MINOR GETS FINAL APPROVAL
UMES Senate Okays English Department’s Telecommunications Proposal

UMES students who seek careers in radio, television and related fields will soon be able to add a minor in telecommunications to their academic résumé.

At its March meeting, the UMES Senate unanimously approved a proposal to permit the Department of English and Modern Languages to offer an 18-credit telecommunications minor.

Students have long been able to take telecommunication classes offered by the English department, but there has been no official credential to differentiate their coursework from English majors who focus on composition skills or the advanced study of literature.

To categorize telecommunication courses as distinct from other English classes, a new code—TELC—will replace the familiar ENGL label on a group of more than ten courses including TV production, radio production, news writing, computer graphics, photo journalism and other pertinent subjects. Because the approval process wasn’t completed until a few short weeks before pre-registration for the fall semester is set to begin, the courses will still appear with their ENGL prefixes for now.

The creation of a telecommunications minor began with a proposal by the department’s curriculum committee. After approval by the department chair, it still faced consideration by the School of the Arts and Professions Curriculum Committee, the SAP Dean, the Provost and V. P. for Academic Affairs and the Senate’s curriculum committee before the full Senate could vote on the proposal.

The formal documentation of a telecommunications minor comes in the wake of a lengthy planning process for a new academic building which will house state-of-the-art radio and television studios. Pending state approval of construction funding, ground breaking for the new building may come as early as this summer. If the project is fully funded and remains on schedule, construction could be completed by the fall of 2015.

CELEBRATING A MUSICAL LEGEND
Hawk Radio DJs Take Their Black History Lesson on the Road

When the Office of Campus Life asked student organizations to participate in a Black History Month event in the SSC, members of Hawk Radio, the student-managed radio station supervised by the English department, volunteered to create a presentation on Marian Anderson.

The student DJs recounted the experiences of one of the most celebrated African American vocalists of the twentieth century. In 1939, with the assistance of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Ms. Anderson drew attention to racial discrimination in the U.S. by performing for an audience of 75,000 from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. This, after the Daughters of the American Revolution had refused to permit her to perform before an integrated audience at Constitution Hall.

The presentations created by the various student organizations were so impressive that they were asked to repeat the event at Choptank Elementary School in Cambridge, Maryland, a few weeks later. Emmanuel Appiah and Keronn Byrd represented Hawk Radio at both events.

When a technical failure prevented the student DJs from showing a video of Ms. Anderson’s famous performance to the elementary school audience, they improvised by inviting the children to sing patriotic songs. “It really was fun,” Mr. Appiah said. “We kept them engaged, and they learned an important lesson.”
OFFERING A WORLD VIEW

FLIC Plans Summer Language Instruction

The UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center, under the auspices of the Department of English and Modern Languages, will offer classes to local high school students again this summer.

Last year, FLIC inaugurated a program called “The Summer Language Experience at UMES.” The session introduced high school age students to Chinese. This summer, FLIC will expand its offerings to include Chinese, Russian, and Arabic.

The two-week sessions will each include 60 hours of language study taught by native speaking instructors in FLIC’s high tech classroom. Space is limited; only 20 students per program will be accepted.

Monday through Friday instruction in Chinese is planned for June 17-28; Russian will be offered July 8-19; the Arabic class will begin on July 29 and conclude on August 9.

The Summer Language Experience is open to students who will begin grades 9-12 in September, as well as their homeschooled counterparts.

The fee is $200 per student, per program. Online registration is available at www.umes.edu/FLIC.

Faculty member Melissa Green has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in literature at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Green earned her bachelor’s degree in English from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and her master’s degree, also in English, from Salisbury University. She joined the UMES faculty in 1998.

Among other classes, Ms. Green has taught creative writing and poetry.

Earlier this year, faculty member Sandy Johnston was accepted to I.U.P.’s Ph.D. program in Composition and TESOL.

WORD PLAY: Eponyms

Some words originated from people’s names. Generally these people served the world in some special way and then gained immortality through the word named after them. Because these names often have unique spellings, they can present problems for spellers. A word or name derived from the name of a person is called an EPONYM. Can you guess the word that originated from each person listed below?

1. Amerigo Vespucci
2. Earl of Sandwich
3. Andre Ampere
4. Captain Charles Boycott
5. Louis Braille
6. Anders Celsius
7. Nicolas Chauvin
8. Anders Dahl
9. Rudolf Diesel
10. Gabriel Fahrenheit

(Answers on Page 4.)

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.

LEARNING NEVER STOPS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Faculty member Terry Smith presented “The Nature and Artifice of Writing Proficiency Assessment: Freshmen Writing Courses and the English Proficiency Exam” at the recent College English Association-Middle Atlantic Group conference at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland.

“The presentation was well attended,” Dr. Smith said. “I had excellent conversations with faculty involved in the writing proficiency assessment at both Coppin and Bowie State Universities.”

Dr. Smith serves as co-editor of the group’s journal, CEA-MAGazine. “The CEA-MAG is a dynamic regional organization,” she said. “I look forward to involving my UMES colleagues in the organization, the conference, and the journal.”
Conference Collaboration
Writing Tutors Will Travel to Pennsylvania for Scholarly Presentation

By Terry Smith

Editor’s Note: Dr. Smith is an assistant professor in the Department of English and Modern Languages and serves as director of the UMES Writing Center. She is also the coordinator of the university’s English proficiency exam.

Five members of the writing center staff spent part of their spring break working on an exciting upcoming project: our presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association 2013 Conference. Working with me on this professional project are tutors Shanay Snead, Ny’Asia Brooks, Kelsey Tate and Liz Ranger.

On Friday, April 5, we will travel to California State University in California, Pennsylvania, for our first group professional presentation that Saturday. We were given a full 90-minute panel presentation for a discussion of “Incidental and Insidious Implications: How Moving to an Online Scheduling and Record-Keeping Program Affects Tutoring in the Writing Center.” In addition, we received a competitive travel grant from MAWCA to partially offset the cost of our trip.

Our writing center’s movement from a paper to an online scheduling and record-keeping program seemed to be a practical one made to simplify record-keeping. However, we soon discovered that there are many incidental and even insidious implications involving all three dimensions of writing center scholarship: theory, research and practice.

I will present an overview of our session, then each of the four tutors will present the theory, research, and practice behind two questions we have researched and answered in response to this move. Then, after the tutors present their perspectives on these implications, we will encourage the panel participants to add theirs.

In addition to presenting our panel, we are also participating in a poster session. Tutor Liz Ranger is using her creative talents to create a poster for us with the same title, and we will all assist her in staffing the poster session. But our plans don’t end there. When we return, we hope to write an article for the Writing Lab Newsletter on the same topic.

The tutors are really excited about this opportunity to expand on their practical experiences in the writing center and their theoretical reading in their peer tutor workshop by participating in this professional activity, and I am really proud of their enthusiasm and commitment.

I always enjoy the MAWCA Conference, and I am looking forward to it more than ever this year since I am, for the first time, attending and presenting with members of my professional staff.

Nurturing Your Muse
Faculty Members Attend Writers Conference

UMES was well represented at the annual Bay to Ocean Writers Conference, held recently at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills, Maryland.

Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch and faculty members Mignon Anderson and Melissa Green were part of the sold-out crowd.

The event included workshops, presentations and panel discussions featuring authors, poets, writing instructors, editors and publishers.

“I would recommend this conference to anyone at UMES who is serious about writing fiction, non-fiction or poetry and getting published either in the traditional way or through online venues,” Ms. Anderson said. “In addition to the excellent information available, attending gives each writer a chance to informally share ideas and friendships, adding to one’s support group as one goes about the often lonely business of writing.”

The conference is sponsored by the Eastern Shore Writers’ Association. The group solicits suggestions for improvement. Ms. Anderson has been in touch with the staff to assist in recruiting more racially and culturally diverse participants.

REAL LIFE @ UMES

There are less than 70 days left until I will be another proud UMES graduate! Lately the reality that this is my last semester as an undergraduate has been haunting me … I feel like this is one of the most important points in my life and the choices that I make now will affect my future drastically.

-Kyla Bibbins

Click here to read Ms. Bibbin’s entire blog entry.

Editor’s note: This presentation of an excerpt from the UMES social media team’s blog is a monthly Insights feature.
VLOG ONLINE

Brittany Peterson, Class of 2011, will earn her master’s degree from Morgan State University in May.

One of her final graduate school production projects involved launching a vlog (video blog), SheisBrittanyNicole, in March.

The site features a segment Ms. Peterson calls “Fashion Forward.” It includes an interview she conducted with Harlem-based rapper and actor Jim Jones. She joined him to discuss his Vampire Life clothing line.

HOMETOWN TELEVISION

Adobi Agbasi, Class of 2012, made her mark at UMES as a star on the women’s basketball team. She returned home to Georgia following graduation and has now scored a job at a local television station.

Ms. Agbasi is a member of the technical team at WLTV, the NBC affiliate in Columbus, Georgia. She serves as a master control operator, responsible for monitoring the quality of the station’s on-air signal.

YOU ARE IN CONTROL

National Media Expert to Lecture at UMES

Students interested in media careers may be particularly intrigued by the next installment in the UMES School of the Arts and Professions Lecture Series.

Jerry Gumbert, President and CEO of Audience Research & Development, will visit the campus later this month.

A.R. & D. is one of the nation’s premiere television branding companies featuring a team of news and information innovators and brand development experts.

As a business strategist, Mr. Gumbert counsels America’s best-known media brands including News Corp./FOX, Time Warner, Viacom/CBS, ABC/Disney, Media General Inc., Scripps-Howard, Evening Post and Clear Channel Communications.

He has addressed the National Association of Broadcasters annual convention as a keynote speaker. He was also the keynote speaker at a national news technology summit where he delivered his view of “The Re-engineering of Local Media.”

Mr. Gumbert’s lecture at UMES is titled “You are in Control: Living in a Multimedia Universe.” It will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 23, in Room 1020 of Hazel Hall.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. America
2. sandwich
3. ampere
4. boycott
5. braille
6. Celsius
7. chauvinism
8. dahlia
9. diesel
10. Fahrenheit

Insights is written and edited, except as noted, by communications instructor Marilyn Buerkle. Technical associate Eric Hammond is responsible for desktop publishing. 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 mlabuerkle@umes.edu.