

# INSIGHTS

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

  
March 2018  
Volume 31 Issue 2

## TAKING A PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN *English Majors Visit Disney Theatrical Productions in New York City*

A group of UMES students, accompanied by English Department Chair Dean Cooledge, traveled to New York City on February 16 to learn more about careers in arts and entertainment.

Khalilah R. Elliott, marketing director at [Disney Theatrical Productions](#), a business unit of the Walt Disney Company responsible for Broadway stage plays and musicals, extended the invitation.

“As a proud graduate of an HBCU, I can tell you first hand that a great deal of my educational and professional advancement was the direct result of having had such opportunities made available to me as a student,” Elliott said. “I and my colleagues would like to do the same for deserving students and are using Black History Month as the

impetus and opportunity to engage with your school and its students.”

The Disney group staged a panel discussion designed not only to provide details on the wide variety of entertainment careers to consider, but also to offer insight on corporate culture and advice on how to network.

In addition, the students met with the Disney education team to discuss [internships](#), and they toured the [New Amsterdam Theater](#), the



(L to R) Ife Akinwumi, Melissa Witherspoon, Nadja Cox, Tatianna Carpenter, Kia Proctor, Jasmine Taylor, Albany Montgomery and Omari Carter outside the New Amsterdam Theatre

Photo by Dean Cooledge

historic former home of the [Ziegfeld Follies](#) and current home to the Disney musical “[Aladdin](#).”

Junior Tatianna Carpenter said she was inspired by the people she met.

“Each person on the panel shared their story on how they got where they are today,” she said. “The experience motivated me even more to become successful.”

Senior Ife Akinwumi agreed. “It was an uplifting experience ... It propelled me to want to do more to chase my dreams.”

## FUTURE DIPLOMATS?

### *Students Attend D. C. Foreign Policy Conference*

Senior English major Nicole Harris was one of five UMES students who attended the 9th Annual [HBCUs at State](#) foreign policy conference in Washington, D.C., on February 16. The group was escorted by Lombuso Khoza who serves as interim director of the university’s [Center for International Education](#).

Each year the U.S. State Department connects HBCU students and faculty with a range of foreign affairs professionals for

discussions on key foreign policy issues and career opportunities.

Officials shared information on the critical skills and training necessary for the next generation of foreign policy leaders.



(L to R) Abu Sillah, Nicole Harris, Augustus Roberts, Allyson McCullough and Zoe Johnson represent UMES at the State Department’s annual HBCU foreign policy conference.



Photos by Lombuso Khoza

# POLISH YOUR PAPERS

## Writing Center Tutors Offer Online and Face-to-Face Services

The [UMES Writing Center](#), located in Wilson Hall, Room 1106, officially opened for the spring semester on February 6.

Student tutors provide assistance in the center Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. An online tutor is available on weekends from noon to 5 p.m..

English faculty member Terry Smith is the director of the center.

“We are committed to helping UMES undergraduates improve their writing, and we are glad to work with them on any stage of the writing process for assignments from all departments and disciplines,” she said. However, she reminds students and faculty that they should not expect the center’s tutors to rewrite someone’s paper.



*Tutors (L to R) Sean Hayden, biology major; Kia Proctor, English major; Dani Cerritos, agriculture major; Tatianna Carpenter, English major; Jessica Clatterbuck, English major; Sarah Jones, environmental science major  
Not pictured: evening and weekend tutor Alex Bohaska, masters student in psychology and special education*

*Photo by Terry Smith*

“We are a tutoring center; we do not edit documents for students. That would be unethical,” she said. “We help them improve their overall writing skills, usually through working with them on specific documents.”

Dr. Smith said students who seek assistance should consider making an appointment in advance. The center maintains an [online scheduling](#) service.

In addition to providing guidance on specific writing assignments, the center offers grammar and punctuation help to students for whom English is a second language, and tutors are also available to provide [English Proficiency Exam](#) (EPE) preparation. All UMES students, regardless of major, are required to pass the EPE before they graduate.

## WORD PLAY: SNIGLETS

**WORDS THAT AREN'T IN THE DICTIONARY BUT SHOULD BE!**



Sniglets are imaginative words that show creative use of language. The Washington Post stages an annual contest which asks readers to create the best “sniglet” by taking any word from the dictionary, altering it, creating a new word and supplying the definition of the “sniglet,” sometimes resulting in humor, the truth, and verbal creativity.

Guess the definition of the following “sniglets.” Remember, you will not find these words in the dictionary!

(Answers on Page 4).

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Printrovert (noun)     | 6. Shakesmear (verb)       |
| 2. Perfictionist (noun)   | 7. Snoralator (noun)       |
| 3. Smellbound (adjective) | 8. Hydrocondiment (noun)   |
| 4. Textorcism (noun)      | 9. Confuseless (adjective) |
| 5. Plothead (noun)        | 10. Typo-blindness (noun)  |

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

## SHE'S A WINNER!

Candyce Newbill, Class of 2016, showed off what she learned as an English major when she won \$500 as the first place winner in a writing contest sponsored by her employer, [BrightKey](#).

The company offers support services in, among other things, marketing and publishing. Each year it challenges its staff to create a unique story using the company’s “Weekly Words.” The submissions are judged on the quality of their narrative, syntax structure, spelling, grammar, punctuation and correct usage of the required words.



*First place celebration*

*Photo provided by Ms. Newbill*

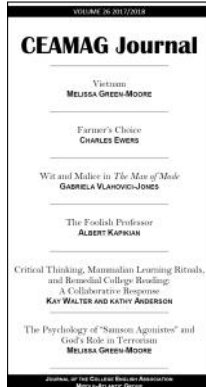
# PUBLISH OR PERISH

## Faculty Demonstrate Their Academic Talent

Faculty members in the Department of English and Modern Languages are active participants in the [College English Association: Middle Atlantic Group](#) (CEA-MAG).

The organization publishes a scholarly journal and holds an annual conference, and UMES English faculty participate in both.

This year, the group's annual publication, which was formerly known as CEAMAGazine, has been renamed [CEAMAG Journal](#) to reflect the scholarly nature of the content. UMES faculty member Terry Smith serves as co-editor.



"EBSCO Host has asked us to allow them to include the journal in their database, which is the largest subscription service purchased by libraries," Dr. Smith said.

The current issue features work by two members of the UMES English department including a poem written by Melissa Green-Moore and essays by Ms. Green-Moore and Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones.

The group will hold its annual conference March 10 at the University of the District of Columbia. UMES English faculty are presenting a panel: "Bridges Not Borders: Making Texts Affordable and Meaningful."

The discussion of open educational resources and use of a common reader will be chaired by Dr. Smith and features presentations by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, Mari-Jo Ulbricht and Ms. Vlahovici-Jones.

# SELF EXPRESSION

Dianne Pearce, an adjunct basic composition instructor, is encouraging her students to begin to develop a professional virtual image.



The freshmen currently enrolled in her three sections of English 102 are creating blogs at [WordPress.com](#). They are required to post the papers they write in her class on their blogs.

One of her students, art major Elijah Harmon, has begun an online blog that he has titled "Way of Elijah." He's posted [a recent class assignment](#) that compares the influence exerted by one's parents to the peer pressure that comes from friends and acquaintances.

# STILL A LEADER

Students in Jeanne Harmon's English 102 classes this semester learned that an English degree can be helpful to those who seek a career in law enforcement.



Eric Van Hall was *Sgt. Van Hall* a student in Ms. Harmon's classes when he earned his English degree in 2001. Since then, he has served as a police officer, first in Cambridge and then in Denton, Maryland.

Sgt. Van Hall is a member of [Phi Beta Sigma](#) Fraternity and was the president of the UMES Student Government Association his senior year.

# HAWKS RETURN

## Homecoming is Fun for Faculty Too!

Each year in February, hundreds of UMES Hawks return to their alma mater to join in the university's homecoming celebration.

In some cases it may have been years—or even decades—since former students visited Princess Anne.

Several days of events enable alumni to reconnect with their former classmates and to marvel at physical changes on the campus.

But it's not just students who appreciate the trip down memory lane; faculty members relish the opportunity to learn more about the young adults who passed through their classrooms on the way to



Ms. Buerkle is joined by (L) Shartanique Watson '08 and Wally Akinso '04 (Photo by Marissa McDonald) and (above) by Manny Hall '11, Khadija Elkharbibi '10 and Angela Onley '10.

(Photo by Jim Glover)

their future. Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle had the opportunity this year to show former media students the university's new radio and TV facilities.

Manny Hall, Class of 2011, was impressed. "I'm happy that a dream you had, and one you shared with us, finally came true," he told his former teacher.

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# SCHOLARLY ROAD TRIPS

## English Professor Out and About

English faculty member Terry Smith, who serves as chair of the university's General Education Committee, attended the recent [General Education and Assessment Conference 2018](#), sponsored by the [American Association of Colleges and Universities](#), in Philadelphia.



Dr. Smith

Photo by Jim Glovier

to me," she said. "In addition to attending excellent sessions on the latest and the best in Gen Ed and Assessment for three days, I was one of nine attendees from the University System of Maryland team who were treated to a dinner sponsored by Nancy O'Neill, associate director of the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation. During the dinner, we discussed general education issues specific to the USM and made plans for our upcoming state general education meetings."

Next on Dr. Smith's agenda: a trip to [Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi](#) headquarters in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She serves as the organization's vice president for the Northeast region.

"Last March, I went to the conference site in Philadelphia as part of a 29-member Planning Committee for the conference, so this conference was especially meaningful

## IMPRESSIVE CREDENTIALS

LaToya (Fewell) Rosser earned her English degree in 2006, but she continues to add to her academic credentials. She recently completed her second master of arts degree.



Ms. Rosser

Photo by J.C. Penney  
Portrait Studios

This time it's an [MA in Education and Human Development](#) from George Washington University where she works as a program associate in the School of Nursing.

She earned her earlier [master's degree in communications](#) at Trinity University in 2009. A lot has changed since then. This time she'll be joined at her commencement ceremony in May by her husband and 1-year-old son.

## A HELPING HAND

Senior English major Albany Montgomery was busy working during the recent UMES career fair.

Ms. Montgomery serves as a volunteer to the Talon Media Group, the university's media and marketing professionals. In that role, she assisted UMES photographer Jim Glovier. He provided free portrait photography to professionally dressed students who attended the event.



Ms. Montgomery puts a photography subject at ease.

Photo by Jim Glovier

### WORD PLAY ANSWERS:

1. A person who favors the company of books to people
2. A fiction reader with exacting standards
3. Held as if under a spell by the scent of books
4. An attempt to expel a terrible book from one's thoughts
5. A person who gets high on books daily
6. To defile a reputation with flowery speech
7. A less technical description of a CPAP, a breathing device that prevents snoring and sleep apnea
8. The watery discharge that accumulates in a mustard or ketchup bottle and comes out first
9. Feeling confused and useless due to pain medication or insomnia
10. The inability to recognize an error in an email until after you've pushed "send"

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Monthly English Department Social, March 7, 3 p.m., Wilson Hall, Room 2011

Theater Performance  
"Strawberry Wine," March 9-11, P.A.C., Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.

Midterm Exams  
March 12-16

Brown Box Theater Project,  
"Hotel Nepenthe. Room 417. Don't Forget." March 15, P.A.C., 7:30 p.m.

Spring Break  
March 19-23

Preregistration for Summer and Fall Courses  
March 28: Seniors, Athletes and Honors Program Students Only  
March 29: Sophomores and Juniors Only  
March 30: Freshmen Only  
April 2: All Students

**Insights is published monthly during the academic year. It is written and edited, except as noted, by communications instructor Marilyn Buerkle. Copy is proofread by composition instructor Sandy Johnston. Photos are by Marilyn Buerkle, except as noted. If you have information you would like to appear in this publication, contact our editor at 410-651-8349 or email her at [mlbuerkle@umes.edu](mailto:mlbuerkle@umes.edu).**