As a LCIF summer intern, I experienced many firsts and had the opportunity to connect with some amazing individuals. From my first solo trip to New York City for the end-of-the-year intern dinner with



(L to R) Interns Kimani Whitsey and Justin Malone, Mr. Carr, Interns Mefah Joyner, Ms. Cropper and Thomas Duh following their NYC dinner.

Photo by David Aaron

Mr. Carr to spending the day at the BET DC office, I have experienced amazing networking opportunities and witnessed the operations of the communications industry in full circle (advertising to network operations).

I would describe my internship experience as an invaluable industry immersion that has afforded me many opportunities and allowed me to know where I fit within the industry.

ON THE JOB...



Jennifer Locust, Class of 2012, joined Cumulus Media in Washington, DC, this summer as a promotions assistant. She is pictured (third from left) representing [WROX FM](#) at a charity field day where she was joined by Tennessee Titans linebacker Moise Fokou (second from right). *Photo by Jane Yin*



Achu Mba made such a favorable impression at the DC-based cable network [C-SPAN](#) during his spring semester internship, they hired him as soon as he graduated in May. He is working as a member of the studio crew for the network's numerous live call-ins and other studio productions.

Photo by Amanda Sunners



Shauna Garriques, who graduated in May of 2012, says she's found her niche in communications. She's an assistant account executive at the [EGAMI Consulting Group](#), a multi-cultural public relations and marketing firm in New York City. Her clients include My Black is Beautiful, HBO Latino and Major League Baseball.



Jasmine Walden, Class of 2013, is now a junior account executive at [Jaffe Communications](#), a full service public relations and political consulting firm in Newark, New Jersey. She writes press releases and articles, coordinates e-newsletter design and distribution, and updates social media. She is described by her firm as the "go to resource" for clients who need a quick answer or web update.



Erica Massey, pictured here at her May 2007 graduation, started a new job in Atlanta, Georgia, in June. She is now the Manager of Research at [Bounce TV](#), a broadcast network which launched in 2011 and features programming for African American audiences. Prior to her move, Ms. Massey was a program research analyst at TV One.

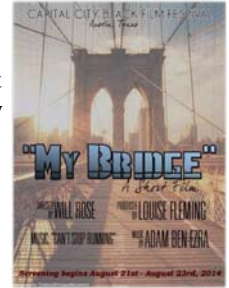


Keisha Brewer, who just graduated in May, has landed a job at the corporate offices of the [Sinclair Broadcast Group](#) in Hunt Valley, Maryland. She is an inventory specialist who works closely with companies who buy commercials on the Sinclair television stations.

Photo by Ben Penserga

FILM DEBUT IN TEXAS

A film created by faculty member Will Rose was screened at the 2014 Capital City Black Film Festival held late last month in Austin, Texas.



My Bridge is a short film tribute to the Brooklyn Bridge in New York. Mr. Rose shot the film in 2008 and completed it in 2013.

TUTORS ARE READY

The UMES Writing Center officially opens on Tuesday, September 2. Peer tutors will be available to assist students Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

During the first two weeks of September, Writing Center Director Terry Smith says tutors will provide an orientation to students who have not used the service before.

"During that time, we will have them register for the Writing Center, we will explain to them Writing Center policies and procedures, and we will encourage them to become regular visitors to the Writing Center," Dr. Smith said.

Students can check tutor availability and book appointments at <https://umes.mywconline.com>.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

At the end of the spring semester, students enrolled in the department's television production course had the opportunity to visit WBOC TV in Salisbury where their instructor, Paul Butler, is the anchor for several of the station's evening newscasts. They were joined for the behind-the-scenes tour by the chair of the English department, Jacqueline Brice-Finch.

WBOC has a close relationship with UMES. The company donated both the news set and the studio cameras used in the Wilson Hall studio where Mr. Butler's class is taught.



Photo by Jeremy Whichard

AWARD WINNING

Department chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch serves as president of the UMES chapter of [Phi Kappa Phi](#). As the delegate from Chapter 312, she traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, in early August to attend the Phi Kappa Phi National Convention, held biennially.

There, on behalf of the UMES chapter, she received a Certificate of Chapter Excellence from Rick Shale, Vice President for Chapter Relations.



Dr. Brice-Finch accepts chapter award

Photo provided by Jacqueline Brice-Finch

LEARNING CHINESE

Six area high school students participated in the Summer Language Experience at the [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#) (FLIC), a Title III activity in the Department of English and Modern Languages. Returning for the third year, instructor Susan Yin taught introductory Chinese in a two-week session. “By giving students the chance to study Chinese—a critical-need language—we are literally opening doors for a lifetime of opportunities,” said FLIC’s program coordinator Tammy Gharbi.



Ms. Yin (third from right) with her students

Photo by Tammy Gharbi

STUDY ABROAD

The U.S. Department of State’s [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#)



[Program](#) is now accepting applications for students seeking funds to study abroad during the spring 2015 semester. The scholarship is restricted to U.S. undergraduate students who are currently receiving federal Pell Grant funding. The deadline to submit an application for spring semester study is October 7.

Award recipients are chosen by a competitive selection process and must use the scholarship to defray eligible study or intern abroad costs. Eligible costs include tuition, room and board, books, local transportation, insurance and international airfare.

Foreign language instructor Carole Champagne serves as the certifying advisor for the Gilman scholarship at UMES. “I would like more of our students to apply for the study abroad scholarship,” Dr. Champagne said. “We have many excellent potential candidates.”

A UMES biology major, Jeanne Pak, won a Gilman scholarship to study in Spain this past summer.

SAVE THIS DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Department of English and Modern Languages will sponsor a student symposium to offer our undergraduates the opportunity to build their resume and showcase their academic success. Panel topics include, among others, creative writing, modern languages, literature and telecommunications. Prizes will be awarded for the best presentations. The deadline for program proposals is November 3.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE THREE: 1. D; 2. A; 3. G; 4. F; 5. E; 6. C; 7. B



English alumnus Michael Montibeller (front row, center) continues several years of world travel. He’s pictured here with Brazilian friends at the recent World Cup competition.

Photo by Matteus Hilario



Spanish language students celebrate the end of the spring semester with a Cinco de Mayo fiesta.



Faculty member Will Rose (left) with his foursome at the annual Art Shell Golf tournament this summer.

Photo by Joey Gardner

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