

# INSIGHTS



DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
SCHOOL of THE ARTS AND PROFESSIONS  
Department of English and Modern Languages

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## WRITING CENTER ON FAST TRACK *Interim Dean Makes It a Top Priority*

The UMES Department of English and Modern Languages will shepherd the creation of a center to assist students campus-wide in becoming better writers.

A few weeks ago plans for a university writing center were still being formulated,

but thanks to the efforts of Rita Lamb, Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Professions, it will be operational later this month. After her arrival at UMES in

October, Dr. Lamb worked with Chester Hedgepeth, Interim Chair of the English Department, to fine tune and fast track the proposal.



Dr. Lamb, Dr. Hedgepeth, and faculty member Dean Cooledge are coordinating the effort. According to Dr. Cooledge, the center will be staffed by a director and four student tutors. He says they will be available to “help at any stage in the writing process.”

An office for adjunct English instructors is being established in the modular buildings where most of the English faculty offices are located; the current adjunct office space in Room 1107 in Wilson Hall will be transformed into the new writing center.

Hiring of the student tutors will begin immediately. The process of hiring a director will begin this semester, though it is expected that a current faculty member will serve as interim director through this academic year.

Rita Lamb comes to UMES from Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina where she served as Assistant Dean of Academic Development Services in the Division of Academic Affairs.



*Dean Lamb*

*Photo by Jim*

*Glovier*

She earned a B.A. in English from Spelman College, a M.A. in Educational Technology from North Carolina Central University, and a Ph. D. in English Education from New York University.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

### *Academic Affairs Office Rewards Two English Majors*

Two English majors have been selected by a committee of English faculty members to receive scholarships awarded this semester by the UMES Office of Academic Affairs.

Senior Shartanique Watson and junior Aaron Smith will each receive \$500 awards to assist them in defraying their educational expenses.



*Ms. Watson and Mr. Smith*

*Photo by Robin Hoffman*

Ms. Watson, from Waldorf, Maryland, will graduate in May. She is currently completing an internship with the University’s community relations department and is employed as a tutor for the UMES Access and Success program.

Mr. Smith is a Baltimore native. He graduated

from the prestigious Baltimore School for the Arts high school. He is employed on campus by the African Language Research Project.

The two students were selected by a faculty committee which included Mignon Anderson, Della Dameron-Johnson, and Bonni Miller.

The committee considered both merit and need in making its selections.

# ENGLISH ALUMNI OFFER ADVICE

## Graduates Return to Campus as Guest Speakers

Two recent UMES graduates returned to Princess Anne to share their perspective on life in the “real world” with current students.

Delonte Reid and Michael Wilson are pursuing different careers and are even located on opposite ends of the country, but they offered strikingly similar advice when they were invited to talk to students. In separate forums, both talked about taking one’s education seriously, behaving professionally, and having self-confidence.

Mr. Reid, a criminal justice graduate with a minor in English, plans to enter law school next year. In the meantime, he’s working in the D.C. area



Mr. Reid

as a customer service representative for defense contractor Lockheed Martin.

He was a guest speaker in classes taught by faculty member Barbara Seabrook. Dr. Seabrook, Mr. Reid’s former professor, describes him as “a great representative for the university and a positive role model for other African American males.”

Mr. Reid said he was pleased to talk to Dr. Seabrook’s students because he wanted “to try to keep them on the right track.”

Michael Wilson, an English graduate who is working fulltime as a civilian for the Armed Forces Network in Los Angeles and as a freelance writer in the newsroom of KABC TV, had a similar agenda when he returned to campus.

He spoke to students who are enrolled in classes taught by faculty members David Johnson and Marilyn Buerkle.



Mr. Wilson addresses students

Photo by Robin Hoffman

Mr. Wilson told his audience that they will have to prepare themselves for an extremely competitive job market. “Whatever you want to do, you have to do your homework,” he said.

He also encouraged them to go after their dreams. “If you want to do something, do it. Don’t let anybody tell you you can’t,” he said.

## ARTS FESTIVAL HELD UMES Faculty Member Participates

A weeklong celebration of the arts, held recently in Baltimore, featured a stage reading of a work-in-progress about the 1921 Tulsa, Oklahoma race riot. One of the performers was Will Rose, a member of the UMES English faculty.

He joined other actors who presented the first public reading of *The Magic City Massacre*, a play written and directed by Deletta Gillespie.

Mr. Rose first learned of the opportunity through his nephew, Bashi, Ms. Gillespie’s colleague in the MFA program

at Towson University. “Word gets out when there’s good material around,” Mr. Rose said.

Ms. Gillespie is writing the play as her thesis project. As a native of Tulsa, she said she wants to introduce her audience to the tragedy that befell what was known as “America’s Black Wall Street.”

Mr. Rose said the actors rehearsed 12 to 15 times with Ms. Gillespie. He described the reading of the first half of the play before a live audience during the festival as “beautiful.”

Once the play is finished, he plans to invite Ms. Gillespie to visit UMES and meet with his students to discuss her creative process.



Mr. Rose (R) shares the stage with his nephew, Bashi Rose (L) during the recent stage reading

Photos provided by Mr. Rose



Ms. Gillespie

## SURVIVING CANCER

Faculty member David Johnson is in his sixth year of surviving prostate cancer.

He celebrated that milestone recently by participating in **Relay for Life**, a 24-hour long community walkathon at Perdue Stadium in Salisbury, Maryland.

The high profile charity event is sponsored by the local chapter of the American Cancer Society.

This is Dr. Johnson’s fourth year participating in the fundraiser. His relay team, known as “Prostate Streakers” and made up of prostate cancer survivors, raised \$9,000 in donations this year. He personally raised over \$1,500 of that total.

“Life, to me, is a celebration each and every day,” Dr. Johnson said.



Dr. Johnson

## PHOTOGRAPHY ON DISPLAY *Faculty Member's One-Man-Show*

## BOOK PROMO *Faculty Author*

Joseph Davis, who teaches film and computer graphics in the UMES English department, displayed his photography recently at the Wicomico County Public Library. The one-man-show was held under the auspices of the **Art Institute and Gallery** in Salisbury, Maryland.

Mr. Davis has exhibited photography, video, and multi-media in faculty art shows on the UMES campus and in juried shows nationwide.

About the photos he selected for display in this most recent show, he said,

"photography and photomontage allow me to experiment with the layering of textures and images that I embraced in my multi-media and mixed-media work, while retaining the freedom...of painting."

His photos, a selection of which accompany this article, were exhibited through the month of October.



*The End of Dying*, a novel by faculty member Mignon Anderson, was featured recently on a web-based newsletter distributed to more than 9,000 email addresses.

Mrs. E's Collectables website was originally created by Howard Edmonson, a retired federal employee, to sell his wife's crafts. The couple no longer sells crafts but instead promotes black culture.



Ms. Anderson

Photo by Matthew Whittaker

"We started the newsletter about a year ago with the idea of primarily promoting books and material that is of academic interest," said Mr. Edmonson.

"I'm really pleased," said Ms. Anderson. "They are obviously concerned with books about African American life, and such a connection is very hard to find."

## ENGLISH GRAD MAKES HISTORY

The first African American to serve as an assistant state's attorney in Somerset County, Maryland—the county where our University is located—earned her undergraduate degree in English at UMES.

Kendra Hayward was sworn in as a county prosecutor recently.

Ms. Hayward graduated from UMES *summa cum laude*, with a bachelor's degree in English, in 2001. She was a member of our English Honor Society.

Ms. Hayward earned her law degree from the University of Baltimore in 2004 and passed the Maryland Bar exam in 2005.

*Editor's Note: This information was first reported in the October 19 edition of "The Key," a campus-wide newsletter. It appears here with the permission of that publication.*

## "INSPECTION" SCHEDULED

A team of evaluators from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) will visit our campus Saturday, October 25 through Wednesday, October 29, 2008.

The English Education Program will be one of the programs being examined during what's called a Continuing Accreditation Joint Visit.

Although there's nearly a year before the NCATE and MSDE representatives arrive, members of the University's teacher education programs are already hard at work preparing for the visit.

The English Department is represented in that process by Barbara Seabrook, coordinator of the English Education Program.

## LANGUAGE AND WORLD PEACE

The UMES African Language Research Project, under the direction of Chester Hedgepeth, Interim Chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages, has scheduled its fifth international conference.

The forum will be held in November of 2008 in Ocean City, Maryland and on the UMES campus. The theme of the conference is "The Role of Languages in World Peace."

Applications to present papers at the event are being accepted through next February. There is a 25 minute limit for each presentation.

One page research summaries may be submitted electronically to [cmhedgepeth@umes.edu](mailto:cmhedgepeth@umes.edu).

Registration materials are available at [www.umes.edu/alp/conference](http://www.umes.edu/alp/conference).

# HUMANITIES LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULED

## Events Begin This Month

The UMES Department of English and Modern Languages has planned a series of lectures which will begin this month and continue through the academic year.

The first in a series of five events will be held on the evening of November 2 in the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts in conjunction with a student production of "An August Wilson Medley."

Scenes from four Wilson plays will be performed under the direction of English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson. Following the 7:30 p.m. performance, there will be a roundtable discussion led by Dr. Dameron-Johnson and her English faculty colleague Dean Cooledge.



*Dr. Dameron-Johnson*

*Photo by Jim Glover*

The conversation is designed to help the audience better understand the playwright and his celebration of the African American experience during the twentieth century.

Dr. Cooledge is currently teaching a course that examines Wilson's plays, and he's pleased his students will have an opportunity to see portions of those plays performed. "It complements the course by emphasizing the production aspect of drama," he said. "So often in literature classes we forget that plays are meant to be seen, not read."



*Dr. Cooledge*

The **humanities series** will continue on November 14 when Dr. Ruthe Sheffey, a Shakespeare scholar from Morgan State University, will deliver a lecture entitled

"Shakespeare in Love with Diversity." Her remarks are scheduled for 11 a.m. in the Henson Center, room 1112.

On December 6, faculty member Carole Champagne will discuss her research of contemporary Latin American drama, focusing on the work of playwright Oscar Romero. That lecture will also begin at 11 a.m. and will be held in the Henson Center, room 1112.



*Dr. Champagne*

In February, the Chair of the English Department at Morgan State University will be the featured speaker. In March, the final event will be a discussion of Sudan with a guest lecturer from the U.S. Institute of Peace.

## CASUAL CONVERSATIONS

To be comfortable with a foreign language, students must get plenty of practice. UMES foreign language instructors have invited their students to a monthly "chat" in Waters Hall to provide the chance for them to practice their skills in casual conversation. The chats will be conducted in both French and Spanish.



*Madame Cooledge (center) engages students in conversation*



*Photo by Paul Zupan*

Congratulations to faculty member Joseph Davis and his new bride Andie Plamondon Davis. She's the Director of Education and Development at the Art Institute and Gallery and is currently pursuing a master's degree in education at Wilmington University.

## THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

English faculty and staff said thank you to Alice Smith for her hard work as a former member of the department's administrative team at a recent luncheon.

Ms. Smith moved to the Physical Therapy department on campus over the summer.

She may be gone—but she is certainly not forgotten.



*Mignon Anderson (R) presents thank you gift to Ms. Smith (L)*

*Photo by Joseph Davis*

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