UMES HOSTS C.L.A. CONFERENCE
National Event Comes to the Eastern Shore This Month

Members of the UMES English Department are looking forward to their role as hosts for the sixty-ninth annual College Language Association (CLA) Convention this month. Faculty members and administrators will join colleagues from around the country March 26-28 to discuss scholarly research relating to this year’s theme, “Liberation as Theme and Strategy in Languages and Literatures.”

The event will be headquartered at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa, and Marina in Cambridge; a welcoming reception will be held in the Student Services Center on the UMES campus on Thursday, March 26.

The CLA was founded in 1937 by a group of African American educators to serve the intellectual and professional interests of college level teachers of English and foreign languages. UMES President Thelma B. Thompson is a past president of the organization.

“We are gratified to provide...a program replete with intellectual vigor and historical significance to continue CLA’s tradition of excellence,” Dr. Thompson said. “As America strives to excel as a major global competitor in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—it is important for us to remember that without language and literature all else fails.”

Dean of the School of the Arts and Professions Rita Lamb and English Department Chair Betty Taylor Thompson are scheduled to make presentations at the conference, as are English faculty members Mignon Anderson, Carole Champagne, and Dean Cooledge.

Wide ranging topics will be discussed through the prism of language and literature at the event. They include black masculinity, E-literacy and text messages, hip-hop music, political protest, sexuality, and dysfunctional families.

The featured speaker at the convention’s annual banquet will be Al Young, the former poet laureate of California.

GETTING THE WORD OUT
HawkRadio Unveils New Promotional Tools to Market Station

HawkRadio, the student-managed Internet radio station supervised by the English department, has a new recruitment strategy.

Thanks to the University’s Title III grant program, the department has purchased equipment that enables the station’s staff to present amplified music at promotional events. By using the equipment to host mock radio shows dubbed “HawkRadio Live,” student managers plan to make the campus community more aware of the station and to recruit additional staff members.

The first “HawkRadio Live” featured sixteen student disc jockeys in the Student Services Center during a twelve hour marathon show. According to general manager Fred Stephens the event was a great success. “People are clamoring for us to have this again,” he said.

The station’s unique recruiting efforts also include the creation of a HawkRadio page on Facebook, a social networking Internet site.
ADVICE FROM PEOPLE WHO KNOW

Homecoming Celebration Brings Alumni Back to Class

Homecoming weekend attracts hundreds of UMES alumni to campus to foster the lifelong friendships they made when they were students here. It also offers an opportunity for those graduates to give back to the current campus community by sharing their advice and experience.

Two English faculty members took advantage of the influx of graduates to line up guest speakers. Della Dameron-Johnson invited the renowned actress Starletta DuPois to address a class in theater arts, and Marilyn Buerkle lined up veteran broadcast journalist Bill Jones to talk to her communication students.

Ms. DuPois was a biology major, intent on a career in medicine, when she attended what was then Maryland State College. By the time she graduated in 1968, she had been bitten by the acting bug. She headed to New York to take her chances on the stage.

She told the students in Dr. Dameron-Johnson’s class, “I could play it safe, or I could pursue my dream.” Her advice? “Don’t allow people to pigeonhole you into anything.”

Sophomore English major Cherish McMillan was inspired. “When I saw her speak, it sent chills down my spine because she was so passionate,” she said.

The UMES Drama Society, which Dr. Dameron-Johnson supervises, is grateful for Ms. DuPois’ continued financial and moral support, so the members planned a surprise for her during her visit. They brought her to tears by pinning her as an honorary member of their group.

Mr. Jones, an English major from the class of 1978, is a senior producer for CBS News operating out of Charlotte, North Carolina.

While on campus he talked to students about the fierce competition in the broadcast industry, particularly during tough economic times. He offered specific suggestions to students on how to be competitive. “The very best thing you can do is to have hands-on internships,” he said. “Take advantage of every opportunity you can find.”

GRADS GIVE BACK

Second Annual Benroware Scholarship Offered

The Benroware Foundation, created by three young professionals who want to support their alma mater, is offering its second annual scholarship to a UMES English major. The three English graduates will also return to campus this month to hold their second annual “Professional Day.”

Nathaniel Benjamin, Teres Rodney, and Ayasha Ware created their foundation to assist students in completing their English degrees at UMES. They will assess the applications of interested students and make a $500 award in April. Applications are available in the English department office and will also be available when the trio returns to campus on March 26. They will meet with students from 7 to 8 p.m. in room 2149 of the Student Services Center to discuss career options for English majors. They also plan to share how they are achieving their career goals.

Mr. Benjamin is a human resources consultant at the U.S. Defense Department; Ms. Rodney is a marketing manager at Spring Design Partners in New York City; Ms. Ware teaches high school English in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Mr. Jones offers career advice in a broadcast management class

TEACHING TOOLS

Robin Hoffman, who graduated with a UMES English degree in 2004 and later went on to work as a member of the department staff, is scheduled to present a paper at an academic conference this month at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Mr. Hoffman currently serves as an instructional designer in Salisbury University’s Office of Teaching and Learning Resources. His presentation will focus on SU’s implementation of TurningPoint technology. TurningPoint is a student-response system utilizing a wireless clicker system for in-class and online interactivity. Nearly one hundred courses at SU currently use the TurningPoint technology.
Adjunct faculty member Pattrice Jones has reviewed *On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Twenty-First Century Lynching* by Sherrilyn Ifill for *Political Media Review* (PMR), a project of the Transformative Studies Institute. PMR describes itself as an independent reviewing clearinghouse for social justice media.

The book Ms. Jones reviews recounts “late-date lynchings” in three communities here on the Eastern Shore, including one that occurred in 1933 in Princess Anne. The book was published in 2007 by Beacon Press.

Richard Keenan, former chair and longtime faculty member, is mixing business with pleasure in his retirement. Having just returned from a lengthy trip to Italy, he is currently working for ABC-CLIO Inc., a publisher of encyclopedia, and reference books, as the general editor of a four volume encyclopedia, *Entertainment in America*. The publication date is currently set for 2011.

His expertise on the films of Robert Wise is showcased in a “featurette” documentary, part of the extras on a DVD special edition set entitled *The Original Sci-Fi Masterpiece The Day The Earth Stood Still* now available at Amazon.com.

He has also written the entry on film noir in America for *American Movie Culture*.

Who said folks slow down in retirement?