IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

Groundbreaking Held for State-of-the-Art Technology Building

Construction has begun on what will be the largest academic building on campus and the new home of the English department’s telecommunications program.

A formal groundbreaking ceremony was held recently for the 166,000 square-foot Engineering, Aviation, Computer and Mathematical Sciences Building.

A third floor wing of the $91.5 million project will house instructional radio and television studios, multiple audio and video editing stations, a computer graphics laboratory and telecommunication faculty offices. In addition, Hawk Radio, the university’s student managed radio station will be housed in a glass-walled studio which will serve as a centerpiece of the building’s first-floor atrium.

“We will offer our students the opportunity to practice their skills on the same equipment they’ll find in radio and TV stations around the country,” said Marilyn Buerkle, a faculty member who represented the department in the multi-year planning process. “That will be an extremely valuable recruitment tool.”

It is expected that construction will last two years. The department hopes to begin offering classes in the new facility in the Fall 2015 semester.

BIENVENUE PROFESSEUR LANE!

Honors Program Director is Associate Professor of French

The University welcomes Michael Lane as the new director of the Richard A. Henson Honors Program, and the Department of English and Modern Languages welcomes Dr. Lane as a tenured associate professor of French.

Dr. Lane specializes in 19th and 20th century French poetics and short fiction. He joins the UMES faculty after 13 years at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina.

Most recently Dr. Lane served as associate director of Appalachian’s Honors College; earlier he was an assistant professor of French in its Department of Languages, Literature and Culture.

He holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in French. He earned his B.A. from Saint Lawrence University, his master’s from the State University of New York in Binghamton, and his Ph.D. from Penn State.

It is a goal of Arts and Professions Dean Ray Davis, who supervises the UMES honors program, to encourage more students to engage in international experiences. Dr. Lane has organized study abroad programs and has led several immersion study trips to France.
ENGLISH FACULTY MEMBER TESTS USE OF MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSE

"MOOCs, like those offered by Coursera, allow students from all ages, backgrounds, geographies and cultures to interact in a unified space about a singular subject," she said. "In many ways, having a parallel classroom to the physical classroom here at UMES has given students confidence to discover their own insight and dialogue with peers in another state or another country."

Dr. Hagenrater-Gooding’s research is designed to gauge the impact of adding MOOC material on her students’ performance. She hopes to answer a number of questions including whether blending the use of the MOOC into the traditional classroom helps to model academic discourse and if that leads to more thoughtful and engaged scholarship.

So far, it’s working. “I’m astounded by how the discussions have blossomed,” she said.

The grant for the UMES project is part of a USM-Ithaka partnership to accelerate the use of learning technologies in higher education and is made possible by funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

I have a great cohort of 10 undergraduate tutors, five of them new, trained to help students with any stage of the writing process or with skills related to CompClass.

This semester the writing center is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We use an online scheduling and record-keeping program: My Writing Center Online. Through this site, students can register to use the writing center before they come to see us and make appointments in advance from off-site.

All appointments are 30 minutes long. Each student is allowed to have up to two appointments a day. Students may cancel their appointments online up to two hours before a scheduled appointment. However, if a student misses three appointments during the semester, his or her account will be locked.

We do tend to get very busy in the hours immediately before certain writing assignments, so students should plan ahead and visit at least a day or two before their assignment’s due date.

Fall tutors (L to R) Front row: Kelsey Tate, Ella Hinman, Jasmine Roberts, Courtney Rhoades, Shanay Snead, Sarra Malik, Alexa Mendez and Jessica Land
Back row: Jerrod Graham and Liz Ranger

Photo by Joseph Davis
When Amber Montgomery heard the announcement last spring in my ENGL 380 Introduction to Language Science class about an opportunity to prepare for graduate school, she was the only UMES student to submit an application for the month-long summer workshop.

An English non-teaching major with an interest in a career in public education who will graduate in December, Amber’s effort was rewarded. She was offered the opportunity to be paid a stipend to spend the month of July at The Institute for Recruitment of Teachers at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

Amber described the workshop as very intense and a little stressful. “But I learned so much about education theories, teaching philosophy, the social aspect of graduate school, and how to deal with gender and racism issues in the classroom,” she said.

Students who attend the Phillips Academy workshop are considered to be alumni of the institution, so they can use it as a resource for networking, for help applying to over 30 graduate schools and to learn more about obtaining funding for graduate school. This workshop can also help anyone interested in working in higher education earn a doctoral degree.

In spite of the intensity and challenges of the experience, Amber described some of the most valuable and enjoyable parts of the workshop. “The bonding experience with my cohort of 30 other college students and college graduates and learning about graduate school fellowships were invaluable. I also learned about all the career opportunities that are available to me with an English non-teaching degree.”

Amber feels that “most students at UMES do not take the time to apply for all the summer internships and workshops when they are announced.”

Because Phillips Academy is interested in recruiting HBCU students, Amber plans to invite a representative to come to UMES and talk with students so that other UMES students will submit applications to take advantage of this opportunity.

DON’T MISS THE UMES DRAMA SOCIETY’S FALL THEATER PRODUCTION:
“MISS EVERS’ BOYS”
A 1992 play by David Feldshuh based on the true story of the decades-long Tuskegee experiment
Oct. 31-Nov. 2
7:30 p.m.
Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center

Richard Keenan, professor emeritus and retired chair of the English department, was recently interviewed for a BBC documentary, “Secret Voices of Hollywood.” The production focuses on the “ghost singers” whose voices are substituted for the stars who don't have the vocal quality needed for a musical role.

Keenan, who authored a book on famed American film director Robert Wise, discussed—among other things—the decision not to use Natalie Woods’ voice in Wise’s “West Side Story.”

“The voice you hear as Natalie Wood sings is actually Marni Nixon. It was, of course, a well kept secret, even from Natalie Wood,” Keenan said. “Actresses and actors were dubbed, and the public was politely duped, but none of it hurt any of the popularity of the films... Film is all illusion anyway.”
A FOND FAREWELL

A retired member of the English faculty, remembered by her colleagues as “sweet and gentle,” has passed away.

Sandy Christian died at her home in Marquette, Michigan, on September 19, surrounded by her family and in the care of Lake Superior Hospice.

Ms. Christian was a published poet who taught at Ohio University, Salisbury State University and at UMES where she became a tenured member of the Department of English and Modern Languages.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Mitchell, to whom she was married for 35 years. Ms. Christian is survived by two sons and their families.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday, December 17, at 4 p.m. at Mt. Hermon United Methodist Church in Salisbury. Her son, Rev. Drew Christian, will officiate.

YOU’VE ARRIVED

People who approach Wilson Hall, home of the UMES English department, from the direction of the Tawes gym have had problems locating the building because of the lack of signage at the rear entrance.

That’s been resolved by the installation of a clearly marked sign designed by the Physical Plant staff.

A WORLD VIEW

The UMES Foreign Language Instructional Center provides the campus community with a global perspective.

In September, FLIC invited a former Peace Corps official to mark the U.N.’s International Day of Peace. This month, it brings Arab American artist Helen Zugaib to UMES to discuss her work and its place in the tradition of Arab storytelling. Ms. Zugaib, who believes the arts can be a tool to foster cooperation between cultures, will speak on Monday, October 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Services Center theater.

In addition to sponsoring lectures, FLIC regularly posts internship options for students who have foreign language skills and/or global interests on its Facebook page.

SERVICE REWARDED

Ten members of the English department’s faculty were promoted to Adjunct Faculty II status, effective this semester.

Congratulations are in order for Dorothy Bell-Jackson, Matthew Bogdan, Jacalyn Book, Geneva Cannon, Monica Cannon, Madonna Johnson, Joni Kindell, Tonya Price, William Reddish and Mari-Jo Ulbricht. They were recommended for the promotion by Department Chair Jacqueline Brice-Finch. Her request was supported by Dean Ray Davis and approved by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Ronald Nykiel.

Senior members of the university’s adjunct faculty may be considered for Adjunct II status if they have taught a minimum of 12 three-credit courses over a three year period or more. They must also have received high-level performance evaluations.

“The promotions are one indication of these individuals’ dedicated service to quality instruction in the Department of English and Modern Languages,” Dr. Brice-Finch said. “I look forward to recommending other DEML adjunct faculty members as they become eligible.”

EXPLORING OPTIONS

English majors interested in the communication industry met with representatives of The Daily Times and WBOC TV in Salisbury; WJLA TV in Washington, D.C.; and the national cable television network, C-SPAN, at the annual Fall 2013 Career Fair held recently in the Student Services Center ballroom.

Seniors discussed employment prospects, while other enterprising students took the opportunity to inquire about internship requirements and deadlines.

Spanish language professor Carole Champagne participated in Salisbury University’s recent Research Day and Innovation Showcase. She offered information about the Bienvenidos Network, a group of more than 70 organizations which serve the local immigrant community.

A FOND FAREWELL

Sandra Hart Christian
1944-2013

SERVICE REWARDED

EXPLORING OPTIONS

A WORLD VIEW

SHARING EXPERTISE
BACK TO THE BOOKS

Christen Borden earned her UMES English degree in May and headed back to school in September.

She is enrolled in the organizational communications program at Bowie State University. Ms. Borden is attending school as a full-time student and plans to earn a master’s degree with a concentration in public relations in May 2015.

An active graduate student, Ms. Borden has joined the Public Relations Student Society of America and is a member of the campus communication club.

INTERNSHIPS LEAD TO JOB

Senior English major Jasmine Roberts spent the last two summers as an intern at the headquarters of Radio One, a multi-media company that targets African American consumers.

At the conclusion of her second internship, Ms. Roberts was offered a part-time position as a traffic assistant working with advertising contracts. She hopes she’ll move to full-time status after her December graduation.

“I would encourage any student to take full advantage of every internship opportunity,” she said.

POWERFUL PIPES

If you remember English major Spencer Bryant from class discussions, listened to him on Hawk Radio or enjoyed his frequent participation in campus theater productions, it won’t surprise you that he’s putting his deep, rich voice to work.

Following his graduation in May of this year, Mr. Bryant completed specialized training with a voice-over expert, built his own home studio and has created a business website. It’s all part of what he describes as his “journey to become a professional voice-over talent.”

APPLYING LESSONS

Khadija Elkharbibi, Class of 2010, has been working full-time at Micro Systems, Inc., a software company in Columbia, Maryland, while she pursues a master’s degree in public relations and marketing management from University of Maryland University College.

Her coursework is paying off. She was recently promoted from technical analyst to marketing coordinator. She will assume new responsibilities in customer relations and will also write press releases, editorials and case studies.

CLASSROOM CAREER

Kimberly Wells, who came to UMES with a goal of becoming a journalist, earned an English non-teaching degree in 2012. By then, she had discovered she really wanted to become a teacher.

This month Ms. Wells begins her career as a teaching assistant in 7th and 8th grade language arts at Imagine Lincoln Public Charter School in Marlow Heights, Maryland. She will be eligible for teacher certification after she completes the Prince Georges County Resident Teacher Program next summer.

WORD PLAY ANSWERS FROM PAGE TWO

The Language of Love

1. A look between two people in love that expresses unspoken but mutual desire (Fuegian language of Tierra del Fuego)
2. A bittersweet feeling that occurs in those who know their love won’t last (Boro language of India)
3. Upon meeting someone, a feeling that the two of you may soon fall in love (Japanese)
4. A love so deep you can’t imagine life without your partner—the English translation is “you bury me.” (Arabic)
5. A strong feeling of missing someone you love (Portuguese)

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