

INSIGHTS

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


U M E S
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READY, SET ... LET'S GO!

Fall Semester Begins With Energy, Optimism and Homemade Cookies

At least 14 new students have chosen the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages as their new home-away-from-home.

They'll soon have a chance to meet other English majors—and the department's faculty and staff—as the tradition of monthly, informal get-togethers designed to create a sense of community within the English department continues.

On the first Wednesday of each month, English faculty and students gather at 3 p.m. in Wilson Hall for conversation and comradery. Each event also includes homemade baked goods and a raffle drawing to claim school supplies, toiletries and snacks.

The first English social of the academic year is scheduled for Wednesday, September 4, in Room 2111.

In addition to greeting new English majors, the department welcomes a former full-time faculty member; Kimberly Galloway-Holmes returns to campus after a five-year absence.

Ms. Galloway-Holmes earned a B.A. in English, with a minor in history, from [East Tennessee State University](#) and an M.A. in English from the [College of Charleston and the Citadel](#). During her absence from UMES, she taught at the [University of South Carolina Beaufort](#).

One faculty member new students won't have the pleasure of meeting is Spanish language professor Nydia Gregory.



Ms. Galloway-Holmes

Recently widowed, Dr. Gregory opted to retire and move closer to other family members.

Faculty member Courtney Harned has also left the department, but with her new job as literacy coordinator for [Worcester County \(Maryland\) Public Schools](#), she may continue to interact with UMES English majors who student teach in those schools or are hired to teach there after graduation.



Dr. Gregory



Dr. Harned

Photos of Drs. Gregory and Harned by Jim Glover

ENGLISH FACULTY MILESTONES

Congratulations on a Job Well Done

The English faculty's hard work is being celebrated.

Two members collected their doctoral degrees in May, and a third completed her program in July.

Sandy Johnston earned her



Dr. Johnston (L) with her dissertation director Dr. Gloria Park

Photo by Bitia Bookman



Dr. Shoge

A third colleague, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones,

Photos of Drs. Shoge and Vlahovici-Jones by Jim Glover

[Ph.D. in composition and applied linguistics from Indiana University of Pennsylvania](#), and Simeon Shoge was one of the proud graduates of the [UMES organizational leadership doctoral program](#) at our commencement ceremony in May.



Dr. Vlahovici-Jones

Carole Champagne recently earned the rank of full professor through the UMES promotion and tenure process.

successfully defended her dissertation to earn a [Ph.D. in English from the University of Maryland](#), but because there is no summer commencement, her celebratory walk is delayed until December.

In addition, Spanish language instructor



Photos by Marilyn Buerkle and Jim Glover

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CLASS OF 2019?

- Ben Desta was hired as a video field crew member at [C-SPAN](#), the cable network based in Washington, D.C. where he interned during the summer of 2018.
- Marie Hassan is gathering additional hands-on experience as an intern with three different D.C. area media companies. They include [Latin Entertainment](#), [Indigo Republic Productions](#) and [DCBX](#).
- Kia Proctor is now the communications coordinator for the [UMES Office of Admissions & Recruitment](#).

SUMMER LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

Local Youngsters Study Arabic Language and Culture

The English department's [Foreign Language Instructional Center \(FLIC\)](#) hosted a highly successful summer language immersion program for middle and high school students in July.

For the first time, [FLIC's Summer Language Experience](#) focused on Arabic, and it attracted its largest class of students to date. There were 21 local students who participated.

The four-week program met Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students spent three hours each morning in intensive Arabic language study. Twice a week, like their college counterparts, the students used the FLIC computer equipped classroom to learn Arabic via the technology based software [Mango Languages](#).

They also had daily campus activities outside of the classroom including

bowling, swimming, board games, Frisbee, football and basketball.

Each afternoon, the students participated in hands-on cultural exploratory sessions. They varied from week to week and consisted of Arabic calligraphy, Arab fairy tales, art and music.

At the end of the program, the students were given a language proficiency exam. The majority of the participants showed significant progress and improvement.

"We look forward to hosting future Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish immersion programs," said FLIC Director Phillip Broussard. "Many of the students this summer expressed interest in learning other foreign languages next year."

Photos by Debra Laforest



TV PRODUCTION IS FUN

Star Power Day Camp Doubles in Size in its Second Year

Star Power, the television production day camp created by the English department's digital media program, grew to 14 students this summer.

Last summer, in its inaugural year, there were seven Star Power campers; nearly all of them enrolled again this year.

"I guess word travels fast when there's a productive learning experience that seventh, eighth and ninth graders actually enjoy," said Marilyn Buerkle, one of the English faculty members involved in the project.

During the five-day experience, participants



used the department's professional equipment to record a game show, create a music video and develop "mini" movies. They also visited [WBOC, a local television station](#), to watch the production of a talk show.

The week concluded with a Hollywood style "red carpet" premiere of the students' work for friends and family.



Photos by Bill Brophy, Marilyn Buerkle and Jim Glovier



MEDIA FACILITY ATTRACTS VISITORS

No Downtime for Studio Staff this Summer

The Department of English and Modern Languages takes its recruitment duties seriously.

So, when local organizations are looking for ways to inspire youngsters to consider college, a visit to the department's state-of-the-art TV and radio studios gets even the youngest of visitors excited.

This summer, in addition to its own day camp, the digital media technical staff played host to five other groups of young people.

They included members of a local 4-H club who were on campus to learn about golf; upper classmen from the UMES [Upward Bound](#) program; a STEM focused group of Worcester County high school students; more than 20 ninth and



This group of visiting 4-H students presented an interesting challenge. Their bright green golf camp shirts appeared invisible through the special effects of the TV studio's green screen technology.

Photo by Jim Glovier

10th graders from Somerset County attending a pharmacy department camp; and another group of nearly 30 elementary school students from a program called

New Beginnings in Dorchester County, Maryland.

Most of the students had the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities in the department's television studio.

The Worcester County group had a unique experience envisioned by English faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding. She was teaching the STEM students about the concept of an elevator speech—a brief, well-rehearsed personal summary that one can offer when the opportunity arises unexpectedly, for instance, during a chance encounter in an elevator.

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding teamed up with media staff members Bill Brophy and Leon Lewis to create the illusion of a moving elevator for practice introductions using the TV studio's "green screen" technology.

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**WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?
WORRIED ABOUT THE COST?
CHECK OUT THESE
SCHOLARSHIP OPTIONS:**

**Gilman International
Scholarship: Oct. 1 deadline**
Students must be Pell Grant recipients. Up to \$8,000 is available.

**Critical Language
Scholarship: Nov. 19 deadline**
Award recipients selected on merit. Essays demonstrate commitment to language learning.

**Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad
Scholarship: Dec. 15 deadline**
Students must have at least a 3.75 GPA. Seventy-five \$1,000 grants are awarded each year.

Each of these programs has no-fee online applications!

HABLAS ESPAÑOL?

Summer Course Offered in Medical Spanish

Imagine you're a health professional trying to help someone in pain, but you don't speak the same language as your patient. What can you do?

Students enrolled in the university's [doctoral program in physical therapy](#) are trying to avoid that problem. This summer, like many others over the last ten years, language professor Carole Champagne taught Spanish for Physical Therapists.

Second year PT students learn and practice a vocabulary specifically designed by Dr. Champagne for their profession.

"Most students have taken basic high school

Spanish or one undergraduate Spanish course," she said. "Few resources are available, so I developed my own resources in addition to educational publications."

The students are responsible for demonstrating their new vocabulary through a final capstone project. They play roles as both the patient and the physical therapist in the simulation laboratories.



Nancy Niemi (seated, center), the university's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, observes PT students conduct final project presentations in their Spanish for Physical Therapists class.

Photo by Dr. Champagne

Dr. Champagne also helped to establish a two-week Spanish for pharmacists program in Spain. UMES students visit hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies in addition to their intensive study of medical Spanish.

CAPSTONE CLASS FOCUSED ON CAREERS

A Family Connection Demonstrates Dreams Can Be Realized

A capstone class is usually taken by seniors during their last college semester. Because of that, capstone courses typically make connections between academic study and real world applications.

Last semester, faculty member Cynthia Cravens decided to make television the focus of the English department's capstone class, titling it "Ideology, Identity, and Character on American TV."



Dr. Cravens

Photo by Jim Glover

She made that decision based on the career goals of her students. She knew their dream of working in television was possible, and she had the perfect guest speaker to demonstrate that.

Dr. Craven's niece, Asha Michelle Wilson, is a young, successful, African American woman working as a staff writer on a hit television show, [American Horror Story](#), which airs on the FX network.

She appeared as a special guest speaker via Skype at the end of the spring semester. There may have been a bit of familial arm twisting; when the class began at 9 a.m., it was only 6 a.m. in Los Angeles. Despite the time differential, Ms. Wilson was wide awake and full of great advice.

"Because so many of our English students are interested in pursuing careers in television, I wanted to give them a chance to talk to someone who had the same dream, did the same major, moved to Los Angeles right after graduation and worked her way up to her dream job," Dr. Cravens said. "The 50 minutes she spoke to us was filled with great questions, candid answers about what it's like to work in Hollywood,

and terrific advice about networking, staying determined and working hard."

It had an impact.

This summer, newly graduated Marie Hassan made the connection between academic study and real world applications. "What Dr. Cravens showed us in the classroom was actually useful," she said in a thank you email to the department chair. "What I learned in the classroom, I am applying to my job."



Ms. Wilson takes questions from students enrolled in ENGL490, the English department's senior capstone course.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Adjunct Faculty Come From Local TV Station

The English department's digital media program offers its students a direct connection to the dominant media company on Delmarva.

Three of the department's adjunct faculty are full-time employees of Draper Media. The company operates a number of local news and entertainment outlets including the community's CBS, NBC and FOX broadcast television affiliates, as well as five local radio stations.

One of those adjunct instructors is about to have a higher profile on the UMES campus.

While [Kimberly Holmes-Wiggins](#) is a familiar face to local news viewers—she anchors WBOC's multi-hour morning TV news program—and she is becoming a familiar face to digital media students, she is about to become more familiar to the university's administrators.



Ms. Holmes-Wiggins

Photo by Sander Photography

Ms. Holmes-Wiggins is slated to serve as emcee for the UMES scholarship banquet that will be held on September 14. It's a part of the celebration following President Heidi Anderson's inauguration as the university's 16th president.

The newest member of the digital media adjunct faculty is Nicole Webb. An HBCU graduate who has taught courses at Lincoln University, this semester Ms. Webb is teaching a course in communication ethics at UMES. She currently produces Good Day Delmarva on [FOX21](#).

Her colleague Rob Wilkinson, who is a full-time promotions producer, teaches the department's television production course each spring.



Ms. Webb

Photo by Jim Glover



Mr. Wilkinson

Photo by Karen Cottingham

DRAMA ON DELMARVA

As the spring semester drew to a close, the department's Black Box Theatre offered its final production of the academic year.

The play, "[I Ate Lunch Alone Today](#)" by David-Matthew Barnes, was directed by Christian Ferguson, an English major and member of the [UMES Honors Program](#). Mr. Ferguson, who envisions a career in theater, was only a freshman at the time.

The next Black Box Theatre presentation is scheduled for November 15-17.



Mr. Ferguson (far right) takes a curtain call with his cast: Dakota Ferraro, Keitura Tadjukem, Marie Hassan and Qur'an Cave.

ALUMNI UPDATE



John Livengood, Class of 2016, earned his master's degree in [Organizational Communications from Bowie State University](#) this year.

Photo provided by Mr. Livengood



Jon'mel Davenport, who earned her UMES English degree in 2015 and a law degree from Howard University in May, has accepted a job as a fraud investigator for the [Financial Industry Regulatory Authority](#).

Photo provided by Melanie Davenport



Photo by Mark Stevens

Carmen Frazier, Class of 2014, is working as an early morning and weekend news producer at [WJLA TV](#), the ABC affiliate in Washington, D.C.



Keisha Brewer, pictured here at her 2014 UMES commencement ceremony, is working as a communication specialist at [SEI Services](#) supporting the National Institutes of Health, Office of Research on Women's Health.

WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

Faculty Member Immerses Herself in the Rich History of Scotland

By Carole Champagne

Editor's Note: Dr. Champagne is a professor of foreign languages and coordinator of the department's Spanish language minor. She recounts here her summer trip to Scotland



*Photo of Dr. Champagne by Jim Glover
All photos in Scotland by Dr. Champagne*

Festival Season in Edinburgh has been a dream since my Wake Forest thespian friends performed at the Fringe Festival. Throughout August, the cultural capital explodes with thousands of creative fireworks.

I attended stellar performances at the [Edinburgh International Festival](#), [International Book Festival](#), [Edinburgh Art Festival](#), and several [Fringe Festivals](#). Two memorable plays (“[Peter Gynl](#)” and “[Armour](#)”) and several concerts demonstrated exceptional artistry.

A favorite author, Kate Atkinson, spoke at the International Book Festival, but I had left her books to sign at my Leith house on the Firth of Forth. Eddie Izzard read excerpts from “[Great Expectations](#)” and discussed its impact on his formative years.

Basque musicians and poets shared their oeuvre with me before performing [Bertsolaritza](#), Basque competitive improvised sung poetry. In Pais Vasco, more than ten thousand fans fill soccer stadiums to support their favorite competitor!

Edinburgh in August is unique. No other place in the world holds four major concurrent arts festivals (in addition to several popular spin-off festivals).



Isle of Skye

After five days of sensory overload, I visited idyllic Inverness. Every night I enjoyed a lively cèilidh at [Eden Court](#). After hiking Loch Ness islands and the Caledonian Canal, I ventured the wilderness of Skye and the Highlands.

[Stirling Castle](#) and local historic sites prevented my pilgrimage to [Doune](#), iconic castle famous for “[Monty Python and the Holy Grail](#),” “[Outlander](#),” and “[Game of Thrones](#).”

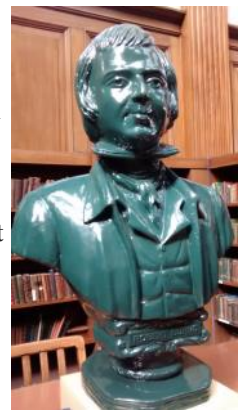
The [University of Glasgow](#), inspiration for Harry Potter’s Hogwarts, was another



The University of Glasgow founded in 1451

real-life film set. I climbed towers leading to offices and classrooms reminiscent of Professor Trelawney’s tower office.

A guard gave me an exclusive tour of the [Robert Burns Collection](#) and Jeffrey Collection at the [Mitchell Library](#). I dined at the elegant [Willow Tea Rooms](#) and visited [other locales designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh](#).



A bust of Robert Burns displayed at the Mitchell Library

After exploring Shetland, Orkney and other islands, I will continue researching fascinating Scotswomen: Mary, Queen of Scots; Flora MacDonald; the Glasgow Girls; the Four; and other historic influencers with enduring impact on Alba (the Scottish Gaelic name for Scotland).

AWARD WINNER!

Adjunct composition instructor Dianne Pearce traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this summer to accept awards she won in the [National Federation of Press Women’s Professional Communication Contest](#). Some of the accolades came for her personal work and others for her publishing venture, [Devil’s Party Press](#).



*Ms. Pearce (R)
Photo by David Yurkovich*

INNOVATIVE FACULTY

The Department of English and Modern Languages was well represented at the [UMES 2019 Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference](#) held on our campus in June.

Faculty member Cynthia Cravens served on the organizing committee. Her colleagues Terry Smith, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones, Bill Cecil and Courtney Harned, along with recent graduates Jenna Crockett and Kaitlin Thatcher, all made scholarly presentations.

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