

INSIGHTS



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

Volume 24
Issue 2
October 2014

CONGRATULATIONS MAMA D! *Retired Faculty Member is now Professor Emeritus*

Della Dameron-Johnson, who retired from her full-time teaching position in the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages in 2013, was awarded the honorary title of Professor Emeritus during the [Founder's Week](#) commencement ceremony in September.

A faculty member must have retired from at least 20 years of contiguous service and have made outstanding and exceptional contributions to the university in order to be considered for emeritus status.

Dr. Dameron-Johnson, known affectionately to her students as "Mama D," taught in the English department for nearly 40 years. She founded the UMES

Drama Society and served her entire career as its advisor; she was also advisor and artistic director for the UMES Gospel Choir.

"I was just overwhelmed that the university thought that much of me," she said, describing her reaction when she learned of the appointment. "I was really happy."

While she sat on stage, listening to



Dr. Dameron-Johnson (L) with President Bell at the Founder's Day commencement ceremony

President Juliette Bell describe her accomplishments, Dr. Dameron-Johnson said she couldn't help but remember when she was recruited years ago by President William Hytche.

"He came right up to me at a conference in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1975," she said. "I said yes, but my intention was to only stay for two years."

Another long-time English faculty member, former Department Chair Richard Keenan, was also named Professor Emeritus in 2009.

ENGLISH GRADS BACK ON CAMPUS *Communication Professionals Return to Offer Advice*

Students interested in careers in radio and television had an opportunity to get an unvarnished look at the highly competitive field recently. Three UMES graduates returned to campus to offer their advice.

Christina Taylor, Justin Stewart and Kyla Bibbins described their jobs and offered specific suggestions to students who hope to duplicate their success at a meeting of TELC 214, the Introduction to Telecommunications class.



(L to R) Ms. Taylor, Ms. Bibbins and Mr. Stewart

Kyla Bibbins, a member of the class of 2013, who works for [Great Scott Broadcasting](#) in her home state of

Ms. Taylor, who graduated in 2009, directs live newscasts for [WAVY TV in Norfolk, Virginia](#). She urged her audience to keep an open mind about the future. "Don't be afraid to take a risk," she said.

Delaware, told students she discovered her passion for radio while in college. "I came here planning to be a social studies teacher," she said. Once she joined the student radio station staff in her freshman year, that changed. "I knew I was going to be in radio once I did Hawk Radio," she said.

Justin Stewart graduated in 2010 and works as a production assistant at [WJLA TV in Washington, D.C.](#) He warned the students they will have to be passionate about their field because it is not as glamorous nor as lucrative as they imagine. He also provided a reality check about social media. "Your employers will check you out online," he said. "Watch what you post."

I'VE BEEN THINKING



By Briyana Hubbard

Editor's Note:

Ms. Hubbard is a senior English major from Waldorf, Maryland. She is a member of the UMES Honors Program and serves as historian of the UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Ms. Hubbard is considering pursuing a master's degree in communication after her graduation in May.



Social media is used by many people. Most people check their [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) in the morning instead of grabbing a newspaper.

When flyers are posted on campus, many do not notice simply because their eyes are on their phones. So how do students come to campus events and meetings—by the help of social media.

All the events and meetings that are on campus are posted on Instagram and Twitter. This is how students receive their news. Wake up everyone; social media is the new newspaper and daily news.

I am now on the Social Media Team on campus, and we are using social media to promote daily activities. We are aware that the use of print is declining, and we are finding effective ways for students to receive news. For example, with Instagram, we can post videos to grab students' attention about activities and events.

Many students do not check their emails daily unless they have homework, a new grade is posted, or they're waiting for a professor's reply to an email, so we are trying to create ways for students to receive news on social media because students are using it daily.

As historian for the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, I will be using Instagram to promote the English honor society. This should get more English majors to join and give students more information about what we do in Sigma Tau Delta. By using

the Instagram page, this will make any announcements we have spread faster.

Instagram gives us more creative ways to post pictures and announcements with apps that are connected with Instagram. With Twitter, we are limited only by 140 characters and our creativity.

The interest meeting for Sigma Tau Delta is October 2nd at 11:00 a.m. in Room 1103, Wilson Hall. I hope with the use of social media more English majors will join our organization.

Are you more likely to find out the latest news from picking up a newspaper or is it social media? Check us out on Instagram and Twitter. You don't know what you're missing if you don't open your eyes!

I've Been Thinking debuts in this edition of Insights as a monthly column written by members of UMES's Psi Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society. Throughout the academic year, the column will explore a variety of topics of interest to the campus community.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Adjunct Faculty Members Organize Book Drive for Homeless Children

According to the National Center for Homeless Education, only 51 percent of homeless students in testing grades met or exceeded the state requirements for reading proficiency. During the 2011-2012 school year, the state of Maryland saw a 7 percent increase in homeless students enrolled in public schools.

Realizing that a lack of early reading skills will have a lasting impact on any student's potential to attend college and build a successful life, two adjunct faculty members in the UMES English department mobilized to help.

Dorothy Bell-Jackson and Tonya Price, organized a book drive for [Hope and Life Outreach \(HALO\) Ministries](#), a homeless shelter in Salisbury that serves families in transition.



(L to R) Ms. Price, HALO Director Celeste Savage and Ms. Bell-Jackson with some of the donated supplies

Photo provided by Ms. Price

The Summer Book Bag Project was a collaborative effort by the students enrolled in the six basic composition and technical writing classes taught by Ms.

Price and Ms. Bell-Jackson during the spring 2014 semester.

The college students donated their favorite children's books—some gently used—as well as journals, pencils, crayons and even backpacks. The books were sorted by age level, and each backpack was stuffed with supplies aimed to encourage students to read and write over the summer months.

“The UMES students were genuinely excited to help the next generation of college students by sharing their favorite childhood reads,” Ms. Price said.

The project was so successful that plans are underway for another book bag drive to assist homeless children during the summer of 2015.

WORD PLAY:

Sign Bloopers

DID I READ THAT RIGHT???

Communication should be clear and concise with only one meaning. Check out these entertaining sign bloopers which offer a decidedly different meaning than originally intended.

In an office:

TOILET OUT OF ORDER . . . PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

In a Laundromat:

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store:

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

In an office:

AFTER THE TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Outside a secondhand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING – BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR HUSBAND ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Notice in a health food shop window:

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

Spotted in a safari park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE FIRST FLOOR.

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THIS FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

On a repair shop door:

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR – THE BELL DOESN'T WORK.)

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

FACULTY APPOINTMENT

Congratulations are in order for Mari-jo Ulbricht. She has served as an adjunct instructor in the English department since 2002. This semester she joins the department fulltime as a visiting lecturer.



Ms. Ulbricht

Ms. Ulbricht was able to help the department fill a gap when several last minute resignations left some classes without instructors.

PEACE IN THE PARK

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne represented [Bienvenidos a Delmarva](#), a community service organization that assists immigrants who relocate to the Delmarva Peninsula, at the recent Peace in the Park program held in the Salisbury City Park.

The local event is an annual celebration of the [United Nation's International Day of Peace and Nonviolence](#).

Dr. Champagne and a number of her colleagues from the [UMES Department of Fine Arts](#) enjoyed a performance by UMES jazz musicians at the event.



(L to R) UMES Mosely Gallery Director Susan Holt, Salisbury University student Mayra Melendez and Dr. Champagne

Photo by Carlos Moreno

RELAY FOR LIFE

Graphics instructor Joe Davis is an accomplished musician. He and his group, Gideon Groove, were one of a number of entertainers who provided benefit performances at [Relay For Life](#), a major fundraiser for the American Cancer Society held recently at Perdue Stadium.



Mr. Davis (center) with Gideon Groove
Photo provided by Mr. Davis

ALUMNI UPDATE...



Carmen Frazier, who graduated in May, is now the producer of the morning newscast at [WMDT TV](#), the ABC affiliate in nearby Salisbury. She hasn't had any trouble learning the routine; she interned with WMDT's morning crew the last semester of her senior year.

Photo by David Lam



Jasmine Walden, Class of 2013, recently started a graduate program at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. She's pursuing a [master's degree in strategic communication](#). She's taking classes while working, as previously reported, as a junior account executive at [Jaffe Communications](#).

Photo provided by Ms. Walden

MAJOR MILESTONES

English Education Students Advance

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor's Note: Dr. Seabrook is an associate professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages and coordinator of the department's English Education program.

Congratulations to Kutresa Ward and Jasmine Diaz who have been officially accepted into the English Teacher Education program, which prepares teacher candidates to teach English and language arts in grades 7 through 12.



English education majors submit an application to be formally admitted to the program when they have completed a minimum of 45 semester hours or at the end of their sophomore year. The required GPA for acceptance was changed from 2.75 to 3.00 effective this semester.

The application requires a 500 word description of the student's philosophy of education and the reasons for wanting to enter the field. In addition, students are

required to describe in 350 words or less their prior experience, paid or volunteer, working with children or youth.

When students are officially accepted, they become "teacher candidates" and are eligible to submit applications for [scholarships administered by the UMES Department of Education](#). The application for spring admission is due prior to December 21 and prior to August 1 for fall admission.

Congratulations are also in order for English education teacher candidates Donald Brown and Amanda Richards. They are seniors who achieved passing scores on the [Maryland PRAXIS II tests](#). That means they have completed the requirements to begin their teaching internships next semester which will make graduation in May 2015 a reality.

After achieving passing scores on the Maryland PRAXIS II tests, teacher candidates are required to submit an application for the teaching internship. The 15-week internship includes both a middle school placement and a high school placement.

FIRST LOOK FAIR



Hawk Radio and the UMES Drama Society, both affiliated with the Department of English and Modern Languages, recruit new members at the recent First Look Fair.

Photos by Leon Lewis

MEET THE TUTORS



This semester's UMES Writing Center staff includes (seated) Kelsey Tate, Director Terry Smith, (standing L to R) Briana Fulton, Jon'mel Davenport, Sarra Malik, Jerrod Graham, Olivia Coleman, Liz Ranger and Aundrea Townsend.

Photo by Jim Glovier

STREET SWEEP

More than 300 students participated in the "Street Sweep" community cleanup in Princess Anne on September 6. Town officials estimate at least five tons of debris were hauled away. The group included a contingent of Hawk Radio members, some of whom are pictured below.



(L to R) Jordan Johnson, Alyiah Hyman, Candynce Newbill, Chante' Haskins, Iyonna Campbell and Raahsan Johnson

Photo by Dania Brown

DON'T MISS THE OCTOBER 7 DEADLINE!



Federal funds are available for Pell Grant recipients who want to study abroad through the Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship program.

Spanish language instructor Carole Champagne serves as the certifying advisor for the program on the UMES campus. She points out that 25 percent of the Gilman applicants receive an award.

The October deadline marks the last chance for students who seek funds for the spring 2015 semester, but officials will also be reviewing early summer applications. So far, Dr. Champagne has only received one UMES application for the program.

SAVE THIS DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2015

Registration opens October 1 for the 18th annual Bay to Ocean Writers Conference. The event, held at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland, will feature 30 sessions on a variety of topics including the craft of writing fiction, poetry, mystery and memoir. Publishing and marketing will also be discussed. One-on-one manuscript reviews by published authors will be available by appointment.

Last year's conference drew a sellout crowd of more than 200 participants. Registration fees are \$115 for adults and \$55 for students with a valid ID.

FILM FESTIVAL

Public speaking instructor Will Rose is back from Austin, Texas where his film *My Bridge*, a short tribute to New York's Brooklyn Bridge, was screened at the Capital City Black Film Festival.

Mr. Rose described his attendance at the event as an extremely productive networking opportunity.



On the red carpet in Austin (L to R) film makers Christopher Wilson, Adrain Tyus and Will Rose.

Photo provided by Mr. Rose

DISCOVER UMES FALL 14



This semester all of the members of Discover UMES, a campus learning experience for students interested in video production, are English majors. They include (L to R) Aundrea Townsend, Jasmine Riley, Danielle Jackson, Galvin Burton, Jada Mitchell, Tahja Cropper, Courtney Milligan and Da'Vone Freeman

Photo by Jim Glovier

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.