On Thursday, February 9, First Lady, Michelle Obama visited the Jacksonville Air force base. Chelesa Washington a major in the chemistry department reported, “My job was to escort Michelle Obama’s staff and press from their landing site on the base to the dining hall, a couple miles away from the site. My three cousins and I arrived on base in our vans and we, along with our vans, were swept for anything dangerous by secret service. We waited for about an hour in the waiting room while running into several mayors and the 1st lieutenant, who is also the first African American 1st lieutenant of that air force base. When we were informed that her plane was near, we got in position to pick the staff up. We loaded up and dropped them off at the dining hall. We were directed to the break room to wait until she was finished with her report. Once she was finished, other military personnel, police, my cousins and I lined up to get our photo taken with Mrs. Obama. She joked with me about us having to drive so far. I froze, smiled for the photo, and awkwardly walked away. Talk about being star struck. Overall, a day I’ll never
On Saturday, March 31st, members of the UCA American Chemical Society (ACS) chapter participated in the “Kidsfest Superhero Race” event at Simon Park in downtown Conway. The race is sponsored by the Child Advocacy Alliance of Central Arkansas. To quote InArkansas.com: “The event is designed to bring awareness to child abuse prevention month with the theme ‘All children need a hero. Abused children need Superheroes.’”

The UCA ACS students set up tents for Kidsfest that followed the race and provided hands-on science activities for attendees, young and old, to explore. One activity that amazed the children involved learning about the ability of liquid Nitrogen$_2$ to freeze water instantly to make the petals of a flower brittle enough to break. They also enjoyed playing with the non-Newtonian fluid Oobleck and making slime.