

# INSIGHTS

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

  
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## FAREWELL, FRIEND

### Long-time Faculty Member Loses Battle with Cancer

David Johnson, an educator for more than 50 years and a faculty member in the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages since 1981, died on Thursday, September 21, after a recurrence of prostate cancer.



Dr. Johnson  
Photo by Jim Glover

It was just before Christmas in 2001 when he was first diagnosed with the disease; nearly 15 years later, it returned.

In the interim, Dr. Johnson was an active participant in the local American Cancer Society's annual [Relay for Life](#) fundraising event. His team, known as the "Prostate Streakers," raised thousands of dollars for cancer research.

Department chair Dean Cooledge described Dr. Johnson as the "epitome of class."

"He was a role model for many boys who became men at UMES," Dr. Cooledge said. "He showed me how to rise above the noise. His presence is dearly missed."

Former department chair Richard Keenan described the loss of Dr. Johnson as tragic.

"David was an excellent role model for his students. His bearing, intelligence, empathy and ability to articulate gave consistent evidence of his quality as a

teacher," Dr. Keenan said. "He was a good man and extremely helpful to me in my tenure as chair."

Dr. Johnson began his career in 1961 in the small town of Burgaw, North Carolina, at a segregated school that offered instruction from elementary school through high school. He taught English, drama and speech.

He moved to the Eastern Shore in 1963 to teach at [Salisbury High School](#), but three years later the school was closed in order to desegregate the area's all-white schools. He was assigned to Bennett Senior High in Salisbury as one of only six African American faculty members.

Dr. Johnson eventually became a school principal, and in 1981 he added responsibilities as an adjunct English instructor at UMES. He retired from the public school system in 2001 and accepted a full-time position on our campus.

Because he taught public speaking, a required course for every UMES student, Dr. Johnson's impact is far reaching.

Bill Jones, who graduated with a UMES English degree in 1978, was a life-long friend. "He had a life well lived, and will be remembered and honored by the many students and others whose lives he enriched," Mr. Jones said.

Dr. Johnson was extremely proud that many members of his family became educators. His daughter, Etahe, works in the UMES Department of Technology and a number of nieces, nephews and grandchildren have become classroom instructors.



Photos by Sue Revelle, Joseph Davis and Marilyn Buerkle

# MURDER MOST FOUL

## *Shakespeare in Princess Anne*

New York City has a tradition of enjoying Shakespeare in Central Park each summer. Princess Anne has its own live theater tradition.



At the invitation of Department Chair Dean Cooledge, Mr. Taustin came to campus prior to the production to talk to a group of students from Dr. Cooledge's Intro to Theater course and Dr. Amy Hagenrater-Gooding's Honors Composition class.

The town welcomes the [Brown Box Theater Project](#) to the backyard of the historic [Teackle Mansion](#) each fall. A group of English faculty members and their students were in the audience when Brown Box staged "Hamlet" on Wednesday, September 20.

The company is led by Kyler Taustin, an Eastern Shore native, who takes his Boston based company on an annual Shakespeare tour staging free, outdoor presentations in multiple local communities including Princess Anne.



# OUT AND ABOUT

## *Faculty Member Takes to the Road*

English faculty member and [UMES Writing Center](#) Director Terry Smith has had an extensive travel schedule lately.

Dr. Smith serves as a regional vice president for the [National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi](#). In that role, she traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for three days of executive committee meetings in September.

Her Phi Kappa Phi responsibilities also took her to Baltimore for a "Regional Partnering for

Success" meeting.

She was joined there by Michael Lane, director of the university's [Richard A. Henson Honors Program](#), who serves as president of the UMES chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.



*Drs. Lane and Smith*

*Photo by Kay White*

Dr. Smith is also chair of the UMES General Education Committee. In that capacity, she traveled back to Baltimore to attend a general education symposium sponsored by the University System of Maryland.

# CASTING COMPLETE

The second production to be staged in the Wilson Hall Black Box Theater has been cast and is about to begin rehearsals.

"[The Power of Punctuation](#)" by Natalie Margolin is a comedy about communicating by text.

Colleen Hendrickson, who earned a UMES English degree in 2016, will play the part of Jenny, a well-intentioned busybody who tries to establish ground rules for when and how to respond to texts from the opposite sex. Her friend, Fran, played by freshman environmental science major Elnora Nesbitt, weathers the bulk of that advice.

The production will be directed by faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding. "It's a funny play about the issue of texting, language and misunderstanding, especially among different genders," she said.

Performances are scheduled for November 9, 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m..

## FIRST LOOK FAIR



*President Juliette Bell stopped to chat with Hawk Radio managers Ife Akinwumi and Langston Frazier as they recruited new members at the university's First Look Fair on September 7.*

*Photo by Jim Glover*

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# A MOMENT OF SILENCE

## English Class Shows Support

To honor a Bowie State University student who was murdered on the campus of the University of Maryland, students in Melissa Moore's Intro to Poetry class joined their BSU and College Park colleagues in observing a campus-wide moment of silence during the first week of classes.

Richard Collins III was fatally stabbed in an unprovoked attack in May of this year, just three days before his college graduation.

In requesting UMES participation in the moment of silence, President Bell described it as "an opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of all of our campuses to the core values of diversity, inclusion, respect and civil discourse."



Ms. Moore (front right) and her poetry class observe a moment of silence.

Photo by Bill Robinson

Ms. Moore prepared her students in advance of the event with a news article about the incident and offered them the option of participating.

The UMES English Department is grateful to Tom Draper, the owner of WBOC TV, the CBS affiliate in Salisbury, Maryland, for his company's contributions to its media studies program.

Mr. Draper died recently of injuries sustained when a truck hit him while he was bicycling near his home.

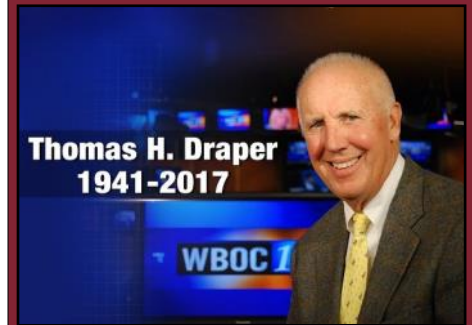


Photo provided by WBOC TV

## WORD PLAY: ACRONYMS

A few English words are made by combining the first letters of words in a phrase. These shortened words formed from initial letters are called acronyms. Knowing what group of words underlie each acronym can be a help to spellers.

Can you guess the group of words for the following acronyms?

1. AWOL
2. Laser
3. Radar
4. Scuba
5. Snafu
6. SWAT (team)
7. ZIP (code)
8. Sonar

(Answers on Page 4.)

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

## MARKETING MAVEN

Senior English major Jasmine Taylor is completing an academic internship on campus this semester as a member of the Talon Media Group, the staff responsible for the university's public relations, marketing and social media efforts.



Ms. Taylor

Her interest in media may be genetic. Her older sister, Christina, earned a UMES English degree in 2009 and works in television in Washington, D.C..



Ms. Taylor gathers information during the recent Founders' Day convocation.

Photos by Jim Glovier

## A SOCIAL SUCCESS!

The department's inaugural R & R event—that's refreshments and repartee—drew a crowd.

English majors and their professors gathered on Wednesday, September 6, to eat home-made goodies, pick through stacks of free books and, in the process, get to know each other better.

The department will host similar "socials" at 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month during the school year. Come hungry to 2111 Wilson Hall on October 4.



English faculty and students take time out for a little socializing.

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Stacy Woods, who graduated magna cum laude in 2007, is back in an undergraduate classroom—only this time she's the teacher.



*Ms. Woods*

This semester, Ms. Woods is an adjunct instructor at [Baltimore City](#)

*Photo provided by Ms. Woods*

[Community College](#) teaching Preparation for Academic Achievement. Her responsibilities at BCCC are in addition to her fulltime job as a first grade literacy teacher at Waverly Elementary School in northeast Baltimore.

## PEACE IN THE PARK

English department faculty participated in the local commemoration of the [United Nations' International Day of Peace](#). A variety of community organizations and faith-based groups came together at [Peace in the Park](#) in Salisbury. Carole Champagne, who teaches Spanish language classes, attended as coordinator of [Bienvenidos a Delmarva](#), a resource center for local immigrant communities. Former Chair Richard Keenan represented the Wicomico County library.



*Dr. Champagne (left)  
Photo by Kat Harting*

## GRADUATION IS IN SIGHT

Congratulations are in order for English education major Taylor Moltedo. She received a passing score on the [PRAXIS II test](#), which is required by the Maryland State Department of Education for teacher certifications.

Ms. Moltedo is completing the 20-day Internship I this semester in an 8th grade classroom at Crisfield Academy and High School under the watchful eye of her mentor teacher, Lindsay Martin. Ms. Martin earned her B.A. in English education at UMES in 2011.

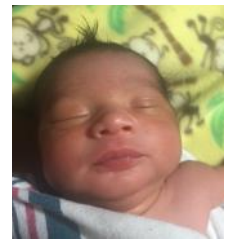
Next semester, Ms. Moltedo will enroll in the 80-day Internship II. Successful completion of that field experience is Ms. Moltedo's last stop on her way to a May 2018 graduation.

## BABY MAKES THREE

LaToya (Fewell) Rosser, Class of 2006, and her husband welcomed a son this year.



John Rosser V, the couple's first child was born on April 26.



*Family photos provided by Ms. Rosser*

## WORD PLAY: ANSWERS

1. absent without leave
2. light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation
3. radio detecting and ranging
4. self-contained underwater breathing apparatus
5. situation normal, all fouled up
6. special weapons action team
7. zone improvement plan
8. sound navigation ranging

## READY TO HELP

The [UMES Writing Center](#) is open for business in 1106 Wilson Hall. Tutors will assist students Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments may be [scheduled in advance online](#).



*Tutors (L to R) Sarah Jones, Dani Cerritos, Kia Proctor, Sean Hayden and Colleen Hendrickson  
Photo by Terry Smith*

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