

INSIGHTS



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

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HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Academic Excellence Celebrated at 62nd Annual Honors Convocation

Fifty English majors were among the nearly 900 undergraduates celebrated at this year's Honors Convocation held April 2 on the UMES campus.

In order to qualify for recognition at the annual event, students must have earned a 3.5 or higher grade-point-average during one or both of the preceding semesters.

Each academic department also singles out one student for individual recognition. This year marked an unusual occurrence—two English majors received departmental honors from two different departments.



Ms. Townsend

Photos by Jim Glover

Graduating senior Aundrea Townsend received her accolades from the Department of English and Modern Languages.

Elizabeth Ranger, a junior who is earning a double major in English and history, was named the outstanding student in the Department of Social Sciences.



Ms. Ranger with Social Sciences Chair Joyce Bell and School of The Arts and Professions Dean Ray Davis.

Both students serve as officers of the UMES chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the [international English honor society](#), and both

work as peer tutors in the [UMES Writing Center](#).

Currently Ms. Ranger's cumulative GPA is a 3.96; Ms. Townsend has earned a cumulative GPA of 3.75.

The featured speaker at the convocation was Tyler Love, a 2009 UMES graduate who has since gone on to earn both a master's and a doctoral degree from Virginia Tech.

SIGMA TAU DELTA INDUCTION

Two New Members Join International English Honor Society

Two new members were inducted into the local Psi Mu chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the [international English honor society](#), in a formal ceremony held April 17 in Wilson Hall.

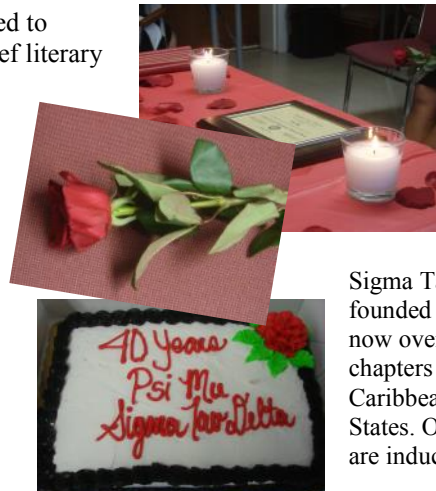
The group welcomed Kira Baran and Kelli Green. Ms. Baran is a junior English major from Aberdeen, Maryland. Ms. Green is also a junior; she is from Clinton, Maryland, and will earn a degree in English education.

In front of an audience of family, friends and English faculty



(L to R) Ms. Baran and Ms. Green

members, the women pledged to advance the study of the chief literary masterpieces, to encourage worthwhile reading, to promote the mastery of



written expression and to foster a spirit of fellowship among students specializing in the English language and literature.

Sigma Tau Delta was founded in 1924. There are now over 750 active chapters in Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. Over 8,000 members are inducted annually.

DEVELOPING STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS

Modern Languages Faculty Member Investigates Programs in Spain

By Carole Champagne

Editor's Note: Dr. Champagne is an associate professor of modern languages who teaches UMES Spanish courses online and in face-to-face class sessions.

The Education Office of the Spanish Ministry of Education invited me to meet with directors of higher education programs in Madrid and regional schools in the Province of Castilla y León in April.

I joined more than a dozen study abroad and international programs representatives who met with our Spanish counterparts in Madrid. As part of the trip, I had an opportunity to man a UMES booth in the Madrid educational conference center all day on April 13.

Site visits were made to Valladolid, the regional capital recognized as the “cuna de Castilla,” the origin of modern Spanish, where Spaniards recognize the spoken language to be “pura,” or the standard. I spoke with many Castilian administrators, educators and students while visiting several universities in the provincial capital.

Our group also visited Salamanca, my

alma mater Hispania. While an undergraduate student at Wake Forest University, I attended the [Universidad de Salamanca](#), established in 1218.

As a result of my trip, I will be collaborating with the director of [Coppin State University's Office of International Programs](#), Douglas Reardon. Impressed by my European work experience and



Salamanca contacts, Dr. Reardon has asked me to lead a month-long joint Coppin/UMES undergraduate program in Spain in 2016. Enchanted by his first visit to Salamanca, Dr. Reardon will compare several language and literature programs. This summer we will choose the program that provides the highest quality educational and cultural immersion



Dr. Champagne provided the photos from her recent trip to Spain

experiences for our students for the lowest price.

Dr. Reardon has already developed fifteen faculty-led study abroad programs, so our collaboration will certainly become a successful option for our students. They can receive financial aid for six UMES summer session credits.

The fourth cohort of UMES Doctor of Pharmacy students will depart for Salamanca in a few weeks. The program that I had established in 2012 is self-sustaining due to the quality Medical Spanish instruction, complemented by hospital and clinic site visits and meetings with medical professionals. Sociocultural activities enhance invaluable professional development experiences for our pharmacy students.

While I have also enabled six UMES undergraduate students to study individually in Salamanca, my goal is to provide our students with a variety of study abroad options that enhance their academic and professional goals.

My undergraduate experiences studying and working abroad as a teen impacted my world view. Soon more UMES students may choose their own transformational education experience.

Members of the UMES Drama Society, led by English faculty emeritus Della Dameron-Johnson, joined their colleagues in the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management to produce two fun-filled nights of delicious food and engaging entertainment.

The university's Jazz & Blues Cabaret was presented on April 17 and 18 and featured music which ranged from ballads made famous by Etta James, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett to the more contemporary tunes of Aretha Franklin and Al Green.

The performers played to a packed house both evenings.



Photos by Jim Glover

I'VE BEEN THINKING



By Liz Ranger

Editor's Note:

Ms. Ranger is a junior pursuing a double major in English and history. A member of the UMES Honors Program, she is originally from Baltimore, Maryland, but lives now in Greenbackville on Virginia's Eastern Shore.



Although we indulged in excellent food, did a little shopping, and squeezed in some cherry blossom sightseeing in Washington, D.C., our ultimate goal was to attend and present at the [2015 Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association Conference](#) in Harrisonburg, Virginia, at James Madison University.

Since the conference theme was Sharing Spaces, my writing center colleagues Aundrea Townsend, Colleen Hendrickson, Roxanne Sudendorf and I joined our director, Terry Smith, for a presentation titled "Physical, Departmental, Disciplinary, Pedagogical and Cultural Shared Spaces: How a Community of

Diverse Writing Center Tutors at a Historically Black University Turn Challenges into Opportunities."

We discussed our various difficulties and the ways in which we overcame those challenges, turning them into positives for both tutors and clients. We share physical, departmental, disciplinary, pedagogical and cultural spaces, but we use these challenges to create a better tutoring environment by collaborating in a close physical space, by specializing to help students with writing from various fields, and by discussing differences in culture and tutoring theory.

This was an incredible opportunity for all of us to not only present about our unique situation as a writing center at an HBCU, but also to learn about how other universities deal with their shared spaces.

Dr. Smith attended a session on online tutoring while the rest of us attended a

"fishbowl" session on forming long-term relationships with our clients. We conversed with numerous tutors from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia about the ways that they have either formed relationships with clients or failed to connect. Tutors and directors brainstormed various ways to deal with problematic clients and ways to try to bring the students back in for more tutoring sessions.

I know I am looking forward to next year's MAWCA

Conference, and I hope that other students take advantage of opportunities such as this.



(L to R) Ms. Townsend, Dr. Smith, Ms. Hendrickson, Ms. Ranger and Ms. Sudendorf at the conference
Photo by Sonya Shearin

"I've Been Thinking" is a monthly column written by members of UMES's Psi Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Throughout the academic year, the column explores a variety of topics of interest to the campus community.

TEACHERS OF PROMISE

Two UMES English Education Interns Attend Prestigious Conference

Donald Brown, an undergraduate teaching intern, and Briana Fulton, a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Teaching program, were recently selected as "[Teachers of Promise](#)." The soon-to-be English teachers joined five other UMES students at the Teachers of Promise Institute in Linthicum, Maryland, on April 17. Both will complete their teaching internships and graduate this month.

The Teachers of Promise Program and Institute began eight years ago as an outgrowth of the Maryland Teacher of the Year Program. The idea was to capitalize on the expertise of Teachers of the Year and other award-



(L to R) Faculty member Jamie Lewis, Ms. Thornton, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Fisher, Ms. Baione, Ms. Fulton, Ms. Slade, Mr. Brown and faculty member Patricia Goslee

Photo provided by Ms. Fulton

winning educators by matching them with the most promising teaching interns from Maryland colleges and universities.

The program culminates in a one-day institute; this year, 125 teaching interns from 21 Maryland colleges and universities participated.

Other UMES teaching interns who were selected by the university's Department of Education to participate were Rachel Thornton (B.S. Chemistry Education), Zachary Taylor (B.S. Math Education), Shanita Fisher (B.S. Business Education), Evelyn Baione (M.Ed. Special Education) and Pamela Slade (M.A.T. Business Education).

WORD PLAY: More Word Plexers

These word puzzles can help develop expertise in problem-solving. Apply your problem-solving skills to the following WORD PLEXERS by identifying the word or saying depicted in each puzzle.

Examples:

LEM = lem on ade = lemonade
ADE

WEATHER = feeling
FEELING under the
weather

1. dice
dice

6. PUNISHMENT

2. ZZZ
bull

7. knee
light

3. rodiamondugh

8. milloneion

4. working
time

9. i Right i

5. ecnalg

10. step pets pets

Answers on Page 5.

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

HELPING THE HOMELESS

When [Hawk Radio](#), the student-managed online radio station supervised by the English department, asked department faculty to assist in a campus effort to provide small toiletry items to the homeless, they responded. At final count, the English faculty donated two boxes full of 147 different items including shampoo, tooth paste, soap, body lotion and deodorant.



Travel-size toiletries donated by Department of English and Modern Languages faculty

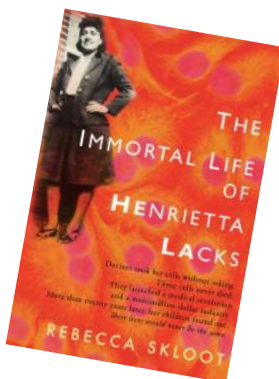
2 WEEKS OF INTENSIVE CHINESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS AT THE UMES FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONAL CENTER AUGUST 3-14. INTERESTED? CALL 410-651-6543

ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Inaugural "One Book" Project Inspires Faculty and Students

The [UMES chapter of Phi Kappa Phi](#), a selective honor society for all academic disciplines, sponsored an essay contest in conjunction with the English department's launch of its "Just One Book" initiative.

During the current academic year, the campus community read "[The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks](#)" by Rebecca Skloot. The book chronicles



modern medicine's use of unusual human cells, harvested from a black woman from Baltimore without her knowledge or permission.

The book became the subject of a campus essay contest whose cash prizes were enabled by a literacy grant from the [Phi Kappa Phi national organization](#).

First place awards of \$250 each went to one student and one faculty member: special education

major Roxanne Sudendorf and Math department faculty member Jaye Nias. Four other students—Kenneth Austin, Myeasher Bardney, Jessica Land and Aundrea Townsend—also received prizes.

Ms. Sudendorf had this reaction to the book, "The author's words bring the Lacks family to life and give Henrietta a special kind of immortality—one through the field of exceptional writing."

The English department hopes to continue the "Just One Book" project in the 2015/2016 academic year, but has not announced a selection yet.

MAKING GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Online Cross-Cultural Program Brings the World to the Classroom

A group of online Spanish 101 students and English majors enrolled in the department's Senior Capstone course had a unique opportunity to see the world from a new perspective this semester.

Faculty members Carole Champagne and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding made [Soliya Connect](#)—weekly, two hour, moderated, online discussions between students in the U.S., Europe, North Africa and the Middle East—a class requirement.

“Having the ability to interact with others in a global context and to engage in issues that impact the world we live in is just as important as writing and speaking clearly,” Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said. “In fact, it goes hand in hand.”

One of her students, senior English major Ameera McLendon, wasn't sure what to expect. “When I first started the Soliya

project I was nervous about interacting with different people because I am a very shy person ... but then, we all got out of our comfort zone and discussed numerous topics about stereotypes, discrimination, and social media's influence on different cultures,” Ms. McLendon said. “People from Morocco, Indonesia and Italy joined our conversation, and it was an exciting experience.”

Her Senior Capstone classmate, Daijah Johnson, was equally enthusiastic. “Soliya was so much fun. It was nice meeting people from all different places, sharing parts of their lives and experiences.”

UMES students interact with Soliya Connect participants in the university's Foreign Language Instructional Center.



Photos by Joseph Davis



The conversations were held in the UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center.

Tammy Gharbi is director of the center. “It's our hope that (the program) will grow in numbers, but even these 30 or so students are truly lucky to have what should be a life-changing experience this semester,” Ms. Gharbi said.

SERVICE AWARDS

Department Represented Among Honorees

Three members of the Department of English and Modern Languages were honored last month for milestone achievements in their UMES careers.

Faculty members David Johnson and Carole Champagne and staff member Tammy Gharbi are among university personnel whose lengthy tenure is noteworthy. Dr. Johnson and Ms. Gharbi have each served ten years. Dr. Champagne has completed 15 years as a member of the faculty.

A luncheon, hosted by President Juliette Bell, was held April 7 to thank over 100 university employees who celebrated similar work-related anniversaries including Josephine Downing, a library services employee, who marked 45 years of service.



Dr. Johnson (Front row, far left) is photographed with other employees celebrating their 10 year anniversaries.



Dr. Champagne (Front row, far left) poses with staff and faculty who marked 15 years of service at UMES.

Photos provided by the UMES Office of Public Relations

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE FOUR:

1. **paradise**
2. **bulldozer**
3. **diamond in the rough**
4. **working overtime**
5. **backward glance**
6. **capitol punishment**
7. **neon light**
8. **one in a million**
9. **right between the eyes**
10. **one step forward two steps back**

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