

INSIGHTS

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


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HONORING THE BEST OF THE BEST

English Education Major Earns Well Deserved Accolades

English education major Taylor Moltedo's cup runneth over.

Not only was she honored as the outstanding student in the Department of English and Modern Languages at the university's recent honors convocation, but she also received the School of Education, Social Sciences, and The Arts' Award of Excellence. The



Ms. Moltedo

Photos by Jim Glover

schoolwide award is reserved for a student who demonstrates leadership abilities, effective communication skills and a high degree of integrity.

Ms. Moltedo, a native of Chincoteague, Virginia, holds a cumulative GPA of 3.8. This semester, while completing her internship at Washington High School and Academy, she was hired as a permanent substitute in Grade 8.

Ms. Moltedo will graduate this month.



(L to R) English Department Chair Dean Cooledge, Ms. Moltedo and School of Education, Social Sciences, and The Arts Dean Christopher Harrington

The 65th Annual UMES Honors Convocation was held April 5. The students celebrated at the event, including 40 English majors, earned at least a 3.5 GPA or higher during either the Spring or Fall 2017 semesters.

The keynote speaker was a 2014 agriculture major, [Caitlin Cecil LaComb](#), the daughter of Bill Cecil, an adjunct composition instructor

in the English department.

INDUCTION CEREMONY HELD

English Honor Society Welcomes New Members



UMES' Psi Mu chapter of the international English honor society [Sigma Tau Delta](#) inducted five new members in a formal ceremony held April 5 in the Engineering and Aviation Science Complex.

The chapter's president, Kia Proctor, offered her advice in a keynote address. She urged the students to think big. "You have all been

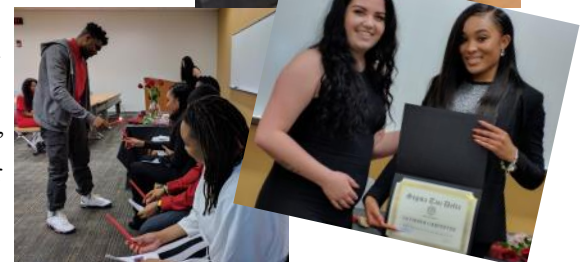


New members (L to R) Sydney Campbell, Tatianna Carpenter, Joshua Dacres and Emani Johnson following their induction

Not pictured: Crystal Deepree

selected to join a prestigious organization comprised of some of the top English majors at UMES. Not only are you joining a fellowship on

campus that can assist you in networking, but this is an internationally recognized honor society," she said. "Don't limit your thinking; the possibilities are endless."



AWARD FOR FORMER CHAIR

James Polk, who served as chair of the UMES English Department from 1973 until his retirement in 1983 and who recently celebrated his 103rd birthday, [will receive a presidential medallion](#) May 25 at the 2018 spring commencement exercises.



Mr. Polk

Photo Courtesy of WMDT TV 2015

Richard Keenan, one of his colleagues at the time who would later also serve as department chair, describes him as “a fair and enlightened leader.”

Dr. Keenan credits his former boss with saving the department and its English education program from “pending extinction.”

A THREE MINUTE THESIS

The [UMES graduate research symposium](#), held April 17, included a session where nine students each had three minutes to discuss their research—without notes, PowerPoints or handouts.

English faculty member Cynthia Cravens was one of the judges for what’s described as the “three minute thesis” competition.

“They were all thoroughly impressive and professional,” she said. “They were as engaging as a [TED talk](#).”



Contest judges (L to R) Willie Brown, Dr. Cravens, Kingsley Ejiogu and Cathy Passeri

Photo provided by Dr. Cravens

THE ROOTS OF OPTIMISM

Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle served as a judge for an annual oratorical contest organized by the [Salisbury Optimist Club](#) on April 17.



She helped to pick winners in what’s called a “zone” contest. The six competitors, young people who had already won local contests sponsored by the Salisbury club and its counterparts in Ocean City and Talbot County, wrote and delivered speeches titled “Where are My Roots of Optimism?”

Winners from the zone contest move on to a regional competition which includes students from the rest of Maryland and from Southern Delaware. Prizes include college scholarships.

PHI KAPPA PHI EVENT

English Department is Front and Center



The UMES chapter of [Phi Kappa Phi](#), which bills itself as the nation’s oldest, largest and most selective all-discipline honor society, held its 2018 initiation ceremony on April 25. The English department played a prominent role at the event.

As Northeast regional vice president, English professor Terry Smith was the keynote speaker; Honors program director and French professor Michael Lane presided as president of the chapter; English professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding participated as a chapter officer; English faculty member Gabriela Vlahovici-



(L to R) Dr. Smith, Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding, Ms. Vlahovici-Jones and Dr. Lane

Photo by Kia Proctor

Jones and English education major Jenna Crockett were initiated as new members; and senior English major Joshua Dacres was one of a handful of guests who were recognized for their 4.0 GPAs.

In her remarks to the new inductees, Dr. Smith urged them to take advantage of all the benefits membership in a prestigious academic organization offers. “I am hoping that, like me, you will remember this day, the day of your initiation, for the rest of your lives as a very special day,” she said. “I am very proud of you.”



Dr. Smith

Photo by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

A group of English professors gathered recently to celebrate their colleague Courtney Harned. She successfully defended her doctoral dissertation, “Understanding Critically Informed, Place-conscious Literacy Instruction in a Rural Context,” to earn an Ed.D. in [Contemporary Curriculum Theory and Instruction: Literacy](#) at Salisbury University.

Congratulations, Dr. Harned!



(L to R) Bonni Miller, Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, Sandy Johnston, Barbara Seabrook, Dr. Harned, Terry Smith, Marilyn Buerkle and Cynthia Cravens

Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

SERVICE TO THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Hawk Radio Teams with English Department to Make a Difference

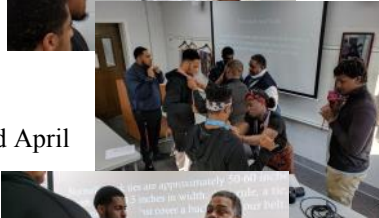
Hawk Radio, the student-managed Internet radio station supervised by the English department, was actively engaged in community service in April, sponsoring a timely campus event and, in a separate effort, soliciting charitable contributions for needy students.

The event, "Ties and Music," held April 18 in Wilson Hall, was the brainchild of a graduating senior, Christopher Robinson. As he and his colleagues looked forward to future job interviews, he worried that not all young people own a tie or know how to properly tie one.

He pitched the idea of providing tie-tying lessons to the group's advisor, English faculty member Marilyn Buerkle, and she asked other faculty and staff members to



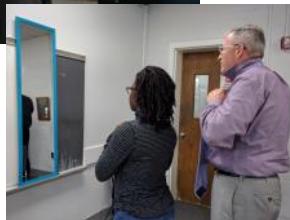
search their closets for some gently used ties they would be willing to contribute to the effort.



The group solicited the help of some expert tie-tying teachers: Pharmacy and Health Professions Dean Rondell Allen, Criminal Justice Chair Lorenzo Boyd and Public Relations Director Bill Robinson.



Students who took advantage of the opportunity received a hands-on lesson, were



invited to pick out a tie to take home and got a tie-tying handout just in case they forgot what they had learned.

The event was unusual enough to pique the interest of a local television reporter who aired [a story about the lessons](#).

The student radio station and the English Department also teamed up to collect toiletries for needy students. Faculty and staff members contributed the 79 personal care items pictured below.



Photo by Bill Brophy

LAST SOCIAL: COME HUNGRY

This year the Department of English and Modern Languages began to host monthly socials. It's an effort to create a greater sense of community between English students and faculty. The socials are held at 3 p.m. in Wilson Hall, Room 2111, on the first Wednesday of every month.



The informal get together scheduled for May 2 will mark the final social of the academic year, so organizers are planning more than snacks. As they did in December, faculty members are marking the end of the semester by making a home cooked meal for English majors and digital media and/or English minors.

MUSICAL CABARET

The Brown Box Theater Company, which produced "Hotel Nepenthe" in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center earlier in the semester, returns to campus on May 22.



The Boston-based group will present "The Broadway Jukebox." It's a unique theater experience which lets the audience vote on the music that will be performed that evening. As audience members arrive they'll pick selections from several musical theater traditions including "The Golden Age," "Contemporary Musicals," and "Disney on Broadway."

Tickets are \$12. UMES students will be admitted free but [tickets must still be reserved](#).

OH SAY, DID YOU SEE?

Chanda Brown-Wilson, a member of the Class of 2010, had the honor of [singing the national anthem](#) at



Nationals Park on April 9 to begin the baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the Atlanta Braves.

Ms. Brown-Wilson was a magna cum laude mathematics graduate, but the English department claims her too. She was a writing center tutor during her senior year.

She must be a good luck charm; the Nats won the game that evening. They shut out the Braves by a score of 2 to 0.

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JAPANESE CULTURE

Faculty member Cynthia Cravens is headed to California this summer.

She has been awarded a fellowship to attend the [Japan Studies Institute](#), a two-week seminar covering modern-day Japanese culture and politics. The program will be held at San Diego State University in June.

“I will offer a class in Spring 2019 most likely on the genres of Japanese film and their relationship to aspects of culture and society, called tentatively ENGL 345: Film & Culture: The Genres of Japanese Film,” she said.

Coincidentally, the English department will be offering its first Japanese language course next semester.



Dr. Cravens

Photo by Jim Glovier

THE PLAY COMES TO LIFE

Department Chair Dean Cooledge, who teaches African American literature, traveled to Washington, D.C. recently to see an Arena Stage production of August Wilson’s “[Two Trains Running](#).”

“Though I have taught it several times, this is the first time I have seen it performed,” he said.

The play runs through May 6.



Dr. Cooledge overlooking the “Two Trains Running” set

Photo by Kelly Tsujioka

PRIZE WINNING

Devil’s Party Press (DPP), a small press that strives to highlight the writing of folks over 40, was founded by UMES adjunct composition instructor Dianne Pearce and three members of her creative writing workshop.

Ms. Pearce was thrilled to learn DPP has won two [Delaware Press](#)

[Association](#) awards for its first two books. Both are anthologies of short stories written by the workshop participants.

Judged by out-of-state professionals to ensure impartiality, the association’s contest is designed to encourage and reward excellence in communication.

To find DPP books or to submit your manuscript for possible publication, visit the [Devil’s Party Press website](#).



Ms. Pearce

Photo by Bill Cecil

WORD PLAY: Common Acronyms

We bet you don’t know the original meaning!



LASER stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation.

NERF stands for Non Expandable Recreational Foam.

BMW means Bayerische Motoren Werke, which translates from German to Bavarian Motor Works.

M & M stands for Mars & Murrie’s, the last names of the candy’s founders.

Your **ZIP CODE** is actually your Zone Improvement Plan Code.

TASER stands for Thomas A. Swift’s Electric Rifle.

Disney’s **EPCOT** stands for Experimental Prototype Community Of Tomorrow.

3M, the company that makes Post-Its and other office supplies, stands for Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing.

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

TV STUDIO STAYS BUSY!

Digital Media Program Serves the University in a Variety of Ways

The department's digital media program is a valuable tool for showcasing the University of Maryland Eastern Shore to the outside community.

In just the last month, the staff and students in the program have produced a "Know Your Rights" message from a prominent attorney, created a game show with local high school students and helped the university's

[hospitality and tourism management \(HTM\) program](#) share its expertise with the world.

HTM Chair Ernest Boger visited the TV production course taught by WBOC producer Rob



Dr. Boger (center) with the TV production class

Photo by Bonni Miller

Wilkinson to record a series of introductions for his department's [edX class](#), a free, online educational resource being created with the help of Bonni Miller, Interim Director of Instructional Technology & Online Learning.

Students also served as studio crew for the production of a message from attorney [Sherman Lambert](#). Mr.

Lambert is a member of the UMES Board of Visitors and of the Class of 1974. He visited campus as a featured speaker during



(L to R) Morgan Winkler, Mr. Lambert and Ben Desta

Photo by Jim Glover

Criminal Justice Week. He recorded a condensed version of the advice he offered to students about their interactions with police.

Visitors from [Cambridge-South Dorchester High School](#) became the studio crew and on-camera hosts during their trip to campus. Staff and faculty worked with the nearly 20 students to create a mock game show. The lesson was designed to get the high school sophomores thinking about college and careers. Their visit was supported by a [Gear Up](#) grant from the UMES Department of Education.



(L) Staff member Bill Brophy preps high school hosts.



(R) Gear Up students take their places in the UMES control room.

Photos by Jim Glover

LEADING THE PARADE

The Springfest Open House, which brought hundreds of potential students to campus on April 27, included—for the first time—a parade of student organizations designed to highlight the full UMES experience.

Members of [Hawk Radio](#), the student radio station supervised by the English department, led the way.



Hawk Radio hosts Kyshia Sutton and Christopher Robinson

FACULTY TEAMWORK

Faculty members Cynthia Craven and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding attended the 49th annual convention of the [Northeast Modern Language Association](#) held in Pittsburgh April 12-15.

Dr. Cravens served as host for a panel titled "Addicts, Geniuses, and Scribbling Women: Depicting Writers in Literature & Film." Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding was a member of the 4-person panel; her presentation was titled "Scribbling Pleasure: Undertaking the Sentence of Desire."

The group says it "encourages spirited discourse in the humanities." The 2018 convention theme was "Global Spaces, Local Landscapes and Imagined Worlds."

Next year's convention will be held in Washington, D.C.

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JULY 23-27 2018

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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.