The Department of English and Modern Languages welcomes 20 new students who will major in English or English Education this fall. The group is made up, primarily, of new freshmen—but there are also a handful of transfer students.

They will be greeted by a friendly new face in Wilson Hall. Crystal Purnell joins the department as an administrative assistant, replacing Pat Jones-Bailey who is now working in the Division of Academic Affairs. Ms. Purnell is no stranger to the campus. She joins the department from the UMES Center for Access and Academic Success.

There are two new additions to the department’s adjunct faculty who should look familiar to the campus community. Both are Somerset County, Maryland, natives who earned their undergraduate degrees in English at UMES.

Jamie Grangier is a member of the Class of 2006. She will be teaching ENGL 101, Basic Composition.

Robin Hoffman, who earned his English degree in 2004 and was a telecommunications staff member here earlier in the decade, has been hired to teach ENGL 214, Introduction to Telecommunications.

One person who will be missing from the team is technical associate Eric Hammond. Mr. Hammond left his staff position in the UMES English department to become an assistant volleyball coach at Towson University. His position has been advertised, but has not yet been filled.

As friends, family and colleagues of longtime faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson gathered in the Henson Center ballroom to celebrate her retirement this summer, many wondered how the UMES Drama Society and the university’s Gospel Choir would cope without her leadership and direction.

Many of the featured speakers that evening echoed the sentiments of Vice President Ronnie Holden when he told her, “What you have done for this university, no one could measure.”

It won’t be easy to fill the shoes of a professor who has spent 38 years on our campus, so “Mama D,” as she is affectionately known, has agreed to assist in the transition.

While she will no longer teach classes as a member of the English department faculty, she will spend another year staging campus theater productions and managing the gospel choir. (See fall theater audition information on page 4.)

Dr. Dameron-Johnson has also agreed to Dean Ray Davis’ request that she chair a School of the Arts and Professions task force to determine the feasibility of creating a performing arts degree program at UMES.
UMES is reaching out to area teens to provide them with unique learning opportunities.

This summer, nine local students completed the Summer Language Experience, an intensive program of Chinese study. Now in its second year, this two-week, 60-hour program for high school age youth was led by instructor Anliu “Susan” Yin who also shared cultural insights about China and its people.

“The opportunity for teens to study a critical-need language is nothing short of life-changing,” said Tammy Gharbi, program coordinator of the Foreign Language Instructional Center in the Department of English and Modern Languages. “It’s a real and tangible benefit for students who may not have access to Chinese in school to be able to study the language over the summer.”

Students met for six hours each day. In addition to language study, they attended a Chinese calligraphy demonstration and a lunch with traditional foods at the conclusion of the program.

The Foreign Language Instructional Center is a Title III, Part B program from the U.S. Department of Education. Its mission is to expand the number of Americans who speak a foreign language, especially those defined as critical-need.

WORD PLAY:

Each equation below contains the initials of words that will make the equation correct. Can you guess the words for the initials?

For example:

26 = L. of the A.
26 = Letters of the Alphabet

1. 7 = W. of the A. W.
2. 1001 = A. N.
3. 12 = S. of the Z.
4. 54 = C. in a D. (with the J.).
5. 9 = P. in the S.S.

Answers on page 6.

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

HIGH TECH WORKSHOP

Technology and Spanish Instruction in Spain

Spanish language faculty member Carole Champagne attended an intensive summer workshop in Salamanca, Spain, in late June and early July. The two-week program focused on the use of educational technology in Spanish language instruction.

“Technological and pedagogical advances require continuous professional development in order to keep pace with current and best practices,” Dr. Champagne said. “The high quality of the instructional and cultural components and their integration with academic programs through the workshop will assist me in preparing students interested in studying, working, interning and teaching abroad.”

The daily sessions involved hands-on interactivity led by Robert Blake. Dr. Blake is the Director of the University of California Consortium for Language Learning and Teaching.

Dr. Champagne will maintain contact with her summer colleagues this semester in a virtual classroom.

Photos provided by Dr. Champagne

Dr. Champagne (front, right) and her colleagues dine in the former monastery where Christopher Columbus petitioned Queen Isabella’s confessor for funding for his first voyage.
A group of English majors wanted an outlet for creative expression—so they’ve started a new campus organization. It’s called Jot-It-Down.

Junior Jessica Land will serve as the group’s president. “We want to help students be able to express themselves,” she said. “Writing is not really valued in this community. Students need to learn how to write creatively.”

Her Jot-It-Down colleague, Glenna King, says she’s been writing creatively since her teens. “It gets you out there, and it gets you to open up,” she said.

It’s the passion for writing that unites the group’s leadership. Brittany Jameson will serve as event planner for the organization. “I love to write, and I want to gain the experience of being professionally edited,” she said.

The women envision a regularly published literary magazine by and for students. They’re starting that effort with an online literary blog they’ve titled Adinkra. That’s a label for West African symbols of wisdom and knowledge. The symbols serve a decorative function, but they also convey evocative messages.

Over time, Jot-It-Down will foster literary work, photography, art and graphic design. Its founders hope to attract like-minded students during the fall semester and to grow their organization throughout the academic year. “We will also ask teachers to encourage their students to get involved,” Ms. Land said.

The founding members hope students will submit their creative efforts for online publication. They also plan to provide an opportunity for the campus community to comment on the works posted on the Adinkra website.

English faculty member Amy Hagenrater-Gooding has agreed to serve as the group’s advisor.

Eight local radio, television, newspaper and public relations executives have agreed to serve on a telecommunications advisory board which will provide professional expertise to the English department regarding course content and career preparation. They include Paul Burton, Clear Channel Radio; Joe Edwards, Delmarva Broadcasting; Roger Follebout, Peninsula Regional Medical Center; Troy Hill, MTS Broadcasting; Craig Jahelka, WBOC TV; Michael Kilian, The Daily Times; Kathleen McLain, WMDT TV; and Stephen Williams, WESM FM.

The group met for the first time in early August. Members made a commitment to enhance internship opportunities for UMES students, to participate in campus career forums and to provide guest speakers for certain class discussions.
HOMETOWN ROYALTY

After English major La-Basha Alexander graduated in May, she returned home to Washington state where she successfully competed for the title of Miss Black Washington USA. That brought her back to the East Coast in August when she and 29 other young women participated in the 26th annual Miss Black USA Scholarship pageant. Ms. Alexander didn’t win the national title, but she still has big plans for her future.

“My goals after the pageant include attending the University of Washington to pursue a master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies in hopes that I will be able to take my love for history, social justice and fashion and couple it with digital media to dispel the negative connotations associated with the African American community,” she said.

Ms. Alexander
Photo courtesy of Miss Black Washington USA
Pageant

PRACTICE PAYS OFF

Kyla Bibbins joined Hawk Radio, the UMES student managed internet radio station, when she arrived on campus as a freshman in 2009. Last spring, during her final semester, she served as the organization’s general manager. That hands-on experience helped her to land a job as a board operator and show producer at MTS Broadcasting in Cambridge, Maryland, following her graduation in May.

“I can honestly say I love my job, and I’m thankful for every minute of it,” she said. “I feel like all of this is possible because of some of the unique learning experiences that UMES offered.”

Ms. Bibbins in an MTS control room
Photo by Troy Hill

LEAVING THE NEST

An accomplished Hawk athlete has flown the coop. The English faculty will miss track and field star Andre Walsh, but they are proud of the legacy of excellence he leaves behind.

Mr. Walsh
Photo by Joey Gardner

Two English faculty members learned this summer that both of their applications for academic tenure had been granted. David Johnson and Terry Smith successfully completed the lengthy and complicated process required to become tenured members of the UMES faculty. Applicants must submit extensive evidence that they meet the university’s standards of academic excellence and scholarly pursuits.

Dr. Smith
Photo by Jim Glovier

Dr. Smith teaches technical writing and also supervises the UMES Writing Center and the administration of the university’s English proficiency exam.

Dr. Johnson

Mr. Walsh, who graduated magna cum laude and delivered the student commencement address in May, was an officer in the UMES chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society, and a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He holds school records in 60-meter, 100-meter and 200-meter distances, earned NCAA All American status five times, and was selected as the university’s Male Athlete of the Year in both his junior and senior years.

He begins a graduate degree at Florida State University this month where he will also compete on the FSU track team.

Ms. Bibbins

READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP?

AUDITIONS FOR THE UMES DRAMA SOCIETY’S FALL THEATER PRODUCTION, “MISS EVERS’ BOYS,” WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, FROM 6 TO 9 P.M. ON THE STAGE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER. ACTORS, SINGERS, DANCERS AND STAGE CREW MEMBERS ARE ALL NEEDED. COME PREPARED TO SHOW WHAT YOU CAN DO!
WORKING & STUDYING

Joscelyne (Swift) Tyler, a fall 2012 UMES English Education graduate, will be busy this semester. The Somerset County native will be working at Somerset Intermediate School as a reading intervention teacher assisting low level readers in both sixth and seventh grades. She will also be starting her first semester as a UMES master’s degree candidate majoring in counselor education.

Ms. Tyler doesn’t seem to have a problem with multi-tasking. She was selected as the department’s outstanding student while she was planning her wedding, and she completed her student teaching and graduated summa cum laude as a brand new bride.

STUDY ABROAD?

Dream of traveling the world? Looking for experience to compete in a global economy? Afraid you could never afford an international experience? Don’t know where to start?

The Institute of International Education is an organization that administers a number of federally funded programs to assist U.S. students who want to study and/or teach abroad. Most notable among those programs: the Gilman scholarships and the Fulbright international exchange program.

Pell Grant recipients face an October 1 deadline to apply for a Gilman scholarship for the spring 2014 semester. Students who will graduate by next May and plan to apply for a Fulbright appointment for the 2014/2015 academic year must do so by October 15.

TEACHING & COACHING

Corey Haynes, who graduated from UMES with a 4.0 GPA and was selected as the English department’s most outstanding student in 2013, earned her bachelor’s degree in English Education in May. This fall she’ll be teaching at Monticello High School in Charlottesville, Virginia. A member of the UMES volleyball team that won back-to-back MEAC championships, she is also assistant coach for the school’s junior varsity volleyball team. In addition to teaching and coaching, Ms. Haynes is completing a master of education degree in social foundations at the University of Virginia.

LAW SCHOOL?

Many English majors consider attending law school following graduation. Students who would like advice about their options are offered assistance through the university’s pre-law advisor.

Evita Bynum in the Department of Criminal Justice works with students from all departments to identify appropriate resources related to legal education. She also assists in the law school application process including providing information about LSAT workshops and prep courses.

Dr. Bynum reminds those who may be interested that certain UMES students may be eligible for a full tuition scholarship to the University of Baltimore School of Law through the Baltimore Scholars program. She is available by appointment to offer details.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY LECTURE

“Things You Thought You Didn’t Need to Know”

GEORGE GORAYEB
Former Associate Peace Corps Director in Yemen

Thursday, September 19
11 a.m.
SSC Multipurpose Room
Sponsored by the Foreign Language Instructional Center

UMES WRITING CENTER OPENS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Thursday
10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Friday
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Appointments are not required, but may be scheduled at www.umes.mywconline.com

A MEETING OF ALL NEW ENGLISH FRESHMEN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

Hosted by Dr. Ray Davis
Dean of the School of the Arts and Professions

Thursday, September 19
11 a.m.
Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center Auditorium
IMMERSED IN HISTORY

After English major Richard Rudasill graduated summa cum laude from UMES in 2006, he earned a law degree from the University of Illinois. His part time job in the school’s law library has led him back to Princess Anne.

This summer Mr. Rudasill joined the staff of the Frederick Douglass Library on campus. He’s been assigned to the special collections department where he has been familiarizing himself with the extensive materials related to the university’s more than 125-year history.

A BRAND NEW CAREER

As elementary schools around the state begin classes, English non-teaching graduate Stacy Woods is about to become a teacher.

Ms. Woods, a magna cum laude member of the UMES class of 2007, spent the summer as a member of the highly competitive program known as the Baltimore City Teaching Residency. It’s designed to train smart people to make a difference in schools with the greatest need, but it doesn’t guarantee its more than 100 trainees a job. They have to earn one. Ms. Woods did just that.

She is now a first grade teacher at Monarch Academy Charter School. “I had interviews with three principals, and I got the position I really wanted,” she reports.

CREATIVITY IS FUN

2007 Honors English graduate Evan Burton has a wide ranging resume. While at UMES, he studied abroad at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He earned an MFA in poetry at the City College of New York. He’s taught freshman English at CCNY, written book reviews for Publisher’s Weekly and made New York City his home. He’s recently embarked on a career in advertising that he describes as pure fun. “We spend all day thinking of creative ways to communicate,” Mr. Burton said. Samples of his work are available at www.evanburtoncreative.com.

IMPRESS AND INSPIRE

Internship coordinator Marilyn Buerkle is soliciting the help of all UMES English graduates. “I want everybody to send me their business card,” she said. Ms. Buerkle plans to post them in a newly established display case in the first floor hallway of Wilson Hall.

“When I was in graduate school at American University, we had a board with hundreds of business cards from AU alumni,” she said. “It really helped us visualize our own post-graduate success. It also helped to remind us that anything was possible. I want to do the same thing for UMES English majors.”

Business cards should be mailed to Ms. Marilyn Buerkle, UMES Department of English and Modern Languages, Princess Anne, Maryland 21853.

Faculty Fundraising

The university’s annual Art Shell Celebrity Golf Tournament was a resounding sold-out success this summer.

Again this year, English faculty member Will Rose participated to help raise scholarship money for deserving students.

Each year NFL great Art Shell returns to campus to host the tournament that benefits his alma mater.