



SPRING 2026

COMMENCEMENT

GRADUATE CEREMONY

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

5:00 P.M.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
FARRIS HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER

PROGRAM

Processional

Welcome Houston D. Davis
President

National Anthem

Introductions and Greetings Michael B. Hargis
Provost and Executive Vice President

Message from the Faculty Joe Thomas
2026-2027 President of the Faculty Senate

Message from the Student Body Kylie McGraw
2025-2026 President of the Student Government Association

Message from the Staff Sherita Kern
2025-2026 President of the Staff Senate

Message from the Alumni Association Kaylon Bradford
President of UCA Alumni Association

Challenge to the Graduates.....President Davis

Presenting the Degree Candidates..... Provost Hargis

Conferring the DegreesPresident Davis

Announcing the Degree Candidates..... Chad Hearne
Executive Director of the UCA Foundation

Recessional and Alma Mater

*Audience is invited to stand in honor of the degree candidates
during the processional and recessional*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Rankin, Jr., *Chair, Conway*

Kelley Erstine, *Vice-Chair, Conway*

Kay Hinkle, *Secretary, Conway*

Curtis Barnett, *Little Rock*

Amy Denton, *Roland*

Terry Fiddler, *Conway*

Michael Stanton, *Greenbrier*

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Houston D. Davis, *President*

Michael B. Hargis, *Provost and Executive Vice President*

Terri Canino, *Vice President for Finance and Administration*

Jeremy Gillam, *Director of Governmental Affairs and External Relations*

Mary Lackie, *Vice President for University Advancement*

Warren Readnour, *General Counsel*

Trevor Seifert, *Chief Information Officer*

Kevin Thomas, *Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Success*

Amy Whitehead, *Chief of Staff*

Matt Whiting, *Athletic Director*

Robin Williamson, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

John Merguie, *Chief of Police*

Kurt Boniecki, *Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness*

Michael Mills, *Dean, Graduate School*

Thomas Williams, *Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences*

Tim Bisping, *Dean, College of Business*

Deborah Dailey, *Dean, College of Education*

Nancy Reese, *Dean, College of Health and Behavioral Sciences*

Stephen Addison, *Dean, College of Science and Engineering*

Patricia Smith, *Dean, Schedler Honors College and Director of Exemplary Studies*

Kelly Owens, *Dean of Students*

Rodney Lippard, *Director of Torreyson Library*

Vicky Summers, *Registrar*

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Art and Design	Bryan Massey
School of Communication	Donna Lampkin Stephens
Department of Film, Theatre, and Creative Writing	Shauna Meador
Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies	Mark Mullenbach
Department of History	David Welky, <i>Interim</i>
School of Language and Literature.....	Glenn Jellenik, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Music.....	Stephen Plate
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies	Taine Duncan
Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology	Ed Powers

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Accounting.....	Stephanie Watson
Department of Computer Information Systems and Analytics	Jeff Hill
Department of Economics, Finance, and Insurance and Risk Management	Joe McGarrity
Department of Marketing and Management.....	Thomas Snyder, <i>Interim</i>

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Department of Elementary, Literacy, and Special Education	Stefanie Sorbet, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Leadership Studies.....	Jeff Whittingham, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Student Transitions.....	Leslie Gomes
Department of Teaching and Learning	Allison Freed, <i>Interim</i>

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders	Brent Gregg
Department of Exercise and Sport Science	Kim Eskola
Department of Health Sciences	Denise Demers
Department of Military Science and Leadership	Charles Jones
School of Nursing.....	Susan Gatto
Department of Nutrition and Family Sciences	Rebekah Luong, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Occupational Therapy	Tina Mankey
Department of Physical Therapy	Kevin Garrison
Department of Psychology and Counseling	Art Gillaspay

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Department of Biology.....	Brent Hill
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry	Kristin Dooley
Department of Computer Science and Engineering.....	M. Emre Celebi
Department of Geography	Stephen O'Connell
Department of Mathematics.....	Loi Booher
Department of Physics, Astronomy, and engineering.....	Carl Frederickson

COMMENCEMENT PERSONNEL

MACE BEARER

President of the Faculty Senate

INTERPRETER

Provided by Communication Plus+ Interpreter Services, Inc.

MARSHALS

Members of the Faculty, Staff, and Administration

MUSIC

Pinnacle Brass Quintet

VOCALIST

Joanna Ruche

USHERS

Members of the Staff

ACADEMICS

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

THOMAS WILLIAMS, DEAN

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences consists of nine units: the School of Communication, the School of Language and Literature, and the Departments of Art and Design; Film, Theatre, and Creative Writing; Government, Public Service, and International Studies; History; Music; Philosophy and Religious Studies; and Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology. Undergraduates may select from more than twenty majors, while graduate students choose from six programs. All students experience traditional and contemporary approaches in face-to-face and online classrooms, along with a host of such high-impact practices as internships, study abroad, study away, and service learning. The hallmark of CAHSS is its internationally renowned faculty, a roster of artists, writers, filmmakers, scholars, researchers, and performers who excel at teaching and exciting students to enter an increasingly diverse and globally engaged society.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

TIM BISPING, DEAN

For over 50 years, the UCA College of Business has prepared students to be ethical, innovative, and engaged business leaders who positively impact their communities. The college's teaching methods and advising process are designed to help students discover their unique abilities and choose their best fit among more than 20 business degrees and certificates offered for undergraduates and graduates. The College of Business offers students hands-on experience in and out of the classroom through applied projects, internship opportunities, and student organizations. With the first Insurance and Risk Management program in the state, a growing Logistics and Supply Chain Management program, and new Applied Data Analytics options, UCA prepares students for in-demand fields such as accounting, economics, finance, computer information systems and analytics, cybersecurity management, insurance and risk management, marketing, innovation and entrepreneurship, and management. While only five percent of business schools worldwide are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, the college maintains accreditation because of its relevant curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, and faculty who are respected for excellence in research, teaching, and industry experience.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DEBORAH DAILEY, DEAN

The College of Education at the University of Central Arkansas prepares students to excel as lifelong learners and to make meaningful contributions to their professions and communities. Through comprehensive bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs, the College develops educators, leaders, and specialists in areas such as elementary, middle, and secondary education; literacy; special education; gifted education; digital-age teaching and learning; educational leadership; school counseling; library media; instructional technology; and higher education student personnel administration.

Committed to student success, the College also provides intentional support through the Department of Student Transitions, which helps first-year students build academic and personal confidence. Grounded in innovation, collaboration, and educational excellence, the College advances teaching, research, and service as the foundation of its mission. Faculty and partners engage in continuous improvement through evidence-based practices that promote growth and achievement for both students and educators.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

NANCY BERRYMAN REESE, DEAN

The College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) includes the Departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Exercise and Sport Science, Health Sciences, Nutrition and Family Sciences, Military Science and Leadership, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychology and Counseling, and the School of Nursing. The College awards more undergraduate and graduate degrees in the health and behavioral sciences than any other comprehensive university in the state. For more than 50 years we have been preparing practitioners, educators, and researchers for the state of Arkansas and beyond. The CHBS Nabholz Center for Healthcare Simulation provides countless hours of simulated clinical practice for UCA health professions students in the only accredited university healthcare simulation center in Arkansas. Our Interprofessional Teaching Center and Community Care Clinic provide team-based care to individuals in central Arkansas while also addressing unmet healthcare needs in the community and allowing hands-on experience in interprofessional practice for our students.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

STEPHEN ADDISON, DEAN

The College of Science and Engineering was founded in 2024 and is the successor college to the former College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The college includes the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science and Engineering, Geography, Mathematics, and Physics, Astronomy and Engineering. The college also operates additional programs that include Cybersecurity, Data Science, Environmental Science, and Software Engineering, as well as programs leading to teacher licensure at the secondary level. The college also offers graduate programs leading to Master's degrees through the departments of Biology, Computer Science and Engineering, Geography and Mathematics. Our students experience an immersive, active-learning environment using advanced technologies and state-of-the-art instrumentation, and they have many opportunities to engage in basic, applied, or translational research. Our faculty are dedicated to preparing future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, technologists and educators and are actively involved in securing grant support to further their students' educational, research, and community outreach goals. All our departments support student/faculty research collaborations and service learning. Graduates of the college are well prepared to meet the challenges of the ever-changing global economy and to become leaders in their communities and workplaces.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

MICHAEL MILLS, DEAN

The Graduate School offers more than 60 advanced degrees and graduate certificates designed to challenge, inspire, and prepare students for their next academic or professional step. Whether your goal is to become an artist, educator, business executive, health care provider, or scholar, our programs combine academic rigor with real-world opportunities and a vibrant, supportive community. Students can pursue master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees, as well as graduate certificates, across a wide range of disciplines from every academic college. Through these programs, graduate students gain not only a deep understanding of their fields but also the critical skills and experiences needed to lead, innovate, and make a difference. At the Graduate School, you'll enter as a student and leave as a professional, equipped to create meaningful change and shape the future.

NORBERT O. SCHEDLER HONORS COLLEGE

PATRICIA SMITH, DEAN

The Norbert O. Schedler Honors College oversees the operation of the Schedler Honors College, the Schedler Honors Program, and Honors in the Major. Each program provides a host of academic opportunities with the mission of developing public scholars and future leaders whose actions are grounded in interdisciplinary understanding. Founded in 1982 as the first honors college in Arkansas, the Schedler Honors College receives national acclaim for its innovative curriculum and holistic admissions process. Unprecedented interest in the Schedler Honors College from qualified students led to the formation of the University Scholars Program, now named the Schedler Honors Program, in 2018. Emphasizing scholarship, leadership and citizenship, our programs all conclude with the completion of an undergraduate thesis, and aim to equip students from across disciplines with the tools and skills to lead flourishing lives and develop them as conscientious citizen-scholars prepared to make a difference.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

CHANGE LEADERSHIP

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Rainbow Bagsby

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Chair: Dr. Jessica Herring-Watson. Dissertation Title: "A Predictive Correlational Study: Examining Relationships Between Chatbot Engagement, Perceived Self-Regulated Learning, Perceived Self-Leadership, and Academic Achievement"

India L. Earnest

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Co-Chairs: Dr. Donna Wake and Dr. Amy Thompson. Dissertation Title: "Voices of Support: Black Guardians' Perspectives on Interest-Holder Roles in Their Child's Literacy Development"

Aida Alejandra Kuettle

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Chair: Dr. Donna Wake. Dissertation Title: "Bridging the Gap: Teacher Motivations and the Growing Need for ESL Educators"

Clevelon Lasker

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Chair: Dr. Michael Mills. Dissertation Title: "Bridging the Gap: Care Coordinators' Perspectives on Barriers to Timely Mental Health Services for Black Male Youth in Foster Care"

Toni Marie Antonette Loudon

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Chair: Dr. Donna Wake. Dissertation Title: "Building Individual and Community Identity Through Cultural Heritage Museums: Preservation and Presentation"

Taylor Marie Tarbutton

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Chair: Dr. Donna Wake. Dissertation Title: "Context-Driven Coaching: A Multiple Case Study of IFS Guiding AI Use for SPED and ELL Education"

Kirsten Sue Wilson

Doctor of Philosophy in Change Leadership. Dissertation Co-Chairs: Dr. Donna Wake and Dr. Allison Freed. Dissertation Title: "Leadership Identity Formation Through Perpetual Paradox-Holding: A Post-Intentional Phenomenological Study of Women 50+ in Online Doctoral Leadership Programs"

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF NURSING

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Barbara Lynn Albritton

Madeline Ann Jordan

Domainlor Javier Cabading

Kankou Keita

Lauren Elizabeth Callaway

Lacey Deshay Kennon

Kelsey Nicole Cantrell

Haylee Marie Moore

Katie Michelle Cockrell

Danielle Kathryn Toney

Virginia Ann Everhart

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST

Alicia Ann Boyd

Daniel Reed Fitts

TeKayla LaTrice Dixon

Latoya White

Angela Lea Farmer

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST

Summer Khairi

Maegan Lee Wright

Anne Henry Milner

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING

EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST

Kassidy Simone Dement

Gordon Noah Geesaman

Marian Christine Johnson

Kennedy Kristen Luster

Nayeli Moreno

Madalyn Layne Owens

Kalista Nicole Pettus

Mary Claire Watts

Kammie Nicole Wemhaner

Rylee Ann Wofford

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF FILM, THEATRE, AND CREATIVE WRITING

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

CarlieAnn Olivia Crabtree

Master of Fine Arts in Film. Thesis Chair: Dr. Christopher Churchill. Thesis Title: "From State Lines"

Aidan Alexander Kolokithas

Master of Fine Arts in Film. Thesis Chair: Dr. Kyusik Gam. Thesis Title: "Sonder"

Erin Elyssa Mitchell

Master of Fine Arts in Film. Thesis Chair: Dr. Mark Thiedeman. Thesis Title: "Netherwood"

Hayden Alan Mundwiler

Master of Fine Arts in Film. Thesis Chair: Dr. Christopher Churchill. Thesis Title: "Cut or Tap"

Rachel Elisabeth Murr

Master of Fine Arts in Film. Thesis Chair: Dr. Bruce Hutchinson. Thesis Title: "In Her Name"

Carl Blaine Olds

Master of Fine Arts in Film. Thesis Chair: Dr. Emily Railsback. Thesis Title: "Isaac & Me"

Matthew W. White

Master of Arts in Creative Writing. Thesis Chair: Dr. Thais Miller. Thesis Title: "Mall Rot: A Play"

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

MASTER OF ARTS

Kristina Tiffin Coggin

Master of Arts in English. Thesis Chair:
Dr. Peter Lang. Thesis Title: "Writing the
Corporeal Text: L'Écriture Féminine in
Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway and Jean
Rhys's Wide Sargasso Sea"

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

MASTER OF MUSIC

Kami Lynn Curtis

Tommy Wayne Ghent

Duke Colton Kennedy

Kathryn Grace McManus

Yuning Pei

Haylie Sharon Tipton

Yixuan Wang

Brian M. Wyatt

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

Lee Asher Jackson

Danielle Marie Peyer

Lilly Isabelle Saettele

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Nathan Phillip Bradford Jr.

Ethan Ryman Cash

Yunqiu Cheng

Samantha Paige Cousins

Emma Rose Daughtrey

Mavis Akpene Deku

David Galicia Diaz

Muhammad Ehsan

Braden Glenn Funderburke

Matthew Herndon

John Anthony Keith Jr.

McKenzie Brooke King

Shae Elizabeth Littleford

Hunter Hanna May

Laci Marie Page

Matthew Thadsaponh Ratnaransy

Robert Austin Smith

Alexis Kate Szefflinski

Linda Naadu Tetteh-Quaye

Aichatou Toure

Julia Ann Vanderwarf

Nicholas Fitzgerald Watson

Robert Garrett Whisenhunt

**DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER
INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND ANALYTICS**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Al-Mardhiyyah Adams

Addis W. Daniel

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY, LITERACY,
AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Lisa Hood

Lauren Renee Pipkin

Alisha Kay Jackson

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Charlotte Satterfield Anderson

Teddi-Anne McKayla Hulke

Kayla Rene' Attwood

Rebekah Lee Hyslip

Kristen Billings

Shaunna L. Koza

Amanda Jo Dockins

Marquita Lashay Piggie

Erin Jordan Dortch

Kirsten Marie Reid

Elissa Jeanne Eibes Blabac

Tracy Lynn Shepherd

Jaclyn Marie Freeman

Deborah Orlando Stone

Heather Michelle Frost

Holly Catherine Titone

Carolyn Elizabeth Harms

Makenzie Marie Tracey

Emilie Anne Heisserer

Deanna Brietta Woods-Davis

Amanda Jeanne Hinze

Neal Richard Zoglmann

DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Rebekah Avila	Holly Christine Overholser
Laura Breedlove Cosio	David James Peebles
Carri Ann Cranford	Samantha Lee Phillips
Ashley Ann Dixon	Whitley Renee Reagans
Brittani Arielle Durr	Imani Denise Roshell
Winnie Dzimah	Jordan Wayne Rouse
Ellie Elizabeth Eskola	Blake Daniel Ruffer
Tyler Ford	Briley Alison Saunders
Akaari Lanai Gallagher	Ashley LeAnn Shelton
Sarah Elizabeth Giddings	Madison C. Shuffield
Darlene Theresa Hines	Devon Clark Sullivan
Kymerly Ann Hunter	Taylor Madison Swift
Tyler Wayne Jones	Saylor Melyni'a Travis
Angela Marie Manning	Keara Shay Wallace
Taegen Grace Mason	Emily J. Weiss
Robert Massingill	Adeline Johansen Whitlow
Christy Dawn Mead	Kaitlin Jean Wilkinson
Karen Elizabeth Miller	Bokari Awo Williams
Kristi James Miller	Ashley Wilson
Miranda Janay Morrison	Kateijah Tishun Young
Marsha K. Norwood	

DEPARTMENT OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Aaron Justin Aycock	Lanie Katherine Emery
Malik James Beasley	Katie Lee Hall
Katie Lynn Bobbitt	Ashlynn Brooke Hightower
Mary Katherine Carruth	Anna Claire Johnston
Emily Jane Cox	Winter Renee Lammers
Jamie Lee Craighead	Melissa Lorene Marine
Mia Lauren Easterling	Roseanna Mae McCall

Mae Eliza Morris
Hannah Tayhlore Palenske
Gavin Eli Pitman
Annalise Victoria Strecker

Ashleigh Diane Tabor
Christopher Cole Walker
Elizabeth Stuart Walt
Taylor Dean Young

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Heather Baker Lancaster

Sara Faith Steimel

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

Delanie Nichole Cooper

Emily Eirin Davis

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF EXERCISE AND SPORT SCIENCE

MASTER OF ARTS

Karson Shaw Douglas
Trent Len Eskola
Kyra Bailey Hargrove
Hope Olivia-Faye Hensley
Kollin Reid Kendrick
Quinton Edward Lee

William Cole Mayo
Teylen Jaree Patterson
Cameron Tate Raggio
Robert Preston Swofford II
William L. Young

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Avryl P. Bennett-Stewart
Taylor Nicole Bentley
Garrett Scott Clark
Fredrick Lamont Harris
Megan Marie Hart
Aubrey MaKalya Jackson

Anna Elyse Leslie
Harrison Clark McCormack
Ateia Mian Morris
Ina Beth Resimont
Carolyn Marie Smith

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Lyndsay Hockaday Crider
Cassidy Lynn Fronk
Dawn Michelle Graham

Kylie Jensen Griffin
Yancy Tyrone Williford

DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITION AND FAMILY SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Alana Danielle Baxter
Kayley Gonzalez Rodriguez

Sadie Michelle Jackson
Aliza Dawn Stitsky

SCHOOL OF NURSING

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Peyton Delaughter

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Mia Eve Alikhan

Master of Science in Biology. Thesis Chair: Dr. Opeyemi Adedoja. Thesis Title: "Assessing the Impact of Land-Use Change on Plant-Pollinator Interactions and Trait-Matching in Central Arkansas"

Tate Alan Hill

Master of Science in Biology. Thesis Chair: Dr. Hal Halvorson. Thesis Title: "When It Rains It Pours! An Analysis of Storm-Induced External Nutrient and Sediment Loading into Brewer Lake (Arkansas, USA)"

David Hayden Nichols

Master of Science in Biology. Thesis Co-Chairs: Dr. Reid Adams and Dr. Ginny Adams. Thesis Title: "Factors Affecting Temporal and Spatial Changes in Freshwater Mussel Communities of the Upper Ouachita River, Arkansas"

Jackson Edward Pav

Master of Science in Biology. Thesis Chair: Dr. Reid Adams. Thesis Title: "Variations in Fish Communities Among Boston Mountain Streams in the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest"

Jessica Dale Rath

Master of Science in Biology. Thesis Co-Chairs: Dr. Reid Adams and Dr. Ginny Adams. Thesis Title: "Spatial and Temporal Variation in the Presence and Abundance of Peppered Shiner, *Miniellus perpallidus*, an Imperiled Southern Minnow"

Ashley Nicole Spanel

Master of Science in Biology. Thesis Chair: Dr. Kari Naylor. Thesis Title: "Analyzing the Role of FszA and FszB Proteins in the Mitochondrial Dynamics of *Dictyostelium discoideum*"

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Rodney Eli Kofi Ahadjie

Vincent Eugene Climer

Jack A. Dingman

Harrison Bennett Downs

Master of Science in Computer Science. Thesis Chair: Dr. Zachary Stine. Thesis Title: "Impact of Dimensionality Reduction on Latent Document Geometry"

Samuel Harvey

Jackson Curtis Hill

Madison Taylor Nicholson

Helmi Rizquallah Putra Ady Yatim

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

MASTER OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

John Murray Berger Jr.

Shafiq Hamidi

Sara A. Smith

Eleanor Wheeler

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

MASTER OF ARTS

Rebecca Bottey

Master of Arts in Mathematics Education. Thesis Co-Chairs: Dr. Seyedeh Pirmahaleh and Dr. Nesrin Sahin. Thesis Title: "The Impact of Pre-Service Teachers' Training Program in integrating GeoGebra in a Geometry Classroom"

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Sonia Marie Stephane Chiepo Olivia Aba

Master of Science in Applied Mathematics. Thesis Chair: Dr. Long Le. Thesis Title: "The Influence of Financial News and Policy Announcements on Sector-Specific Stock Indices"

Korku Amevor

Master of Science in Applied Mathematics. Thesis Chair: Dr. Yinlin Dong. Thesis Title: "Comparative Study of the Capital Asset Pricing Model and Multi-Factor Models"

ORIGINS AND MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Established in 1907 by the General Assembly as the Arkansas State Normal School, the institution was charged with the responsibility of training teachers. Instruction began in 1908 with 107 students, a faculty of seven, and a physical plant consisting of one partially completed building. The first diploma granted was the Licentiate of Instruction, followed in 1920 by the establishment of curricula leading to a baccalaureate degree. The terms of the act establishing the school and its location in central Arkansas recognized the state-wide service the institution was expected to promote. The autonomy of its Board of Trustees also gave the institution freedom to expand and diversify academic programs to meet the growing needs of the state. Thus, in 1925, the college was renamed to Arkansas State Teachers College and added and broadened liberal arts programs and increased specialized offerings and degrees. In 1955, the college inaugurated its first graduate program. In 1967, the college was renamed to State College of Arkansas to reflect the institution's varied and comprehensive curricula, and, in 1969, the institution established four colleges to provide administration for the growing number of academic programs. The institution became the University of Central Arkansas in 1975 to reflect its status as a modern comprehensive university.

SYMBOLS, REGALIA, AND RECOGNITION

The mace, an ancient sign of authority, is displayed as the symbol of the University's authority to confer degrees. The office of mace bearer is ceremonial and derives from medieval times in England when the mace, a formidable weapon, was held ready to protect the person of a dignitary. The mace precedes commencement dignitaries in the procession, both entering and leaving the ceremony, and is carried by the President of the Faculty Senate.

The University President's insignia of office is a silver medallion that displays the seal of the institution. He wears the distinguished purple gown with four black velvet bars outlined in gray around each sleeve and black velvet front facing with the UCA seal monogrammed on each side. The presidential hood represents the university school colors, purple and gray.

The Trustees of the University wear distinctive black gowns distinguished by purple velvet facing from hem to neck and three purple velvet bars around each sleeve about the elbow.

The banners identify and represent the academic disciplines of the institution. Each banner is decorated with the seal and colors of the University.

The different colored cords and stoles worn by candidates for undergraduate degrees represent graduation honors recognition and membership in various academic, collegiate, and scholastic societies.

Honors Graduates have excelled in the achievement of their academic programs; their graduation honors are categorized as follows: summa cum laude- highest honors (4.0 - 3.9); magna cum laude - high honors (3.89 -3.7); cum laude - honors (3.69 - 3.5). Undergraduate Scholars have been invited by the faculty to enter a department honors program and have completed an approved course of study, culminating in a department thesis. Honors College graduates have completed a specially designed four-year curriculum of interdisciplinary studies, culminating in a senior honors thesis. Designations printed in this program are conditional, pending the final academic standing upon the completion of all degree requirements. This is not an official list of graduation honors. Official graduation honors will be reflected on the diploma and the official transcript.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The present-day academic attire seems to have originated at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the 1300's. As the universities passed from ecclesiastical control, the academic gown used brighter colors to distinguish it from the totally drab clerical robe. Although colonial American universities used academic gowns based on the British system, people continued to associate them with the clergy.

The design of the academic regalia and the colors worn are significant. The distinguishing mark of the gown is the sleeve: bachelor – a long pointed sleeve; master – an oblong sleeve open at the wrist; doctor – bell shaped sleeve with three velvet bars. The velvet edging of the hood signifies department of learning and the silk lining of the hood signifies the institution of the degree.

Originally, the hood had three uses: as a head covering, as a shoulder cape, and as a bag in which alms could be collected. It is mentioned as early as 1480 in clerical literature. When large wigs were in vogue in Britain, the cape part of the hood was split in front and a narrow neckband inserted. The entire cape and hood was allowed to fall back as it is today, and it was never restored to the original style.

Following is a list of the hood and tassel colors established by the Intercollegiate Code to represent several departments of learning.

Agriculture	Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities.....	White
Business Administration, Commerce, Accountancy.....	Tan
Dentistry	Lilac
Economics.....	Copper
Education	Light Blue
Engineering.....	Orange
Family & Consumer Sciences	Maroon
Fine Arts, including Architecture	Brown
Forestry.....	Russet
Journalism	Crimson
Law	Purple
Library Science	Lemon
Medicine.....	Green
Music	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Oratory (Speech).....	Silver Gray
Pharmacy	Olive Green
Philosophy	Dark Blue
Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Public Administration including Foreign Service	Peacock Blue
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science	Golden Yellow
Social Science	Citron
Theology or Divinity.....	Scarlet
Veterinary Science	Gray

UCA ALMA MATER

As sung by the UCA Bear Marching Band

Music by Homer F. Hess

Words by Ora Blackmun

From the hills and from the lowlands
Comes the song of praise anew
Sung by thousands of our children
Alma Mater, we sing to you

Then we'll unfurl our colors the Purple and the Gray
And in the breezes see them ever proudly sway
They lead us upward, they lead us onward
They lead us to victory
Then let us gather 'round with loyal hearts and true
Our Alma Mater's call obey
Our dear old colors will live forever
The royal Purple and the Gray

