ON THE JOB TRAINING

English Majors Use Internships to Gather Valuable Experience

Five English majors are complementing their classroom instruction with field experience during the current spring semester. The students are earning academic credit, gaining practical job knowledge, networking with seasoned professionals and acquiring a valuable resume credential just before they graduate.

All five are seniors who seek media careers. Their internship placements include Achu Mba at C-SPAN, a cable network in Washington, D.C.; Keisha Brewer at The Daily Times, Salisbury, Maryland’s local newspaper; Emmanuel Appiah and Jeremy Whichard at WBOC TV in Salisbury; and Carmen Frazier at WMDT TV, also in Salisbury.

This semester each of the students has had an opportunity to get hands-on experience. Some are writing stories, others are involved in the technical production of news programs.

Mr. Mba describes his experience as “awesome.” His enthusiasm must have impressed his supervisors. He’s been encouraged to apply for a studio crew position at the network.

While few academic internships lead directly to employment, they do provide proof of real world experience when students begin their job search.

In order to enroll in an English department internship, students must have completed their sophomore year and have at least a 2.7 cumulative GPA. The department permits a student to complete multiple internships for a maximum total of 12 credits.

V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R-S

English Faculty Members Assist at Regional Spelling Bee

Nearly 50 competitors, representing 27 public and private schools in Dorchester, Somerset and Wicomico counties, converged on the UMES campus recently for the second annual Maryland Eastern Shore Regional Spelling Bee.

The event is managed by UMES public relations and marketing staff members, but they sought assistance from the Department of English and Modern Languages.

Contestant #38, Pritika Papali of Salisbury Christian School, gives the UMES spelling bee mascot a nervous wave before the competition.

Photos by Joey Gardner

Winner Gia Bautista (second from left) with her mom Ninevetch, little sister Ava, Hun E. Bee and Wicomico Middle School Principal Kelley Morris-Springston.

Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch served as the chief judge of the event and faculty member Marilyn Buerkle was the official pronouncer.

After 27 rounds, Gia Bautista—a 12-year-old seventh grader from Wicomico Middle School—correctly spelled metamorphosis to win the event. She will represent the Eastern Shore in the National Spelling Bee at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, May 27-29.
NEED SOME HELP?
Writing Center Tutors Are Available

This semester’s peer tutors in the UMES Writing Center represent a broad cross-section of the campus community. In addition to a number of English majors, students who seek help will find expert writing tutors from a wide variety of disciplines including hospitality and tourism management, social sciences, biology and aviation sciences. In addition, the tutors represent both undergraduate and graduate programs.

The center is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. While walk-ins are welcome, students are encouraged to register for appointments online.

For convenience, access to the online appointment schedule site is now a tab inside Blackboard, the university’s course management system. In order for the schedule system to work correctly, Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the recommended browsers.

Writing center staff: (Front row, L to R) Briana Fulton, Aundrea Townsend, Center Director Terry Smith, Courtney Rhoades and Olivia Coleman, (Back row, L to R) Kelsey Tate, Liz Ranger, Sarra Malik and Jerrod Graham

YOU’RE INVITED!
This month, the UMES Drama Society and students in the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program present the annual dinner theater production. This year’s show, staged in the Henson Center ballroom, is “Motown ‘N Mo, Take 3.” Written by former English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson, the society’s director, the play is a continuation of her history of Motown through dialogue, song and dance.

Friday, April 4
Tickets $45, first seating at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 5
Tickets $50, first seating at 6 p.m.

Students are welcome to bring their own dinner and attend dress rehearsals at 7 p.m. on April 2 and 3. Admission on those evenings is $3.

ESTONIAN ARTIST VISITS

Foreign Language instructor Carole Champagne, as a member of the executive committee of the Maryland Estonia Exchange Council, helped to welcome a renowned Estonian artist to the Eastern Shore recently.

The Estonian Embassy held a reception at Salisbury University’s Downtown Gallery, where the paintings of Piret Bergmann Torim, known as Pusa, are on display.

Dr. Champagne invites the UMES community to visit Pusa’s show, “Undiscovered Worlds, The Secrets of Lacebird,” through April 18. The gallery is open Wednesday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

WORD PLAY: Neologism

The Washington Post’s Style Invitational asks readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter to create a new word with a new definition. Each year, winning submissions for the neologism (the coining or use of new words) contest are published.

Example: New (Artificial) Word: intaxication
Real (Original) Word: intoxication
New Definition: euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money initially

Read the following five words carefully. Each is an artificial word created by altering a letter from a real word.

1. giraffiti 2. sarchasm 3. inoculatte
4. Dopeler Effect 5. cashtration

• What is the real word that was used to produce the artificial word?
• Can you guess the “new” definition for the artificial word?
• Think about the rationale (creative use of language) for the new word and definition.

Answers on Page 4.

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.
English Education seniors will soon hear what a recent graduate describes as “confessions of a first year teacher.”

Zanae Allen Ari, a former UMES Writing Center tutor and current high school English teacher, has offered to be a guest speaker for the seniors in the methods course, EDCI 425 Curriculum & Instruction in English.

“I’m happy to help other teacher candidates,” she said. Her advice will be valuable.

She is married to David Ari, who earned his B.A. in electrical engineering and technology at UMES last May. He will receive a UMES graduate degree in applied computer science in December. Not only is the couple advancing their professional qualifications, they have also started their family. Their daughter, Gianna Karena, is seven months old.

“David and I are both honored to be UMES alumni,” she said. “Our hope is that more students ... see that good things happen at UMES, and the hard work and patience pay off greatly.”

PREPARATION IS KEY
Familiarity Creates Confidence

As a recent graduate of the University, I thought it would be a great idea to pursue a career in sports broadcasting. At the beginning of my freshman year, as a member of Hawk Radio, I developed a profound love for the production of radio broadcasts, and I have always had a desire to play or work in the professional sports industry.

As an alumni of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, participating in multiple organizations and majoring in English, I felt very prepared about my future in the workforce.

In January, I applied to Sirius XM Radio in Washington, D.C. I received a phone call regarding a part-time position as a sports board operator, and I gladly accepted the offer. I execute technical responsibilities for live broadcasts and serve as a liaison to the sports staff regarding game highlights, player statistics, etc.

My job is very exciting and very detail oriented. I have the opportunity to observe how a professional sports show is presented during a live radio shift. My managers are very helpful.

I stay busy. I work full time in the Nationwide Insurance Corporate Communications Department; I spend my evenings at Sirius XM Radio, and I’ve continued my part-time job during college as a member of the Baltimore Ravens equipment crew. In the time that remains, I’m checking out grad schools.

ALUMNI UPDATE: NEW JOBS

Michael Wilson, Class of 2005, has been promoted from his job at FOX Sports. He is now an associate producer of on-air operations at the FX cable network, part of the same corporate media family, in Los Angeles.

Sandra Joseph, Class of 2012, is now a coordinator in the TV Direct department at the Katz Media Group in New York City.
Three English department faculty members and a UMES student attended the recent Bay to Ocean Writers Conference sponsored by the Eastern Shore Writers Association at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland.

Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch joined her colleagues Mignon Anderson and Melissa Green at the daylong event. Michael Taylor, a sociology major who plans to study English in graduate school, also attended the conference.

The program featured discussion on a wide variety of topics pertaining to the craft of writing, publishing, and marketing. Participants also examined the intricacies of particular genres.

English faculty member Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones was a presenter at the recent national College English Association conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

The theme of the group’s 45th annual event was “Horizons.” Ms. Vlahovici-Jones was part of a panel that focused on diversity in multicultural literature. Her remarks were titled “Dread, Humor, and Life’s Horizons: Encounters with Death in Romanian Folklore.”

Ms. Vlahovici-Jones at her presentation

Word Play

Answers from Page Two:

1. From graffiti, the word giraffiti is vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
2. From sarcasm, the word sarchasm is the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn’t get it.
3. From inoculate, the word inoculatte means to take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
4. From Dopler Effect, Dopeler Effect is the tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
5. From castration, cashtration refers to the act of buying a house, which renders the buyer financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.

SPRING CAREER FAIR

The Daily Times, Salisbury’s daily newspaper, was well represented at the recent campus career fair. Earl Holland, who graduated from UMES in 2005 with a degree in English, met with students to discuss opportunities at the publication.

Mr. Holland was hired as a general assignment reporter, but now covers the sports beat.

Photo by Ashley Collier

LEARNING CHINESE

For the third summer, the university’s Foreign Language Instructional Center will offer high school and home schooled students the opportunity to learn Chinese in a two week intensive program taught by a native speaking instructor. This year, Beginning Chinese starts on June 16; Intermediate Chinese begins on July 7.

Registration deadline: June 1

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