

INSIGHTS

Department of English and Modern Languages
SCHOOL of EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES, AND THE ARTS
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MAKING A PLAN FOR WHAT'S NEXT *Students Attend Communications Job Fair at Howard University*

UMES students interested in a wide range of media careers traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 26 to attend the [annual communications career fair](#) at Howard University.

The event started with a morning of panel discussions featuring working professionals who offered advice and fielded questions from hundreds of HBCU students. The afternoon was filled with one-on-one conversations with employers and graduate school recruiters.

Sophomore English major Tatianna Carpenter took advantage of the opportunity to make career connections. "I networked with media journalists in my future career field and even had the



UMES students outside the Blackburn University Center where the event was held

opportunity for [Turner Broadcasting](#) to critique my résumé," she said.

Latia Smith, who is scheduled to earn her English degree in May, described the experience as amazing. "I made many different connections in the communications world," she said. "I learned a lot about myself as well."

The trip for 24 students was made possible by another UMES English major. Bill Jones, a Princess Anne native and a member of the Class of 1978, and his wife, Willetta, created an endowment fund which provides support for department trips and projects.

"We are so happy to be able to help young people participate in activities," Mrs. Jones said.

An event designed to assist students interested in communications is a particularly good fit for support from the Jones endowment. Mr. Jones, who recently retired, spent decades as a CBS News producer headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina.

ON THE ROAD

Discover UMES Crew Reports From Howard

Students who attended Howard's annual communications career fair heard over and over again how important it is to get practical, hands-on experience. Discover UMES, a video production crew on campus, offers students that opportunity.

Two veteran [Discover UMES](#) members, English major Camille Butler and engineering major Omari Carter, didn't just bring their résumés to Howard. They brought their gear and covered the event.

Their story will appear on the organization's YouTube channel.



Discover UMES reporter Camille Butler and videographer Omari Carter at Howard career fair



PUNCTUATION POWER

Playwright to Attend UMES Production

A New York playwright is coming to UMES to see her play performed later this month.

Rehearsals are underway for “The Power of Punctuation,” a comedy about college roommates and text messaging written by [Natalie Margolin](#).

Ms. Margolin, a 2014 graduate of Kenyon College, wrote the play as a senior thesis project. It was staged off Broadway last summer and, in a [glowing review](#), The New York Times described it as “a surprisingly incisive take on a time of life when newfound sexual freedom and quantities of alcohol can wreak havoc on your ability to judge what matters most.”

According to a promotional website, the play was a New York Stage and Film Founders Award finalist, recipient of Kenyon College's James E. Michael Playwriting Award and the Thomas

Turgeon Memorial Award.

Directed by English faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, the UMES production will be staged in Wilson Hall's Black Box Theater.

Performances are scheduled for November 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Margolin is expected to attend on Friday, November 10.

General admission is \$5. Tickets are free for students with a valid ID. Tickets must be reserved in advance at umestickets.com.



(L to R) Dani Cerritos, Colleen Hendrickson and Elnora Nesbitt rehearse their roles

Photo by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding

FROM PAGE TO STAGE

This semester students enrolled in ENGL 317, Dean Cooledge's Shakespeare class, took a field trip to Salisbury University to see a creative interpretation of “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” Director Matt Saltzberg upended traditional gender roles and staging in favor of what he called “a radical queer, counterculture aesthetic.”

The UMES group attended on opening night, Thursday, October 12.



Dr. Cooledge (R) and UMES students

Photo by Kelly Tsujioka



WORD PLAY: THANKSGIVING ANAGRAMS

Rearrange the letters to form words often associated with Thanksgiving. Example: leafy worm can be rearranged to spell the name of the Pilgrim's famous ship, the Mayflower. (Answers on Page 4.)

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. grim lips | 6. vaehrst | 11. ahquss |
| 2. Mr. Sid Tuck | 7. mink pup | 12. fun gifts |
| 3. aefst | 8. elf voters | 13. Mr. Lucky |
| 4. bow shine | 9. teapot so sweet | Photo |
| 5. Dear Pa | 10. nearer cribs | 14. aeimz |
| | | 15. idly far back |

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

TWISTED TALES

Barry Battle, a former UMES English student whose play “Rotten Apple” was staged on campus in 2016, has written a collection of short stories.

The work is titled “Twisted Tales.” He describes it as an anthology of “short, suspenseful, thrilling mystery stories.”

The stories are woven together as campfire tales told by three college students who spend four weeks in the woods as a final project.

The book, Mr. Battle's first collection of short stories, is available on Amazon.com.



Mr. Battle

Photo by Jim Glovier

DOCTORAL MILESTONE

Faculty member Sandy Johnston is another step closer to completing her doctoral degree from [Indiana University of Pennsylvania](#). She passed her 3-chapter dissertation proposal defense in October.



Ms. Johnston

Ms. Johnston's research will focus on international students.

Photo by Jim Glovier

"Most of the literature on second language writing focuses on first year composition or graduate level writing in the disciplines," she said. "This study looks at how these undergraduate students meet their writing requirements throughout their general education and major courses and the challenges they encounter."

SCARED TO DEATH?

The ghosts and goblins of the Halloween season provide the perfect backdrop for the first book published by [The Milton Workshop](#), a southern Delaware writing group founded by adjunct composition instructor Dianne Pearce in 2015.

She and her workshop colleagues have collaborated on an anthology, "[Halloween Party 2017](#)," a collection of 11 original horror stories.

The group held a book signing during a local Halloween party held at [Biblion Books](#) in Lewes, Delaware, on October 28, and plan an evening of live readings and "spooky performances" at the [Milton Public Library](#) on Friday, November 3, starting at 6 p.m..

Workshop participants warn, with tongue in cheek, they assume no responsibility for anyone who is frightened to death during the readings.

FEMINIST RHETORIC

The University of Dayton hosted its 11th [Biennial Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference](#) in early October.

English faculty member Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones traveled to Dayton to present a paper, "Collections and Collective

Performances in Madeleine de Scudery's *Les femmes illustres*," as part of a panel titled "Speaking, Writing, and Working Together: Collectivity as Feminist Rhetorical Practice."

Her panel included two colleagues from the University of Maryland where she is completing her doctoral degree.



Ms. Vlahovici-Jones

Photo by Jim Glovier

LAW AND ORDER

Kendra Hayward, who earned her UMES English degree summa cum laude in 2001 and her juris doctorate from the University of Baltimore in 2004, was sworn in as the deputy state's attorney for Somerset County, Maryland, in a recent ceremony in the county's circuit courtroom.



Ms. Hayward takes her oath of office.
Photo by Ashley Collier

REMEMBERED FONDLY

A memorial service for David Johnson, the longtime English faculty member who lost his battle with cancer in late September, was held recently on the UMES campus.

His eulogy was delivered by [Congressman Elijah Cummings](#), who told Dr. Johnson's family and friends, "I didn't come because a good man died. I came because a great man lived."

A scholarship fund in Dr. Johnson's name has been established by [St. James A.M.E. Zion Church](#) in Salisbury.



Dr. Johnson
Photo by Jim Glovier



Photo provided by Dr. Zheng

Unseasonably warm weather brought Lisa Zheng's Chinese language class outside to the steps of the library in October. The instruction attracted attention, and Dr. Zheng used the opportunity to recruit new CHIN 101 students.

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A CHINESE CELEBRATION

Students Learn Cultural Customs

Lisa Zheng's Chinese language students got a taste of a traditional Mid-Autumn Festival celebration in her class recently.

Falling on the 15th day of the 8th month according to the Chinese lunar calendar, Dr. Zheng says the Mid-Autumn Festival is the second grandest festival in China after the Chinese new year. It takes its name from the fact that it is always celebrated in the middle of the autumn season.

The festival is an expression of thankfulness for heaven's bounty and a family reunion. "It is kind of like Thanksgiving here," she said.

Dr. Zheng shopped at an Asian market in

Washington, D.C. so that her students could taste mooncakes, one of the foods they would encounter if they were celebrating in China.

The most common mooncake contains a rich, thick filling made from red bean or lotus seed paste surrounded by a thin crust. It usually contains salted duck egg yolks which represent the full moon. Mooncakes are typically eaten in small wedges with green tea.



(L) Chinese language students taste Mid-Autumn Festival foods
Photos



(R) Traditional Chinese moon cakes with duck centers

"It was funny to see their expression," Dr. Zheng said. "They were having a hard time deciding if they liked it or not."

HISPANIC HERITAGE

Visitors to the [Frederick Douglass Library](#) in October were greeted by a display of artifacts related to National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The initiative represented a collaboration between the English department's [Foreign Language Instructional Center](#), the university's [Center for International Education](#), the [Department of Fine Arts](#) and library staff.



Library display of Hispanic artifacts
Photo provided by Philip Broussard

COURTYARD PARTY

[Hawk Radio](#), the online student station supervised by the English department, held a promotional event in the courtyard outside the Student Services Center recently.

Taking advantage of unseasonably warm temperatures, the group held an outdoor 1990s themed party. Members provided music, snacks and prizes for the best dressed guests.



Hawk Radio members Tyra Oliver (L) and Lana Macklin in their '90s style.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE 2:

1. pilgrims
2. drumstick
3. feast
4. wishbone
5. parade
6. harvest
7. pumpkin
8. leftovers
9. sweet potatoes
10. cranberries
11. stuffing
12. squash
13. Plymouth Rock
14. maize
15. Black Friday

INNOVATION CONFERENCE

The proposal deadline for the [UMES Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference](#) is November 20.

Last year's inaugural conference featured numerous presentations by faculty from the English Department. This year's event is being organized by Bonni Miller, a former English professor who serves as the interim director of the university's Center for Instructional Technology and Online Learning.

"Last year 27 percent of the presentations were by English faculty," Ms. Miller said. "This year, we're hoping for the same participation from the most innovative department on campus!"

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