

INSIGHTS



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

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MAKING CAREER CONNECTIONS

Students Travel to Howard University's Communications Job Fair

Howard University's [2015 Communications Job and Internship Fair](#), held on October 22, offered nearly two dozen UMES students the opportunity to meet one-on-one with representatives of 50 different media companies and graduate schools.

The event also featured a series of panel discussions with media professionals, each focused on a specific industry segment including advertising, public relations, journalism, television and film production, and radio.

English faculty member Marilyn Buerkle organizes what has become an annual trip. "It's unusual to find so many key players all under one roof," she said. "Students can make valuable connections and get career advice from a broad variety of experts."



Some of the students attending Howard's job fair (L to R) Danielle Jackson, Kira Baran, DeJon Burgess, John Livengood, DaMisha Brown, Cyloe Gadson, Nadja Cox, Aliyah Hyman, Nyrabia Darden-Wright, Candynce Newbill, Arianna Garnett, Melissa Witherspoon, Patrick Lieb, Tahja Cropper, Kyle Carter, Courtney Milligan and Leslie Hendrickson



Kyle Carter meets with a prospective employer



Hawk radio managers attend panel discussion featuring radio professionals from the D.C. area.

The student's trip to Washington, D.C., was funded through an endowment fund established by UMES English alumnus and current CBS News producer Bill Jones and his wife Willetta.

FACULTY MEMBER HONORED

English Education Coordinator Attends Reunion With Former Students

When the [Sussex Technical High School](#) Class of 1995 hosted its recent 20-year reunion at the Georgia House in Milford, Delaware, English faculty member Barbara Seabrook was a guest of honor. She was recognized as an outstanding teacher by the Sussex Tech graduates at the celebration. Dr.

Seabrook taught marketing and business management at the school for 10 years.



*Dr. Seabrook (back row, second from left) joins her former students
Photo by Maddy Lauria, The Cape Gazette*

As part of their reunion, members of the Class of 1995 organized a special donation

of books to pay tribute to [Priscilla Saez, a classmate who was killed in a 2013 automobile accident](#), whose favorite pastime was reading.

More than two dozen books that included a label dedicating the books "in loving memory of Priscilla Saez" were purchased for donation to the library at the H.O. Brittingham Elementary School in Milton, Delaware.

NOW WHAT?

English Majors Discuss Life After College

By Amy Hagenrater-Gooding

Editor's Note:

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding serves as a faculty advisor to the English honor society at UMES.



The UMES chapter of [Sigma Tau Delta](#), the international English honor society, offered the workshop “Do You Want Fries With That? Or, What You Can Do With a B.A. In English” on October 20 in Wilson Hall.

This is the second time the English honor society has offered an event where majors are invited to hear professionals who have found meaningful work with the English degree speak about their experiences.

During this year’s session, students heard from Richard Rudasill, UMES Class of 2006. He recounted how his degree eventually took him to law school and then brought him back to UMES where he works as the Title IX Compliance Coordinator. Ashley Collier, a 2009 UMES graduate and current staff member in the UMES Public Relations

Department, spoke about the value of making professional connections. Dawn Mills offered stories and advice from her experience as an English major who has worked for non-profit organizations.



Ms. Collier discusses her career in public relations.

One dominant theme all the presenters stressed was the value of their education. Another key concept was the benefit of being open and ready for opportunities rather than fixed in an idea of what one’s career path should be.

Sophomore English major Lance Morris observed, “The presentation reminded me that English majors are not only trained to be well-versed in the complexities of human nature, but we are often the most qualified to preserve or change the human condition.”

ACADEMIC ADVICE

The [UMES Center for Access and Academic Success](#) has scheduled another semester-long series of [workshops designed to assist students](#) with a wide variety of issues related to their college experience.

Topics under discussion include adjusting to college life, developing good study skills, managing test anxiety and setting personal goals.

The center takes advantage of the expertise available in the campus community inviting, for example, members of [Counseling Services](#) and [Student Affairs](#) to discuss pertinent issues. Often members of the



Ms. Ulbricht during reading workshop

English department are asked to offer academic advice. Faculty member Mari-jo Ulbricht conducted a recent session titled “Critical Reading Strategies for College Students.”

The session’s facilitator was junior English major Leslie Hendrickson who serves as one of the center’s [Hawk Mentors](#).

WORD PLAY: Word Plexers

Working on these brain-plexing puzzles can improve your problem solving skills. What word or saying is depicted in each item?

Example: injury + insult Answer: Adding Insult to Injury

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. poFISHnd | 2. 1234
US | 3. ONCE
4:56 p.m. |
| 4. hi way
pass | 5. weLIEight | |

Answers on Page 5.

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

SAVE THE DATE:

THE ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT’S NEXT STUDENT
SYMPOSIUM WILL BE THURSDAY
DECEMBER 3

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A MOVIE WITH A MOTIVE

Shamire Casselle, Class of 2009, will appear in the feature film, “Chula.”

She describes it as a project designed to bring drug and mental health issues to African communities. The protagonist, a girl named Chula, falls on hard times and turns to drugs as a coping mechanism. She finds help through a friend who shows her another way of life.



Ms. Casselle (third from left) with some of her fellow cast members

Facebook photo

RADIO REPORTER

Marilyn Buerkle, who teaches communication courses in the department and supervises the student radio station, is keeping her journalism skills current. She is now an occasional reporter for [Delmarva Almanac](#), a local weekend radio program on [WSCL FM](#).

The program features stories about the uniqueness of the Eastern Shore. It is produced by Dana Kester-McCabe.

Ms. Buerkle and Ms. Kester-McCabe were colleagues in the 1990s when Ms. Buerkle was news director at [WBOC TV](#) and Ms. Kester-McCabe supervised the station’s online presence.



MUSIC MAKER

If you attend Wicomico County’s [Relay for Life](#) at Winterplace Park in Salisbury, an annual fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, be sure to check out the band.

Computer graphics instructor Joseph Davis plays keyboards and sings with Gideon Groove which will be appearing at the charity event on November 7.



Mr. Davis (far left) at recent Bike Week performance

Photo provided by Mr. Davis

TIBETAN LEADER VISITS SHORE

Faculty Member Attends Community Event and Meets Prime Minister

By Cynthia Cravens

Editor’s Note:

Dr. Cravens, a UMES English faculty member, was invited to meet with the Prime Minister of Tibet during his recent visit to Salisbury.



Sikyong (Prime Minister) Lobsang Sangay of the [Tibetan Government-in-Exile](#) was honored on October 13 in a ceremony held at Salisbury University. Before a packed auditorium, Dr. Sangay was awarded the Salisbury University President’s Medal, an honor bestowed on an individual for outstanding leadership.

Following the presentation of the medal, which Sangay received for his work promoting peace and understanding between the Tibetan people and China, he delivered a poignant, forty-minute speech entitled “Democracy and the Third Way.”

The third way, he explained, is motivated by the Buddhist philosophies of the Tibetan people, many millions of whom are living in exile, having left their homeland following the 1950 Chinese occupation of the country. To restore his people to Tibet and to reinstate their sovereignty, he has proposed the solution of Tibetan autonomy within the People’s Republic of China rather than political independence from it.

The “first” way, under which the Tibetan people are currently existing, is to continue to live in exile. The second way, he explained, is to fight a revolution which would violate the very principles of Buddhism. The third way is the compromise he proposes. There are similar systems in place in Hong Kong and Macau.

Sangay’s primary objective as *Sikyong* is to bring this “struggle of freedom” to an end. Today, more than a million people have died as a result of the Chinese occupation, and Tibet is one of the twelve most repressed countries on the globe, according to a 2014 Freedom in the World report.

Tibet’s natural resources, Sangay concluded, have made it an environmental necessity to the planet. The country is home to some of the largest glaciers

in the world, and unlike other glaciers that melt into the ocean, Tibetan glaciers flow into rivers that provide fresh water across Asia. Due to Chinese industrialization, however, this is under threat as well.



Dr. Cravens and her husband Evan Soldatelli with Lobsang Sangay at Salisbury University

Photo provided by Dr. Cravens

INTERVIEWING THE INTERVIEWER

Journalism Students Meet Local Reporters

Students enrolled in TELC 241, Basic News Writing and Reporting, are getting to know a local reporter.

Each of the twelve students in the class selected a professional from a list of journalists who agreed, in advance, to participate in the project. That list included news and sports reporters from the two local television stations in Salisbury, [WBOC](#) and [WMDT](#), and the area's newspaper, [The Daily Times](#).

While the students gather information for the reporter profile they will write as a class assignment, they also can ask for personal advice about how to best prepare for a newsroom career.

Their instructor, Marilyn Buerkle, sees the project as valuable on several levels. "It should help the class realize a reporting

career is not as glamorous as it looks," she said. "It also gets them inside a newsroom and provides them with what may be their first professional contact."

Some of the students are also using the opportunity to make a positive impression in hopes of securing an internship with one of the local news organizations.

TELC 241 is offered each fall.



(above) DaMisha Brown joined WBOC reporter/anchor Maxine Bentzel in the studio at WBOC TV in Salisbury.

(left) Jonathan Morris is pictured on the set with WBOC Sports Director Scott Abraham

Photos provided by Ms. Brown and Mr. Morris

HAWK RADIO ON THE MOVE

Student Radio Station Staff Serves the Community On and Off Campus

When the local chapter of the American Cancer Society called [Hawk Radio](#) General Manager Candynce Newbill and asked for help staffing the organization's [Making Strides Against Breast Cancer](#) fundraiser, October 19 in Ocean City, she delivered.

Even though the students had to arrive at the event by 6:30 a.m. on an unseasonably cold Sunday morning at the beach, they were willing to pitch in and help.

Ms. Newbill said the cancer society representative indicated the group could not have managed the walk without the assistance of the Hawk Radio staff.

Student radio station personnel also answered in the affirmative when the staff at the [Frederick Douglass Library](#) asked them to stage a special event during midterm week.

Student DJs set up in the library's second floor exhibit room to entertain students who were taking a short break in their preparation for midterm exams.

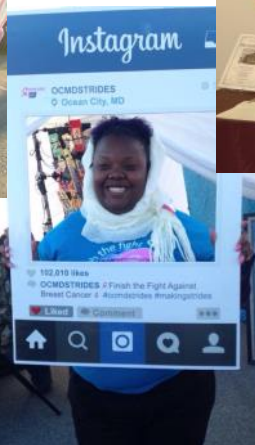
The Interim Dean of Library Services Tracey Hunter Hayes first invited the student radio station into the library during midterm week of the spring semester, hoping to

encourage more students to visit the library.

The students were assisted at this semester's event by English department staff member Leon Lewis.



Hawk radio volunteers assist with an American Cancer Society event on the boardwalk in Ocean City.



(Above) Music Director Jonathan Moore and General Manager Candynce Newbill man the mics in the library during a midterm week event.

Library photo by Leon Lewis

Ocean City photos provided by participants

GRAMMAR AFICIONADO

Faculty member Sandy Johnston traveled to the Maryland TESOL conference, October 17, at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. She attended two sessions related to grammar and one related to the importance of vocabulary development for the academic success of English language learners in college.



Ms. Johnston

“I especially enjoyed the conference because the keynote speaker, Eli Hinkel, is someone I have read frequently in my doctoral studies, and her area of specialty is grammar, a love of mine,” Ms. Johnston said.

LECTURE SCHEDULED

Pulitzer Prize Winning Columnist to Visit UMES

The English department played a critical role in securing Leonard Pitts Jr. as a featured speaker for the School of Arts and Professions’ continuing lecture series.



Mr. Pitts

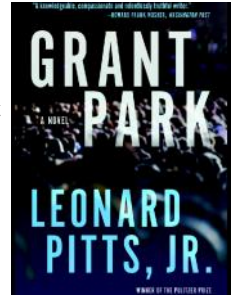
Photo and book jacket from leonardpittsjr.com

The fact that his daughter, Onjel, is a UMES English major who will graduate in December might have helped.

The nationally syndicated columnist and author of both non-fiction books and novels won a [Pulitzer prize](#), one of journalism’s most prestigious awards, for

commentary in 2004. He has also received awards from the [Society of Professional Journalists](#), the [American Society of Newspaper Editors](#), and the [National Association of Black Journalists](#).

Mr. Pitts will take a break from his current book tour, promoting his most recent novel, “Grant Park,” to speak at UMES on Monday, December 7. His lecture is scheduled for 4 p.m. in Room 2040 of Hazel Hall.



The event is free and open to the public.

FLIC OPEN HOUSE

Reception Held in New Facility

The [UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center](#) celebrated its new home by inviting the campus to tour its high tech classroom now located on the lower level of the [Frederick Douglass Library](#) during a reception on October 1.

It was also an occasion for the campus community to welcome Dalal ElGemei, the [Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence](#) from [Al Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt](#).

Dr. ElGemei is a faculty member in the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages during the current academic year, serving as the instructor for the department’s Arabic language courses.



Photos by Joseph Davis



VISIT INFORMALLY WITH OUR EGYPTIAN FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR (EXCEPT JANUARY) AT 11 a.m. IN THE OASIS ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE STUDENT SERVICES CENTER.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. Fish in Pond
2. Count on Us
3. Once Upon a Time
4. Highway Overpass
5. Lie in Wait

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.