

# INSIGHTS

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

  
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## WELCOME BACK! *We've Had a Busy Summer...*

The English department's digital media program played host to a group of middle school students this summer for its inaugural presentation of Star Power, a weeklong TV production day camp.

Eight students, ranging in age from 10 to 13, spent five days getting hands-on experience in the UMES television studio. They learned how to write scripts, shoot video, record audio, create special effects and edit it together into [a show which they debuted for family and friends](#) at the conclusion of the week.

The campers also took a trip to WBOC to watch the production of the local station's talk show "[Delmarva Life](#)."

"It's an opportunity for the kids to have fun, but to also begin to try out a career," said English department chair Dean Cooledge. "Of course, we hope, when the time comes, they'll consider returning to UMES to earn their degree."

The youngsters who participated were a diverse group representing public, private and home school students from Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties.



Since the end of the spring semester, the studio staff also welcomed Somerset County 5th graders and students enrolled in the 4H summer golf camp.

## GETTING AN EARLY START

### *English Professor and Honors Students Begin Immersion Program*

Sixteen students from the [Richard A. Henson Honors Program](#) and a member of the English department faculty started their fall semester two weeks early.

The students were part of FLAGSHIP, the Freshmen Living And Giving Summer Honors Immersion Program. It allows students to get a jump start on some classes, including their honors seminar, *Ourselves and Others*, taught by English professor Amy Hagenrater-Gooding.

Before most of their peers

returned to campus, FLAGSHIP students read works by [Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](#), [Ta-Nehisi Coates](#), and [Sandra Cisneros](#). They also created mock TV shows to discuss issues pertaining to their generational identity. English department

staff members Bill Brophy and Leon Lewis assisted in the production of the programs that showcased the students' thoughts on issues such as gun control, stereotypes and police brutality.

The students also traveled to the African-American History Museum in D.C. and participated in a Latin American festival in Philadelphia. The summer experience concluded with a presentation of their vision boards and [their talk shows](#) during a luncheon where the sixteen were honored.



*FLAGSHIP students with Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding (far left) following a celebratory luncheon. English major Christian Ferguson is pictured fifth from right. Photo by Taryn Jones*

# TRAVEL WITH A PURPOSE

## Language Professor Visits Spain and France

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne wins a hypothetical “what I did on my summer vacation” sweepstakes in the Department of English and Modern Languages.



Dr. Champagne

In June, she traveled to Spain to commemorate the

Photo by Jim Glovier

800th anniversary of her alma mater, [la Universidad de Salamanca](#). In addition to reunions with government and university administrators, she visited with UMES honors student Allyson McCullough who was enrolled in a four week program at the school.

Dr. Champagne also had the opportunity

to reconnect with international faculty during her visit. She presented “Spanish for Healthcare Minor Degree Internships Enhance Health Sciences Major Degree Programs” at the [American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese Annual Conference](#) in Salamanca. She participated in a concurrent [Español como Lengua](#)



Dr. Champagne with Ms. McCullough in la Plaza Mayor, Salamanca

Photo provided by Dr. Champagne

[Extranjera](#) conference as well.

Taking full advantage of her international visit, before and after the conferences, she traveled to Galicia, Cantabria, Asturias, Cataluña, and the French Pyrenees and Languedoc regions.

“Backpacking, travelling by bus and train, and staying in Airbnb homes with native Catalans, Gallegos, Basques, and Occitans, I learned about their unique cultures as I practiced their native languages. Other than the distinct etymology of Basque, they are Romance languages,” she said.

“[Toulouse, la Ville Rose](#), is now my favorite French city ... While the signage of Toulouse written in Lenga d’òc was similar to Italian, it was pronounced more like Catalan. The Toulousains will always welcome me home in la Ville Rose.”

# SUMMER STUDY IN SAN DIEGO

## English Professor Focuses on Japanese Film

English faculty member Cynthia Cravens was awarded a fellowship to attend a program at San Diego State University in June.



Dr. Cravens

Photo by Jim Glovier

The [National Faculty Development Institute](#) was sponsored by the [American Association of State Colleges and Universities](#). It focused on incorporating Japanese studies into the undergraduate curriculum.

This two-week, intensive institute assembled experts in over a dozen academic areas from architecture to

literature to ikebana flower arranging. Every morning began with a language lesson followed by daily seminars covering the ancient history of Japan as well as the contemporary socio-cultural issues it faces.

“For the culminating project, I chose to augment a class I already teach (Literature & Film) with a newly intensified unit on a Japanese adaptation of a short story, dedicating two weeks to the short story “[In a Grove](#)” by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, and two weeks to the film “[Rashomon](#)” directed by Akira Kurosawa,” she said. “As students learn about the two texts, they will also see the ways in which social issues, culture, national identity and personal experience infiltrate the narratives we produce.”

Dr. Cravens believes by observing and analyzing a different nation’s cultural products, students are released from their attachment to their own culture (e.g. biases, defenses, or inattentions) and more clearly see the ways in which prose and film capture, reflect or possibly create contemporary values.

“Because of the institute, I have a great deal more knowledge of Japanese culture and literature to incorporate into our undergraduate curriculum,” she said. “My goal is to create a new course for the Spring 2019 semester on movies and popular culture.”

She has tentatively titled the course “Godzilla, Hello Kitty, and Hatsune Miku: Contemporary Japanese Narratives.”

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## WE GROW LEADERS!

A UMES English graduate from the class of 1991 has been named acting president of the [Community College of Beaver County](#) in Monaca, Pennsylvania.



*Dr. Davis*

Roger Davis assumed his duties in late May. He has served as the executive vice president and provost at the institution since May of 2016.

After he earned his bachelor degree in English at UMES, Dr. Davis went on to earn his master's degree in [adult education from Coppin State University](#) and a doctoral degree in [urban educational leadership from Morgan State University](#).

*Photo provided by Talon Media*

## MOTHERHOOD AND FEMINISM

Faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding has written a chapter for "Infanticide/Mothers Who Kill," a collection published by [Demeter Press](#).



*Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding*

*Photo by Jim Glovier*

"I'm super excited about this because Demeter Press was founded by Andrea O'Reilly, a pivotal scholar in my dissertation research on motherhood," Dr.

Hagenrater-Gooding said. "It has been a personal goal to write for this imprint that deals with feminism and motherhood, something not often linked together."

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding's dissertation was titled "Men Who Mother and Women Who Won't: Birthing a New Maternity."

## PROMOTION ANNOUNCED

Congratulations are in order for English faculty member Terry Smith.

Dr. Smith was promoted to the rank of full professor this summer.

In addition to teaching technical writing to UMES honors students,

Dr. Smith serves as director of the [UMES Writing Center](#) and coordinates the department's basic composition courses and the university's English proficiency exam. Dr. Smith is also co-editor of [CEA-Magazine](#), the journal produced by the College English Association Mid-Atlantic Group.



*Dr. Smith*

*Photo by Jim Glovier*

## TEACHERS IN TRAINING

Senior English education majors Jenna Crockett and Kaitlin Thatcher have passed the [Praxis II](#) tests as required for Teaching Internship I this semester and Internship II next spring.

The department's teacher candidates are required to pass Test #5039 English Language Arts: Content and Analysis and Test #5624 Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades 7-12 the summer before their senior year to be eligible for the teaching internships. Both tests are required by the State of Maryland for teacher certification.

Jenna Crockett is completing Internship I with Mentor Teacher Aimee Bergonia at Pocomoke High School.

Kaitlin Thatcher's Internship I Mentor Teacher is Linda Schafer at Snow Hill Middle School.

Congratulations on your progress, ladies!

### Word Play: The Creative Use of Language

Here are some examples of the creative use of language in restaurant names. Each employs a play on words (pun) and/or allusion (indirect reference). Can you identify each and guess the type of restaurant?



1. Tequila Mockingbird
2. Life of Pie
3. Like No Udder
4. Thai Me Up Restaurant & Brewery
5. A Salt & Battery
6. Brew'd Awakening Coffeehaus
7. Lox Stock & Bagels
8. Wild Thyme Cafe

Answers on Page 4.

*Word Play is provided each month by Dr. Barbara Seabrook*

## JERSEY GIRL MOVES WEST

Sandra Joseph, Class of 2012, left the security of her job at [MTV Networks](#) in New York for a new position nearly 3,000 miles away.

She is now pursuing a career in television marketing with [FOX Networks](#) in Los Angeles.

“I can't believe I now work and live in California,” she said in a recent email to a UMES faculty member. “As a film marketing coordinator, I have the opportunity to work on the FOX Studio lot with some amazing movies.”

A veteran of [Hawk Radio](#), the university's student-managed radio station, Ms. Joseph completed numerous volunteer media internships and professional networking opportunities during her college career.



*Photo outside FOX Studios provided by Ms. Joseph.*

## HARD WORK REWARDED

Taylor Moltedo, a native of Chincoteague, Virginia, who graduated with a 3.8 GPA in May, has accepted a fulltime teaching position for the current academic year at [Nandua High School](#) in Onley, Virginia. She will be teaching 9th and 10th grade English.

At the university's honors convocation earlier this year, Ms. Moltedo was named the outstanding student in the Department of English and Modern Languages and received the School of Education, Social Sciences, and The Arts' Award of Excellence.

Nandua High School is a public high school in the Accomack County Public School System on Virginia's Eastern Shore.



*Ms. Moltedo*

*Photo by Jim Glovier*

## LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

De'Jon Burgess, who completed his English degree with a digital media minor in May, has a job at a local television station. Mr. Burgess was hired as a studio technician by [WMDT TV](#), the ABC affiliate in Salisbury, Maryland.

“As a studio technician, you have three jobs, floor director, prompter operator and audio tech,” he said. “You may have to do more than one at a time when things get pretty hectic.”

Mr. Burgess considers himself lucky. “I am excited and grateful about getting my foot in the door and working at a job that is in my career field right after graduation.”



*Mr. Burgess at work in the WMDT studio*

*Photo by John Henry*

### WORD PLAY ANSWERS

1. This bar and grill in Ocean City, Maryland, serves authentic Mexican cuisine and its name perfectly combines their favorite alcohol with their favorite book, “To Kill a Mockingbird.”
2. Playing off the name of the popular book “Life of Pi,” written by Canadian author Yann Martell, this Canadian bakery and café makes everything from scratch, and their logo even involves a pie chart.
3. This vegan ice cream company started out as an ice cream truck in 2010. After cultivating a loyal following, owners opened a permanent brick and mortar Providence, Rhode Island, location in early 2016.
4. This Wyoming restaurant is near a local ski resort. The menu is American-influenced modern Thai cuisine, as well as classic Thai dishes. The restaurant also brews beer and offers 20 craft beers on tap.
5. This New York City establishment specializes in traditional British fish and chips. It's the perfect place to pick up a “Cod Save the Queen” T- shirt!
6. Brew'd Awakening opened in the former mill town of Lowell, Massachusetts in 2005. Ten years later, inspired by the thriving cultural and arts scene in the city, the restaurant started to roast its own coffee.
7. This bagel café was begun in 1990 by a couple with young children, and now the entire family operates three different locations: Greensboro, North Carolina; West Hartford, Connecticut; and Bloomfield, Connecticut.
8. At this Smithville, Tennessee café, healthy options are served, many of which are organic or sourced locally. This establishment offers gluten-free and vegan options, and clearly, love a good food pun.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MAY 2018 GRADUATES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES!



PHOTOS BY MARILYN BUERKLE AND JIM GLOVIER

## FALL THEATER AUDITIONS

Do your friends accuse you of being a drama queen (or king)? Interested in putting all that emotion to work on a stage?

The Department of English and Modern Languages has scheduled auditions for its fall Black Box Theater production of “I and You,” a drama by Lauren Gunderson.

The play is described in a [New York Times review](#) as a “perky two-character study in adolescent confusions and cosmic mysteries.”

Prospective performers will meet with the director, faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, in the Wilson Hall theater on either Tuesday, September 4, at 11 a.m. or Wednesday, September 5, at 5 p.m.

The production is scheduled to be performed November 8, 9 and 10.

## TAKE A TASTE!

### *Language Classes Explore Cultural Cuisine*

There’s more to language instruction than spelling and pronunciation. The UMES language classes are infused with cultural competency as well.

As the spring semester drew to a close, both Arab and Spanish language students had an opportunity to celebrate with traditional foods and activities.



Arabic students sample traditional foods.



Colorful piñatas are part of the Spanish class fiesta  
Photo by Debra Laforest

Are you a Pell Grant recipient who would like to study abroad? Apply for a [Gilman Scholarship](#)! The application deadline is October 2.

## YOU’RE INVITED

The English Department will resume its monthly socials on Wednesday, September 5.

At 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month during the semester, English majors and digital media minors gather in Room 2111 of Wilson Hall. It’s an opportunity to spend an hour getting to know your colleagues and your professors in an informal setting.

There will be homemade goodies, and this semester we plan a monthly drawing for a “college student care package.” Join us!

## FREE FOOD!!

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 Sandy Johnston. 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).