TELECOMMUNICATIONS IS OFFICIAL

New Minor Program Begins This Semester

Surprised to find classes with a TELC prefix in the course offerings listed in Hawk Web?

Beginning this semester, UMES students interested in radio and television related careers are able to add a telecommunications minor to their credentials. The courses that meet the requirements of the minor are designated by the TELC label.

Those courses—including staples such as TV Production and Programming, Radio Production and Programming, and Computer Graphics—have been offered for years by the Department of English and Modern Languages. They now swap their ENGL designations for TELC.

Approved by the Division of Academic Affairs, the English department’s telecommunications minor is designed to be flexible in order to meet the needs of students with a variety of media career aspirations. The required 18 credits will be selected from a list of more than a dozen TELC courses.

Since nearly all of those courses have a prerequisite of Intro to Telecommunications (TELC 214), students will begin their minor with that broad ranging overview of the industry. They also have the option of earning academic credit through a media related internship (TELC 472). The internship credits will not only serve as part of a student’s telecommunication minor, but will also help to meet the university’s alternative credit requirement.

Students who took TELC courses while they still had an ENGL prefix will be able to count those credits towards a telecommunications minor once they officially add the minor to their academic program.

Currently enrolled students of any major may add the telecommunications minor to their existing academic program by completing a portion of the change of major form and bringing it to the English department office in Wilson Hall for the signature of the department chair, Dr. Jacqueline Brice-Finch.

LOOK WHO’S BACK!

English Faculty Member Returns After Serious Illness

After a four month absence, a longtime English faculty member has returned to the classroom. Bonni Miller has recovered from what was a life-threatening illness.

Back in late September, Ms. Miller thought she was suffering from strep throat. A visit to the doctor and prescription medicines didn’t improve her condition—in fact, she got worse. When she found it more and more difficult to breathe, her husband rushed her to the emergency room of Peninsula Regional Medical Center.

Doctors discovered she was suffering from pneumonia and a collapsed lung. They began an immediate emergency procedure in an attempt to drain the two liters of fluid that had collected in her chest. “I almost died,” Ms. Miller admits.

After three chest tube insertions, a robotic surgery, and almost a month-long hospital stay, Ms. Miller began a lengthy recuperation period at home.

She has a keepsake from her PRMC experience: a pink pillow shaped like human lungs. It served a practical purpose. “You hold it when you cough so your incisions don’t pull apart,” she said. It also provided an opportunity to explain her condition in detail to her 8-year-old daughter.

Ms. Miller eased into her return to work by teaching an online course during the winter term. This semester she’s back on campus.

“She’s back on campus. “I’m so happy to be back in the classroom,” she said. “I’m very happy to see my students.”

We’re all happy to see her too!
Carol Boyce Davies, who earned a bachelor degree in English from UMES in 1971, has a new book out. It’s called “Caribbean Spaces, Escapes from Twilight Zones.”

Published by Illinois University Press, the book is described as both a memoir and a scholarly study. Dr. Davies reflects on her childhood in Trinidad and Tobago and her life and work in communities and universities in Nigeria, Brazil, England, and the United States.

In addition to her degree in English, Dr. Davies also earned a minor in French at UMES. A member of Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, she was voted Miss Senior while on campus. When UMES held its Centennial Celebration in 1986, she received our Outstanding Graduate Award.

Dr. Davies went on to earn a master’s in African Studies from Howard University, a Ph.D. in African and Caribbean Literatures at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, and a master’s in Intercultural Human Rights Law from St. Thomas University in Florida. She is currently a professor of English and Africana studies at Cornell University.

Mark your calendar for a Black History Month event at the Frederick Douglass Library on Wednesday, February 19. From 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., the library will be the site of an African American Read-In.

Students will be eligible to win prizes by spending an hour reading one of the more than 500 books by African American authors in the library’s collection.

As part of the event, Octavia Butler, an award winning African American author, will be the subject of a lecture by Gregory Hampton. Dr. Hampton is the Director of Graduate Studies and an associate professor of African American literature at Howard University.

“Octavia Butler: A Black Woman and Her Science Fiction” begins at 4 p.m. in the Douglass auditorium.

Dr. Davies
Photo provided by the author.

WORD PLAY: Mash-Ups

From brunch (breakfast + lunch) to Wi-Fi (wireless + fidelity), today’s English language is full of mash-up words. Other examples include smog, sitcom, and Muppet, as well as the hybrids below.

What two words were mashed up to create the new word? A definition is provided for a clue. Enjoy the edutainment and check your answers on Page 5.

1. radome (antenna housing)
2. slurve (baseball pitch)
3. telegenic (suitable manner and appearance for TV)
4. meld (combine)
5. bodacious (remarkable)
6. chillax (calm down)
7. agitprop (political hype)
8. bromance (close male friendship)
9. frenemy (false friend)
10. mockumentary (satirical film style)
11. sysop (online administrator)
12. Frankenfood (genetically engineered food)

LANGUAGE EXPO

Two UMES Spanish professors attended an annual event hosted by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages recently. Monica Cannon and Carole Champagne traveled to Orlando, Florida near the end of the fall semester to participate in the ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo.

In addition to attending programs, workshops, and panels, Dr. Champagne was a presenter at a research roundtable discussion. She offered assessment results from her participation in the Carnegie Course Redesign Initiative. She replaced a portion of class lecture time with hands-on activities and monitored interactive lab sessions, then measured student language proficiency.

Dr. Champagne
Photo by Chan Young Park
As many of us remember, four years ago, the Department of English and Modern Languages sponsored the College English Association Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland. What a lot of us don’t realize is that there is an increasingly active regional organization, The College English Association: Mid-Atlantic Group (CEA-MAG).

The group holds an annual conference in the region. I have presented there for the last two years, and I just received my acceptance letter to present again this year. The 2014 conference theme is “Beginnings and Endings.” My presentation will focus on one of my favorite recent accomplishments: “Moving from Paper to Online Scheduling and Record-Keeping in a Writing Center: The Theoretical and Practical Implications.”

This year’s conference will be held at Montgomery College in Germantown, Maryland, on Saturday, March 8. I encourage my DEML colleagues to get involved with this great organization and I’d love for them to accompany me to the conference. Registration for the event includes membership in the organization and a copy of the group’s journal.

You’ll see two familiar names in this year’s issue. First, I’m a new CEA-MAG board member for 2013-2014 and will serve as Copy and Publication Editor of the CEAMAGazine. Along with David Kaloustian, the editor, and the rest of the editorial board, I’m hard at work producing this year’s issue before the conference in March. For the first time, we will have not only a printed journal but also an online version of the journal on the CEA-MAG website.

The other familiar name in the magazine will be that of UMES English faculty member Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones. She is the author of an article titled “Revelation, Inquiry, Persuasion, and Tricks: The Languages of Teaching in Sophocles’ Philoctetes.” She looks at the stakes in educational successes and failures by crossing the cultural divide between modern and ancient perspectives on learning.

We have a great opportunity here at UMES to get involved with this regional organization of the College English Association, to present at the conference, and, especially, to get published in the annual peer-reviewed journal. If you would like to get started on an article for our March 2015 issue, you’ll find the call for proposals online.

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**TIME TO SHINE**

Calling all interested singers, dancers, actors and technical crew people!

Auditions for the 2014 UMES Dinner Theater will be held Wednesday, February 5, from 6-9 p.m. on the stage of the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center. Come prepared with a monologue, song and/or dance of your choosing and your own musical accompaniment if needed.

This year’s theme is the Motown era revisited.

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**SMILING FACES AT HOLIDAY FIESTA**

Dr. Carole Champagne’s Spanish language students present their final projects and enjoy culturally significant cuisine at an annual celebration of Spanish holiday traditions.
CONGRATULATIONS DECEMBER GRADUATES!
As a result of my participation in the annual European Union Open House in which the embassies of Union members in Washington open their doors to the public, I was invited to serve on the executive committee of the Maryland Estonia Exchange Council. Through that committee, I have met several times with the Estonian Ambassador to the United States, Marina Kaljurand.

Since then, my fascination with the smallest Baltic nation with the largest percentage of entrepreneurs in the world has increased exponentially. Estonia is the first totally Wi-Fi nation in the world, creator of Skype, and the country with the most advanced cyber security educational programs in Europe.

My daughter, Arielle, recently returned after five months studying business at the University of Tartu, or Tartu Ülikool. She lived in an international dormitory with suitemates from France, Germany, China, and Latvia. She learned some Russian, since St. Petersburg is a two-hour bus ride from Tartu. Estonian, which is related to Finnish and Hungarian, was a difficult language to learn, but she could communicate with Estonian students.

Over the holidays, I had the opportunity to thank administrators at the university personally for providing my daughter with an international education from a school with a globally renowned academic program.

During my trip, Arielle and I visited the Tallinn Christmas Markets. We attended a holiday music festival and a National Ballet performance of The Nutcracker. I also visited Helsinki, “big brother” to Tallinn, its southern counterpart across the Gulf of Finland.

We also toured Riga, Latvia, the 2014 European City of Culture. However, Vilnius was the most intriguing of the Baltic cities. Bordering Belarus, Lithuania celebrated a monthlong holiday, with packed Russian Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, and churches of other denominations open day and night. Mosques, synagogues, and temples also blended historic and modern architecture in a very tolerant and progressive society.

Reflecting upon Baltic and Scandinavian distinct languages and unique cultural identities, I am certain that my explorations of these fascinating countries will continue.

Congratulations are in order for the four English education majors who have met all the requirements, including the appropriate GPA and Praxis I scores, and have been officially accepted into the university’s Teacher Education Program.

The new teacher candidates from the English department are Donald Brown, Detia Hilliard, Amanda Richards, and Jalen Washington.

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GOOD LUCK

Amber Green, an English major and Discover UMES producer and reporter, will compete to represent Maryland in the Miss United States pageant February 14-16 at the Hilton of Camden Yards in Baltimore.

WELL DONE

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WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:

1. radar and dome
2. slider + curve
3. television + photogenic
4. melt + weld
5. bold + audacious
6. chill + relax
7. agitation + propaganda
8. brother + romance
9. friend + enemy
10. mock + documentary
11. system + operator
12. Frankenstein + food