CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
Graduating Senior Receives Top Departmental Award

The Department of English and Modern Languages recognized senior Shauna-Kaye Jones as its most outstanding student at the university’s annual honors convocation held recently in the Ella Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Jones, a member of the UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, will graduate this month with a 3.7 cumulative grade point average. Her excellent academic record was achieved while maintaining the rigorous practice and performance schedule of the celebrated UMES concert choir.

English Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch, Ms. Jones and School of The Arts and Professions Dean Ray Davis at the awards ceremony

Photo by Jim Glovier

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY DEGREE?
English Alumni Offer Career Advice to Current English Majors

There are a wide variety of career options available to a student who earns an English degree.

To prove that point, the local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, hosted a recent career workshop. Graduates who didn’t head immediately into teaching or broadcasting, as many UMES English majors do, were invited to discuss their post-bachelor degree choices and/or their current jobs.

The alumni included Jamie Grangier and Richard Rudasill who graduated in 2006, Ashley Collier from the class of 2009 and Briana Fulton who earned her degree in 2012. They were joined by senior Shauna-Kaye Jones.

Ms. Grangier discussed her decision to pursue a doctoral degree in order to teach English at the college level.

Ms. Fulton also talked about graduate school; she did not earn an English Education degree as an undergraduate and is currently enrolled in a master’s program to prepare her to teach English and language arts in middle and high schools.

Ms. Collier offered input on jobs in public relations. She candidly shared that she wasn’t quite sure what she wanted to do immediately after graduation.

Mr. Rudasill discussed law school as an option.

Ms. Jones offered the prospect of an international adventure. She explained the steps involved in applying to teach English in another country.
WORD PLAY: Autoantonyms

An autoantonym is a word or phrase which contradicts itself because it has two distinct meanings, which are opposite. Such words are sometimes called “Janus words,” after the two-headed Roman God. They are also referred to as antagonyms or contranyms.

For example:
The word cleave can mean to cut apart OR to cling together.
The word buckle can mean to pull together OR to fall apart.

Can you guess the word or phrase that matches the two seemingly contradictory, opposite meanings listed below?

1. to begin or start
   OR (opposite meaning): to finish
   Clue: 6 letters/begins with w

2. to restore to its original position
   OR (opposite meaning): to remove from its original position
   Clue: 7 letters/ begins with r

3. a better direction
   OR (opposite meaning): a worse direction
   Clue: 8 letters/begins with d

4. to add a covering
   OR (opposite meaning): to remove a covering
   Clue: 5 letters/begins with d

5. to remove dust
   OR (opposite meaning): to deposit dust
   Clue: 4 letters/begins with d

Check your answers on Page 5.

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.

BOOK SIGNING

Former UMES President Thelma Thompson returned to campus recently to read from her new book, “Bay Leaves and Cinnamon Sticks: Life Is.” She also signed copies of the novel and of a children’s book she authored earlier.

A member of the UMES English department’s extended family by virtue of her graduate degrees in the discipline, Dr. Thompson is now a distinguished professor in the English department at Bowie State University.

SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

Two English faculty members are planning a student symposium to be held at UMES next semester.

Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones and Kimberly Galloway have been awarded a $2,000 SOARR (Supporting Opportunities to Advance Recruitment and Retention) grant from the Division of Academic Affairs to organize an event to be held in early December.

Students would make presentations focused on composition, literature, creative writing, technical writing, telecommunications, public speaking, and modern languages.
On Saturday, April 5, five members of the UMES Writing Center staff presented at The Mid-Atlantic Writing Centers Association’s (MAWCA) 25th Annual Conference at Salisbury University. The presenters were Center Director Terry Smith and four peer tutors: Sarra Malik, Courtney Rhoades, Kelsey Tate, and I. The conference's theme was "Generations in the Writing Center: Meeting in the Middle," so our group conducted a 60-minute panel presentation discussing "Diverse Generations of Clients at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) Writing Center."

Thankfully, our university accepts a variety of individuals whose classifications, abilities, genders, races and ethnicities differ. So when students come to the Writing Center, our tutors are sensitive to the diversity embraced by UMES. We discussed the importance of this diversity, as well as the challenges that can come about due to it.

Ms. Rhoades discussed academic ability; Ms. Malik discussed race and ethnicity; and I discussed gender.

As a first-semester tutor, it was a pleasure to accompany the more experienced tutors to this presentation. Also, since it was my first professional presentation, I was comforted by the unified preparation within our group. I hope that, in the future, I will be able to contribute my presence and perspective to another conference's topic.

This professional presentation was led by Dr. Smith, who provided background, accompanied by the tutors' theories, research and experiences. Each tutor's segment addressed an important diversity issue. Ms. Tate discussed academic classification; Ms. Townsend, Dr. Smith, Ms. Malik, Ms. Tate and Ms. Rhoades at MAWCA conference

Photo by Sandra Eckhard

DRAMA SOCIETY PACKS THE HOUSE

Dinner Theater Production: Motown n Mo’ Take 3

This year’s dinner theater presentation, a combined effort of the UMES Drama Society and the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, completed retired English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson’s Motown trilogy, begun in 2007.

“Motown n Mo’ Take 3,” the tale of the legacy of the mysterious Mr. Tunes, featured the performance of nearly three dozen old favorites including the music of the Temptations, Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Tina Turner, Michael Jackson and the Supremes.

The third installment of Dr. Dameron-Johnson’s Motown revue was just as popular with the audience as the first two productions—as was the dessert buffet.

Soon after the production, the drama society inducted 15 new members: Lavell Allen, Brianna Carroll, Christopher Causey, Kasandra Dilks, Tionne Deminds, Joy Foreman, Kianna Harris, Kimberly Harris, Kirsten Jackson, Deidre Johnson, Cierra Lyons, Courtney Milligan, Aaliyah McRant-Partin, Mia Paris-Wade and Kendra Wood.

Dinner theater performance photos by Jim Glovier

Spring 2014 Drama Society inductees surround their advisor, Dr. Dameron-Johnson

Photo by Tahja Cropper
ON THE ROAD

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding was a presenter at the recent Northeast Modern Language Association’s (NMLA) convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Her paper was titled "What You Don't Know Can Kill You: Apocalyptic Warnings in Heller and Hegland." She’ll share her interest in dystopian literature next semester with students enrolled in ENGL 345, Special Topics in Literature.

Foreign language professor Carole Champagne was also a presenter at the 45th annual NMLA convention in Harrisburg. Her remarks focused on the poetry of Costa Rica; her paper was titled “Voice and Vision in the Poetry of Ana Istarú.” Dr. Champagne also served as a presentation evaluator at the annual conference of the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages this spring in Boston.

Marilyn Buerkle attended the Journalism Interactive 2014 conference co-sponsored by the University of Maryland, the University of Florida and the University of Missouri in College Park, Maryland. The event brought together journalism faculty from around the country who discussed the use of technology in the classroom and in the newsroom.

UMES Writing Center tutor Elizabeth Ranger is earning a double major in English and history. She presented a paper titled "The Treaty of Sevres, the Final Blow: The Armistice of Mudania" at the Western Social Science Association’s 56th Annual Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She was one of only two undergraduate students who presented papers in the history portion of the program.

MORE THAN VOCABULARY

Students enrolled in foreign language courses offered by the Department of English and Modern Languages learn more than grammar or vocabulary. Instructors offer them insight into cultural traditions as well.

Recently Jacalyn Book and Michael Lane’s French 101 and 102 students headed to a kitchen in Hazel Hall to learn how to make a staple of French cuisine, the crepe.

"Afterwards, they complete a survey in which they compare French crepes with American pancakes,” Dr. Book said. “So far, crepes have won every semester!”

Spanish language professors Nydia Gregory and Carole Champagne both mark the end of the semester with their students at fiestas which typically include traditional foods and music.

Both professors have scheduled their slightly belated Cinco de Mayo celebrations for May 7 in Hazel Hall.

HAWK RADIO IN HIGH GEAR

Staff is Busy On and Off Campus During End-of-Semester Crunch

As the spring semester draws to a close, the staff of Hawk Radio, the university’s student-managed internet radio station, has been particularly busy.

Community service was a priority item on the agenda. For the second time, Hawk Radio members have traveled to local high schools to encourage Upward Bound students in Somerset and Wicomico counties to attend college.

Student DJs took the station’s portable equipment to the Student Services Center in mid-April and produced a series of shows from outside the campus bookstore.

Then, that evening, the staff gathered for a cook-out to celebrate a successful semester of broadcasts. When they planned the get-together, they hadn’t anticipated temperatures in the low 40s. Hearty souls huddled around the grill to brave the cold.

The following week, the station hosted a talent show in the SSC theater styled after “Showtime at the Apollo.” The winner, as judged by the audience, received a $50 cash prize.

Formation of the student management team for next semester is under way.
EXPERT ADVICE

A group of English majors interested in media careers received some valuable advice on the art of the job interview recently.

Managers from WBOC TV, WESM FM and Delmarva Broadcasting participated in a session of “Speed Interviewing.” They conducted mock interviews and offered feedback to students on their presentation skills.

NEW JOBS TO CELEBRATE

Evan Burton, Class of 2007, is now a micro-content producer at VaynerMedia, a social-first digital advertising agency in New York City. He plans and creates content that helps brands make better connections to people on platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Kyla Bibbins, a 2013 graduate and former general manager of Hawk Radio, is now a board operator at Great Scott Broadcasting in Georgetown, Delaware. “I believe that there is room for me to grow here,” the Delaware native said.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Faculty member Melissa Green begins a doctoral program in Literature and Criticism at Indiana University of Pennsylvania this summer.

It’s the start of what she describes as an “arduous journey.” At least her next two summers will be spent in residence at I.U.P. The remaining coursework will be completed online.

Ms. Green will be particularly busy this summer. By the time she leaves for Indiana, she’ll be a newlywed.

READY TO LEAD

The UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, has elected its leadership team for the 2014/2015 academic year.

Next year’s officers include President Aundra Townsend, Vice President Kelsey Tate, Historian Dre Tingle, Secretary Liz Ranger and Treasurer Kia Morsell.

Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, be recommended by three faculty members and meet certain other requirements before they are eligible to apply to become Sigma Tau Delta members.

Amy Hagenrater-Gooding will continue to serve as the faculty advisor to the honor society.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS

FROM PAGE TWO:

1. windup
   The pitcher’s windup was remarkable. The speaker will wind up his speech soon.

2. replace
   We replaced the telephone receiver (thus hanging up the phone). We replaced the telephone receiver (because it was damaged).

3. downhill
   Unfortunately, I am afraid it is all downhill from here. Fortunately, it is all downhill from here.

4. dress
   I dressed the chicken by removing its feathers. I dressed professionally for the interview.

5. dust
   My sister dusted the furniture. The detectives dusted the area for fingerprints.

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