DECEMBER GRADUATE HONORED
Writing Center Tutor Gathers Multiple Academic Accolades

The final semester of Allyson Brinson’s undergraduate career was busy but extremely rewarding.

In November, the New Jersey native was inducted into the UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society. Then in early December, at an event hosted by Arts and Professions Dean Ray Davis, she received two awards for her academic achievements.

Department chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch named Ms. Brinson the outstanding graduate in the Department of English and Modern Languages; she was also named the outstanding student by the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society chapter.

Ms. Brinson, a tutor in the university’s writing center, graduated summa cum laude with a 3.839 cumulative grade point average. What’s more, she completed her degree in just three and a half years.

Writing center director Terry Smith says the staff already misses Ms. Brinson.

“Allyson was an exemplary tutor. She combined excellent content knowledge with amazing interpersonal skills,” Dr. Smith said. “Allyson was always smiling, always helpful, always efficient, and we all found her a true joy with whom to work.”

Ms. Brinson plans to attend graduate school later this year.

LOCAL TV STATION TO THE RESCUE
Equipment Donation Critical to TV Production Class

An air conditioning problem, which created too much moisture in the Wilson Hall classroom where TV production is taught, proved fatal for the English department’s studio cameras recently.

Students enrolled in ENGL 238, TV Production and Programming, might have been stuck trying to learn TV from the pages of a book instead of through hands-on experimentation. A generous donation of gently used cameras from WBOC TV, the CBS affiliate in Salisbury, saved the day.

Not only did the station provide the equipment, but it also sent its chief engineer and two of his staff to install the cameras and make the careful adjustments necessary to integrate the cameras into the existing production design scheme.

This is not the first time the television station has offered equipment and expertise to UMES. The anchor desk used in the class and much of the control room equipment also came from the television station through earlier donations.

WBOC General Manager Craig Jahelka says he’s pleased to be able to help.

The close relationship between the station and the university comes naturally. The TV class instructor, Paul Butler, is a primary anchor at the station, and faculty member Marilyn Buerkle is a former news director and station manager there.

(L to R) WBOC engineers Gene Horner and Mark Cook adjust video levels in the Wilson Hall control room.
ON A MEDICAL MISSION TO NICARAGUA

French Instructor Recounts Life Changing Experience

Editor’s Note: The following article was written by Veronique Diriker.

Dr. Diriker is Director of Development at UMES. A native of France, she also teaches a French class for the Department of English and Modern Languages.

During the winter term, she made an eight day trip to Nicaragua with a Salisbury-based nonprofit organization known as La Merced.

The 2013 La Merced Medical Mission numbers are mind boggling. Close to 400 Nicaraguan patients received some form of medical treatment in one week. Eighteen hip replacement surgeries were performed, and ten reconstruction surgeries were carried out.

All of this happened in the second poorest country in Central America, where there are only three dialysis machines for the entire population, where few dentists and physicians try to address the needs of large numbers of patients, where malnutrition remains common, and where no hip replacements had ever been performed.

As astounding as the numbers are, they are but a part of the mission. The trip took all of us on an extraordinary spiritual journey and life changing experience.

I held many a hand during the trip: Patients who needed reassurance. Parents who were grateful. Children who simply wanted to love you.

I will never forget the elderly lady who hugged me after her surgery and called me her “angel” just because I provided comfort and a smile, or the dad who, with tears in his eyes, said in broken English, “God bless you for all you do!”

I will never forget the grace, dignity, and kindness of the people of Nicaragua.

I saw how a small group of dedicated parents can provide physical therapy for the children of their barrio, how a priest and his small parish support the less fortunate, and how hard local healthcare providers work with very limited resources and less than adequate equipment.

The La Merced team was made up of Salisbury-based physicians, physician assistants, nurses, a dentist, pre-med students, translators, and community members.

Our healthcare providers repaired faces, bones, and hands, but they also repaired dignity, quality of life and long lost dreams.

The people of Nicaragua gave us hope in humanity, softened our hearts, and lifted our spirits.

Thank you, La Merced, for making the world a better place!

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

WRITING CENTER OPEN

The UMES Writing Center, supervised by the Department of English and Modern Languages, has reopened for the spring semester.

Peer tutors this semester include Ny’Asia Brooks, Corey Haynes, Najha Jones, Liz Ranger, Courtney Rhoades, Jasmine Roberts, Shanay Snead, Kelsey Tate and Kristen Witherspoon.

The center, located on the first floor of Wilson Hall, is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

English faculty member Terry Smith serves as director of the center.
Jordan Kidd, a 2010 graduate, has put her photography skills to work at the Newseum, a journalism museum located a few blocks from the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. She is responsible for snapping pictures of visitors as they enter the facility. Those portraits are then cleverly transposed to make the museum guests appear as if they were reporting from familiar Washington landmarks.

Ms. Kidd explored news photography during her undergraduate internship at The Daily Times in Salisbury.

Composition instructor Sandy Johnston has been accepted to the Ph.D. program in Composition and TESOL at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Ms. Johnston earned her undergraduate degree in communication and journalism at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. She holds two master’s degrees, one in education from Shippensburg and one in English from Salisbury University.

She joined the staff at UMES as a writing specialist in the Center for Access and Success in 2001. She became a member of the English department faculty the following year.

The I.U.P. program is designed to accommodate the schedule of full-time teachers, allowing them to pursue their studies during the summer months without interrupting their careers.

Ms. Johnston will begin the first of three summers of coursework later this year.

There are four new members of the UMES Drama Society. The organization, under the leadership of English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson, held a formal induction ceremony late last year.

The new members include Joy Blanchard, Eron Bryant, Taja Cropper and Devon Stevenson.

In order to join the group, students must have already participated in at least two drama society productions.

Two recent English Ed graduates are officially ready for the classroom. Education majors are required as part of their senior seminar to develop what are called “action research projects.” The results of those projects are showcased in an event known as the Gallery Walk. It’s one of the final steps in completing a UMES education degree.

The English department’s two student teachers joined the university’s other teaching interns, just days before graduation, for the fall 2012 Gallery Walk in the Henson Center ballroom.

Zanae Allen Ari and Jocelyn Swift Tyler appeared confident and composed as they explained their posters, brochures and other visual aids to an audience that included UMES faculty members, public school officials, internship supervisors and local mentor teachers. Their proud family members were also welcome to attend.

Ms. Ari is questioned by English Education Coordinator Barbara Seabrook.
The UMES Drama Society will hold auditions on Thursday, February 7, from 6 to 9 p.m., in the auditorium of the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center. An original production, *One Mo Time*, will be performed April 11-13.

HE’S A WINNER!
*UMES Student Wins National Contest*

A math education major in Amy Hagenrater-Gooding’s Special Topics in Literature class last fall took her up on her suggestion to enter the [2012 Norton Anthology Student Recitation Contest](#).

It proved to be a good decision. Shelton Handy, a senior from Centreville, Maryland, won the contest.

College and high school students worldwide were invited to submit an original video recitation of one of six selected works featured in Norton anthologies. Mr. Handy presented “If” by Rudyard Kipling.

Mr. Handy will receive a $150 Barnes & Noble gift certificate and his name will be featured on the acknowledgments page of a future Norton anthology.

Even though Mr. Handy is not an English major, the department proudly claims him as part of its extended family because he served several semesters as a tutor in the UMES Writing Center.
STUDY SPANISH IN SPAIN

Spanish language instructor Carole Champagne has invited Patrizia Adamo, the liaison for Spanish regional universities and governments, to meet with UMES students interested in earning academic credit for quality low-cost study abroad programs.

There will be two informational sessions on Monday, February 18, in Room 3074 of Hazel Hall. The presentations begin at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. All interested members of the campus community are welcome to attend either session.

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Bill Reddish, the department’s adjunct radio instructor, spent most of his career as a news director for Delmarva Broadcasting in Salisbury; now he’ll put his knowledge of the local community to work for the area’s congressman.

Mr. Reddish has accepted the position of community liaison in the Salisbury office of U.S. Representative Andy Harris.

“I’ll act as Andy’s eyes and ears on the Lower Shore,” he said.

Mr. Reddish behind the microphone in his radio days
Photo by C.J. Wheeler

BACK TO SCHOOL

Khadija Elkharbibi, an English major who graduated cum laude in 2010, has begun a master’s program in public relations at University of Maryland University College. Ms. Elkharbibi completed her first semester in December with a 4.0 GPA. She expects to earn her degree in May 2014.

The Columbia, Maryland, native has been employed for the last two years as a technical analyst at Micros Systems Inc. in her hometown. She assists customers with software related issues.

WINGSPAN IS BACK

Two members of the English department have helped to revive Wingspan, a newsletter highlighting the accomplishments of the UMES School of the Arts and Professions.

Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch and faculty member Marilyn Buerkle both serve on the editorial board for the publication.

Wingspan ceased publication in 2010, but Dean Ray Davis was anxious to resume the effort to highlight the achievements of the school’s five departments.

The first issue under his leadership will appear on campus this month. The editorial board plans to publish Wingspan once each semester.

LANGUAGE OPTIONS

The Department of English and Modern Languages has added a new course offering to its repertoire. This semester students were able to enroll in ENGL288F, Beginning Russian.

Language instruction, beyond the traditional French and Spanish classes, is now offered periodically in Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Haitian Creole.

The effort is designed to respond to the U.S. government’s call to produce more speakers of foreign languages, especially those which are designated critical-need.

Demand is particularly high in Arabic and Chinese in order to meet the country’s needs for military, commercial and humanitarian purposes.

REAL LIFE @ UMES

Honestly, how are you supposed to handle end-of-the-semester regrets? Do you carry them over into the next? Or do you wipe the slate clean in hopes of them never resurfacing with the risk of history repeating itself?

-Brittany Johnson

Click here to read Ms. Johnson’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.

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 mbluerkle@umes.edu.