

INSIGHTS



DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
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Department of English and Modern Languages

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THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

63rd Annual Honors Convocation Boasts Record Number of Scholars

More than 900 undergraduates gathered to celebrate their academic achievements at the university's annual honors convocation on Thursday, April 7.

Among the honorees were 60 English majors who earned a G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher during the Spring and/or Fall 2015 semesters.

Danielle Jackson received the English department's Award

of Excellence as its most outstanding student. A native of Columbia, Maryland, Ms. Jackson will graduate this month. She plans a career in broadcast journalism.

The convocation's keynote speaker had similar ambitions when she graduated from UMEs in 2010. Lynette Gilchrist-Johnson became a local television news producer in Maryland



Interim English Chair Dean Cooleedge, Ms. Jackson and Arts and Professions Dean Ray Davis



UMES President Juliette Bell, Ms. Gilchrist-Johnson and Interim Provost Alton Bell



Ms. Gilchrist-Johnson and Ms. Buerkle
Photos by Jim Glovier

and, later, in North Carolina. She is also the founder of [Young Dream Diggers](#), an online platform for young professionals.

She surprised English faculty member Marilyn Buerkle, who introduced her at the event, with a public thank-you, describing her to the audience as "one of the reasons why I'm standing before you today."

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIUM

English Department Event Includes Sigma Tau Delta Induction

During the closing days of each semester, the Department of English and Modern Languages offers its students the opportunity to publicly present their work at a department sponsored student symposium.

Some 50 students signed up to participate in one of nine different sessions at this year's event held on April 28.

One of the highlights of the day was the official induction ceremony for new



English major Ben Struss prepares to present in a symposium session on film.

members of the UMEs chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society. This semester's inductees included sophomore Nadja Cox, junior Jasia Johnson and senior Taahira Thompson.

"On other campuses, Sigma Tau Delta may just be a resume-builder," the organization's president, Jessica Land, told the new members. "Here, in this place,

Sigma Tau Delta is a community and a resource for students ... This organization will teach you to match your intelligence with a breadth of character and self-realization that you have not yet reached."



New Sigma Tau Delta members: Ms. Cox, Ms. Thompson and Ms. Johnson

Photo by Dean Cooleedge

THE WORLD IS OUR CLASSROOM!

BROADWAY BOUND

Drama Students Travel to New York City to see “The Color Purple”

Students enrolled in Studies in Drama are focused on African American theater this semester, so they traveled to New York City for a performance of the musical “[The Color Purple](#),” based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by [Alice Walker](#).

Justin Atkins, Demani Fisher, Colleen Hendrickson, Danielle Jackson, Candynce Newbill, Jazmine Riley, Trey Robinson, Jasmin Sellers and Joshu’a Warren, accompanied by their professor Dean Cooledge, attended a matinee performance on April 20, at the Bernard Jacobs Theater. It was the same day the play was nominated for [The Drama League Awards](#) for Outstanding Revival of a Musical and for Distinguished Performance by [Cynthia Erivo](#) and [Jennifer Hudson](#).

“To say Cynthia Erivo and Jennifer Hudson’s performance in ‘The Color Purple’ was amazing is an understatement,” Ms. Riley, a senior English major, said. “Everything— from the characters, to the set, to the music—was unbelievable.”

Ms. Newbill, another senior English major, agreed. “The acting was phenomenal and the vocals were breathtaking,” she said. “Kudos to Dr. Cooledge for an amazing, fun-



Dr. Cooledge and his drama students pose in Manhattan.

Photo by Kelly Tsujioka

filled trip.”

Dr. Cooledge is grateful to the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management for the grant that funded the trip.

“Drama, and especially musicals, are meant to be experienced, not just read,” he said. “Connecting students to these kinds of theater experiences creates a deeper understanding of the work and a greater appreciation for the arts.”

SPLIT THIS ROCK POETRY FESTIVAL

English Honor Society Members Take a Road Trip to D.C.

UMES members of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, celebrated [National Poetry Month](#) by attending the recent [Split This Rock Poetry Festival: Poems of Provocation & Witness](#) in Washington, D.C. They were accompanied by the organization’s faculty advisors, Dean Cooledge and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding.

“The best part was seeing [Jan Beatty](#), [Regie Cabico](#) and [Jennifer Bartlett](#) present their poetry,” Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said. “Much like drama, poems are meant to be heard, lived, breathed, and the poet brings that to his or her poem.”

Sophomore English major Lance



Dr. Cooledge, Lance Morris, Danielle Jackson, Colleen Hendrickson, Jessica Land, Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding and Elizabeth Ranger

Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

Morris says he doesn’t think of himself as a poetry enthusiast, but attending the festival reminded him “how much poetry is needed in the world around us .”

“During the last reading of the night, there were some poems that burrowed into my brain ... stories bursting with emotions and musings that can horrify, delight and shock,” he said. “Sure, poetry is a way for a writer or a speaker to vent about their own feelings, but I respect how it can uncover something a little different in anyone who will listen.”

The trip was made possible by the English department’s Charles G. and Gladys B. Goslee endowment fund .

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A TEACHER OF PROMISE

English Education Major is Ready to Go

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor's Note: Dr. Seabrook is coordinator of the department's English Education program.

Photo by Robin Hoffman



English Education major Kutresa Ward has completed her middle school internship at Somerset Intermediate School and her high school internship at Snow Hill High School; now she's just weeks away from graduation.

Recognized as a [Maryland Teacher of Promise](#) this semester, she has already interviewed for a full-time teaching position in Calvert, Frederick and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland.

"The internship helped me understand the many differences in age groups, so I am leaning towards teaching at the high school level," Ms. Ward said. "The best part of the internship was creating connections with my students, implementing different incentives and providing challenges."

Ms. Ward's 7th grade students at Somerset Intermediate School were excited about learning and thoroughly engaged when

she taught her required STEM lesson that incorporated science, technology, engineering and math into English/Language Arts instruction.

Ms. Ward's students used non-fiction text and research skills to answer the question "Are roller coasters safe?"

The students then designed, built and tested their own roller coasters, using paper towel tubes, masking tape, a pool noodle cut in half and a marble.



Dr. Seabrook, English Education internship supervisor, observes Ms. Ward as she and her Somerset Intermediate students construct miniature roller coasters.

Photo by Jamie Lewis



Senior English majors Trey Robinson and Danielle Jackson each wrote opinion essays that appeared in Salisbury's



newspaper, The Daily Times, last month. **He argued** that ATVs should be permitted to drive on public roadways; **she discussed** why

African American college students should vote.

Mr. Robinson's photo appears courtesy of The Daily Times

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

MAY 11:

Last day of Classes

MAY 12-17:

Final Exams

MAY 20:

Commencement

WORD PLAY: Language of the Supreme Court

Guess what word was used:

The late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia used an uncommon word when he was arguing against his colleagues' reasoning in their decision to allow healthcare subsidies nationwide.

Scalia accused his colleagues of _____.

Answer: jiggery-pokery

This rhythmic English phrase dates back to the 1800s and is used to describe dishonest manipulation or nonsense, similar to hocus-pocus, humbug, bamboosh, baloney, berley (among the Australians), hogwash, flapdoodle, flim-flam, rubbish, galbanum (from a French word for empty representation), hoey, hot air, motor mouthing, and poppycock (a favorite of Vice President Joe Biden).

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

ALUMNI UPDATE



Tiana Bragg (English, Class of 2004) served as script supervisor for the first web series created by the [Black TV and Film Collective](#). The new show is called "[All My Friends Are Married](#)." It's a sit-com that is described as highlighting "the joys, mistakes, hopes and pitfalls of being single and living in New York City." [Check out the trailer](#).

Photo provided by Ms. Bragg



Lakishia Banister (M.A.T. English Ed, Class of 2013) is a novelist, self-help author, speaker, preacher, and success coach. She just published her second book, her first novel, titled "[The Secrets They Kept](#)." Her first book, "[Overcome the Obstacle: Pursue the Dream](#)," is her personal story of struggling to raise a family and finish college while her husband was incarcerated.

Photo by Barbara Seabrook



Zanae Allen Ari (English Ed, Class of 2012) is teaching 10th grade English in Grand Prairie, Texas, and completing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction/Literary Studies. Her husband David is a graduate of the UMES engineering program, and they have two daughters.



Corey Haynes (English Ed, Class of 2013) enjoyed her Peace Corps service in Nicaragua so much that she plans to stay for an additional year. She is nine credits away from completing an M.Ed. degree in Social Foundations at the University of Virginia.

Photo provided by Ms. Haynes



Khadija Elkhari (English, Class of 2010) has a new job in the Public Affairs and Communications Department at [Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory](#) handling both internal and external communications. She earned a M.S. in Public Relations Management from UMUC last year.

WHAT TEACHERS SAY

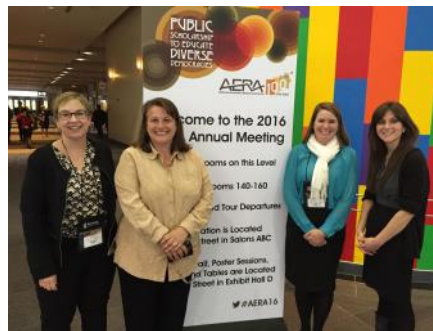
Courtney Harned represented both the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Salisbury University at the annual [American Educational Research Association conference](#) held in Washington, D.C. from April 9-12.

Ms. Harned is a fulltime faculty member in the UMES English department while pursuing a doctoral degree in Contemporary Curriculum Theory and Instruction in Literacy at SU.

Along with her doctoral advisor Judith Franzak and fellow SU graduate researchers Heather Porter and Christine Taylor, Ms. Harned presented findings of a recent research project "Constructing Literacy Capital in Rural Contexts: A Discourse Analysis of Teachers' Language."

"Rural students and communities are often viewed with either a deficit lens or a romanticized view," Ms. Harned said. "The purpose of this critical discourse

analysis was to examine rural teachers' language-in-use in order to view their figured worlds as a window onto their perceptions of students' literacy capital. The research team wanted to deepen the understanding of the discursive practices that constitute rural literacies, which is important in leveraging strength-based perspectives for a historically marginalized group."



Dr. Franzak, Ms. Harned, Ms. Porter and Ms. Taylor

Photo provided by Ms. Harned

BIENVENIDO

Language professor Carole Champagne presented at the [Maryland-DC Campus Compact Service Learning and Civic Engagement Conference](#) held on April 2.

She discussed the [Bienvenidos Community Outreach](#) program. Her remarks were titled "Community Service Projects between Students and Local Organizations Promote Ongoing Collaboration and Communication."



Dr. Champagne's conference display
Photo provided by Dr. Champagne

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