

INSIGHTS



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COMMUNICATION CONNECTIONS

Hawk Radio Organizes Trip to Washington, D.C. for Job Fair

Hawk Radio, with funding from the UMES Student Government Association, sponsored a trip to the annual communications job fair at Howard University recently.

Twenty-two students who plan careers in radio, television, and public relations had the opportunity to attend workshops, rub elbows with top industry professionals, and sit down with company representatives to discuss internships and employment.

Senior Alicia Green was keenly aware of the students from other institutions who attended the event and will be her competition



UMES students on the Howard campus

following graduation. “It was an eye opener,” she said. Ms. Green plans to earn a master’s degree in communication before she looks for a job in public relations.

More than 70 companies—including all the major broadcast and cable networks, the biggest names in public relations, and a handful of prestigious graduate schools—travel to Howard each year to meet with hundreds of students.

Junior Zoe Bowens used the opportunity to zero in on internship possibilities. “It



Radio industry representatives offer advice in a panel discussion entitled “Radio: the Sustainable Medium.”

made me eager to get more field experience,” she said. “I still have time.”

There was a consistent thread in the advice offered by the professionals to the students: find something you’re passionate about and pursue it; success will follow.

MARRIAGE IN THE AGE OF REALISM

Department Chair Puts Finishing Touches on Manuscript

Department Chair Kelli Randall is completing work on a book entitled *Depictions of Marriage: Fictions of Race and Gender in the Age of Realism*. The book is an expansion of the ideas she explored originally as a dissertation project.



Dr. Randall

“Attitudes toward marriage express important cultural values, beliefs, and ideas about a great number of things besides marriage,” Dr. Randall said.

By opening up textual conversations between *Megda* (1891) and *The Awakening* (1899), *An Imperative Duty* (1891) and *Iola Leroy* (1892), and *Contending Forces* (1900) and *The House of Mirth* (1905), Dr. Randall attempts to prove that marriage is used as a forum for discussing race, class, and gender politics during the Age of Realism.

“Marriage becomes a source for imagining and interrogating the possibilities of harmonious communities

based upon race, gender, and class equality,” she said.

As she fine tunes her manuscript, with plans for publication next year, Dr. Randall will have an opportunity to discuss her theories before an audience of scholars.

She will be presenting “Conversion and Marriage in Emma Dunham-Kelley’s *Megda* and Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening*,” at the [Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities](#) next January in Honolulu.

CELEBRATING A LITERARY LIFE

UMES Administrator Participates in Tribute to Poet Lucille Clifton

Poets from all over the country gathered at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, recently to celebrate the life of [Lucille Clifton](#), the award-winning African American poet who died in February.

The tribute, entitled “[73 Poems for 73 Years: Celebrating the Life of Lucille Clifton](#),”

featured a roster of African American literary giants including, among others, Rita Dove, Nikki Giovanni, Sonia Sanchez, Mari Evans, Trudier Harris, Val Gray Ward, Dolores Kendrick, and Haki Madhubuti. The program participants each read one of Ms. Clifton’s poems.

Jacqueline Brice-Finch, Interim Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at UMES and

a former JMU English faculty member, was invited to read “Dialysis,” a haunting poem about the poet’s determined fight against kidney failure following her treatment for cancer.



Dr. Brice-Finch reads “Dialysis” during the tribute to Lucille Clifton

Photo by JMU Photography Services

Ms. Clifton’s free verse poems explored themes of female identity, family matters, race relations, and spirituality. She was the winner of the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Robert Frost medal for lifetime achievement, and a former Poet Laureate of Maryland. Her first poetry collection was published in 1969 and listed by The New York Times as one of the year’s 10 best books.

“I met her at professional conferences and poetry meetings over the years,” Dr. Brice-Finch said. “She was a warm-hearted woman who exuded loving-kindness. With an infectious laugh, she mesmerized her audiences with her zest for talking about the humaneness of life.”

Dr. Joanne Gabbin, executive director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and a professor of English at JMU, and Nikki Giovanni, activist, poet, and a University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, began organizing the poetry reading shortly after learning of their friend’s death. The two women co-hosted the program.

A souvenir tribute book, including contributions from national literary organizations, and a DVD of the program will be available through the [Furious Flower Poetry Center](#) soon.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

This year’s national selection committee for a prestigious international scholarship program includes Susan Cooledge, a member of the UMES foreign language faculty.



Dr. Cooledge

Dr. Cooledge will travel to Houston, Texas, this month to review the applications of students who seek a [Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship](#) administered by the Institute of International Education. The program is designed to support study abroad for students who might not otherwise have the opportunity, particularly those with limited financial resources and/or diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Officials estimate the congressionally funded program will distribute more than 2,300 awards of up to \$5,000 each during this academic year.

TAKE SPANISH IN SPAIN

Spanish language faculty member Carole Champagne knows the value of studying a foreign language while immersed in its culture. She studied abroad when she was in college; now she encourages her students to do the same.

Dr. Champagne has invited Patrizia D’Adamo Roldan, the director of U.S. operations for a group called [Travel and Education](#), to UMES to discuss summer language programs at the University of Salamanca in Spain.

Ms. D’Adamo Roldan will meet with interested students on Wednesday, November 3, at 2 p.m. in Room 0003 in the Arts and Technology Building.

Credits earned through the Salamanca programs can be used to meet UMES foreign language requirements.



Ms. D’Adamo Roldan

A LABOR OF LOVE

Public speaking instructor Will Rose has finished shooting a documentary that chronicles the story of his two nieces—one who was murdered by an abusive ex-boyfriend and the other who has vowed to keep her sister’s memory alive.

The final shoot was last month in Dover, Delaware, at a 5K race designed to raise funds for [Witney’s Lights](#), the non-profit organization founded by Quincy Lucas

to honor her murdered sister.

Mr. Rose will begin editing his production this month.

He hopes to finish the film by next spring.



Mr. Rose shoots video at the 5K race; the red cutouts in the background represent victims of domestic violence.

Photo provided by Mr. Rose

MEET THE WRITING CENTER TUTORS

Do You Have What it Takes to Serve as a Peer Tutor?

This semester's team of peer tutors in the [UMES Writing Center](#), administered by the Department of English and Modern Languages, is hard at work helping students tackle a wide variety of classroom writing projects.

Five members of the team are English majors, but the staff also includes students who are majoring in biology, criminal justice, and mathematics. "A tutor does not have to be an English major," said Dean Cooledge, interim director of the center. "I interview each applicant and look for good people-skills as much as writing skills. A tutor has to be able to work with students."

This year's tutors include Zanae Allen, Ashley Brock, Vincent Brown, Shelton Handy, Naemah Kitchens, Cherish McMillan, and Keith Savage. The students

are juniors and seniors and have maintained at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average. They have also successfully completed either ENGL 305— Technical Writing or ENGL 310— Advanced Composition.

Students who meet those criteria and are interested in a part-time, paid position as a writing center tutor next year should enroll in ENGL 488 during the spring semester. It's a training course, taught by Dr. Cooledge, designed to prepare students to tutor their campus colleagues. The course explores the role and responsibilities of a peer tutor and outlines the fundamental research based knowledge and skills of effective peer tutoring.

The UMES Writing Center, located in

Room 1107 in Wilson Hall, is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m..



Fall 2010 tutors (L to R) front row: Ms. Allen, Mr. Handy, Ms. Brock; back row: Mr. Savage, Ms. Kitchens, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Brown; not pictured: Ms. McMillan

Photo by Dean Cooledge

OPENING NIGHT HAS ARRIVED

God's trombones are about to play. The fall theater production of the UMES Drama Society, under the direction of English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson, will be staged on November 4, 5, and 6.

The presentation of *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*, written by James Weldon Johnson, will begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening in the Ella Fitzgerald Performing Arts Center. General admission is \$5; tickets for senior citizens are \$3; UMES student admission is \$2.



Cast members rehearse a gambling scene with direction from Dr. Dameron-Johnson (far right).

Photo by Jim Glover

WORD PLAY:

Do you know what a paraprosdokian sentence is?

It's a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. It is frequently used for humorous or dramatic effect.

Examples:

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops. My desk is a work station.

Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

Editor's Note: Word Play is a new monthly feature, provided by Dr. Barbara Seabrook, which will explore the creative use of language.

NEXT STOP: HOLLYWOOD?

English Major Wins Role in Feature Film

Senior English major Cordario Worrell, a native of Petersburg, Virginia, will graduate from UMES in December. In January, he expects to be in Atlanta rehearsing for his role in *The Family Mantle*.

The final details are still being worked out, but Mr. Worrell has been approached by Derrell Owens, the C.E.O. of [Zionward Productions](#), to play the part of Dennison Nolan, the youngest brother in a family drama that brings three men together after the sudden death of their parents.

“It’s a very interesting story,” Mr. Worrell said. “I can relate to being a peacemaker in the family, so it’s not a hard role for me to play.”

The Family Mantle, written by Mr. Owens, was originally produced for television in 2001; he now plans to recreate the story as a feature film.

Mr. Worrell has been active in the UMES Drama Society, and he credits the group’s advisor, English faculty member Della Dameron-Johnson, with helping him develop his stage presence.

Mr. Worrell is also a member of D.M.T., a club that participates in campus fashion shows and travels to regional modeling competitions.

It was through a modeling website where Mr. Worrell posted a portfolio of his work that Mr. Owens first became aware of the student. “I just posted the photos this summer,” Mr. Worrell said. “This is a blessing.”



One of the modeling poses Mr. Worrell posted online

Photo provided by Mr. Worrell

GETTING STARTED

It can be tough to break into an industry as highly competitive as television news, particularly in the midst of an economic recession. Recent graduate Justin Stewart has found a way to get major market TV experience through an unusual route. He’s filing video reports for the website of a weekly newspaper.



Mr. Stewart and a Metro Weekly cameraman at work

[Metro Weekly](#), a print publication in Mr. Stewart’s hometown of Washington, D.C., offered him a post-graduation internship gathering video interviews that are posted on the newspaper’s website.

“Sometimes in life, you just have to bite the bullet and do a non-paid internship in order to gain experience,” Mr. Stewart said. “Just because you have a college degree does not mean you are entitled to a job.”

One of Mr. Stewart’s high profile assignments was [interviewing Tim Gunn](#) from *Project Runway* who was a guest speaker at the National Out for Work career conference for gay and lesbian college students.



Mr. Stewart (L) and Mr. Gunn

Photos provided by Mr. Stewart

“I love working at Metro Weekly,” Mr. Stewart said. It’s the opportunity

of a lifetime...I get to practice my craft as a reporter by going out to cover events and interviewing celebrities...and the staff treats me like one of their own.”

ALUMNI UPDATE:

Mildred Harris is working as a para-educator in the Baltimore City Public School System. She serves as a “crew leader” for a group of seventh grade girls at the Southwest Baltimore Charter School.



Khadija Elkhariabi has just started a new job as a customer service analyst for Micro Systems in Columbia, Maryland.



Jibri Faison is employed in the tape library in the Washington, D.C. office of Black Entertainment Television (BET).



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