

# INSIGHTS

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

  
U M E S  
September 2016  
Volume 28, Issue 1

## READY, SET, GO!

### *English Department Prepares for Fall 2016 Semester*

While students were enjoying their summer vacation, members of the English department were busy preparing for the new academic year.

Multiple sessions of Enrollment 101 were held to welcome incoming freshmen and transfer students to campus. Some 20 new English majors met with Interim Chair Dean Cooledge in June to prepare class schedules and finalize other academic details.



*Dr. Cooledge offers academic advice to new English majors.*

Dr. Cooledge, as chair of the UMES Faculty Assembly, was also a key presenter during opening activities for faculty and staff in August. He provided details about [the university's new procedure for evaluating the performance of tenured faculty members](#).

English faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding was invited to share teaching strategies with her colleagues during those same opening



*Faculty Assembly officers Lakeisha Harris and Dean Cooledge explain the post-tenure review process.*

activities. She was one of three UMES faculty members who attended the [Lilly Conference on Evidence Based Teaching and Learning in Bethesda, Maryland](#), in June. She discussed how the language choices employed by instructors can empower students to think critically.



*Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding*

## V.I.P. DONORS TOUR NEW FACILITY

### *English Faculty, Staff and Students Join President Bell for Event*

When UMES President Juliette Bell invited some of the university's most generous benefactors to celebrate the newest academic building on campus, the Department of English and Modern Languages pitched in to help.

At an event titled "The Sky's the Limit," approximately 80 guests got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Engineering and Aviation Sciences Complex on June 10.



*USM Chancellor Robert Caret visits with President Bell*

Since the \$103 million technology center houses the department's telecommunications program, English faculty, staff and students served as tour guides for the radio and television studios, edit suites, graphics lab, etc.

Technical associate Leon Lewis and faculty members Marilyn Buerkle, Dean Cooledge and Joe Davis were joined by a new graduate, Danielle Jackson, and a current

senior, Leslie Hendrickson. Both returned to campus for the event.

Tours of the 163,350 square foot building also featured the engineering, aviation, mathematics and computer science programs.



*Ms. Jackson and Ms. Hendrickson*

*Photos by Jim Glover*

# ENGLISH ED UPDATE

## Students and Alumni Shine

By Barbara Seabrook

*Editor's Note: Dr. Seabrook is coordinator of the department's English Education program.*

*Photo by Robin Hoffman*



Congratulations to Taylor Moltedo, who has met all of the requirements for official acceptance into the teacher education program, including passing the [Praxis Core](#) reading, writing, and math tests.

English education majors are required to have a passing score on the Praxis Core or SAT and to submit the application for official acceptance into the teacher education program by the fall semester of their junior year. Teacher candidates are required to have passing scores on the [Praxis II](#) tests before the fall semester of their senior year.

### News from Our Graduates

After publishing two books, Lakishia Banister (M.A.T/Fall 2013) is returning to the classroom; she will be teaching English grades 9 and 10 at [Parkside High](#)

[School](#) in Salisbury, Maryland. Dionna Sterling (B.A./Spring 2012) and Shannon Hinman (B.A./Spring 2008), are new adjunct instructors; both will teach UMES English classes at their alma mater this fall.

Donald Brown (B.A./Spring 2015), who is teaching grades 9 and 11 at [Martinsburg High School](#) in Martinsburg, West Virginia, will be assuming the position of English Data Team Leader this year. His duties will include compiling data, helping teachers implement best practices and setting departmental student learning objectives at his school.

Corey Haynes (B.A./Spring 2013) will finish her 27 month commitment as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nicaragua in October. She received her [M.Ed degree in social foundation](#) from the University of Virginia last December. Ms. Haynes has applied for a [Fulbright scholarship](#) to Laos and a six-month Peace Corps job as a literacy coach in Liberia. In the meantime, she'll serve as a long term substitute teacher in Fairfax County, Virginia.

# WRITING CENTER OPEN

The [UMES Writing Center](#) is expanding its hours this semester. Due to increased demand, the center will be open longer on Fridays.

In previous semesters, the center was only open on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; it will now remain open until 5 p.m. for students who seek assistance from a peer tutor. The hours of service Monday through Thursday remain the same: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A recent English honors graduate returns to the center as a fulltime employee this semester. Colleen Hendrickson, who served as a student tutor until she completed her degree in May, will serve as an assistant to the center's director, faculty member Terry Smith.



Ms. Hendrickson

Ms. Hendrickson and Dr. Smith will handle service for the first few days of the semester. The full complement of student tutors will be available beginning September 9.

## WORD PLAY: International Anagrams

Unscramble the letters in the phrases below to find the name of a country and its capital.

Example: Ran In Heart

Answer: Tehran, Iran

1. Spam Did Rain

5. Rap Car Fines

2. Rivet In A Sauna

6. Dual Linen Bird

3. Gray Cop Tie

7. Thank King Boa Lad

4. Hug Fat Silk Banana

8. Row Yon Also

Answers available on page five.

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

# LOVE IS IN THE AIR

## '04 Grad Comes to Campus to Pop the Question

Some 15 years ago, Justin Watson—an English major who played on the UMES baseball team and was a D.J. on Hawk Radio—met another student radio participant who caught his eye.

Tahira Boone remained his friend long after their graduation in 2004, and eventually that friendship turned into something more.

Mr. Watson describes himself as a hopeless romantic, so when he decided he was ready to propose marriage, he wanted to return to the place where he and Ms. Boone first met.

He arranged for the two to vacation in Ocean City, and then he enlisted the assistance of the advisor to Hawk Radio, faculty member Marilyn Buerkle.

The two concocted a plan to use a tour of the brand new radio studio on campus as a plausible reason for the couple to leave the beach and head to Princess Anne.

They got their tour, but when they

stopped outside the old radio station building for a trip down Memory Lane, Ms. Boone was surprised to find family and friends hiding behind a nearby building.

That's when Mr. Watson pulled out a diamond ring and asked Ms. Boone to marry him.

The trip was worth it—she said yes.



# CHATTING IN CHINESE

The [UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center](#) hosted what has become the annual “Summer Language Experience” in June. The program offers conversational Chinese language instruction to local high school and home schooled students, taught by a native speaker. The two-week, non-residential program offers basic language skills and cultural understanding in a fun learning environment.



Photo by Debra Laforest

# EDITORIALS PUBLISHED

Students in the English department's Senior Capstone course continue to serve as guest columnists in The Daily Times, the Gannett-owned newspaper in nearby Salisbury, Maryland.

Since the last issue of Insights in May, three more students have had their editorials published in the “Youth Perspective” section of the publication.

Chante Haskins argued that [school uniforms need not stifle personal expression and creativity](#).

John Livengood discussed [the importance of mentors](#).

Tennasia Gray suggested readers [keep an open mind about life's transitions](#).

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# PHI KAPPA PHI HONORS

The UMES English Department is proud of its recent accolades from [Phi Kappa Phi](#), the elite organization that describes itself as the nation's “oldest and most selective” honor society.

Elizabeth Ranger, who graduated in December and is now attending law school on a full scholarship at Duquesne University, was selected to receive a \$5,000 post-graduate Phi Kappa Phi fellowship award. She was one of only six recipients nationwide.

Then in July, during the society's convention in Atlanta, Georgia, faculty member Terry Smith was elected as a regional vice-president. Dr. Smith will represent chapters in the northeast region during a two-year term.



Ms. Ranger



Dr. Smith

Photo by Jim Glover

# UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Senior English major Taahira Thompson had an unusual experience this summer.

After studying the work of [Sherman Alexie](#)—an American poet, writer and filmmaker—in a literature class taught by Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, she had the opportunity to meet him at an event hosted by the D.C. Public Library.



Photo provided by Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding

# TRAVELING THE WORLD

## English Alumni Meet in Madrid

Here's one reason why studying a foreign language as an English major at UMES can reap benefits. You can get a job in a foreign country, and your friends will come to visit.

It's unlikely that Michael Montibeller was thinking that as he struggled through his Spanish classes nearly ten years ago, but following graduation in 2007, he began to travel the world.

Typically the Prince George's County, Maryland native would earn money in the States and then take off on an adventure. His destinations have included England, Spain, France, Italy, Holland, Ireland and Brazil.

Last year, Mr. Montibeller decided to stay put for a while and applied for a teaching position in Spain. He was hired as an assistant English auxiliary and placed in a school in Madrid.

"The high school I taught at is called [IES Ciudad de Los Poetas](#)," he said. "It is a really good school, and I can't say enough how wonderful all the directors and teachers are there."

It's a bilingual school. Mr. Montibeller is there to help his students practice their English.

"We help the main teacher. So we do some lesson plans and are there to help the kids with conversation, grammar and basically so they can hear native English speakers' voices," he said.

At least two of his fellow UMES English alumni have taken advantage of their colleague's unique assignment. Shannon Criss put her Spanish instruction to work this year when she went to visit.



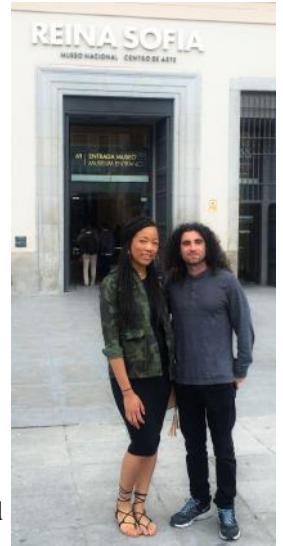
Mr. Montibeller, front and center, with his *Primero A* students on their last day of school

Photo provided by Mr. Montibeller

The two toured Madrid and Barcelona during her two week excursion.

Another English graduate, Candice Napper, partnered with her friend on a school project.

"She works with a great youth organization in D.C. and worked on a project to help kids in Flint, Michigan," he said. "So my students sent letters to her to send messages of hope to the kids affected there."



Ms. Criss and Mr. Montibeller outside the *Reina Sofia*, a renowned art museum in Madrid

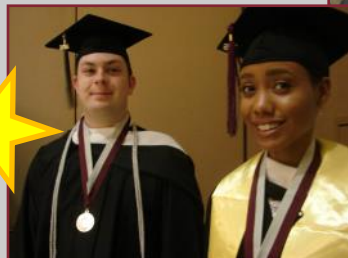
Photo by Matt Lovelace

Mr. Montibeller plans to return to his classroom for another year. "Spain is just too awesome to leave after one year," he said.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT'S MAY 2016 GRADUATES!



Photo by Jim Glover



# FACULTY UPDATE



Amy Hagenrater-Gooding has been promoted to associate professor and granted tenure. She joined the UMES faculty in 2010 and serves, among other things, as chair of the English department's curriculum committee and advisor to its honor society. Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding earned a B.A. in English and a minor in French from Concord College, a master's degree in English from Radford University and her Ph.D. in literature and criticism from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. *Photo by Jim Glover*



Melissa Moore has passed her four doctoral candidacy exams and completed her doctoral coursework, which makes her an official Ph.D. candidate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Moore will take her comprehensives during the summer of 2017 when she will submit her formal dissertation proposal. *Photo by Jim Glover*



Mignon Anderson, author and associate professor of English, has settled in to a well earned retirement. She finished her assignment as a fulltime faculty member in the Department of English and Modern Languages in May.

*Photo by Matthew Whittaker*



Professor Clement Okafor has also retired from his fulltime faculty position. Dr. Okafor had been on a medical leave during the previous academic year. In addition to his many years at UMES, Dr. Okafor served as an associate dean and department chair at the University of Nigeria.



Telecommunications faculty member Marilyn Buerkle attended the recent annual convention of the [National Association of Black Journalists](#) in Washington, D.C. where she made valuable contacts in her role as the internship coordinator for the English Department. *Photo by Danielle Jackson*

## A CITY OF THREE CULTURES

### Language Professor Attends Summer Workshop in Toledo, Spain

By Carole Champagne

**Editor's Note: Dr. Champagne teaches Spanish online and in the classroom.**

*Photo by Jim Glover*



The [Instituto Cervantes](#), a Spanish cultural institute and accreditation center affiliated with the Embassy of Spain, invited me to a workshop in Toledo this summer. The entire city is a [UNESCO World Heritage Site and Patrimony of Humanity](#).

The medieval heartbeat of la Convivencia, Toledo witnessed the coexistence of Christian, Jewish and Islamic religions. The workshop focused on Sepharad: the Sephardic name for Spain, a homeland lost after waves of expulsions ending in 1492. The workshop explored literature, art, music and other creative production that united the Sephardic communities of the diaspora.

Participants provided the most memorable moments. An Argentinian

editor, a Peruvian lawyer, an Israeli professor, several Bulgarian teachers and other participants retraced paths of their ancestors. They found that familiar legends, songs, cuisine and family customs united them in a common inheritance. Other participants from the UK and the EU returned to reenroll in a unique linguistic and cultural immersion.

I literally walked from twelfth century university classrooms to second century Roman ruins as I explored the Judería, synagogues and cisterns. Five millennia of humanity await discovery. The plexiglass floors and walls of a clothing boutique built upon Roman baths allowed for customers to enter Roman Toletum while trying on 21<sup>st</sup> century fashion.

In the City of Three Cultures, mosques were built upon Roman churches, and synagogues served as translation centers that maintained the multilingual and multicultural vitality of Toledo, a flame that did not flicker during the darkest years of medieval Spain. [El Greco](#), the Greek painter who made his home in Toledo and whose dynamic landscapes epitomize Toledo, made his home among

the layers of humanity

My colleagues and I added another layer to [Toledo's multilingual and multicultural history](#).

#### WANT A TEMPORARY JOB IN SPAIN?

The International Marketing Department at the University UNED In Cuenca is offering a paid internship (with housing) to a recent English speaking graduate with Spanish language skills.

Contact Dr. Champagne ([cachampagne@umes.edu](mailto:cachampagne@umes.edu)) for more information.

#### WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. Madrid, Spain
2. Vienna, Austria
3. Cairo, Egypt
4. Kabul, Afghanistan
5. Paris, France
6. Dublin, Ireland
7. Bangkok, Thailand
8. Oslo, Norway

# ALUMNI UPDATE



Jasmine Walden graduated with honors from Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, with a master's in public relations in May. She earned her degree while working fulltime as an account executive at [Jaffe Communications](#). Ms. Walden is no stranger to multi-tasking; she served as general manager of Hawk Radio while earning her UMES degree summa cum laude in 2013.

*Photo provided by Ms. Walden*



Danielle Jackson, named outstanding student in the Department of English and Modern Languages at last semester's honors convocation, graduated magna cum laude in May and was immediately hired by [WMDT TV](#), the ABC affiliate in Salisbury, Maryland. She works in the newsroom as an assignment editor and is also an associate producer of the station's early evening newscast.

*Photo by Jim Glovier*



Justin Stewart is still a morning television producer in Washington, D.C., but he's changed stations. Formerly a member of the news team at WJLA, Channel 7, he's now working at [WTTG FOX 5](#). Mr. Stewart is a member of the Class of 2010.

*Photo by Jacqui Jeras*



Aundrea Townsend, who was selected as the English department's outstanding student in 2015 and who graduated summa cum laude in May of that year, has secured a teaching position with [Kipp D.C.](#)

*Photo by Bill Robinson*

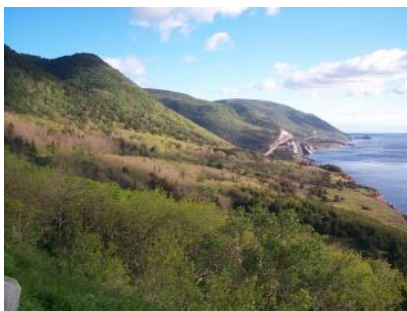
## DR. SEABROOK'S SUMMER ADVENTURE

*By Barbara Seabrook*

During the month of June, I drove 4400 miles to visit three national parks. After a short visit to [Acadia National Park](#) in Bar Harbor Maine, I drove to Saint John, New Brunswick (home of the reversing falls) to take the ferry to Digby, Nova Scotia.

After spending time on the mainland of Nova Scotia at [Kejimkujik National Park](#) in Maitland Bridge, the Bay of Fundy, the Lunenburg Region, Halifax and Annapolis Royal, I drove north to the wilderness on Cape Breton Island.

Highlights of my visit to Cape Breton Island were driving the Cabot Trail from Cheticamp to Ingonish in the [Cape Breton Highlands National Park](#), the Celtic Music Interpretive Center in Judique, the Alexander Graham Bell Museum in



*Cape Breton Highlands National Park*

Baddeck, learning the Gaelic language, walking the pink granite beaches loaded with sea glass at Inverness and attending a ceilidh (pronounced kay lee), which is a Scottish and Irish social gathering with music, dancing and storytelling.

I learned the difference between Irish and Scottish surnames: those that begin with Mc (such as McDonald) are Irish, and surnames that begin with Mac (such as MacLeod) are Scottish.

I even had an opportunity to practice my French with the customs agents and park warden.

The people of Nova Scotia are extremely friendly, and the country is so strikingly beautiful. I plan to return again next year and include Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

As the license plate says, Nova Scotia is "Canada's Ocean Playground."



*My rental Yurt in Kejimkujik National Park*



*Peggy's Cove Lighthouse near Halifax, Nova Scotia*

*Photos by Dr. Seabrook*

**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](mailto:mlbuerkle@umes.edu).**