

INSIGHTS

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


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SHAKESPEARE: UP CLOSE & PERSONAL *Students Travel to the Folger Theatre in Washington, D.C.*

For many people, reading the words of playwright William Shakespeare can be challenging, but watching a live stage production makes his work come alive.

That was true this semester for the students enrolled in the English department's Shakespeare class taught by Department Chair Dean Cooledge. They attended a production of "[Henry IV, Part 1](#)" at Washington's [Folger Theatre](#) last month.

Dr. Cooledge says he plans his course each year with live performances in mind.

"When I create the syllabus for the course and decide which plays to read, I base this decision on which plays are being performed in the area," he said. "Shakespeare's plays were primarily



(Left) Edward Gero as Falstaff and Avery Whitted as Prince Hal at the Folger

Photo by Colin Hovde/C.Stanley Photography

Courtesy: The Washington Post

meant to be seen and not read."

While in D.C., the class also made a trip to the [Library of Congress](#), the oldest federal cultural institution in the United States.

"We all got library cards for the reading room so students will be able to conduct future research there," Dr. Cooledge said.



(Above, L to R) Glori Chesley, Jaala Waller, Paige Riley, Dianne Smith, Kemichelle Bobb, Dr. Cooledge, Olu Adebisi and Travis Walker pose outside the Library of Congress.

Photo provided by Dr. Cooledge

SHARING IDEAS WITH THE WORLD

English Professor's Students Collaborate with Hawk Radio Colleagues

Students enrolled in Amy Hagenrater-Gooding's freshman honors seminar and her upper level Major Authors English class had a unique assignment this semester.

Both classes were tasked with presenting their research over the air as an online radio show on the department's student-managed [Hawk Radio](#).

For seven consecutive Fridays, from noon to 1 p.m., her students are the hosts of one hour programs that focus on the material they're studying.



(L to R) HONR 101 students Ms. Goodman and Ms. Robinson

The debut of the discussions on October 11 featured Nasya Goodman and Jordan Robinson. Their honors seminar, titled *Selves and Others*, explores new topics related to identity each week; so the two students—both bi-racial—took the opportunity to discuss how their racial identities have sometimes made them feel out of place and also helped them decide to attend a historically black university.

The programs continue on Fridays at noon through November 22.

TRAVEL PLANS NEXT SUMMER?

Federal Funding is Available for Language Study Abroad

Bo Knutson from the [American Councils for International Education](#) visited the UMES campus on Wednesday, October 9, to promote a generous, federally funded scholarship which supports the study of what the U.S. Department of State has designated as “critical” languages.

They include Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish and Urdu.

The [Critical Languages Scholarship Program](#) is promoted as a study abroad opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages “essential to America’s engagement with the world.” The program covers all travel, tuition and housing expenses, and also includes a stipend.

The eight-to-ten week summer program offers approximately 20 hours of classroom instruction each week; the remainder of the time includes conversational practice with native

speakers, cultural activities and excursions.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals enrolled in a U.S. degree granting undergraduate or graduate program. In some cases, some prior study is required, though a majority of the targeted languages are open to beginners.



Mr. Knutson makes a presentation in the Frederick Douglass Library.

Photos by Carole Champagne

The deadline to apply is November 19.

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne serves as the UMES advisor to the program.



Senior English major Richard Oakley discusses the critical language scholarship with Mr. Knutson at an information session in Hazel Hall.

Students who complete the program earn three years of non-competitive eligibility for U.S. government jobs.

“Those skills are super valuable,” Mr. Knutson said.

Students interested in careers in foreign service will have an opportunity to meet an ambassador, a career diplomat and a representative from another language scholarship program in November. The [UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center](#) is finalizing the arrangements for those guests.

JOURNALISM STUDENTS GET ADVICE

Adjunct Instructor Offers Interaction with Experienced Professionals

One of the advantages of the occasional use of adjunct instructors in the English department’s digital media courses is the access they bring to working professionals in the field.

Kimberly Holmes-Wiggins teaches Basic News Writing after she completes her work anchoring the morning news at [WBOC TV](#) in Salisbury. Recently she arranged for her students to talk, via Skype, to two



Ms. Holmes-Wiggins

Photo by Sander Photography

experienced journalists, one in front of the camera and the other a decision maker behind-the-scenes. Both are friends she made in the industry over the course of her career.

On October 11, the class met [Blayne Alexander](#), a national correspondent for NBC News based in Atlanta. “(They) loved watching her recent clips that had aired on The Today Show and Nightly News,” Ms. Holmes-Wiggins said.



(L) Mr. Sattiewhite, a news manager from Memphis and (R) Ms. Alexander, a national correspondent, appear via Skype in UMES news writing classes.



Then on October 23, Travis Sattiewhite, the executive producer at [WMC-TV](#) in Memphis, was a guest speaker. “He gave great practical advice on writing broadcast news stories,” Ms. Holmes-Wiggins said.

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STRONG AND DETERMINED

English major Brittany Hall represented UMES at the Raw National USA Powerlifting Championships in Chicago in October. She advanced to the national competition by winning a regional championship in August.

“This has been one of the best experiences yet,” she said. “I will be at worlds next year, for sure.” Her coach—and her dad—is the university’s fitness director, [Mike Hall](#). He won multiple global powerlifting titles before he retired from competition. He’s known as the world’s strongest drug-free man.



Competition photo provided by Ms. Hall

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED

Faculty members Cynthia Cravens and Marilyn Buerkle will represent the Department of English and Modern Languages in the university’s [Faculty Assembly](#) during the current academic year.

The design of shared governance at UMES calls for a select number of the Assembly members to go on to represent all faculty in the deliberations of the [UMES Senate](#). Ms. Buerkle will serve as one of those voting senators.



Dr. Cravens



Ms. Buerkle

Photos by Jim Glover

TEACH FOR AMERICA Recent Graduate at Home in the Classroom

When Joshua Dacres graduated in May, he knew where he was headed. The New York native, who graduated with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A., was selected from some 57,000 applicants to participate in [Teach For America](#).

The prestigious program selects academic leaders who are willing to make a two year commitment to teach in what the group describes as an “under-resourced public school.”

Having completed a summer boot camp designed to prepare him for his classroom duties in Las Vegas, Nevada, Mr. Dacres is now teaching seventh grade reading at [William H. Bailey Middle School](#).

“I love the experience I am having,” he said. “My students are awesome, and my school is really supportive.”

Mr. Dacres will appear in an upcoming promotional video to highlight the

importance of the summer training program.



(Above) Mr. Dacres conducts a reading lesson.

(Right) Mr. Dacres is pictured with one of his “Student of the Week” honorees.

Pictures provided by Mr. Dacres



LOCAL HISTORY TOUR Students Consider Painful Past

On October 18—86 years to the day after a mob of angry whites murdered [George Armwood](#), a local black man jailed but not yet formally arraigned for an alleged crime—a group of UMES honors students heard the gruesome details of that shameful chapter in Somerset County history.

Students enrolled in HONR 101, an honors seminar titled *Selves and Others*, took a walking tour in downtown Princess Anne while the director of the honors program, Michael Lane, described the events of the day back in 1933.

English faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding teaches one of the HONR 101 sections and joined the students on their tour. “It is so important for students to know the history of the town, and of Maryland, as the effects of that history still reverberate,” she said.

The Armwood lynching was not an isolated incident; more than 40 men met the same fate between 1854 and 1933 in Maryland. It was, however, the last of the public



Students enrolled in HONR101 pose outside the Somerset County Courthouse holding signs that spell out Remembering George Armwood.

Photo by Nick Donchak

lynchings in the state. [The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) has been empowered to investigate those crimes. The dean of the UMES School of Education, Social Sciences, and The Arts, [Marshall Stevenson](#), serves on that commission.

OUT AND ABOUT

Writing Students Meet Writers

Students enrolled in the English department's creative writing class this semester are interacting with authors from around the region.

Their instructor, Dianne Pearce, required them to attend an event sponsored by the [Eastern Shore Writers Association](#). Options included an open mic night at the [Greyhound Bookstore](#) in Berlin, Maryland, on October 17 and the [Crossroads Writers Conference](#) held in Salisbury on October 26.

Ms. Pearce read a poem about a community college student called "Never Sink, Dammit" at the open mic night. It comes from one of two new anthologies published by her company [Devil's Party Press](#).

(L to R) Ms. Pearce and her student Dezare Stone attend the open mic night in Berlin.

Photo by Tara Elliot



(L to R) Poet Nancy Mitchell with UMES student Savonn Lanier at the Crossroads Conference

Photo provided by Ms. Pearce

SUCCESS IN THE CLOUD

At its most basic, an English degree indicates one has been trained to write and speak well, critical skills in almost any professional situation.



Photo provided by Mr. McGhie

Lorenzo McGhie, who earned his B.A. in English from UMES in 2007, put his degree to work in technology.

After 11 years at Verizon Wireless, most recently as an equipment analyst/network engineer, Mr. McGhie has a new job as a cloud consultant at [Deloitte](#), an international professional services network.

IT'S ALMOST SHOW TIME

Tickets for the English department's fall theater production, "[Fireflies](#)," are available now at [umestickets.com](#). The production will be staged November 15-17. While there is no charge for UMES students, because of the limited seating in the Wilson Hall Black Box Theater, everyone who plans to attend is required to reserve a seat.



(L to R) Tysheira Spruill and Charles Brown rehearse their roles.

Photo by Dean Cooledge

FREE FOOD AND PRIZES!

At 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month during the academic year, the Department of English and Modern Languages hosts an informal social for faculty, staff and students. Join us on November 6 in Room 2111 in Wilson Hall for food, fun and a monthly raffle.



October student "care package" raffle winners (L to R) Freddie Walls, Danielle Forehand and Allyson McCullough.

BRAGGING ABOUT US

Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle and Department Chair Dean Cooledge recently met with dozens of high school students to encourage them to consider earning a UMES English degree. The annual Tri-County College Fair was held October 23 in the Hytche Athletic Center.



Ms. Buerkle talks to visiting high school students.

Photo by Xavier Henry

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