DECASEDOES OF DRAMA ON DISPLAY
Library Exhibit Highlights UMES Theater Productions

The Frederick Douglass Library staff has compiled an impressive array of university theater memorabilia including photos, playbills, props and costumes. It is on display through May 9 in an exhibit titled “UMES Drama Productions through the Decades.”

For nearly four of those decades, the UMES Drama Society has been led by English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson. Jennifer Neumyer, special collections and outreach librarian, described “Mama D,” as Dr. Dameron-Johnson is affectionately known, as a “guiding force” in a recent article about the exhibit published in The Daily Times in Salisbury.

“Dr. Della Dameron-Johnson has mentored and shepherded countless students and is an inspiration to so many,” Ms. Neumyer said.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore fostered student interest in the dramatic arts even before the arrival of Dr. Dameron-Johnson in 1975. The library exhibit provides a history of the school’s productions from as far back as the 1930s.

Current drama society members are busy rehearsing for this semester’s dinner theater production of “One Mo’ Time.” The musical, under the direction of Dr. Dameron-Johnson, will be staged April 12 and 13.

A LESSON IN LOBBYING
English Majors Rally With Their HBCU Colleagues in Annapolis

UMES students joined their counterparts from Coppin, Bowie and Morgan state universities for a day of intensive lobbying in Annapolis recently.

The event was organized by the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland during the current general assembly session to persuade legislators to provide more funding to the state’s historically black colleges and universities.

Nearly 200 students made the trip from Princess Anne to the state Capitol, including 15 English and English education majors. The group included junior English major Jasmine Roberts.

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A LEADING MAN
Faculty Member Stars in Theater Production

Matt Bogdan, an adjunct composition instructor, has been selected to play George, the leading male role, in next month’s local production of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?”. The drama will be performed by the Community Players of Salisbury and directed by Robin Finley.

Mr. Bogden has been active in community theater for decades, serving as an actor, director and producer for the Community Players and for the Marva Players in Pocomoke City.

Mr. Bogdan’s upcoming character, George, and his fictional wife, Martha, as written by Edward Albee, are as far from the bourgeois 1950s perfect married couple as you can get. They alternately badger, berate, abuse and love each other, both alone and accompanied by a naïve young couple that have come over for a nightcap.

This Tony award winning play of psychological realism and foul language combines the banal, the vulgar and the poetic.

The play will be staged at Wor-Wic Community College at 8 p.m. on April 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20. Matinee performances will also be performed at 2 p.m. on April 13 and 20. Tickets are $10 for students and seniors, $12 for adults.

English major Kandace Sewell has made a remarkable recovery from a serious car accident that forced her to withdraw last fall. Ms. Sewell has resumed a full class schedule this semester.

A veteran Hawk Radio DJ, Ms. Sewell has also resumed her entertainment reports on OC 104, a local commercial radio station. She can be heard Monday through Thursdays around 9 p.m. on a program hosted by a former UMES English student, Lonnie Friend, who goes by the air-name of Lonnie Legend.

An endowment fund is the ultimate in gifts that keep on giving, especially when the original donor continues to dig deep.

The English department has been the grateful recipient of generous contributions from Horatio “Bill” Jones III, Class of 78, and his wife Willetta. During the 2013 homecoming week, Mr. Jones added another $1,000 to his endowment. A recent accounting showed the total value of the Horatio William and Willetta Collins Jones English and Modern Languages Endowment to be nearly $11,500.

Five percent of the interest generated is considered spendable income and may be used for English faculty, staff and student development.

WORD PLAY: Linguistics
Test your linguistic competence.

1. What is the longest word that can be typed with only the left hand? (Clue: Begins with the letter S and has 12 letters)
2. What is the longest word typed with only the right hand? (Clue: Begins with the letter L and has 8 letters)
3. What is the only English word that ends in the letters MT? (Clue: Begins with the letter D and has six letters)
4. What are the only four words in the English language which end in DOUS? (Clue: Tremendous is one of the four words. What are the other three words?)
5. Palindromes are words that are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left. Kayak is one example of a palindrome. Can you name two other palindromes? (Clues: One begins with the letter R and has 7 letters. One begins with the letter L and has 5 letters.)

Answers on Page 3.

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.
English education teaching interns are required to complete EDCI 400, Senior Seminar, during their internship semester. The senior seminar course requires the interns to finalize their electronic professional portfolio for presentation and evaluation. The portfolio is evaluated during a formal presentation to the student’s mentor teachers and his or her UMES supervisor.

In addition, teaching interns are required to participate in the Gallery Walk, which is a visual presentation of their internship experiences including action research projects completed during the internship. Teaching interns are required to complete one action research project in collaboration with their mentor teacher during each of the two placements. One project is conducted during the middle school placement, and one is completed during the high school placement.

Interns also create a career brochure for distribution at the Gallery Walk. The career brochure highlights the interns’ professional accomplishments and includes a summary of the action research projects, work/teaching experience, philosophy of education and classroom technology skills.

The Gallery Walk is open to the public and is attended by faculty, administrators, staff, students, university supervisors and mentor teachers. Each teaching intern has a table for a visual display, professional portfolio and career brochures.

The 2012 Gallery Walk included two English education majors who graduated in December: Zanae Allen-Ari and Joscelyne Swift-Tyler.

**English Action Research Projects**

Zanae Allen-Ari completed her middle school internship in Grade 7 with mentor teacher Cindy Lloyd at Somerset Intermediate School. Her action research addressed the research question – “Does participating in recess impact student achievement?” Ms. Allen-Ari implemented a recess-before-lunch program to research the effects on student achievement and behavior. Data collection included formal and informal assessment scores in addition to student participation in class. Over a five-week span, students improved their overall benchmark test scores from 70% to 73% passing. Because the program was so successful, Somerset Intermediate plans to continue it.

At her high school placement in Grade 12 with mentor teacher Susan Ward at Wicomico High School, Ms. Allen-Ari focused her research on motivating high school seniors to increase their participation in class. She experimented with 15 strategies, which she found in the review of the literature on best practices for motivating students. Her results indicate that students increase their participation in class when they are involved in out-of-seat activities, feel comfortable in the classroom environment and have opportunities to use their oral and creative skills.

Joscelyne Swift-Tyler completed her middle school internship in Grade 6 with mentor teacher Dawn Lankford at Somerset Intermediate School. Her action research project at the middle school level investigated the impact of incentives and rewards on academic achievement. She focused on using innovative incentives and rewards to motivate students to turn in homework that was completed and correct. Her research project data and results support the conclusion that incentives and rewards are very effective in motivating students; as a result, Somerset Intermediate School is considering offering them for other academic goals including testing.

During Ms. Swift-Tyler’s high school placement in Grade 9 with mentor teacher Jessica Hickman at Crisfield High School & Academy, she focused on motivation techniques that encourage students to read for improvement of academic achievement. Her review of the literature was aimed at answering the research questions: What motivates students to read? When do students like to read? and What do students like to read? Data was collected through observations, written questionnaires and personal interviews. As a result of this action research project, it is evident that motivating students to read is unique to each student. Teachers are encouraged to survey their students to determine individual motivational factors and reading preferences, which can facilitate selection of reading materials that are not only age and grade level appropriate but also of interest to students. Because Ms. Swift-Tyler offered incentives for students who earned a passing grade on their weekly reading checks, demonstrating whether or not they had read, a majority of the students increased their reading.

**WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO:**

1. Stewardesses
2. Lollipop
3. Dreamt
4. Horrendous, Stupendous and Hazardous
5. Kayak, Racecar and Level
Some 50 students participated in study abroad information sessions organized by Spanish language professor Carole Champagne recently.

Patrizia Adamo came to campus at the invitation of Dr. Champagne to discuss study programs in Spain. She is the director of U.S. operations for an organization called Travel and Education which serves as a liaison for Spanish regional universities and governments.

Students who attended received an extensive list of scholarship programs designed to help defray the cost of international study. Many of the students are exploring study abroad options as a way to complete the university’s requirement of 12 alternative credits.

Congratulations to Mildred Harris, Class of 2010. She has been accepted to Johns Hopkins University’s School Counseling Fellows Program where she will earn a graduate degree in counseling.

The program is designed for those who seek to counsel at-risk youth in urban and/or metropolitan school districts. Ms. Harris has been working with middle school girls at Southwest Baltimore Charter School.

While at UMES, Ms. Harris served as a tutor in the university’s writing center and was a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

Stacy Woods always wanted to be a teacher. Even though she originally enrolled at UMES as an English education major, along the way she changed her mind and headed toward a career in media and marketing.

Nearly six years after she graduated magna cum laude, the Baltimore native has returned to her original goal. Ms. Woods has been chosen to participate in the Baltimore City Teaching Residency, a highly competitive program designed to train smart people to be excellent teachers in schools with the greatest need.

Christina Taylor, Class of 2009, has taken another step forward in her television production career.

Ms. Taylor had been working as a director of live newscasts at WMDT TV, the ABC affiliate in nearby Salisbury. She is now a director of live newscasts at WAVY TV, the NBC affiliate in Portsmouth, Va. A director serves as the team leader of the technical crew responsible for the on-air product.

If Ms. Taylor’s face looks particularly familiar, you may recognize her from her part-time job. While working at WMDT, Ms. Taylor was also a member of the staff in the Student Services Center.

$ FOR STUDY ABROAD

REAL LIFE @ UMES

My hawks are in trouble. The humanity of people can no longer be relied upon to yield morality and decency. Humanity is becoming inhumane. Anytime a man can come to college for a diploma, and leave as a flagged email, you have to question things.

-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.

ALUMNI GIVE BACK

Years after they graduated, Starletta DuPois and Al Thompson still return to their alma mater to offer guidance and advice to UMES students.

Both are professional actors with impressive stage and screen credentials. During homecoming week, they took time to meet with students in classes taught by drama society advisor Della Dameron-Johnson.

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