PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Hawk Radio Sponsors Trip to Howard Communications Job Fair

With funding provided by the Student Government Association, members of the university’s student-managed radio station and other UMES students interested in media careers got a glimpse of their future at the Howard Communications Job Fair in Washington, D.C.

The annual event features a morning of panel discussions with industry experts and an afternoon of interviews with companies ranging from the Associated Press to Zoom, Inc. Kyla Bibbins, a senior English major and Hawk Radio’s promotions manager, will graduate in May. “I made a lot of good contacts with potential employers, and I got a chance to scope out my competition,” she said.

There were hundreds of students from more than 20 different colleges and universities who came armed with resumes, ready for employment. One UMES student, who asked not to be identified, found the experience a little intimidating. “It showed me how unprepared I was,” he said.

Da’Vone Freeman, a sophomore English major who participates in Hawk Radio and the video production unit Discover UMES, said the event expanded his horizons. “I found out about companies and internships I had never heard of.”

ENGLISH MAJORS HELP SET RECORDS

A Spectacular UMES Volleyball Season Draws to a Close

If the UMES Department of English and Modern Languages seems particularly proud of the success achieved by our women’s volleyball team, there are several good reasons.

When he isn’t courtside, Associate Head Coach Eric Hammond is a valuable staff member in the English department; the player who this season became the UMES all-time leader for blocked shots, senior Ndidi Ibe, is an English major; and the squad’s only other graduating senior, Corey Haynes, is an English Education major with a 4.0 GPA.

The department’s contingent on the team has plenty to brag about. When the last home match of the season ended with a victory over Howard University, the team remained the holder of the longest current Division I home-winning streak in the country. The team has won a remarkable thirty matches in a row at the Hytche Center. The team hopes to repeat its 2011 conference championship title at Coppin State University in Baltimore later this month.

(L to R) Ms. Haynes, Mr. Hammond, and Ms. Ibe on senior recognition night

Photo by Lloydlee Heite
NO REST IN RETIREMENT
Former Department Chair is Having Fun!

No one thought Richard Keenan would retire to a rocking chair to spend his days idly reminiscing. It shouldn’t surprise his English colleagues that his retirement from his post as department chair has afforded him the time to indulge his passions: theater, film, and travel.

Just last month, Dr. Keenan was one of three performers in a reading of the play “The M Pill.” The presentation benefited Salisbury’s Art Institute and Gallery. “No sets to speak of, just three of us, doing our best to dramatize something that (requires) you to use your imagination,” he said. “Think of it in the context of radio drama, and you are in the studio.”

Less than a week later, he was at Salisbury University delivering a lecture, “Gangsters, Buffoons, Poignant Suffering: Italian Stereotypes in American Cinema.” It’s part of his research for a book he’s writing about the relationship between American and Italian film.

“Italian film has made a remarkable contribution to international cinema,” he said. “Too often the stereotyping of Italians and Italian Americans overshadows the true nature and value of the contribution.”

And the travel? Research for the book is continuing this month at the Centro Sperimentale Cinematographica in Rome.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND

The UMES Drama Society will present its annual fall theater production, “For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enu,” November 1-3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center.

Tickets are available at the door: $5 general admission, $3 for seniors, and $2 for UMES students with I.D.

INDUCTION SCHEDULED

The UMES Psi Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, an international English honor society, will hold its annual induction ceremony on Friday, November 30, at 7 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Services Center.

To qualify for membership, students must have completed at least three college semesters, be majoring or minoring in English, and must have maintained at least a 3.0 GPA.

The group has not yet announced the names of the applicants who will be inducted in the upcoming ceremony.

BIBLE STORY UPDATED
Faculty Member in Baltimore Production

A unique collaboration has developed between the public relations director at Coppin State University and a member of the UMES English department faculty.

Della Dameron-Johnson, the long-time director of the UMES Drama Society, has lent her skills to a series of productions written and produced by Coppin’s Ursula Battle.

The most recent play is a contemporary updating of the biblical story of Queen Esther titled “The Crown of Glory & The Agony of Deceit.” The 21st century setting is an urban factory whose employees may lose their jobs as the factory owner makes plans to outsource their work overseas.

The production is being staged at the Straus Auditorium of the Jewish Community Center in Baltimore.

Dr. Dameron-Johnson serves as co-director and dramaturge of the play. A dramaturge is a specialist on dramatic construction and often assists in developing production concepts. Dr. Dameron-Johnson has used her years of experience to coach the cast.

“I’m giving instruction about making entrances, maintaining character,” she said. “I’m teaching them not to upstage the other actors, how to turn.”

In addition to her role backstage, Dr. Dameron-Johnson also has a part onstage. She plays a disabled factory worker facing unemployment.

The staging of the production in late October and early November presented a challenge for Dr. Dameron-Johnson. Rehearsals were occurring at the same time the UMES Drama Society was preparing for its fall production.

“It’s really been rough,” Dr. Dameron-Johnson said. “I get up there as often as I can.” Is it worth the effort? “I got a lot out of it,” she said. “They respect my expertise.”
NEW JOBS & NEW HUSBANDS
English Education Coordinator Updates Teacher Candidates’ Progress

By Barbara Seabrook

Editor’s Note: Dr. Seabrook, an associate professor in the English department, serves as coordinator of the department’s teacher-education program.

All Spring 2012 Teaching Interns Found a Teaching Position After Graduation!

Three teacher candidates finished their internships and completed their degree programs last spring. Although English/Language Arts is not a critical shortage content area in many Maryland counties, all three of the May 2012 English Education graduates are currently employed as teachers.

Erik Volk received the MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) degree and is teaching ninth grade English at Arcadia High School in Accomack County, Virginia.

Ashley Bell and Dionna Sterling both earned bachelor of arts degrees in English Education. Ms. Bell is teaching sixth grade reading in Baltimore County, Maryland, and Ms. Sterling is teaching ninth grade English in Wicomico County, Maryland.

Completing the Teaching Internship with Wedded Bliss!

The teaching internships are the culminating experience for English Education majors. During the fifteen weeks of their final semester, teacher candidates are required to teach at both the middle and high school levels. They are observed and evaluated a minimum of three times at each of the two levels.

Attendance at the senior seminar, EDCI 400, once a week is also a requirement. During the seminar, teaching interns discuss their classroom experiences, develop action research projects, summarize professional journal articles, and prepare their professional portfolios for presentation and evaluation.

This semester’s English Education majors have reached the halfway point in their final semesters.

Joselyne Swift has completed her high school teaching internship with mentor teacher Jessica Hickman at Crisfield High School Academy where she taught grades 11 and 12. She is currently completing her middle school internship in a sixth grade classroom with mentor teacher Dawn Lankford at Somerset Intermediate School.

Zanae Allen taught seventh grade Language Arts with mentor teacher Cindy Lloyd at Somerset Intermediate School to fulfill the middle school internship requirement. She is currently completing the high school teaching internship with Susan Ward at Wicomico High School in Salisbury.

An unusual situation occurred this semester which caused Ms. Swift and Ms. Allen to be addressed by their students as Ms. Tyler and Ms. Ari in the classroom. Both teacher candidates were married over the summer.

The teaching internships are extremely challenging and demanding, so adding the additional responsibility of a marriage partner could be difficult. However, both teaching interns have demonstrated that they have an outstanding ability to be effective and innovative teachers while meeting the responsibilities of a new spouse.

Ms. Swift married Charles Tyler on June 9, at The Fountains Wedding & Conference Center in Salisbury. Mr. Tyler is from Crisfield, Maryland. Mr. and Mrs. Tyler’s family includes a one-year-old black lab puppy named Roxie.

Ms. Allen married David Ari on July 28, in Hebron, Maryland, with a reception in Princess Anne. Mr. Ari is a senior, majoring in engineering, at UMES. Mr. and Mrs. Ari met at a campus bible study.

WORD PLAY: Puns for Skilled Punographers

1. A dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary is called a ________________.
2. We are going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola factory; I hope there’s no ________________.
3. The Indians were here first because they had ________________.
4. I tried to catch some fog, but I ________________.
5. England has no kidney bank, but it does have a ________________.

Answers on Page 4.

Word Play, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, is an Insights monthly feature which explores the creative use of language.
MEMBERS OF THE UMES English faculty traveled to Catonsville, Maryland last month to attend the Maryland Statewide Standards for College English Committee Compositions Conversations VIII writing conference. This year’s theme was “Interchanges: Navigating Changing Expectations for Student Writers,” and presentations addressed the common core of standards for English and math that are being adopted statewide.

Those standards are designed to give all stakeholders—parents, teachers, and students—a clear understanding of what’s expected. They are benchmarked to international standards to assure global competitiveness.

Kimberly Galloway-Holmes, David Johnson, and Sandy Johnston heard experts discuss this period of transition; Maryland public schools are expected to fully implement the changes by the 2013/2014 school year. Ultimately, students should arrive at the college level better prepared for college writing.

“Becoming aware of these standards was important for those of us who are teaching freshman composition because we are in the process of revising the ENGL 101 and 102 curricula,” Ms. Johnston said.

In addition to the focus on common core standards, the conference featured workshops on topics such as SmartThinking, computerized writing placement exams, and changing expectations for student writers in STEM-focused composition courses.

Ms. Montgomery Ms. Garriques

Deborah Meadows-Julien (2005), who performs as Deborah J, has joined the Hip Hop 4 the Homeless tour as well as the Will Rap 4 Food tour. She recently performed in Decatur, Georgia, at the Sony Entertainment artist showcase and at a Six Flags amusement park. Her concert dates for the coming months can be found on her reverbnation page. “Although it’s exhausting, there’s no other tired I’d rather be,” she says.

Quiana Montgomery (2011) and Shauna Garriques (2012) are legal assistants in the Washington, DC office of Keller and Heckman LLP. They conduct research and draft legal documents for staff attorneys and for scientists employed by the firm. Both women plan to attend law school.

Kayla Calloway (2005) is working as a client relations manager and legal assistant at the Thompson Law Group in Atlanta. She manages a blog for the firm, a growing practice which specializes in foreclosure prevention and employment law. She uses her prior experience in public relations in the entertainment industry to write an advice blog for performers which she describes as a “source for hip-hop marketing and publicity advice for indie and emerging hip-hop artists.” She has also written an e-book titled The Essential Guide to Hip-Hop Marketing & Publicity.

Deborah J

There aren’t enough black men in college and now there’s one less. For everyone who didn’t know you, everything carries on as usual remaining the same. But I take it as a personal loss because maroon and gray runs through my veins.

-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 new monthly Insights feature.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE THREE:
1. thesaurus 4. mist
2. pop quiz 5. Liverpool
3. reservations
REST AND RECOVERY

Junior English major Kandace Sewell is back on the Shore recovering from a local car accident that claimed the life of another UMES student, sophomore criminal justice major Devin Clay.

Ms. Sewell, a resident of Pocomoke, Maryland, suffered multiple injuries in the accident and was originally treated at the University of Maryland’s Shock Trauma Center. She has since been moved to HealthSouth Chesapeake Rehabilitation Hospital in Salisbury. The facility specializes in inpatient rehabilitation.

Ms. Sewell

RESOURCE DECISIONS

Adjunct French language instructor Veronique Diriker attended the National Symposium for Adapted Physical Activity, held recently in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Diriker’s participation focused on her expertise as the UMES director of development.

She discussed resource allocations for vulnerable populations after a disaster and, on an additional panel, offered advice on seeking donors for new program ideas.

Dr. Diriker in Alabama

LITERATURE AND FILM

Associate professor Dean Cooledge indulged his passion for film at the recent conference of the Literature/Film Association held at York College. The theme of the conference was 21st century Hollywood.

“Presentations covered all areas of adaptation studies,” Dr. Cooledge said. “It was a chance to meet and hear new and established names in the field.”

Dr. Cooledge teaches ENGL 324, Literature and Film, and he also serves as the book review editor for Literature/Film Quarterly.

FILM FESTIVAL

Public speaking instructor Will Rose displayed a trailer of his documentary, “A Life Lost: Witney and I,” at the tenth annual Pocono Mountains Film Festival. His film details the impact the murder of his niece has had on her sister. The festival was held during October, Domestic Abuse Awareness Month, and proceeds from the event benefited safe houses for battered women.

(L) Mr. Rose with the founder of the Pocono film festival, Bridget Davis

CONNECTING GLOBALLY

Dr. Carole Champagne is scheduled to make a presentation at the upcoming conference of the University System of Maryland Women’s Forum which will be held November 9 on the UMES campus. Her session, at 2 p.m. in the Henson Center, is titled “Networking in the Global Community.”

“Many staff members are unaware of international educational opportunities in the USM system,” Dr. Champagne said. “Partial or full tuition remission for employees enrolled in credit courses or internships is available.”

Dr. Champagne

ONLINE ADAPTATIONS

Faculty members Amy Hagenrater-Gooding, Gabriela Vlahovici-Jones, and Terry Smith presented a collaborative panel on intertextuality in online venues at the fall conference of the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities held last month at East Stroudsburg University.

(L to R) Dr. Smith, Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding, and Ms. Vlahovici-Jones

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