UMES’s Psi Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society, welcomed nine new members to its ranks in a formal induction ceremony held recently in the Student Services Center.

The inductees include Diasia Atkins, Allyson Brinson, Chelsea Corpening, Alexis Garrett, Shannon Logan, Aiesha Myles, Juwan Nicholson, Jasmine Roberts, and Brandon Shoats.

Each of the students has at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, has completed at least three college semesters, and is pursuing either an English major or minor. They were invited to join after an application process which included faculty recommendations and a written submission.

Family and friends of the inductees who attended the event heard Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch describe the lifelong benefits of aligning oneself with an organization that celebrates learning and scholarship.

The president of the chapter, Senior English major KeShawn Taylor, also delivered remarks at the ceremony. He reminded the inductees that while college presents an opportunity for growth in many areas, they should not lose sight of their academic priorities.

ANOTHER CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

English Majors Contribute to the Success of UMES Volleyball Team

The UMES women’s volleyball team—with two senior English majors playing key roles and an English department staff member as associate head coach—has won its second Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship in a row.

It’s particularly difficult to win back-to-back titles, according to Ndidi Ihe, a record-breaking middle blocker who earned all-conference honors and will graduate with an English degree in May. “Everyone always goes after the team that wins the championship the previous year,” she said. “There's always more pressure and teams always play harder. . . .”

Associate coach Eric Hammond acknowledges this year was challenging. Several starters suffered injuries just as the season got under way; that forced a change for English education major Corey Haynes. “Due to injuries to one of our starting middle blockers, we needed her to give up her normal position of setter and step into a starting role in a brand new position,” Mr. Hammond said. “Her dedication and energy have been invaluable.”

Ms. Haynes attributes her success to the support of her teammates. “The ten of us are like family,” she said. “We had some hardships...but, like a family, we bounced back.”
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Hurricane Sandy Cuts NYC Trip Short

Senior English major Arielle Brodnax and Ejovwoke “Ejay” Esiobise, a student assistant in the department’s Foreign Language Instructional Center, were selected to attend The Thurgood Marshall College Fund’s annual Leadership Institute and Recruitment Fair in New York City in late October. Many UMES students applied to attend the prestigious event; 40 were interviewed; 17 were chosen.

Each year the five-day conference affords its participants a remarkable array of workshops, training sessions, and job interviews. This year, the event offered one more feature: Hurricane Sandy.

With the storm bearing down on the East Coast, the UMES contingent made the decision to cut short its trip by two days.

“It was a great experience, regardless of whether or not we had to leave early,” Ms. Brodnax said. “We learned to work around obstacles.”

REAL LIFE @ UMES

What surprises me is how relatively uncommon a passion for reading or even an interest in reading is among college students today. As Director of the Writing Center, I often tell my tutors and tutees that there is one way most likely to improve their writing. Most believe that I’m going to tell them to write more, but the answer is to read more.

-Terry Smith

Click here to read Dr. Smith’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.

VOTE FOR SHELTON!

Writing Center Tutor is National Finalist

Shelton Handy is truly a renaissance man—his expertise spans a significant number of subject areas.

The English department claims Mr. Handy as part of its extended family because he serves as a peer tutor in the UMES Writing Center. He loves numbers as well as words; his major is math education. Mr. Handy is also blessed with a beautiful singing voice, and now he can add poetic recitation as yet another talent.

Mr. Handy has been selected as a national finalist in the 2012 Norton Anthology Student Recitation Contest. According to the publisher’s website, college and high school students worldwide were invited to submit an original video recitation of one of six classic works featured in Norton anthologies.

The selected recitations came from William Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Elizabeth I, and Rudyard Kipling. Mr. Handy presented “If” by Kipling.

Eligible submissions were judged by W.W. Norton in-house editors, who selected three finalists for each of the six works.

Mr. Handy entered the contest at the suggestion of his Special Topics in Literature professor, Amy Hagenrater-Gooding. The course content changes each semester; Mr. Handy and his classmates are exploring the topic, “Are We Our Own?”

“We work on delivery of all kinds: written, formal response and written, creative responses,” Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding said. “The students are required to give both formal and informal presentations.”

You can vote for Mr. Handy until December 7. The six winners will receive a $150 Barnes & Noble gift certificate and their names will be featured on the acknowledgments page of a Norton Anthology.

TELEVISION TOUR

Students enrolled in TV Production and Programming got a V.I.P. tour of WBOC TV in Salisbury recently. There was no problem organizing the trip—their instructor, Paul Butler, is one of the station’s primary anchors.

Photo by Laura Beth Winik

(L to R) Aiesha Myles, Gustavo Liriano, Kyla Bibbins, Nathan Brown, Glenna King, Mr. Butler, Elijah Barrett, and Leshay Frazier at the station’s anchor desk
Faculty member Marilyn Buerkle has put her background as a reporter to work on two collaborative projects recently.

She assisted the communication faculty at Salisbury University in the creation of a program for a November meeting of the Maryland Society of Professional Journalists to which both SU and UMES students were invited.

Ms. Buerkle is also leading a revival of Wingspan, the newsletter of the UMES School of the Arts and Professions. She is joined by faculty members Evita Bynum of Criminal Justice, Mary Agnew of Education, Brad Hudson of Fine Arts, and Joyce Bell from the Department of Social Sciences. They are busy creating an issue that will be available next semester.

Hundreds of middle and high school students attended the university’s annual Tri-County College Fair held in the William P. Hytche Athletic Center on November 29.

While the event is primarily designed to assist students in Maryland’s Worcester, Wicomico, and Somerset Counties—students from Delaware and Virginia were also in attendance. They had the opportunity to discuss the Department of English and Modern Languages with Associate Professor Dean Cooledge.

Longtime faculty member Mignon Holland Anderson has been invited by the Library of Virginia to join the Virginia Authors Circle. The organization celebrates authors from Virginia and those who write about the state.

Ms. Anderson is a native of Virginia’s Eastern Shore, and she has written two published book-length works set in Virginia.

Mostly Womenfolk and a Man or Two: a Collection features 12 short stories told from the perspectives of African American residents of rural Northampton County.

The End of Dying, her first novel, is also set on the Eastern Shore. It depicts the impact of a lynching on a ten-year-old racially mixed girl.

A pun, also called paronomasia, is a play on words that capitalizes on a similarity of spelling and/or pronunciation between words that have different meanings. A pun may also employ one word that has multiple meanings. Although puns have been used for serious purposes in the past (and still occasionally are), since the beginning of the 18th century, most have been used for comic effect.

Can you fill in the missing words in the following puns? Use the underlined words as clues to guess the answer. The first letter of the missing word is provided to help you.

1. Two antennae met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. The ceremony wasn’t much, but the r____________ was excellent.

2. Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: “Does this taste f_________ to you?”

3. I went to a seafood disco last week and pulled a m________.

Use the hint in the parentheses to guess the answer below.

4. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of his office and asked them to disperse. “But why,” they asked, as they moved away from the lobby. “Because,” the manager said, “I can’t stand ______________________.” (Common subtitle for “The Christmas Song” written in 1944 by Mel Torme and Bob Wells and first recorded by the Nat King Cole Trio early in 1946)

Answers appear on Page 5.

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

Despite the arrival of Hurricane Sandy the same week as the UMES Drama Society’s fall theater production, enthusiastic audiences filled the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center for a slightly reduced two-night run of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enough*.

The play, written by Ntozake Shange, chronicles the lives of black women in America through a series of powerful monologues.

(Left to right) Ms. Cropper, Ms. Hilliard, Ms. Hendrickson, and Ms. Davenport

The UMES production featured nine actresses, dressed in a simple rainbow of colors which were repeated in tall fabric stage banners and on the costumes of dancers who interpreted the content.

Four of the nine women who starred in the production are majoring in English; they include Tahja Cropper, Jon’Mel Davenport, Colleen Hendrickson, and De’Tia Hilliard. The department was also well represented backstage as English majors served as student directors and as publicity and technical crew members.

The show must go on.

OUT AND ABOUT, ON CAMPUS AND OFF

Members of Student Radio Station Active Beyond the Studio

**Hawk Radio**, the university’s student managed Internet radio station, enjoyed a high profile fall semester which culminated with a unique talent show in late November.

Students packed the SSC theater for “Amateur Night at the Apollo: Hawk Radio Style.” The show featured ten student performers with a wide range of talents, including rap artists, poets, vocalists, and dancers. Like the amateurs who take their chances on the B.E.T. television show the campus competition was modeled after, the audience controlled the contest through a raucous series of boos and cheers. Ultimately, rap artist and English major Gustavo Liriano was victorious.

The program was created by two senior English majors, L. J. Banton and Kyla Bibbins, who served as the evening’s hosts.

In addition to the fun it provided, the program also had a serious message. For the second year in a row, Hawk Radio partnered with Life Beat, a non-profit AIDS awareness group created by the music industry. The organization provided literature and condoms which were distributed at the Hawk Radio event.

Radio station staff members were involved in other public service ventures during the semester. They served as “Team Hytche” volunteers at the local fundraising walk to fight Alzheimer’s. They also assisted in a campus effort to provide holiday meals to needy families.

Mr. Liriano (A.K.A. “Gee”) delivers a winning performance

(L to R) Candynce Newbill, Glenna King, and Kelli Green greet guests to the Apollo amateur night with AIDS awareness information and condoms provided by Life Beat.

Event hosts Kyla Bibbins and L.J. Banton

Hawk Radio managers Jasmine Walden and Gustavo Liriano welcome participants to the local Walk to End Alzheimer’s.

Photo provided by Ms. Walden
GLOBAL CITIZENS

Faculty member Carole Champagne firmly believes knowledge of foreign languages is critical for U.S. students. Her recent scholarly activities have reinforced that belief.

At the annual USM Women's Forum, Dr. Champagne led a discussion of global networking. She also attended the recent annual convention of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

“We must begin to educate bilingual and multilingual students in order for them to maintain basic communication with their global neighbors,” she said.

YOU’RE INVITED

Spanish language students will end their semester with a holiday fiesta.
Join them on Friday, December 7, in Room 2147 of the Student Services Center from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for food, fun, and final projects.

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NEXT STOP: NICARAGUA

Adjunct Professor Plans Medical Mission

Foreign language instructor Veronique Diriker has been busy taking foreign language instruction. She’s engaging in the role reversal to prepare herself for an upcoming trip to Central America.

Dr. Diriker took the Spanish for Healthcare Workers class taught by faculty member Nydia Gregory at the department’s Foreign Language Instructional Center.

She is building a vocabulary to assist her when she travels to Nicaragua over the winter break with the Salisbury-based non-profit organization La Merced. The group provides specialized medical services and supplies to the poor in Managua, Nicaragua.

Dr. Diriker became involved with La Merced through Vincent and Tina Perotta, who are supporters of the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

A UMES pharmacy student will also be making the trip.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE THREE:
1. reception
2. funny
3. mussel
4. chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer

A FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

American students studying foreign languages joined UMES international students for a celebration of diversity at the university’s annual International Festival. As Bill Robinson, the UMES Director of Community Relations, observed, “It’s like traveling around the world without the hassle of checking your baggage.”

Guests could have their name created in Arabic or Chinese characters at the Foreign Language Instructional Center’s table.