

INSIGHTS

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


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A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM?

Proposal to Create Media Studies Degree Approved by UMES Senate

A major hurdle in the creation of a new program, under the auspices of the Department of English and Modern Languages, has been cleared.

The UMES Senate gave unanimous approval at its April meeting to the creation of a bachelor of arts degree in digital media studies. The senate curriculum committee recommended the proposal for approval. Interim Department Chair Dean Cooledge was on hand to answer questions.

The April vote is the last campus approval before the measure moves to a statewide arena for comment by other Maryland colleges and universities and for approvals from the [University System of Maryland Board of Regents](#) and the [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#).



Dr. Cooledge presents details of the proposal to the UMES Senate

The English department will continue to offer its minor in telecommunications while the lengthy state approval process is underway.

“The reality is many UMES English majors seek careers in media,” said Marilyn Buerkle, coordinator of the current telecommunications minor. “The idea of creating a media specific degree program has been more than a decade in the making and is in direct response to our students’ interests and goals. We think it’s the appropriate compliment to the state’s recent investment of nearly \$3 million in studios and equipment.”

The proposed coursework would not only focus on new technologies, but would also examine their impact on traditional media and on society. The program is designed to explore the digital integration of information and entertainment as traditional media business models are rendered obsolete and the industry adapts to a global marketplace.

THERE’S LEARNING GOING ON HERE

Faculty Member Uses Unique Approach to Encourage Reading

Don’t be surprised if you find an English 102 student curled up with a book in Bonni Miller’s office on the first floor of Wilson Hall.

Ms. Miller has installed a recliner, upholstered in a book-themed material, and offers her students extra credit if they come to her office to read.

On a recent morning there was a bit of a traffic jam.

Jasmine Gabriel was perched comfortably

in the recliner reading “[I Never Metaphor I Didn’t Like](#).”

Nyjae Pride pulled up a desk chair to read “[A Raisin in the Sun](#),” a play by Lorraine Hansberry.

That left Amira Bean to claim a space on the floor next to a well stocked book shelf to read from a collection of short stories, “[This Life She’s Chosen](#).”

“I love that a little incentive can make a big difference,” Ms. Miller said.



*(L to R) Ms. Pride, Ms. Gabriel and Ms. Bean earn extra credit in Ms. Miller’s office.
Photo by Bonni Miller*

A SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

English Education Grad is Keynote Speaker at Honors Convocation

The Department of English and Modern Languages celebrated the nearly 40 English and English education majors who were recognized for their academic achievements at the annual honors convocation on April 6.

It was also an occasion to celebrate a department alumna.

Corey Haynes, who was a member of a UMES championship volleyball team and graduated with a 4.0 in 2013, was the event's keynote speaker.

Since she completed her UMES degree in English education, Ms. Haynes has earned a master's degree from the [University of Virginia](#) and has served two years in the [Peace](#)



Ms. Haynes
Photos by Jim Glover

[Corps](#) teaching English in Nicaragua. She currently teaches ninth grade English in Fairfax County, Virginia, and coaches youth volleyball.

Ms. Haynes encouraged the convocation audience to nurture and appreciate the relationships they make and to be particularly attentive to children.

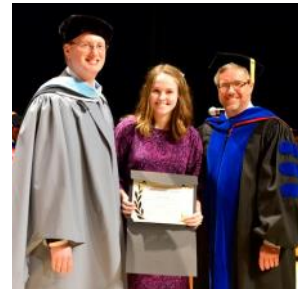
"I'm not sure how many of you aspire to be teachers, but regardless of what position you fill when you graduate, always make a point to teach, mentor, tutor, coach or do anything in your power to influence, guide and shape young people," she said. "They need to learn to love, appreciate, and cherish each other, but they need you and as many positive examples as possible to do it."



(L to R) President Juliette Bell, Ms. Haynes and Interim Provost Kimberly Whitehead

Following Ms. Haynes's remarks, individual students were recognized for departmental honors.

The Department of English and Modern Languages named Jenna Crockett its most outstanding student. Ms. Crockett is a sophomore from nearby Accomack County, Virginia.



(L to R) Interim SESA Dean Chris Harrington, Ms. Crockett and Interim Department Chair Dean Cooledge

Like Ms. Haynes, who was also selected as the department's outstanding student while an undergrad, Ms. Crockett is a member of the university's Richard A. Henson Honors Program majoring in English education while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

DON'T FORGET!

The English department will hold its semiannual student symposium on Thursday, May 4. Concurrent sessions will be held in Wilson Hall at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Some of the topics under discussion include screenwriting, language and culture, literary analysis, oral communication and wordcraft.

DESTINATION: PANAMA

English Faculty Member Attends Conference

If you're scheduled to give the keynote address at an international conference, it helps to be married to a public speaking instructor.

UMES speech instructor Simeon Shoge accompanied his wife Ruth on a recent trip to Panama where she was the featured speaker at the [Empowering You](#) conference which the couple helped to organize.

Dr. Shoge, who serves as the dean of library and academic technology at [Washington College](#), has been researching the impact of women on the construction of the [Panama Canal](#). Her remarks were titled "The Role Women

Played in Building the Panama Canal – No Woman, No Canal."

Mr. Shoge visited the canal during his trip and described it as an "engineering marvel."



Mr. and Dr. Shoge surrounded by local dancers during their trip to Panama
Photo provided by Mr. Shoge

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LIFE IS GOOD

English Education Alumna Honored

Zanae (Allen) Ari, Class of 2012, was recently named Teacher of the Month at James Bowie High School in Arlington, Texas, where she teaches tenth grade English.

Ms. Ari is completing a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on literary studies at the University of Texas.

She and her husband David, who is also a UMES graduate, are raising their two daughters—3-year old Gianna and 1-year old Arianna—in Grand Prairie, Texas.

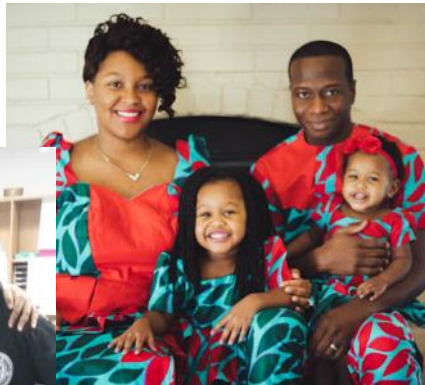


(Above) The Ari family at home

Photo by Luis Traveno

(Left) Ms. Ari and one her English students pose in her classroom

Photo by Nadia Vilansberg



COMPARING NOTES

Faculty members Terry Smith and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding attended an [assessment conference](#) at Bowie State University on April 19 featuring all the schools in the University System of Maryland.

The conference explored strategies to link student needs with learning outcomes and how to make student learning the focus in designing assignments and curriculum.



(L to R) Drs. Hagenrater-Gooding and Smith at Bowie State

Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

WORD PLAY: POMPOUS PROVERBS FINALE

Readers, having been challenged with these de-clarified proverbs in Word Play throughout the spring semester, must certainly now be experts. Here are the last of the pompous proverbs.

Change each statement into a well-known proverb.

Example: Similar sire, similar scion. Answer: Like father, like son.

1. Surveillance should precede saltation.
2. Each canine possesses its period of preeminence.
3. Male cadavers are incapable of yielding any testimony.
4. It is futile to attempt to indoctrinate a superannuated canine with innovative maneuvers.
5. Gramineous organisms are perpetually more verdant when located on an adjacent surface.
6. The temperature of the aqueous content of a metallic receptacle under remitting surveillance does not attain its level of evaporation.
7. The ultimate entity of dried gramineous organisms induces a rupture of the dorsal portion of the ship of the desert.
8. Although it is within the realm of possibility to escort equus caballus to a location providing a potable mixture of hydrogen and oxygen, one cannot coerce said mammal to imbibe.
9. Hubris antedates a gravity-impelled descent.

Answers available on Page 6.

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

SPREADING THE WORD

Faculty Member Shares Info on Health Threat

Since becoming ill in 2011 after a tick bite, the department's English education coordinator, Barbara Seabrook, is committed to educating the community about tick related illnesses. The region is considered a "tick-endemic area" with cases increasing each year in Maryland.

To accomplish her goal, Dr. Seabrook created a display and ordered brochures from the [Lyme Disease Association](#) for the Health and Wellness Fair at UMES. She also planned to be an exhibitor and speaker at the "WE CARE" community program sponsored by the Deal Island/Chance Volunteer Fire Company

"I use candy, neon colors and balloons as bait to lure visitors to the display," Dr. Seabrook said. Once she has their attention, she can share information about

tick illnesses.

The handouts and brochures provided information about protecting people and pets against tick bites, correctly removing ticks after a bite, knowing the symptoms of Lyme, and identifying different ticks and the illnesses they transmit.



Health and Wellness Fair display

Photo by Barbara Seabrook

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Lance Morris, president of the UMES chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to present his paper "Misery Business" dealing with the link between Samuel Beckett's "[Waiting for Godot](#)" and Kevin Smith's film "[Clerks](#)" at the [2017 International Sigma Tau Delta Convention](#).



Mr. Morris in Louisville

Photo by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding

His work was well-received and sparked numerous questions from convention attendees. Mr. Morris hopes to further explore connections between other classic dramatic works and more contemporary films in the future. His next project looks at the connection between the title character in Henrik Ibsen's "[The Master Builder](#)" and Michael Keaton's role in the award winning film "[Birdman](#)."

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Justin Atkins, a senior English major from Prince George's County, Maryland, has Hawk Pride, and so does his family.

When Mr. Atkins, a member of the student managed campus radio station, purchased a [Hawk Radio](#) T-shirt, he decided it was an item his entire family would be proud to wear. After all, he's not the only Atkins with a UMES connection. His older brother Brenton graduated from UMES in 2012.



Justin Atkins (center) with his parents Holloday and Valerie Atkins sporting their new T-shirts.

Photo by Mr. Atkins' brother Brenton who is also wearing his Hawk Radio T-shirt behind the camera.

CRAZY LADIES?

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding presented her work "Out of the Attic and On the Page: Madness in the Works of Six 19th Century Female Novelists" at the annual [UMES Regional Research Symposium](#) on April

18. Her presentation looked at the intersection between medical texts and prescriptions for women at the time and the ascendancy of madness in the literature as portrayed by the women who were given such a diagnosis. Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding intends to publish this article in the fall.



Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

Photo by Jim Glover

BIENVENIDO MR. MAYOR

Foreign language instructor Carole Champagne, in her role as an officer of the [Salisbury Sister Cities](#) organization, helped facilitate a visit to the Eastern Shore by Mayor Daniel Cisneros of Salinas, Ecuador.



Dr. Champagne (far left) is pictured with the UMES delegation who met with Mayor Cisneros (center) during his campus visit.

Photo by Bill Robinson

In addition to meeting UMES President Juliette Bell, Dr. Champagne also helped arrange a visit for Mayor Cisneros with Salisbury Mayor Jake Day.

"They had an excellent meeting and found many common civic interests and leadership philosophies," Dr. Champagne said.

MOVIE MESSAGES

Melissa Green-Moore, who teaches literature and poetry, traveled to San Diego for the annual [Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association](#) national conference April 12-15.

The paper she presented was titled "Nature's Superiority in Jurassic Park." She was part of a three person panel that dealt with science fiction movies of the 1980s and 90s.



Ms. Green-Moore

Photo by Derek Smeltzer

SMARTPHONE LESSONS

Faculty member Bonni Miller has long embraced the use of technology in her teaching. She was the first UMES instructor to offer an online class—and now she's teaching her colleagues how to use smartphone apps to create a more active and engaging classroom environment. She was invited by the university's [Center for Instructional Technology and Online Learning](#) to conduct a workshop. She titled it "Make Your Class More APPEaling."



Ms. Miller conducts app workshop.

KEEPING BOOK COSTS DOWN

English faculty members Bonni Miller and Courtney Harned were two of 21 professors statewide selected recently to receive "mini-grants" from the University System of Maryland.

The money will be used to prepare open education sources for certain literature and composition classes in order to reduce the need for expensive textbooks.

"The cost of text books has risen over 800% since we started keeping those records in the late 70s," Ms.

Miller said. "I can't, in good conscience, ask the students to pay \$80 or more for information that I can find online."



Ms. Miller



Ms. Harned

Photos by Jim Glover

AFRO-LATINA INFLUENCE

Spanish language instructor Nydia Gregory delivered a campus presentation on the Afro-Latina influence on America on April 5 in the [Foreign Language Instructional Center \(FLIC\)](#).

Dr. Gregory, a native of Puerto Rico and interim FLIC director, traced the impact of the influx of millions of Africans who were enslaved in Central and South America and connected it to current U.S. culture.



Dr. Gregory

Photo by Ejoywoke Esiobise

NATIONAL COMPETITION

Junior English major Lance Morris was part of the all-rookie UMES academic team which competed in the [Honda Campus All-Star Challenge](#) in Torrance, California, in early April.

Teams from 64 HBCUs participated in the "Jeopardy" style contest. The UMES team did not advance beyond the qualifying rounds. However, the team that won their division, Oakwood University, went on to win the entire tournament for the third time.




Mr. Morris (second from R) with fellow team members and coach
Photo provided by Talon Media

YOU'RE INVITED!

A formal induction ceremony for new members of the Psi Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, will be held Monday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 2111.

Members must meet rigorous academic standards and be recommended for induction.

Guests are invited to enjoy light refreshments following the ceremony.



THE WORLD AWAITS

Peace Corps Opportunities



BLACK BOX DEBUT

By Barbara Seabrook

Dwayne Matthews, a [Peace Corps](#) diversity recruiter, was a guest speaker in my Introduction to Language Science class on April 12.

Although I invite the Peace Corps to speak to my classes every spring, this year was perfect timing. Just a week before, the honors convocation speaker, Corey Haynes, who earned her B.A. in English education from UMES in 2013, included details in her speech about her experience in Nicaragua as a Peace Corps volunteer.

I was impressed with the questions students asked Mr. Matthews, how interested they were in learning more about the Peace Corps, and how fascinated they were with the clay mask Mr. Matthews brought with him. The mask, made of clay and lion fur, was handmade for him so that he could participate in the tribal drumming and dancing rituals in Malawi, where he served as a volunteer for two years.

When asked what they enjoyed most about the speaker's presentation, the students had many positive comments to share.

- *Jenna Crockett*: I really enjoyed all the very interesting and inspiring stories he told about how his life changed not only before but also while serving in the Peace Corps.
- *Bria Townsend*: I was inspired by his stories and look forward to serving in the Peace Corps after graduating next year.
- *Aaliyah Thomas*: I appreciated that the speaker was honest with us about some of the challenges but still enthusiastic about his experience.
- *Camilah Thierry*: I enjoyed hearing about the positive changes that were made in the African village while Mr. Matthews was there.



Mr. Matthews in Dr. Seabrook's class

Photo by Jenna Crockett

- *Nadja Cox*: The speaker was informative and passionate about his job as well as honest about the experience in Africa and how he ended up in the Peace Corps.
- *Marcus Walston*: I liked the passion the speaker showed – you can really tell he loves what he does.
- *Crystal Matthews*: I enjoyed how enthusiastic the speaker was – he was very convincing.
- *Joshua Dacres*: I enjoyed hearing about how he helped those children in the village, and I agree that children are our future.
- *Danielle Forehand*: I appreciated his enthusiasm for the Peace Corps and how enthusiastic he was about sharing his cultural experiences in Malawi.
- *Demani Fisher*: I was inspired by how he took initiative to better himself in life. Because he knew things needed to change in his life, he ended up traveling to a whole different country and assisting a village in becoming better individuals. He started small and ended up making a great change!
- *Chloe Zattau*: Learning about the speaker's experiences when he was a struggling high school student with no direction in Arkansas and how he changed when he was in Malawi, Africa, was very interesting and inspiring.

The Department of English and Modern Languages staged "[Oleanna](#)" by David Mamet on two successive April weekends in a brand new theater space on campus.

Interim Chair Dean Cooledge converted what used to be the Wilson Hall TV studio into a 25-seat performance space.

"It's theater to talk about," Dr. Cooledge said. "We'll produce plays that question our values, challenge our institutions, incite debate and promote discussion. Mamet's "Oleanna" and its exploration of academic freedom and sexual harassment sets the tone for the theater's mission."



Actors Lance Morris and Colleen Hendrickson with President Bell and Dr. Cooledge

Photo by Alissa Carr

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE THREE:

1. Look before you leap.
2. Every dog has its day.
3. Dead men tell no tales.
4. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
5. The grass is always greener on the other side.
6. A watched pot never boils.
7. That is the straw that broke the camel's back.
8. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.
9. Pride goes before a fall.

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 Ronald Webster. 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.