HAWKS COME HOME TO ROOST
Homecoming Provides an Opportunity for Career Connections

When Tristan Morgan graduated from UMES in 2007, he wanted a job in radio. He was, he believed, well prepared. He had valuable hands-on experience as a student disc jockey at HawkRadio, and he had an insider’s look at the business through internships at WESM, the NPR affiliate on campus, and at a commercial radio station in New York City.

When he visited two classes during homecoming week, he told UMES English majors that it’s a very competitive world out there. Mr. Morgan was forced to return to the intern ranks after graduation before he landed a paying job. His story of perseverance and hard work was full of valuable lessons for the students he met. He stressed the importance of making the most of every internship opportunity. “Introduce yourself to everyone in the building,” he said. “Try to make an impact. Come in early and help people out.”

It paid off for him. When Mr. Morgan saw another intern do a poor job on an assignment, he took the opportunity to do it over again correctly. It earned him a job on the popular syndicated radio program, The Wendy Williams Show. “If you don’t show interest, nobody’s going to be interested in you,” he said.

Mr. Morgan was a guest speaker in the Introduction to Telecommunications and Broadcast Management classes. Both are taught by Marilyn Buerkle, the faculty advisor to HawkRadio and the internship coordinator for the English department.

Making a positive impression
HawkRadio at Homecoming: Being Seen AND Heard

HawkRadio, the student managed Internet radio station, maintained a high profile campus presence during homecoming week.

Student D.J.’s staged a several hour remote broadcast in the rotunda of the Student Services Center. Student editors assisted several campus organizations with audio production for the annual step show, and behind the scenes at the homecoming concert, staff members were busy recording promotional announcements for the station with nationally known entertainers who performed that evening.

(L to R) Music Director Jahaira Dixon, Rap artist “Lloyd,” and HawkRadio General Manager Tiffany Salmon

(L to R) Onye Agu, Yvonne Clarke, Edwin Leigh, and Jessie Douglas during a remote broadcast in the S.S.C.

Photos by Eric Hammond
The Pocomoke City Chamber of Commerce is offering a unique opportunity for UMES English majors to get valuable experience in public relations, event planning, and marketing. Executive Director Denise Wagner wants help writing press releases, creating brochures, maintaining the organization’s website, producing a monthly newsletter, and other hands-on tasks. The University has agreed to provide on-campus work space for Ms. Wagner to interact with interested students so transportation to Pocomoke need not be an issue.

For students who—because of a heavy academic load or part-time employment—are unable to commit to a semester long internship, this opportunity may be a good fit; Ms. Wagner is willing to assign responsibilities on a per-project basis. Interested students may contact Ms. Wagner at pocomokechamber@gmail.com or reach her by phone at 410-957-1919.

LOOKING FOR MONEY?

If you’ve been trying to track down scholarship dollars, help may be closer than you think. Adjunct public speaking instructor Kat Harting serves as executive director of the Delmarva Education Foundation. The organization is a regional resource center for education related issues.

The group has compiled a searchable database of hundreds of scholarships created by generous local donors to help pay for college or specialized job training. Many of those scholarships go unused each year simply because qualified students don’t know about them.

INTERNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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A LAST MINUTE RESCUE

Generous Alumni Enable Student to Continue

Just when sophomore English major Stephanie Terry thought she would have to withdraw from the University, she found a group of guardian angels. Ms. Terry, a native of Philadelphia, ended last semester unsure of how she was going to pay the balance remaining on her hefty out-of-state tuition bill. “My situation was very serious,” she said.

At the suggestion of Rita Lamb, the Dean of the School of the Arts and Professions, Ms. Terry sought the assistance of the Philadelphia chapter of the UMES Alumni Association. She wrote a heartfelt letter describing her situation to the group.

Her plea for help, delivered by Alumni Affairs Director Kimberly Dumpson, reached a sympathetic audience. Several alumni rallied support and, just as the spring semester got underway, Ms. Terry’s bill was paid. “Wow, these people do not even know me and were willing to help,” she said. “I feel very grateful and blessed.”

It will still be a struggle for Ms. Terry and her mother to meet the financial challenges she will encounter before she graduates, but this generous gift has renewed their optimism. “Being a single mother and raising a ten year old son, with a daughter in college, can be tough,” Ms. Terry said. “My mother was very grateful to all who helped me. She understands how much this University means to me. Words cannot explain how honored I am to be given this opportunity.”

REHEARSALS UNDERWAY

The UMES Drama Society, under the direction of English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson, is busy rehearsing for the University’s annual dinner theater production.

The group will present Motown N Much Mo’ April 15, 16, and 17. The musical review was scripted by Dr. Dameron-Johnson and, like the society’s 2007 production Motown N Mo’, will feature a trip down memory lane through popular “oldies” performed by talented students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Each year the drama society provides entertainment to accompany a gourmet meal created by students enrolled in the University’s hotel/restaurant management program.

The production will be staged in the Richard A. Henson Center ballroom.

THE UMES WRITING CENTER

SPRING 2010 TUTORS

(L to R) Chanda Brown-Wilson, Mildred Harris, Nicholas Washington, Cherish McMillan, and Naeemah Kitchens (not pictured: Natalie Hull)

WRITING CENTER

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

English Department Class Helps Second Language Learners

There are only seven students in the class, but together they represent two continents and a Caribbean island—and more importantly—three distinctly different languages. The group is enrolled in ENGL 388B, a three credit English department elective designed to help international students improve their English language skills. The course is taught by the department’s English as a Second Language (ESL) specialist, Susan Cooledge.

Dr. Cooledge says this semester’s class includes a student from Guadeloupe, one from Sweden, and five from Ethiopia. “ESL classes are by nature diverse,” she said. “It’s expected. The challenge in this class is the varying levels of experience.”

Karin Vikterlof, a volleyball team recruit, studied English for ten years back home in Sweden, but she says the class is helping her become more confident. “I need the repetition,” she said. “It doesn’t come naturally to me.”

Melina Gallas, a native French speaker from Guadeloupe, has more limited experience with the English language. She was unaware of the class when she arrived on campus last semester. “It would be better if I had taken this the first semester,” she said.

The course can be taken concurrently with the department’s basic composition courses although it is open to any ESL student at any point in his or her academic career.

“‘We focus primarily on writing,’” Dr. Cooledge said. “‘I’m providing them with a different type of feedback than their English 101 teachers.’

ENGL 388B is offered periodically as enrollment permits.

ENGLISH ALUMNI UPDATE

Shannon Criss (’07) has been hired as an editorial assistant in the New York office of the international publishing giant Harlequin Enterprises.

LaToya Fewell (’06) became the first person in her family to earn a master’s degree when she completed her communications program at Trinity University last December.

Tiana Bragg (’04) is applying to the Creative Artists Residency program in Bellagio, Italy. If selected, she’ll polish her novel, Journey To The Other Side.

Evan Burton (’07) has earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry from City College in New York. Mr. Burton had the distinction of being selected as the outstanding student in the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages in 2006 and 2007.

Heather Molnar (’08) is working as an assistant at The ACI Group, an IT firm in Fells Point, while she attends graduate school at Johns Hopkins University.

Deborah Meadows Julien (’05) has organized a concert to benefit the American Heart Association. The event will be held March 9 at the Bohemian Caverns in Washington, DC. An accomplished vocalist, she will also be one of the featured performers.

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 Ron Webster. 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 mlbuerkle@umes.edu.