



MEI NEWS

ISSUE 2 • SUMMER 2014

THE FRONT PAGE

As our summer 2014 session comes to a close, I've taken some time to reflect on what a good summer it has been, as well as some time to think about the things that make summer at MEI a special experience. This is only a small list, but some of the things that make summer at MEI unique, as well as some of my highlights from this summer, include:

- Shorter courses – the last seven weeks have gone very quickly!
- Elective classes – students got to choose between six different elective courses ranging from test prep to vocabulary to grammar to academic prep to conversation.
- Warm and stormy weather
- A more relaxed UMD campus
- Diversity – there have been 40 students from 9 different countries studying at MEI this summer
- Special opportunities for events in Washington, DC – July 4th, the Folklife Festival, concerts, fireworks!

It's been a wonderful summer, full of language study, hard work, and new friendships. We hope you continue to use the skills you've learned while here at MEI. If you are moving on from us, you will be missed! We hope to see many of you back here at MEI on September 2 for the first day of fall classes.

Jon Malone, Associate Director

If you have photos of you and your MEI classmates at MEI events or traveling together that you would like to submit to the newsletter, send them to ask-mei@umd.edu with the word "photos" in the subject line.

Visit us at <http://mei.umd.edu> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/meiusa>



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Unexpected Places

AROUND CAMPUS

Been there, seen that?

Ahmad Alsubhi holds a beetrapp during a spring semester visit to the UMD Apiary with his 003 Reading, Writing, Grammar class.



As a student at MEI, you have access to all of the great facilities on the University of Maryland, College Park campus. Although the UMD campus is only a few miles away from the urban center of Washington, DC, the university's agricultural tradition can be experienced all around campus. In addition to the campus farm and weekly farmers market, the university has a few other unexpected spots that you might not find on many American campuses. Take some time to explore all that UMD has to offer!

The UMD Apiary | umdapiaries@gmail.com

Have you ever wondered what to call the place where lots of bees and beehives are kept together? This place is called an apiary, and unlike most American universities, UMD has an apiary here on campus. Located on the roof of North Dining Hall, the UMD Apiary began in the spring of 2013 after receiving a grant from the UMD Sustainability fund. Currently, the apiary has 10 hives and plans for many more. If you are interested in learning more about bees, the apiary hosts live, open-hive presentations called "beeminars" where attendees "suit up and get up-close and personal with a hive of honey bees!"

The Dairy | <https://www.facebook.com/UMDDairy>

If the hot Maryland summer is getting you down, head on over to the Dairy in Stamp Student Union for a cool summer treat. The Dairy, which has been part of the university for more than 80 years, serves a wide variety of flavors of hand scooped ice cream, as well as traditional American favorites like the sundae, banana split, root beer floats, and milkshakes. Right now, the new Big Ten ice cream flavor (featuring bourbon vanilla ice cream with pieces of three different kinds of traditional Maryland cakes) is especially popular, as it is a tribute to the university's recent move from the ACC to the Big Ten conference. The Dairy is open Monday to Friday from 11 - 4:30.

The UMD Challenge Course | <http://crs.umd.edu/Maryland-Adventure-Program/Challenge-Course>

A challenge course is a place where groups come together to complete a variety of activities that require team work and help individuals learn about themselves and their teammates. The activities at the UMD Challenge course include ice breakers, a low non-climbing course, and two climbing courses, the Alpine Tower and the High Ropes Course. If you're looking for an adventurous way to build closer friendships, this could be the place for you!



The UMD Campus Farm | <http://agmr.umd.edu/campusfarm>

In the middle of the UMD campus you will find something you might not expect to see on the campus of a university so close to urban Washington, DC: a farm, complete with horses, sheep, dairy cows, pigs, and chickens. The Campus Farm is part of the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences and provides opportunities for hands-on learning for students and visitors. The farm, located near the Comcast Center, is open to visitors Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.



The Farmers Market | farmersmarket.umd.edu

In the US, farmers markets are different from traditional grocery stores in that they allow shoppers to buy food directly from local farms. As a result, you will often find more flavorful, more nutritious, and locally-grown food. During the warm months of the year, the UMD Farmers Market is held directly outside MEI, in front of Cole, every Wednesday from 11am to 3 pm. At the market you can find fresh and local bread, cheese, produce, meat, and eggs, among other products. Visit the website to learn more about the different vendors at the market.



UMD Campus Bike Shop | <http://crs.umd.edu/Maryland-Adventure-Program/Campus-Bike-Shop>

Many students quickly notice the large size of the UMD campus. They learn students often have to cover long distances in a short period of time in order to get from one class to the next. To travel more quickly, consider biking around campus. If you are interested in learning more about renting, maintaining, or repairing a bike, visit the UMD Campus Bike Shop, located on the north end of Cole Field House. During the summer, the shop is open from 4pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday.



The *MEI* GRAMMAR CORNER

WHAT IS A GERUND?

A **gerund** is a verb with an **-ing** at the end. There is never a “to” in front of the verb (except in front of the gerund in the expression “look forward to”). Examples: **swimming, reading, walking.**

1. When the verb is the subject of the sentence, comes after a linking verb, or is the object of another verb, use the **gerund**:

- **Swimming** is difficult.
- My favorite sport is **swimming**.
- I am enjoying my **reading** this summer.

2. Use the verb + **gerund** after some common verbs, including finish, miss, keep, quit, suggest, consider, mind, and recommend:

- I finished **doing** my homework early, so I had time to read the next chapter in the book.
- When I moved to the United States, I missed **eating** the food my family made at home.
- I recommend **applying** to many universities.

WHAT IS AN INFINITIVE?

An **infinitive** is the base form of a verb with a “to” in front. There are never any endings (like “-ed” or “-ing”) in infinitives. Examples: **to swim, to read, to walk.**

1. Use the verb + **infinitive** after some common verbs, including agree, learn, decide, need, want, and plan:

- Beyoncé wanted **to dance** in the music video.
- Pharrell needs **to wear** a smaller hat.
- Katy Perry agreed **to sing** a new song.

NOTE: Some verbs can have either a gerund or infinitive after them, including **like, love, hate, start, remember, and continue.**

- Do you like **watching** videos on YouTube?
- Do you like **to watch** videos on YouTube?
- I started **exercising** last week, and I feel great.
- I started **to exercise** last week, and I feel great.

*Every issue, we will look at a specific topic in English grammar. In this issue, we look more closely at the use of **gerunds** and **infinitives**. If you have a question you would like us to address in a future column, send it to ask-mei@umd.edu.*

TEST YOURSELF

** Some of these sentences have errors with the gerund/infinitive. Find the verbs mentioned in this lesson and check to see if the correct form of the verb follows them. Correct any errors. Some sentences are correct. Answers on Page 6.*

I learned riding a bike when I was 5 years old. My father liked to take me to the school near our house, because it was always empty in the afternoons. I didn't like riding my bike at first because I fell all the time. I wanted riding without falling. Eventually, after I kept trying for a long time, I stopped falling down so much, and when I finished to learn to ride my bike, I was so happy!

GERUND OR INFINITIVE?

USE A **GERUND** AFTER:

- admit
- anticipate
- avoid
- can't help
- enjoy
- postpone
- practice
- resist
- risk
- tolerate

USE AN **INFINITIVE** AFTER:

- appear
- arrange
- attempt
- choose
- consent
- expect
- fail
- promise
- seem
- volunteer

USE **EITHER** AFTER:

- can't stand
- continue
- hate
- like
- love
- prefer
- propose
- start

WHAT'S UP AT MEI

- **July 25: Summer Session ends (IEP). Final Conferences and Final Ceremony.**
- **July 26 - September 1: Break! Travel safe, enjoy time visiting family and friends, returning home, traveling around the US, or simply relaxing in and around Maryland.**
- **August 28: Placement tests for new IEP students.**
- **August 29: Orientation for new IEP students.**
- **September 2: Fall Semester begins**

TEST YOURSELF ANSWERS

**Can you spot the errors in these sentences? (Questions on Page 5)*

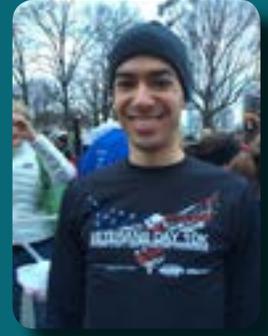
I learned **riding to ride** a bike when I was 5 years old. My father liked to take me to the school near our house because it was always empty in the afternoons. I didn't like riding my bike at first because I fell all the time. I wanted **riding to ride** without falling. Eventually, after I kept trying for a long time, I stopped falling down so much, and when I finished **to-learn learning** to ride my bike, I was so happy!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with Mr. Diego Hernandez

Q: Where are you from originally?

A: I grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland, not too far from College Park and DC.



Q: You completed undergrad at the University of Maryland. Can you share a favorite spot on campus or recommend a great place to study?

A: The upper floors of McKeldin Library are great for both quiet studying and sleeping. I think the prettiest spot on campus is behind Tydings and Key Halls. There are some nice benches there and pretty trees.

Q: So you're also very familiar with the area. Is there anything that students should take advantage of while living here?

A: There are lots of free museums and things to do on the weekend in DC! The National Portrait Gallery (near the Gallery Place-Chinatown Metro station on the Green, Yellow, and Red Lines) has portraits of most of our presidents and other important Americans. There are also lots of nice parks and places for picnics. The closest one to MEI is Lake Artemesia.

Q: Thanks! And when you're not busy teaching English, what do you enjoy doing?

A: I've run 3 marathons, been singing in a men's choir for 5 years, and been baking bread for even longer than that.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



"I graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a Masters degree in Early Childhood Education as an honor student with a high GPA. I dedicate this achievement to Mrs. Nina Liakos, Mrs. Daniela Wagner-Loera and all of MEI's faculty and staff for all the support and

encouragement that greatly helped me to achieve this goal. It was my honor to have been a student at MEI, the place in which my successful journey started. Now, I am going back to my country to teach there, and then I am thinking about starting my own school."

-Abeer Halwani, Saudi Arabia (MEI 2012)

THE BACK PAGE

Students in both sections of UMEI 012 researched topics related to global issues or transportation and prepared poster sessions to share their findings with fellow MEI students and others at the university.

Topics included Car2Go, Zipcar, Capital Bikeshare, personality types, violence in schools, and ghosts.

