

# INSIGHTS

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



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## NEW LEADER, NEW LOOK

### *Wilson Hall Spaces Repurposed After Departure of Telecommunications*

There are changes underway in Wilson Hall this semester. The longtime home of the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages is enjoying an unofficial makeover.

When the department's telecommunications program settled into its new space in the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex this year, Interim Chair Dean Cooledge saw an opportunity.

Over the summer a faculty office was



*Dr. Cooledge*

*Photo by Jim Glover*

transformed into a seminar room, the former graphics lab became a more traditional instructional space, and plans are being formulated for the classroom once used as a television studio.

"Granted, Wilson is an older building, but it remains a productive space," Dr. Cooledge said. "I'm just trying to liven things up a little."

Among other things, that meant grabbing a paintbrush.



*A literature class in conducted in Wilson 1101 against the backdrop of Dr. Cooledge's hand-painted wall.*

*Photo by Dr. Cooledge*

The space that once served as an office for two faculty members is now a seminar room with a freshly painted mauve accent wall and new furniture, configured so that students can look each other in the eye as they interact.

The former TV studio may become a performance space. As a long-term investment in recruitment, efforts are being made to donate the equipment it once housed to Wicomico High School in Salisbury.

## "MAMA D" IS BACK!

### *Rehearsals are Underway for a Fall Theater Production*

There's a familiar voice in the university's Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center. Della Dameron-Johnson is back to direct the play that will be staged there next month.

"Mama D," as she is affectionately called, officially retired from her full-time faculty position in the Department of English and Modern Languages in 2013. She taught in the department for nearly 40 years and was the founder of the UMES Drama Society.

Following her retirement, Dr. Dameron-Johnson was awarded the honorary title of Professor Emeritus in 2014.

She has returned to direct "Rotten Apple," a family drama written by a former UMES English major, Barry Battle.

Dr. Dameron-Johnson will be assisted by another former student, Tahja Cropper. She was an active member of the UMES Drama Society during her days as an undergraduate. She will serve as assistant director.

Auditions were held in early September. Rehearsals are underway now. Performances are scheduled for November 2-5.



*(Left) Dr. Dameron-Johnson consults with her assistant director Ms. Cropper*



*(Right) Two student performers during auditions in September*

*Photos by Dean Cooledge*

# HAWK RADIO OFF TO A GREAT START

## *Student Radio Station Recruits New Members*

Hawk Radio, the student-managed Internet radio station, began the academic year in a new home under new leadership.

Candynce Newbill, who served several years as the station's general manager, is completing her degree with online credits from home. Senior English major Leslie Hendrickson succeeds her as the leader of the organization. Ms. Hendrickson has been a Hawk Radio member since she arrived as a freshman in 2013.

The station's new, glass-enclosed studio is a prominent feature in the lobby of the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex. That highly visible location provides a familiarity which may account for the enthusiastic response the staff received when they recruited new members at the university's First Look Fair. It might also have been the free brownies baked by Ms. Hendrickson.

Either way, several dozen prospective members have attended meetings and recently participated in a social mixer designed to get to know each other.

Ms. Hendrickson hopes to have all new members trained and on the air by mid October.



*Hawk Radio Mixer photos by Leon Lewis*



*First look photos by Leslie Hendrickson*



## **WORD PLAY: Celebrity Anagrams**

Rearrange each set of letters to spell the name of a current celebrity – someone you might see on stage or in a movie.

**Example: whits mill**

**Answer: Will Smith**

**1. monk hats**

**4. rote music**

**2. perm restyle**

**5. scowlers rule**

**3. twinkles eat**

**6. big lemons**

**Answers available on Page 4.**

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

# EARL HOLLAND KNOWS HIS STUFF

## Former Academic Team Captain Competes on “Sports Jeopardy”

Earl Holland, Class of 2005, makes his living as a sports journalist. This month he puts his knowledge of athletics to the test.

Mr. Holland—a reporter with [The News Journal](#) in Wilmington, Delaware, and a game show junkie—was selected to appear as a contestant on the third season of “[Sports Jeopardy](#).” He was one of more than 30,000 people across the country who auditioned for the program.

Mr. Holland’s appearance will debut Wednesday, October 5.

The weekly series is produced by [Sony Pictures Television](#) for the streaming network [Crackle](#). It is hosted by current NBC Sports and former ESPN



Mr. Holland on set with program host Dan Patrick

Photo provided by Mr. Holland

personality [Dan Patrick](#).

The episode which includes Mr. Holland was recorded this summer, but he has been sworn to secrecy regarding the outcome of his game.

That didn’t keep him from sharing a bit about Mr.

Patrick with his Facebook friends.

“He spends more time talking to contestants during the interview portion of the show,” Mr. Holland said. “If you watch regular “Jeopardy,”

Alex (Trebek) goes through one thing and then moves on. Dan asks follow up questions.”

We look forward to their conversation.

It’s possible they discussed Mr. Holland’s experience on the UMES Academic Team. As an undergraduate, he participated in regional tournaments and traveled with the team each year to the [Honda Campus All-Star Challenge](#), a

national “Jeopardy”-like contest between teams from America’s HBCUs.

When Mr. Holland was a junior, the UMES team placed second in the nation and earned \$25,000 in prize money for the university.



Mr. Holland (second from right) and the 2004 UMES Academic Team

# 2016: A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## English Graduate Marks Professional and Personal Milestones

It’s been a pretty amazing year for English alumna Kimberly Wells.

She earned a graduate degree, got married, took her first plane ride and started a fulltime teaching job.

Ms. Wells, who graduated cum laude in 2012, earned a master of arts in teaching from [UMUC](#) in May. As part of that program, she interned at [DuVal High School](#) in Prince George’s County, Maryland. She apparently made a good impression; she was offered a job there teaching 9th and 10th grade English.



Ms. Wells  
Photo provided by Ms. Wells

“Although these first few weeks have been very busy and overwhelming,” she

said recently, “I’m settling into my first year teaching.”

Ms. Wells didn’t arrive at UMES dreaming she would be a teacher. She always thought she would be a journalist, but during her senior year she interned at a local newspaper.

“It was literally the most important and valuable experience of my college career as it helped me realize that

journalism was more of a hobby for me instead of a full-time career,” she said.



Kimberly and Brianna Wells at their wedding reception  
Photo by Marcus Washington

Her interest in helping her fellow students with writing assignments helped her discover that teaching was an excellent fit.

And that first plane ride? She and her wife flew to Puerto Rico for their honeymoon.

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# TEACHING AT THE TOP

## UMES English Grad at Highly Regarded School

When Kutresa Ward received her B.A. in English Education, magna cum laude, last May, she had already interviewed with several public school systems in Maryland. After those interviews, she accepted a position in the Calvert County Public Schools as an English Grade 10 Honors teacher at [Huntingtown High School](#).

The school describes itself as nationally known for its Advanced Placement program. The AP participation rate at Huntingtown is 68 percent.

It has a student population of 1513 students in grades 9-12, and 97 percent of them are considered to be proficient in math and/or reading.

"I am teaching English 10 Honors and I love it," Ms. Ward said. "I wouldn't have

been prepared for this profession if it weren't for Dr. Seabrook."

Students interested in teaching English/Language Arts in grades 7-12 should contact Barbara Seabrook, coordinator of English teacher education, at 410-651-6793 or by email at [bjseabrook@umes.edu](mailto:bjseabrook@umes.edu).

### WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. Tom Hanks
2. Meryl Streep
3. Kate Winslet
4. Tom Cruise
5. Russell Crowe
6. Mel Gibson

# MUCHOS CREDITS

Not all English majors take the traditional route of classroom instruction to earn their required foreign language credits.

Congratulations are in order for senior Jasmine Diaz who earned all 12 of her Spanish language credits through a recent [CLEP](#) test.

The College Level Examination Program is administered by [The College Board](#), the organization that is also responsible for AP, PSAT and SAT testing.

CLEP tests allow students to earn college credit for knowledge they've acquired outside the classroom. For one fee, one language test evaluates the depth of a student's competency and awards up to 12 credits.

Ms. Diaz earned all 12.

# SOCIAL MEDIA MAVEN

## English Graduate Conducts Workshop

Ashley Collier earned her English degree in 2009 and has put it to work at her alma mater. She is a UMES staff member in what's called the Talon Media Group, the university's media and marketing professionals.



Ms. Collier

Photos by Albany Montgomery

In her role as the UMES social media coordinator, she conducted a recent campus workshop targeting upperclassmen.

She described it as a social media makeover.

"Too often students don't realize how their social media presence will be evaluated by prospective employers," she said. "They may also need a little help figuring out how to utilize their own social media expertise as a valuable skill employers are looking for."



Ms. Collier plans to offer her advice in a second workshop near the end of the semester to

specifically assist seniors who will be focused on finding a job.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Faculty member Barbara Seabrook was a volunteer on Labor Day weekend selling tickets for the silent auction sponsored by the [Deal Island/Chance Lions Club](#) at the [57th Annual Skipjack Festival](#).

Proceeds from the auction are used to provide services and financial assistance to Somerset County individuals and families in need.



Dr. Seabrook (center)

Photo by Ellen Sprouls

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