It Pays to Apply for Scholarship

English Education Major is Two Time Winner

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor’s note: Dr. Seabrook is the coordinator of the UMES English Teacher Education Program.

See a related article on how English Non-Teaching majors can become certified to teach, also written by Dr. Seabrook, on page two.

Shannon Schoffstall, an English Education major, won one of the University’s prestigious Hazel Scholarships for the second year in a row. Ms. Schoffstall will receive a total of $3000, divided equally between the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters.

She will complete her teaching internship in the spring and will graduate in May 2008.

Ms. Schoffstall was awarded this same $3000 scholarship during the previous academic year.

The Hazel Scholarships are available to all UMES education majors through the generosity of Richard Hazel, a Salisbury area businessman and philanthropist. Scholarship recipients must meet certain qualifications and must be committed to education and teaching.

Selection is based on grade point average (minimum 3.0), admission to the Teacher Education Program, the recommendation of a teacher educator, financial need (FAFSA form on file), and dispositions, as measured by the production of a short essay and interview. The Hazel Scholars Program also requires an SAT score of 950 out of 1600 or 1410 out of 2400 on the new SAT.

Some scholarships are open to all teacher education majors. Others are for special education majors only. Education majors can reapply each fall for additional scholarship opportunities. The Hazel scholarship award is revoked if the student’s GPA falls below 3.0 or if the recipient leaves the education program.

There are numerous other types of scholarships available to undergraduate education majors, but YOU CAN NOT WIN IF YOU DON’T APPLY!

In addition, The UMES Department of Education is now awarding Hazel Scholarships to outstanding incoming graduate students in the following graduate programs: Career and Technology Education, School Counseling, Special Education, and the Master of Arts in Teaching. Incoming graduate students must be committed to the field of education and have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.2. Other criteria for incoming graduate students to be considered for a Hazel Scholarship are admission to the UMES Graduate Education Program, a professional recommendation, financial need (FAFSA form on file), and dispositions, as measured by the submission of a short essay and a personal interview. Priority is given to students from the Eastern Shore of either Maryland or Virginia, and Sussex County, Delaware.

English education majors are reminded to submit their application for official acceptance into the Teacher Education Program at the end of their sophomore year. At the time of application to the Teacher Education Program, English education majors should also submit a scholarship application.

Both applications are available on-line at the UMES Department of Education website. Completed applications should be submitted to Dr. Michael Nugent in Room 2032 of Hazel Hall.

Welcome to two new members of the English Department’s administrative team, Erica Walker (L) and Taryn Bivens.
FUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Public speaking instructor Will Rose took a break from the classroom recently to participate in the annual Art Shell UMES Celebrity Golf Classic.

This year’s tournament celebrated the University’s newly created Professional Golf Management (PGM) Program. A portion of the funds raised from the event will be used to support students in the PGM curriculum. The program is scheduled to begin admitting students in 2008.

This is the second time that Mr. Rose has participated in the tournament. “It’s all about fun and camaraderie,” he said.

RADIO REVIVAL?

Even though WHWK, the student radio station, has been off the air since a pipe broke last winter and ruined the station’s transmitter, student interest in the operation has not diminished.

General manager Fred Stephens manned a table at the University’s recent “First Look Fair,” an event designed to acquaint the student body with organizations and clubs on campus. “We had eighty-nine students sign up to get more information about participating once we get back on the air,” he said.

An effort to secure funding to transform the station into an Internet-only radio station is ongoing.

CAN I TEACH WITH A B.A. IN ENGLISH?

The Answer is Yes

By Barbara Seabrook

Many UMES English Non-Teaching majors are being recruited to teach language arts once they graduate.

Given the current shortage of teachers, many school districts hire graduates with a bachelor’s degree in English on a provisional license to teach, with the stipulation that PRAXIS I and II tests must be passed and required education courses completed within a specified amount of time.

The Maryland State Department of Education will evaluate a graduate’s transcript and provide written confirmation of additional courses that will be required for teaching certification.

Those who are interested should send a copy of their transcript and a cover letter requesting evaluation for English/Language Arts teaching certification to the Division of Certification and Accreditation at the Maryland State Department of Education’s website.

For more information about the requirements to obtain licensing and certification to teach in the State of Maryland, visit the Division of Certification & Accreditation at the Maryland State Department of Education’s website.

For more information about the English Education Program at UMES, contact Barbara Seabrook, Associate Professor of English and Coordinator of English Teacher Education at bjseabrook@umes.edu or 410-651-6793.

Dr. Seabrook’s office is located in Building #934-5, Room 6, adjacent to the University’s Alumni House. Her office hours for the fall semester are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHO’S WORKING WHERE?

Recent UMES English Alumni on the Move

- Deborah Meadows has left her job at WMDT TV in Salisbury to join the staff of WJZ TV in Baltimore
- Stephen Shorter is working in the Office of Communications for OSHA in the U.S. Department of Labor
- Stacy Woods is employed as a Business Operations Associate at Aerotek, a corporate staffing company in Baltimore
Representatives from Longman Publishing visited the UMES campus recently to meet with members of the English faculty.

Dave Hertzenberg demonstrated several Internet-based tools available for use with his company’s textbooks including MyCompLab and MyLitLab. He was accompanied by Chip Noonan who oversees the company’s custom publishing division.

Faculty members had the opportunity to ask questions about MyDropBox, a new plagiarism detection tool being used by the department. Discussion centered on how that tool interfaces with Blackboard, the instructional software that most UMES academic departments use to augment their courses.

The meeting was arranged by Dean Cooledge. Dr. Cooledge chairs the faculty committee that selected new textbooks for use beginning this semester in the department’s basic composition courses and for technical writing instruction.

The newly adopted English handbook, utilized in all English courses, was also under discussion at the meeting. “The faculty feedback on this handbook has been very positive,” Dr. Cooledge said.

Every UMES student must pass the University’s English Proficiency Exam (E.P.E.) before he or she can graduate. Again this year the English department will provide specialized tutoring for students who have had, or fear they might have, difficulty meeting that requirement.

Liz Bellavance is available every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. in Room 1107 in Wilson Hall. While her primary responsibility is E.P.E. tutoring, she is also available to assist students completing writing assignments for English 101 or 102 as time permits.

Appointments with Ms. Bellavance may be scheduled by emailing her at ebellavance@umes.edu.

Two of the department’s fulltime foreign language professors have been selected to present scholarly research at the upcoming fall conference sponsored by the Maryland Foreign Language Association. The event will be held at Anne Arundel Community College later this month.

Susan Cooledge will present research entitled, “L2 Reading Comprehension: Cultural and Lexical Variables that Influence Students’ Written Recall of a Francophone Text.”

The session will focus on what instructors can learn about student comprehension of a French text by analyzing their retelling of the story in English. “With this information, foreign language instructors can better anticipate and prepare readings for future students,” Dr. Cooledge said.

Carole Champagne is scheduled to discuss how she employs cultural “capstone” projects in her Spanish language courses to demonstrate her students’ mastery of language. She plans to present videotapes, CDs, and photos of some of her students’ final projects.

“The (capstone project) is meant to provide tangible evidence of progress from one semester to another in the language requirement sequence for all English majors,” she said. She hopes conference attendees will find the use of these sorts of student presentations helpful in their own assessment of student progress.

Dr. Champagne was also a presenter at the Latin American Studies Association annual conference held recently in Montreal, Canada. She was invited to discuss the work of two Latin American playwrights.

UMES and Salisbury University are offering the opportunity to visit Paris during the upcoming winter term.

While priority is given to students who will earn academic credit for the experience, the trip is open to anyone who would like to travel to France.

Students who do plan to earn credit must register for the Winter ‘08 course, The History of Paris, through Salisbury University.
BLACK FEMINIST LITERATURE
Adjunct Faculty Member Contributes

Patrice Jones, a UMES public speaking instructor, is the only white contributor to an upcoming anthology entitled "Sistah Vegan! Food, Health, Identity and Society: Black Female Vegans in North America."

“I was honored to be asked to write the afterword for what I believe will be a groundbreaking contribution to black feminist literature,” she said.

According to Ms. Jones, the book brings together essays, narratives, and poetry from more than thirty African American and Afro-Caribbean women who, in the words of the anthology’s editor, use veganism "to decolonize their bodies and engage in health activism that resists institutionalized racism.”

Ms. Jones says the book also explores the intersections of racism and sexism with environmental despoliation and animal exploitation.

The process of crafting the afterword for this anthology is, according to Ms. Jones, her most difficult writing assignment to date “because of the care I had to take as the sole white contributor in the position of commenting on the words of women of color, and because of the intrinsic difficulties of discerning and articulating the themes emerging from a diverse collection of writings.”

She credits her English department colleague Mignon Anderson with offering valuable advice during the project.

NEW MAGAZINE TO DEBUT
English Faculty Represented

“Shore Woman,” a new local magazine, will feature articles written by two faculty members in the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages.

Deborah Blair, an adjunct composition instructor, and Marilyn Buerkle, the department’s journalism teacher, have each contributed freelance articles and photographs for the publication.

Ms. Blair has written several pieces including one that focuses on women’s health. Ms. Buerkle has recounted the restoration of a local nineteenth century home.

The magazine will be published by a division of the Gannett Company, Inc.—the parent company of The Daily Times, nearby Salisbury’s daily newspaper. The first issue is scheduled for November.

WANTED: FILMMAKERS

Entries are being accepted for the second annual Scene First Student Film Festival.

The event will be held next March in Wilmington, North Carolina and is sponsored by Screen Gems Studios and the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Prizes will be awarded in eight categories including narrative, animation, comedy, experimental, documentary, horror, music video, and commercial/PSA.

In its inaugural year, Scene First had more than two hundred submissions from students in twenty-five states and eight countries.

UMES students who are interested in learning more about the festival can print informational flyers at www.scenefirstfestival.com.

The deadline for submissions is February 15.

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