

INSIGHTS

Department of English and Modern Languages
SCHOOL of EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
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HOMECOMING HAWKS VISIT NEW NEST *1997 English Graduates Meet Faculty and Students*

This year's homecoming celebration brought two English graduates back to Wilson Hall to take a trip down memory lane.

When faculty member Cynthia Cravens encountered Christie Redding Williams and Lisa Lewis Wright, she offered to give them a glimpse of how the department has changed with a tour of the telecommunications facilities in the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex.

They were impressed, not only with the building and its high tech equipment, but also with the students they met there.

It's been 20 years since the women earned their UMES English degrees, but



(L to R) Ms. Wright, Ms. Williams and Dr. Cravens

Photos by Jim Glovier

They learned to balance academic responsibilities with extra curricular activities, and they both credit their role as charter members of the department's honor society with nurturing their leadership skills.

"I learned the value of an English degree," Ms. Redding Williams said. "There's a myriad of opportunities."

they have not forgotten how the Department of English and Modern Languages helped them find their place in the world.

With the encouragement of their English faculty, both went on to earn graduate degrees and forge successful careers—Ms. Redding Williams in technical writing and Ms. Lewis Wright in human resources.

The good news for current students is the women are prepared to give back.

"I love mentoring," Ms. Wright said. "That's my passion."



Discover UMES students Melissa Witherspoon and Miles Banks demonstrate video editing equipment.

LEARNING CAN BE FUN!

Dorchester County Elementary Students Consider Media Careers

The Department of English and Modern Languages starts recruiting early!

A group of 23 fourth and fifth grade boys from [Choptank Elementary School](#) in Cambridge, Maryland, visited campus on February 24. Their tour included the telecommunications facilities in the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex.

They were escorted by UMES students including Mr. Hawk Radio Desmond McCullough and Discover UMES video crew member Omari Carter.

The tour of the department's television and radio studios was conducted by faculty member Marilyn Buerkle and technical staff members Jim Glovier and Leon Lewis.

The boys learned the importance of teamwork when they heard about how a television control room functions, and they understood how the practice they get reading aloud in the classroom could help them read a teleprompter.

While careers in radio and television sounded like great fun, there was an equal measure of enthusiasm when the group visited the flight simulators in the Aviation Sciences area across the hall.



(L) Mr. McCullough demonstrates equipment in the Hawk Radio studio. (R) A future campus D.J.
Photos by Leon Lewis

LENDING A HAND

English faculty member Sandy Johnston served as the official pronouncer at a spelling bee held recently at [Carter G. Woodson Elementary School](#) in Crisfield, Maryland.



Woodson winners Isabelle McHenry (L) and Mar'Kiera Green

Photo by Bill Robinson

The competition was one of nearly 30 elementary and middle school qualifiers for the [Eastern Shore Regional Spelling Bee](#) which will be hosted by UMES on March 4.

Another English faculty member, Marilyn Buerkle, will be the pronouncer at the regional event. She'll be joined by two English alumni, Robin Hoffman and R. Hardy Rudasill, who will serve as judges.

ONLINE TUTORING

English faculty member Terry Smith, who serves as director of the [UMES Writing Center](#), will travel to Reading, Pennsylvania, for the [2017 Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association Conference](#).



Dr. Smith

She will be joined by two of the center's tutors, Colleen Hendrickson and Kia Proctor.

The three make up a panel presentation titled "Utilizing Online Tutoring as an Efficient and Effective Way to Improve How Writing Centers Assist Students."

The conference will be held March 31-April 1.

Photo by Jim Glover

CALIFORNIA BOUND

Junior English major Lance Morris, a rookie member of the university's academic team, will travel to Torrance, California, next month for the [2017 Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship Tournament](#).



UMES participated in a qualifying tournament at the University of the District of Columbia in early February. The team will now compete April 8-11 against 47 other HBCUs in a Jeopardy-like tournament that tests the students' knowledge on a vast array of topics. The winner will bring home a \$75,000 prize to its sponsoring university.

Back in 2003, a UMES academic team that included English major Earl Holland placed second in the nation.

MARKETING MAVEN

Tarcha Parker, who graduated cum laude last May, is earning a [master's degree in public relations management](#) from UMUC.



She is also practicing her craft as a representative of [Tula Talks Entertainment LLC](#), a company built around a former UMES English major, Lauren Poindexter, whose online presence is known as "Tula Alfredo."



The company describes its multimedia content as that which "entertains and inspires millennials."

AN UNUSUAL CONTEST

Candyce Newbill, Class of 2016, is making an impression on her new employer, [BrightKey Inc.](#) She was recently recognized in a slightly unorthodox company writing contest.



Ms. Newbill

"We have to take the 48 words that were words of the week in 2016 and use them in a short story without changing the tense," she said.

Photo by Collette Spell

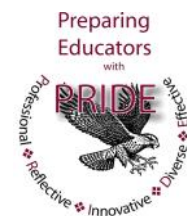
She also got a promotion. Ms. Newbill is now an assistant project manager on a marketing team that works with [Wolters Kluwer](#), a Chicago publishing company. Her team includes two other English department graduates: Aliyah Hyman and Lyonna Campbell.

DON'T FORGET!

As we first reported in November, the [Maryland State Department of Education](#) now requires education majors to complete 100 consecutive days of internship in a professional development school.

As a result, beginning in the 2017-2018 academic year, UMES English education majors will complete 20 days of internship, labeled Internship I, in the fall of their senior year. Then, during the final semester of their senior year, teacher candidates will complete 80 days of internship, now referred to in university's program requirements as Internship II.

The change will affect all 13 UMES teacher education programs.

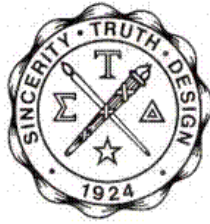


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SIGMA TAU DELTA UPDATE

Honor Society Plans Activities

The UMES chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, has a busy semester on tap.



The group's advisor, Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, and its president, Lance Morris, are headed to the [International Sigma Tau Delta Convention](#) in Louisville, Kentucky, March 29-April 1.

Mr. Morris will present his paper "Misery Business" which examines the intersection between [existentialism](#), Samuel Beckett's play "[Waiting for Godot](#)" and Kevin Smith's film "[Clerks](#)."

Sigma Tau Delta members will visit the campus of Salisbury University next month to see S.U.'s performance of "[Cabaret](#)." The play will be staged in the university's Black Box Theatre in Fulton Hall.

Members also plan a trip to the [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park](#) near Cambridge, Maryland, in April. In partnership with the Maryland State Park Service, the national park's visitor center will open to the public on March 11. Online information about the center says visitors will be reminded that "civil rights can be fragile, but a single person who takes personal action to fight for those rights can be an inspiration."

The honor society is open to English majors whose cumulative grade point average is 3.3 or higher. New members are currently being recruited.

[Applications are available](#) on the UMES English homepage under "Honors." Interested students are asked to write a short essay explaining why they want to join the organization. They must also provide an unofficial transcript and the names of three references. Applications are due to Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding by Friday, April 7.

A formal induction ceremony for new members will be held before the end of the semester.

WORD PLAY: More De-clarified Proverb-Idioms

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

Example: Precipitancy creates prodigality.

Answer: Haste makes waste.

1. Pulchritude does not extend below the surface of the derma.
2. Failure to be present causes the vital organ to become more enamored.
3. You cannot estimate the value of the contents of a bound, printed narrative of record from its exterior vesture.
4. Consolidated, you and I maintain ourselves erect; separated, we defer to the law of gravity.
5. A feathered creature clasped in the manual members is equal in value to a brace in the bosky growth.

Answers available on Page 4.

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

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne attended the [Maryland Sister States](#) legislative reception in Annapolis on February 1. She attends the event each year as an officer of the [Salisbury Sister Cities](#) organization.

Peruvian gourmet cuisine and entertainment were featured this year in celebration of Maryland's newest Sister State.



Dr. Champagne (third from left) at Annapolis reception

Photo provided by Dr. Champagne

A SUMMER IN SPAIN

Sophomore English major Jessica Clatterback is making plans to spend two months in Cuenca, Spain, this summer. She will participate in a unique program called "[True Spanish Experience](#)" which combines college courses with what are called "in-company practicals," a work experience tailored to each student's interests.

The program's sponsors—a cooperative of education, business and government leaders—aim to bring students to Cuenca "not only to learn Spanish language but also to know, understand and live Hispanic cultures."

Ms. Clatterback will spend July and August teaching English courses part-time and taking courses at the National University.

SHARING IDEAS

English faculty member Melissa Green-Moore received good news from the [College English Association-Middle Atlantic Group](#) recently.

Her article, "The Psychology of 'Samson Agonistes' and God's Role in Terrorism," and her poem, "Vietnam," have both been accepted for publication in the next issue of [CEAMAGazine](#).

The magazine is expected to be available in early summer.

English faculty member Terry Smith serves as co-editor of CEAMAGazine.



Ms. Green-Moore

SYMPOSIUM TOPICS SET

The Department of English and Modern Language's semiannual Student Symposium, scheduled for Thursday, May 4, is now accepting proposals for presentation in seven subject areas.

Sessions titles include "Language and Culture in the 21st Century," "Proverb-idiom Research Project," "Literature: Analysis and Engagement," "Screenwriting: Staging and Performance," "Wordcraft: Creative Writing," "Media Matters" and "Between the World and Me."

Students must submit a brief description of their proposals by April 21 to the moderator of the session in which they intend to present. Lists of the sessions and their assigned moderators are posted in Wilson Hall.

DEBUNKING STEREOTYPES

African American Cinema is a class developed and taught by faculty member Cynthia Cravens.

Dr. Cravens says the students enrolled in that class last year provided the inspiration for what will soon be a chapter in a book titled "Social Justice and American Literature." The book is part of the "[Critical Insights](#)" series published by [Salem Press](#).

"The topic of mixed-raceness or bi-raciality came up regularly in my African American Cinema class in the Spring 2016 semester," Dr. Cravens said. "Because this was a collaborative class and the students contributed so many insights and critiques, I want to credit them with motivating me to research the trope of the American mulatto and to question this stereotype of 'tragic' mixed-raceness."

Dr. Craven's chapter is tentatively titled "The Evolved 'Tragic Mulatta': from Stowe to Larsen."



Dr. Cravens

Photo by Jim Glovier

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE THREE:

1. Beauty is only skin deep.
2. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
3. You cannot judge a book by its cover.
4. United we stand; divided we fall.
5. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

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