OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Students Travel to Howard University’s Communications Career Fair

Taking a bus trip to Howard University’s Communications Career Fair meant being well-coiffed and professionally dressed before 6:30 a.m., but for the 26 students who made the trip to Washington, D.C., last month, it was worth the effort.

The group attended panel discussions with media experts and discussed jobs and internships with recruiters from some of the biggest names in advertising, public relations, radio, and television.

“I thought it was really beneficial,” said Tahja Cropper, a sophomore English major. “I’m even more excited about pursuing television.”

The career fair also included representatives from graduate schools. That was helpful for senior English major Tiffany Tyner. “It actually got me thinking about graduate school, and I hadn’t been,” she said.

Funding for the trip was provided by Arts and Professions Dean Ray Davis. The students were accompanied by English faculty member Marilyn Buerkle.

ENGLISH MAJOR RULES!

Senior is Crowned Mr. UMES

The Department of English and Modern Languages is home to campus royalty.

Senior English major Jeremy Whichard, from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was crowned Mr. UMES at a campus coronation ceremony recently. He reigns with rehabilitation services major Porsha Harvey from Newark, Delaware.

Photos by Valentine Anamelechi
RAISING THEIR VOICES IN SONG

English Majors are Multi-Talented

The UMES Concert Choir leaves a lasting impression. Its remarkable sound has brought audiences to their feet and, on occasion, tears to their eyes.

Under the direction of Sheila Harleston, the group presents both secular and sacred music and has, over the years, performed across the country and around the world.

This year, the English department is especially proud of the choir. Of the 31 students who participate, five are English majors. They include Jon’Mel Davenport, Shauna-Kaye Jones, Kia Morsell and Dre Tingle. Hilliard, Shauna-Kaye Jones, Kia Morsell and Dre Tingle.

“We have English majors … in three of the four sections in the choir,” Dr. Harleston said. She joked about completing the department’s participation. “We are looking for a tenor English major,” she said. “Any takers?”

While they are not seeking degrees in music, each of the English majors loves to sing. Sophomore Dre Tingle describes it as uplifting. “It improves my mood and has a strong impact on those who are listening,” he said. “It’s a win-win.”

The choir’s annual fall concert will be held in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center on Sunday, November 10, at 4 p.m. Admission is free. The current choir will be joined by some of its alumni, including recent English graduate Delonte Williams.

WORD PLAY:
Word Fluency Equations

The following equations test your knowledge and your fluency with words.

Example: $26 = \text{L. of the A.}$

Answer: $26 = \text{letters of the alphabet}$

What are the missing words (as indicated by the initials) that will make the following equations correct?

1. $88 = \text{P. K.}$
2. $13 = \text{S. on the A. F.}$
3. $18 = \text{H. on a G. C.}$
4. $32 = \text{D. F. at which W. F.}$
5. $90 = \text{D. in a R. A.}$

(Answers on page 4)

CULTURAL QUIZ

English major and honors program participant Jessica Land represented UMES in Atlanta at the annual Black College Quiz in early October.

The “Jeopardy” style competition tests the participants’ knowledge of African American history and culture. Ms. Land won a $1,000 scholarship as a result of her participation.

Ms. Land in Atlanta preparing for the competition
Photo by Aundra Roberts

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.
Longtime English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson may have retired from full-time teaching, but she is certainly not forgotten—not by a long shot.

While “Mama D,” as she is affectionately known by her students, continues to lead the UMES Drama Society, her impact on her students will live well beyond her physical presence on our campus.

That was recently evident on Facebook when a former drama society president publicly dedicated mile 21 of a marathon run to her.

Jacob Zebley, who graduated summa cum laude in 2008, described her influence this way: “I went to college really as a theatre kid and at an HBCU there wasn't a huge population of white gay theatre kids! Some were accepting of my presence, but it wasn't until I met this woman that I felt embraced as a member of the Hawk community … Mile 21 is dedicated to a woman whose impact on this world will be felt for generations to come, the one and only ‘Mama D.’”

Students in Carole Champagne’s Spanish classes heard firsthand about a variety of study abroad programs in Spain recently.

Patrizia D’Adamo Roldan, the director of U.S. operations for Travel and Education, was invited to UMES by Dr. Champagne to meet with her classes and to hold an open session designed to encourage students to consider taking classes beyond U.S. borders.

Ms. D’Adamo Roldan has visited the campus, at Dr. Champagne’s request, for the last few years. She has assisted, among others, a group of UMES pharmacy students who attended the University of Salamanca, the oldest institution of higher learning in Spain.

Spanish 101 student John Livengood, a sophomore of Italian, Guatemalan and Argentinian descent, was intrigued. “I could find my roots and learn about my culture,” he said.

In addition to fostering on-campus discussions, Dr. Champagne also serves as the UMES contact for the Gilman scholarships, a federally funded program that helps low income students from diverse populations study abroad.

MISS EVERS’ BOYS
presented by the UMES Drama Society

Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center,
7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $5, $2 for students, $4 for senior citizens
TEACHING & LEARNING

Two faculty members from the Department of English and Modern Languages traveled to the University of Baltimore in mid October to attend the second annual Fall Teaching & Learning Day.

Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones and Carole Champagne heard conference participants offer concrete classroom strategies to promote significant learning.

Ms. Vlahovici-Jones described the event, organized by the UB Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching, and Technology, as a refreshing and stimulating experience. “Dr. Champagne and I had the pleasure of participating in sessions on learning communities, team-based learning, and universal design in face-to-face and online courses,” she said.

CONSIDER ENGLISH

The recruitment season is underway.

English faculty member Terry Smith and English majors Kelsey Tate and Liz Ranger met with high school juniors and seniors and their parents at an open house which brought hundreds of prospective students to the UMES campus on Saturday, October 12.

CONGRATS DR. CRAVENS

There’s a new doctor in the house. Adjunct instructor Cynthia Cravens has earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Illinois.

“My area of specialization is creative writing, and I am currently in the process of preparing my dissertation manuscript for publication,” she said. “My secondary areas of research are film studies and gender and women's studies.”

Dr. Cravens has been especially busy. She had a baby boy while she was completing her dissertation and teaching at UMES.

A WARM WELCOME

Faculty member Carole Champagne joined her Sister Cities colleagues as they escorted a group of Chinese students from Salisbury University to a local welcome ceremony with elected officials including Salisbury Mayor Jim Ireton and Council President Jacob Day.

Mayor Ireton explained the fundamental differences between local, state and federal jurisdictions.

“Students were impressed with the personal attention devoted to their questions,” Dr. Champagne said.

THANK YOU TO DONORS

English Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch offered remarks at a recent reception for UMES donors.

She was invited by the Division of Institutional Advancement to share the impact of the donors’ generous contributions.

Dr. Brice-Finch personifies the same spirit of giving. She has established an endowment fund to benefit the Department of English and Modern Languages as a tribute to her family.

Ms. Tate, Dr. Smith and Ms. Ranger

Photo by Richard Warren

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WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO

Word Fluency Equations

1. 88=Piano Keys
2. 13=Stripes on the American Flag
3. 18=Holes on a Golf Course
4. 32=Degrees Fahrenheit at which Water Freezes
5. 90=Degrees in a Right Angle