

## Alum Urges Students to Seize Opportunities

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*Are you a poet, writer, artist  
or just have a story to tell?  
Check out page 4!*

*Wondering what's out there  
after UMD for an  
English major? Pages 2-3  
have some info about  
English department alumni  
and what they are doing with  
their degrees.*

One of UMass Dartmouth's latest success stories returned to campus recently to speak to some aspiring English students about seizing opportunities, working hard, and not being afraid to reach out to people and make connections.

Crystal Howard, a 1995 UMass alum with a BA in English, serves as Director of Communications for ESPN Enterprises, which includes overseeing publicity and media relations for branding, consumer products, ESPN Interactive, and ESPN Publishing. Howard, who also completed a graduate program in journalism from Columbia University, returned to UMass to speak to Professor Catherine Houser's Public Relations class about life as a working English major.



Photo Courtesy of D. Confar

One of the most daunting parts of being an English major is the likelihood of stable employment—Howard's success seems like a fairy tale, but one that can come true—if you make yourself stand out with experience. The first piece of advice that the New York-based Howard offered students was to “get all the experience that you can” by checking around on campus for internships and opportunities to write.

A huge obstacle faced by fresh graduates in the job market is the lack of experience, and Howard's solution to this is to “just get in. You should be interning!” She advised the class that getting a foot in the door any way possible is a great way to build experience and gain rapport with a company, repeating again that students should “definitely be interning.”

Getting the job at ESPN was no easy feat, considering most jobs with the company required 10-12 years of solid experience. Then how did Crystal

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Pulitzer Prize Winner to Visit April 24

*“i tell myself maybe it won’t need / these pleasures anymore; /  
maybe just not being is simply enough / hard as that is to imagine”*

Pulitzer Prize Winner and former U.S. Poet Laureate Louise Glück will be visiting UMass Dartmouth on April 24, from 4:00-5:30pm in the Claire T. Carney Library, in honor of *Siren*. A decorated poet and writer, Glück has been the recipient of such prestigious awards as The Boston Globe Literary Press Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Poetry Society of America’s Meville Kane Award, and the M.I.T. Anniversary Medal.



A former professor at Williams College for twenty years, Glück is now the Rosenkranz writer-in-residence at Yale University, and served as the United States Poet Laureate from 2003-2004. She is the author of numerous books of poetry, including *Meadowlands* (1996), *The Triumph of Achilles* (1985), and *The Wild Iris* (1992) for which she received the Pulitzer honor. Glück has also written a collection of essays entitled *Proofs and Theories: Essays on Poetry*, published in 1994.

Currently, Glück is serving as a judge for the Yale Series of Younger Poets.

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## Q+A With English Alum

*This newsletter we’ll be profiling Sarah (White) Ricard, ‘99 English department alumni, and daughter of UMD English department faculty members Charles and Patty White.*

### **What is your current occupation?**

My title is Coordinator of Digital Media at Sundance Channel. The position is a hybrid role of analytical and creative responsibilities, working on the sponsorship front and also in a production capacity for [sundancechannel.com](http://sundancechannel.com).

### **Tell me a little bit about your blog.**

I do a lot of writing “on the side.” Some is for paid assignments, some is to eventually sell, and some is for my own enjoyment. Even if I’m working on a blog, which, in many regards is merely a glorified journal entry, I try to write it in a way that will engage readers, and work as a writing sample down the road.

To read more of Sarah’s writing,  
check out her musings at  
<http://www.tilzy.tv>

### **Did your time at UMass Dartmouth help you choose your career?**

When I began at UMass, I was a music major. As an elective, I ended up taking a lit course. Three-and-a half years later, I graduated with a BA in English with a Film/Drama concentration. It was definitely my time at UMass—and prodding from my mother—that led to my graduate studies in film at NYU, which directly impacted my career path.

### **Do you have any advice to English majors about to enter the job market?**

Conduct informational interviews with folks who inspire you. Always be working on something. Think ahead. Ask yourself if what you are doing will help to get you any closer to your long-term goals.

## Crystal Howard, cont.

get the job? “Reach out to people,” Howard urged, stressing the importance of networking and relationships. Howard went on to say that using these connections and networking are part and parcel of putting yourself out there: “‘You know someone? Can you get me to that person?’ The worst thing they can do is say no, and the good thing is that you’ve put your name out there.”

Creating relationships and networking are vital aspects to any industry, and Howard’s advice to students was to perfect that skill, because relationships are “all day, everyday...with the press, colleagues,” and anyone else that you happen to meet.

For students interested in entering the public relations/media publicity field, Howard also recommends some light reading—Malcolm Gladwell’s *The Tipping Point*, a bestseller detailing how little changes, especially in marketing, can create big results. Howard’s visit ended with her repeated advice of gaining experience and writing as much as possible, and the students could find only one thing wrong with her visit.

On the head UMass Dartmouth’s own Crystal Howard was a Yankees hat. “I just grabbed it because it was raining!” she insisted with a laugh.

## Alumni Updates

### Where Are They Now?

**Claire Carney ‘73**, English, honorary doctorate, of Dartmouth, was honored on October 14, 2006 to have the UMass Dartmouth library bear her name, the Claire T. Carney Library.

**Jethro Craig, ‘88**, English, New York City, has been a member of Actors Equity and Screen Actors Guild since 1988. Jethro has been in the casts of over 20 off-Broadway and Broadway shows as well as performs on national tours.

**Crystal Howard ‘95**, English, a native of Providence, and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, has joined ESPN as Director, Communications and Marketing. (See page 1 for more about Crystal!)

**Jason Zelesky ‘96**, English, M.Ed. University of Vermont ‘01, works as the associate dean of students at Clark University and is the co-chair of the board of advisors for Planned Parenthood of central Mass.

**David Brooke ‘06**, English, drama, and film studies, Brewster, is a reporter for a weekly newspaper *The Harwich Oracle* on Cape Cod.

## Four Students Receive \$3,000 in Silva Scholarships

From a number of English department applications, three undergraduates (each from one of the three disciplines within the undergraduate major) and one graduate student in the Professional Writing Program have won the prestigious Augustus Silva scholarship this past spring. Students had to complete an essay stating what they wanted to do with their degrees, and how the Silva money would help them achieve their goals. Undergraduate applications needed a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and graduate applications needed a minimum GPA of 3.3.

David Laventure, Lindsay Quintal, and Debra Shotwell are from the undergraduate program, and Raleigh Dugal is from the graduate program. Each winner gets \$3,000 dollars to benefit their education and their craft. When asked what he would do with the money, Raleigh answered, “I plan to use my scholarship to enter contests and submit my writing for publication.”

**2008 Silva Scholarship winners will be announced in May!**

## The Siren Is Calling to You...

Founded by a group of feminists in the 1970s, *Siren* is a safe haven for everyone, men, women, students, faculty, and staff, to write and publish materials that may be difficult to express in other venues.

*Siren's* theme this year is "In Celebration of Women." The journal includes many forms of media, including photography, poetry, prose, essays, paintings, etc.

The *Siren* Launch Party is on April 24, from 4:00-5:30PM in the Library Browsing Area, with special guest, poet Louise Glück (see page 2 for details!).

Direct any inquiries to  
[Siren@umassd.edu](mailto:Siren@umassd.edu)

## TEMPER, TEMPER!

*Temper* 2008, UMass Dartmouth's literary journal, will be released in early April. A collection of poetry, non-fiction and fiction by students, faculty and staff, *Temper* is a yearly publication aimed at showcasing UMD's writing talents.

A launch party will be held in late April at the Underground Café in the Campus Center, where *Temper's* authors will read from the current issue. The floor will then be open to anyone else who is interested in sharing their creative works, and all are welcome!

Specific date and time to come!

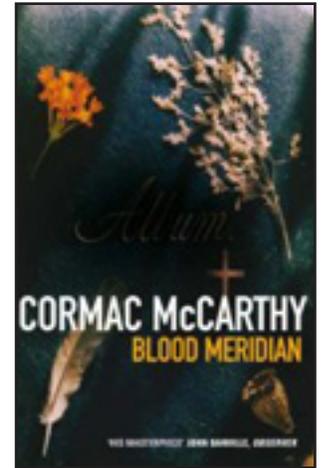
Please direct any questions to  
[Temper@umassd.edu](mailto:Temper@umassd.edu).

## After WORD

*Blood Meridian*  
by  
Cormac McCarthy

"It's a dark, gritty Western about a wandering youth from Tennessee. I bought this book and *No Country For Old Men* right after I read *The Road*."

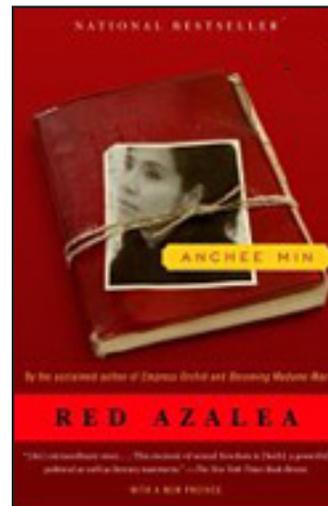
- Raleigh D., '08



*Red Azalea*  
by  
Anchee Min

"Reading this, I genuinely feel as though I too am a Little Red Guard member along side Anchee Min during the Chinese Cultural Revolution."

- Katy A., '09



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