

INSIGHTS

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



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KOREY WISE: LIFE AFTER INJUSTICE

English Graduate Arranges Black History Month Event

More than one thousand people packed the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center on February 20 to hear from Korey Wise, one of the [“Exonerated Five.”](#)

The story of the five black teenagers wrongly convicted for a 1989 assault on a white female jogger in Central Park was retold last year in [“When They See Us,”](#) a Netflix mini-series directed by [Ava DuVernay.](#)

What the audience didn’t know was the event was the result of an eight month effort by English alumna Tahja Cropper. Ms. Cropper, a member of the class of 2015 who works in the [UMES Office of Public Relations,](#) described it as “a labor of love.”



Photos by Javier Garcia



Even though the boys were accused before she was born, Ms. Cropper was so moved by the television series and the issues it depicted, she began working last June to

bring Mr. Wise to the UMES campus.



“As an HBCU, we should enlighten the black experience,” she said. “There are still people of color serving time for crimes they didn’t commit.”

She was not the only person interested in hearing from Mr. Wise about the 14 years he spent in prison; all tickets for the event were reserved in less than a week after it was announced, and Mr. Wise was greeted

with a standing ovation *before* he spoke.

The English department was well represented. Not only did Ms. Cropper conduct the hour long interview on stage, but she also selected junior English major Augustus Roberts to introduce Mr. Wise.



(Above) Mr. Wise with Mr. Roberts and (left) with Ms. Cropper



While Ms. Cropper acknowledges there are “a lot of moving parts” to planning and scheduling a major campus event, she was pleased with the results. “Perfect” was the word she used to describe the evening.

SUMMER CAMPS ANNOUNCED

Local Students Can Select Arabic, Chinese or TV Production Experiences

The Department of English and Modern Languages has selected the dates for the summer day camps it will conduct.

The digital media staff will present Star Power, a TV production boot camp, July 6-10, for students who will enter 7th, 8th or 9th grade in September.

New this summer will be Star Power 2.0, advanced instruction designed for students who attended the camp in

previous summers. 2.0 is scheduled for July 13-17.

The department’s [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#) plans to offer two camps for middle and high school aged students July 6-24. Students may select either Chinese or Arabic instruction.



(Above) 2018 Star Power edit session
Photo by Jim Glovier

(Below) 2019 Arabic class
Photo by Debra Laforest



MARKETING MANAGER?

Kia Proctor, a summa cum laude UMES English graduate with a minor in digital media, has enrolled in an online master's program at the [University of Maryland Global Campus](#), formerly known as UMUC. She'll earn a degree in [management with a specialization in marketing](#).



Ms. Proctor

Ms. Proctor is currently employed as the communications coordinator in the [UMES Office of Admissions and Recruitment](#).

MR. PRESIDENT

Jack Thomas, a former chair of the UMES English department, has been named president of [Central State University](#) in Wilberforce, Ohio.



Dr. Thomas

Dr. Thomas served as interim president of UMES during the 2001-2002 academic year bridging the gap between the Dolores Spikes and Thelma Thompson administrations. He also served eight years as president at [Western Illinois University](#).

He succeeds Cynthia Jackson-Hammond at Central State on July 1.

BACK TO THE BOOKS

Asha Cole, who just earned her UMES English degree with a digital media minor in December, is already back in the classroom.



Ms. Cole

Photo by Jim Glover

Ms. Cole has begun classes at [Bowie State University](#). She is a candidate for a [master's degree in organizational communication](#). She hopes to complete the program in 2022.

Founded in 1865, Bowie State is one of the ten oldest Historically Black Colleges/Universities in the country.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Carole Champagne, a UMES Spanish language professor, attended the annual [Sister States](#) legislative reception in Annapolis on February 4. She is invited each year as an officer of the [Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County](#).

During this year's event, Dr. Champagne reports Maryland's Secretary of State and Mexico's ambassador to the United States signed an agreement to protect women who are victims of certain violent crimes.



Photo by Joe Andrucyk, Courtesy of the Executive Office of the Governor

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next English Department monthly social will be held from 3-4 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 4, in Room 2111 in Wilson Hall. Grab a raffle ticket when you arrive to be eligible for our student "care package" giveaways.**

MARCH 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

EDUCATION ABROAD

Phillip Broussard, director of the department's [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#), joined three other faculty members from a variety of disciplines—Lombuso Khoza, Yen Dang and Hoai-an Truong—to discuss faculty development through international education.

The event, held February 20, was sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs.



(L to R) Dr. Dang, Mr. Broussard, Dr. Khoza and Dr. Truong

Photo by Kathleen Derby

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CAREER FAIR BRINGS A HAWK HOME

English Graduate Returns as Corporate Recruiter

The Spring Career and Internship Fair, sponsored by the university's [Career and Professional Development Center](#), brought a familiar face to campus on February 20.

Lorenzo McGhie, an English major who graduated in 2007, attended the fair as a representative of his employer, [Deloitte](#), a multinational professional services network.



Photo provided by Mr. McGhie

After 11 years at Verizon Wireless, Mr. McGhie took a new job as a cloud consultant at Deloitte last year. While much of his new responsibilities utilize his technical skills, he says his supervisors ask him to represent them at events such as the recent career fair based on the communication skills he polished as an English major at UMES.

Mr. McGhie had an opportunity to interact with current English majors at the event, as they talked to a variety of employers about internship and employment options.

In recent years, two different English majors lined up internships with [C-SPAN](#), a national cable network; both eventually parlayed those internships into full-time employment when they graduated.

(Right) Junior English major Frederick Walls discusses corporate public relations and marketing positions with a representative of Maryland Live!.



(Right) Junior English major Augustus Roberts meets with a military recruiter.



(Left) English alumnus Lorenzo McGhie tells an interested student about career opportunities with his employer, Deloitte, a multinational professional services network.



ROAD TRIP ON TAP

Writing Center Tutors to Attend Scholarly Conference

Early on the morning of Friday, March 6, Writing Center Director Terry Kundell and five of the center's peer tutors will head to Towson University for the annual [Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association \(MAWCA\) Conference](#).

The theme of this year's event is Decolonizing Writing Center Practice: A New Vision for a New Decade.

The UMES group has been invited to attend a luncheon with the event's keynote speaker, [Romeo Garcia](#). They will discuss his articles, "Hopes and Visions: The Possibility of Decolonial Options" and "Unmaking Gringo Centers."

Then on Saturday, Dr. Kundell and the tutors—Cita Christian, Jessie Clatterbuck, Christian Ferguson, Nikolas Mejia and Ciani Wells—will offer a panel presentation: "Students' Right to

Their Own Language and to the Language of Those in Power: A Historically Black University Writing Center's Perspective."

"We have been sharing our opinions and reading theoretical articles on our topic in preparation for what we believe will be a valuable presentation," Dr. Kundell said.

The students received a scholarship from MAWCA that covers their registration fees and hotel rooms.

The scholarship committee responded to the UMES application for funding with a compliment. "We were very impressed by your responses and hope this money helps you present the research/findings you've been working so hard on."

According to the MAWCA website, the conference is designed to provide networking and professional development opportunities to writing center personnel.



(L to R) Dr. Kundell and the tutors who will accompany her to the conference—Nikolas Mejia, Jessie Clatterbuck, Cita Christian, Ciani Wells and Christian Ferguson—pose outside Wilson Hall.

Photo by Jim Glover

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

English Professor Edits Her Final Issue of CEAMAG Journal

For the last six years, English professor Terry Kundell has served as co-editor of CEAMAG Journal, the peer-reviewed journal of the [College English Association-Middle Atlantic Group \(CEAMAG\)](#).



Dr. Kundell

She and her co-editor, David Kaloustian of Bowie State University, are turning over the responsibility to new editors with the completion of the 2020 issue.

Serving as the editor of the publication requires a significant commitment of time and energy.

“As editor, I have checked sources, reformatted graphics, revised content and, of



The cover of this year’s journal provided by Dr. Kundell

course, copy-edited some fairly complex works written primarily by college or university English professors,” Dr.

Kundell said. “I also did all desktop publishing and even followed through with the local printer by checking proof copies and picking up and delivering final copies at the CEAMAG annual conference.”

Despite the workload, Dr. Kundell has enjoyed her time as editor.

“Although editing the journal has been very time-consuming, it has also been extremely rewarding,” she said. “In particular, I have

enjoyed the relationships I have developed with the authors and especially with my co-editor, David.”

Drs. Kundell and Kaloustian will both remain on the College English Association: Middle Atlantic Group Executive Council, and Dr. Kundell will continue to maintain the organization's website.

In addition to the publication of its journal, the College English Association-Middle Atlantic Group also holds an annual conference. The Spring 2020 conference will be held March 7 at Prince George’s Community College.

The theme for this year’s event—the group’s 62nd annual spring conference—is Tides and Surges.

The College English Association-Middle Atlantic Group is a regional affiliate of the [College English Association](#).

STUDY ABROAD FUNDING

Deadline Nears for Gilman Scholarships

March 3 is the deadline for two federally funded scholarship programs that will provide assistance to low income students studying abroad any time between May 2020 and April of 2021.



The [Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship](#) provides up to \$8,000, depending on the type of study, to U.S. citizens who receive Pell Grants to fund their college education.

The program is designed to broaden the U.S. student population that studies and interns abroad by providing scholarships

to outstanding undergraduates who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate.

The deadline for funding for a second federal study abroad scholarship, the [Gilman-McCain](#), is also March 3.

That program is named after the late John McCain, a U.S. senator and former naval aviator. It offers students who receive any type of Title IV federal financial aid and are the children of active duty U.S. military personnel up to \$5,000 to defray the costs of international study.

Samantha Hernandez, a UME exercise science major, won a Gilman scholarship last year and is currently earning 12 academic credits in Peru.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH:

**March 9-13:
Mid-Term Exams**

**March 16-20:
Students’ Spring Break**

**Pre-Registration for
Summer and Fall Classes**

**March 30: Veterans,
Seniors, Athletes and
Honor Students**

**March 31: Sophomores
and Juniors**

April 1: Freshmen

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