

INSIGHTS

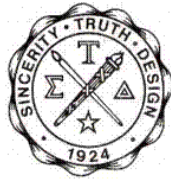
Department of English and Modern Languages
SCHOOL of EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS


UMES
May 2019
Volume 33 Issue 4

A WARM WELCOME

English Honor Society Holds Induction Ceremony for New Members

UMES's Psi Mu chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, held a formal induction ceremony to welcome four new members on April 17.



worthwhile reading and to promote the mastery of written expression.



New honor society members (L to R) Benyam Desta, Nyla Green, Ewa Okulate and Patrick Varney

Photos by Bill Brophy

The new inductees include seniors Benyam Desta and Patrick Varney, junior Nyla Green and sophomore Ewa Okulate. In addition to a qualifying G.P.A., the students submitted an essay and provided three academic references.

The ceremony, attended by friends and family members, included a pledge by the inductees to advance the study of the chief literary masterpieces, to encourage

The organization's advisor, English faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, also took the opportunity to salute the current members who will graduate this month.

They include Tatianna Carpenter, Jenna Crockett, Joshua Dacres and the group's president, Kia Proctor.



CONGRATULATIONS, MR. DACRES!

Senior English Major had a VERY Good Month

The university's 66th annual honors convocation, held April 4, noted the academic accomplishments of 32 English majors who earned at least a 3.5 G.P.A. for either the spring or fall semesters last year.

The event also marked the awarding of departmental honors to senior English major Joshua Dacres. The New York native will



(L to R) Department Chair Dean Cooledge, Mr. Dacres and SESA Dean Marshall Stevenson
Photo by Jim Glover

graduate this month with a perfect 4.0 cumulative G.P.A.

His selection as the English department's most outstanding student isn't the only good news he received in April. He was also invited to join [Phi Kappa Phi](#), the nation's oldest and

most selective all-discipline honor society. (More on the Phi Kappa Phi induction ceremony on Page 4.)

However, the campus accolades may have been topped by the announcement he received from [Teach For America](#). The prestigious non-profit selects, through a highly competitive process, outstanding leaders who will commit to teaching for at least two years in what the group describes as an "under-resourced public school."

The group had over 57,000 applicants. Mr. Dacres learned in April his application was successful. One week after graduation, he heads to Las Vegas for training.

CURTAIN CALL

Students and Alumni Collaborate



The English department staged three one-act plays in its Black Box Theater in celebration of Women’s History Month recently.

Department Chair Dean Cooledge directed “[I Dream Before I Take the Stand](#)” by Arlene Hutton. The other productions were directed by English alumni.



UMES President Heidi Anderson attended the production on opening night and posed with the actors following the show.

Photo by Tahja Cropper

Tahja Cropper, a former member of the UMES Drama Society who graduated in 2015, led the cast of “[Anger Management](#)” by Lindsay Price. Richard Gordon, who just graduated in December, returned to manage “[Poof!](#)” by Lynn Nottage.

Each of the plays featured two actors. In “I Dream Before I Take the Stand,” Marie Hassan played a rape victim being questioned by an attorney portrayed by Miles Nordt.

Chiamaka Copeland and Shakuria Davis became Shakespeare’s Juliet and Ophelia who engaged in a bizarre conversation after their suicides in “Anger Management.”

In the final play of the evening—“Poof!”—Savannah Hackley played the abused wife of a man who spontaneously combusts; Crystal Richards was cast as her friend and neighbor.

TEACHER PREP ON TAP

Jezelle Middleton knows where she’s headed after her graduation on May 24.



Ms. Middleton

A Baltimore area native, Ms. Middleton has been selected to attend a rigorous six week training program sponsored by the [Baltimore City Teaching Residency Program](#).

The program is designed to prepare people who have not been formally trained as educators for the role of classroom teacher and can lead to state certification.

According to the program’s website, the training will “transform talented professionals into great teachers through practical, classroom-centered coursework, with a sharp focus on the core skills and mindsets teachers need to be successful.”

A UMES GREEK LEADER

Kia Proctor, a senior English major, was profiled recently by [Watch the Yard: Black Greekdom’s Digital Yardshow](#) as part of the website’s focus on the leadership of black fraternities and sororities nationwide.



Ms. Proctor

Photo by Bill Brophy

Ms. Proctor is president of the Nu Delta chapter of the [Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc.](#), but that’s not the only leadership position she holds on our campus. She is also president of the UMES chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, and student vice president of [Phi Kappa Phi](#), an all-discipline honor society, and she serves as secretary of [Hawk Radio](#), the student-managed campus radio station.

GRAD SCHOOL NEXT?

Some senior English majors are thinking about adding a master’s degree to their resumes.

Tatianna Carpenter traveled to [Southern Illinois University Edwardsville](#) to attend the university’s recent graduate school fair at the invitation of the UMES School of Education, Social Sciences, and The Arts Dean Marshall Stevenson. The school is actively recruiting HBCU undergraduates.



Ms. Carpenter at SIEU

Photo provided by Dean Stevenson

After discussions with the media studies faculty, “it proved to me that I am fully capable of attending graduate school,” Ms. Carpenter said.

HEADING TO CHICAGO

Ewa Okulate, a sophomore with a 4.0 G.P.A. double majoring in English and business, will spend her summer in Chicago as an intern at the [Flowers Communication Group](#).



Ms. Okulate

Photo by Janay McIntosh

She is one of 12 students of color selected through a national application process for prestigious, paid internship placements facilitated by [the foundation created by Louis Carr](#), president of media sales at [BET](#).

Ms. Okulate becomes the fourth UMES student to secure a Carr Foundation internship since 2009.

A MAJOR MILESTONE

English Alumni Earn Law Degrees

A PROMOTION TO PRODUCER

Jon'mel Davenport and Liz Ranger have a lot in common.

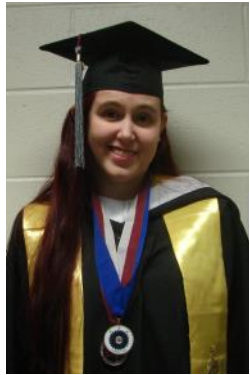
Both served as tutors in the [UMES Writing Center](#) as undergraduate students; both graduated summa cum laude in December of 2015.

Ms. Davenport earned an English degree; Ms. Ranger was a double major, earning degrees in English and history.



Ms. Davenport in her Howard University regalia

Photo by Panoramic Visions



Ms. Ranger at her UMES graduation in 2015

Both are likely to remain in the cities where they studied law. Ms. Davenport hopes to secure employment with the federal government. Ms. Ranger is interviewing with private firms in the Pittsburgh area.

This month both will earn their law degrees.

Ms. Davenport attends [Howard University School of Law](#) in Washington, D.C. Ms. Ranger is completing her degree at [Duquesne University School of Law](#) in Pittsburgh.

Since he earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in digital media in May of 2018, De'Jon Burgess has been working as a part-time studio crew member at [WMDT TV](#), the ABC affiliate in Salisbury, Maryland.



Mr. Burgess

He recently learned that his positive attitude and willingness to work frequently rotating shifts has warranted a promotion.

Mr. Burgess is now the full-time producer of "[Good Morning Delmarva](#)," the station's two hour weekday morning news program. He is in charge of the program's editorial content.

Photo by Jim Glovlier

SPRINGFEST FESTIVAL

[Hawk Radio](#) staff members joined other student organizations manning tables at the Mardi Gras themed SpringFest 2019 festival. The station's staff sported their familiar Hawk Radio T-shirts but donned beads and masks in traditional Mardi Gras colors.



Hawk Radio staff members (L to R) Feben Gebrgiorgis, Shakuria Davis, Chiamaka Copeland and Dante Turner

Photo by Leon Lewis

TUTORS FOR SUMMER

The [UMES Writing Center](#) will offer, for the first time, online tutoring during the university's 10 week summer session.

Three of the center's current staff members—agriculture major Dani Cerritos, English major Jessica Clatterback and general assistant Sarah Jones—will provide writing assistance to students enrolled in undergraduate summer courses.

By the start of the fall semester, Ms. Cerritos and Ms. Clatterback will be the only returning writing tutors. They'll be joined by five new staff members, including three English majors.

The new tutors include English majors Cita Christian, Christian Ferguson and Nikolas Mejia, criminal justice major Ciani Wells and biology major Brionay Carraway.

MILTON IS IN GOOD HANDS

Adjunct composition instructor Dianne Pearce is a busy woman.

In addition to teaching college level writing, she and her husband operate a publishing company, [Devil's Party Press](#).

Now, she's added a new responsibility.

She's been named the executive director of the [Chamber of Commerce in Milton, Delaware](#), where she lives. Ms. Pearce started her new position with a survey of the local business community to be sure the chamber is meeting its needs.



Ms. Pearce

Photo by Bill Cecil

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. UMES prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Inquiries regarding the application of federal laws and non-discrimination policies to university programs and activities may be referred to the Office of Equity & Compliance/Title IX Coordinator by telephone at (410) 651-7848 or by email at titleix@umes.edu.

RECOGNIZING TALENT

English Ed Student and Faculty Win Awards

Jenna Crockett, a graduating senior in the department's English education program, was recognized by the [Maryland Association of Teacher Educators](#) with its Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award.

In her letter recommending Ms. Crockett, the English education program coordinator Courtney Harned described her student as committed to reflective, responsive teaching.

"Ms. Crockett has drawn from her own experiences in a rural, poverty-stricken



Ms. Crockett (center) is pictured with LaQuisha Hall, Baltimore City Teacher of the Year, and Maryland State Teacher of the Year Richard Warren

Photo provided by Dr. Harned

community to develop an approach that seeks to raise every student," Dr. Harned said. "She respects student diversity and recognizes that many learners bring challenges from home right into the classroom."

Ms. Crockett isn't the only award winner in the UMES English education program. Dr. Harned, as previously reported in this newsletter, won the [American Educational Research Association](#)

"Rural Dissertation of the Year" award which she accepted at a conference in Canada in April.



Dr. Harned (R) accepts her award

Photo provided by William Robinson

FOCUS ON TUTORING

Two writing center tutors and the director of the [UMES Writing Center](#) traveled to Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, recently for the annual conference of the [Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association](#).

English majors Jessica Clatterbuck and Tatianna Carpenter joined faculty member Terry Smith for a presentation titled "Adapting Online Tutoring by Reacting, Responding, Reimagining."

Because of the quality of the tutors' work and its research potential, the students received a scholarship from the group to attend and present at the conference.



(L to R) Dr. Smith, Ms. Clatterbuck and Ms. Carpenter

Photo provided by Dr. Smith

PRESENTING A FAKE REALITY

English undergraduates Asha Cole and Benyam Desta presented at the 10th Annual UMES Graduate School Research Symposium on April 16.

Their research was titled "Trump's Rhetorical Design of Fake Reality: Reframing the Public Meanings Around Women and the Media."



Ms. Cole displays President Trump's tweets and discusses their impact on women.

TOP SCHOLARS INDUCTED

Phi Kappa Phi Ceremony Held

Two English majors, Sydney Campbell and Joshua Dacres, were inducted into [Phi Kappa Phi](#), the all-discipline honor society, on April 24.

Membership in the renowned academic organization is by invitation only. Those selected to membership include the upper 7.5% of last-term juniors and the upper 10% of seniors and graduate students.

The local chapter endorsed writing center staff member Sarah Jones as its nominee for a Phi Kappa Phi fellowship available to members entering the first year of graduate or professional study. Ms. Jones begins a master's program in marine-estuarine environmental science this fall.



English student inductees pose with two of the English faculty Phi Kappa Phi members. (L to R) Terry Smith, Joshua Dacres, Sydney Campbell and Amy Hagenrater-Gooding

Photo by Kathy Quinn

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.