

FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR



J. Art Gillaspy, Ph.D.
Department Chair

Greetings from the Department of Psychology and Counseling at UCA! As the new Department Chairperson, I would like to tell you a little about what is going on in the Department.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- ▶ 20 full-time faculty, 16 of whom are tenured or tenure-track
- ▶ Approximately 440 undergraduate majors/minors
- ▶ An APA accredited doctoral program in School Psychology (the only one in Arkansas)
- ▶ Strong master's programs in School Psychology and Counseling
- ▶ A new training clinic, which offers assessment services for adolescents and adults

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I am particularly proud of our Alumni who are out there on the front lines providing high quality, evidence-based mental health services to their clients. Please visit our redesigned website (uca.edu/psychology) that provides details about our programs, current activities and vision for the future. We look forward to staying connected with you & reaching our goals together!

J. Art Gillaspy, Ph.D.

OVER 45 YEARS OF PSYCHOLOGY AT UCA



The first psychology course was taught in 1908 when the school was known as The Arkansas State Normal School and the course was required for a degree in education. The Department of Psychology & Counseling was established in 1967.

Today, the Department of Psychology and Counseling boasts undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degree programs. Over the years, many students and faculty have influenced the success of the department. Thank you for your part in our growth and success!

RECENT STUDENT AWARDS

Undergraduate student **Danielle Umland** was selected as a recipient of an APAGS/Psi Chi Junior Scientist fellowship. This is a \$1,000 grant for her to use on her research. **Dr. Shawn Charlton** is her faculty advisor.

Undergraduate student **Priyamvada Goyal** and graduate student **Troy Michael E. Marsden** were recognized for outstanding poster presentations at the Arkansas Research



Psychological Association Conference.

Graduate student **Laura Horton** was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Arkansas Psychological Association Student Academic Scholarship. Dr. Kevin Rowell is her faculty Advisor.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Psychology & Counseling department recently opened a training clinic to provide training for graduate students and provide psychological services to the Conway community. Please visit the website to learn more about the new clinic.

uca.edu/pctc

STAY CONNECTED & SUPPORT!

Please visit our Alumni page and complete the survey so that we can stay connected with you. uca.edu/psychology/alumni-news-and-information

Please visit our Facebook page to stay updated on the happenings in the department: facebook.com/ucapsycoun

Also, you can support the department by making a donation: uca.edu/psychology/donate

UCA PSYCHOLOGY & COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEW FACULTY

Dr. Darshon Anderson *Visiting Assistant Professor*

Dr. Anderson came from Oklahoma State University where she completed her Ph.D. and M.S. in Lifespan Developmental Psychology with an Emphasis in Social Psychology and a formal concentration in Quantitative Methods. She obtained her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Central Oklahoma. Dr. Anderson's research interest include the self, social influence, social cognition, and diversity. She primarily focuses on how individual differences in goal pursuit affect the outcome of goal pursuit. She has approached this topic experimentally and using scale development. Dr. Anderson is also interested in topics of diversity pertaining to education and goal pursuit.



Dr. Heather Martens *Assistant Professor*

Dr. Martens began working in the field in 1995 as a mental health clinician in West Virginia (MA in Clinical Psychology). In 2007 Dr. Martens completed her Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Florida. She completed APPIC internship in Houston, TX (HISD) in 2006. Dr. Martens has also worked as a School Psychologist and Director of Special Education in the Kodiak, Alaska school district. Her current research interests are cost benefit analysis of interventions in the school setting, using universal screeners to predict student performance on state mandated assessment (establishing predictive cut scores), and teacher attitude regarding RTI.



Dr. Marc Sestir *Visiting Assistant Professor*

Dr. Sestir was born and raised in Northern New York State, and obtained a B.A. in Clinical and Social Sciences in Psychology from the University of Rochester, and an M.A. and Ph.D in Social Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Sestir's research interests focus on the psychological effects of media on its consumers, with lines of research on the impact of violent and non-violent media on aggressive and prosocial tendencies and the effect of media narratives on self-concept under various conditions.



NEW PROGRAM DIRECTORS



Dr. Ron Brammlett
Director, School Psychology Program

Dr. Ron Brammlett will be the new Director of the School Psychology Program. He succeeds Dr. Joan Simon in this position.



Dr. Elson Bihm
Director, Community Counseling Program

Dr. Elson Bihm will be the new Director of the Community Counseling Psychology Program. He succeeds Dr. Dong Xie in this position.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LAUREN GATES (2010), M.S. IN COMMUNITY COUNSELING



What are you doing now?

I became a Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC) in May 2011. I currently work at Counseling Associates, Inc., the local community mental health center in Faulkner county, as an adult outpatient therapist and as an emergency after-hours screener.

What was the best thing about your education in the Psychology & Counseling Dept.?

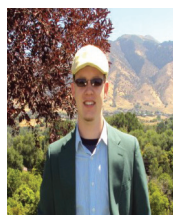
If I had to choose just one, I would say the people—faculty and peers. During my time in

the department, I felt that I had the opportunity to really get to know the faculty and vice versa. I joke that Dr. Xie knows me so well that he called me one night when he found a stray animal because he knows I'm an animal lover. Faculty members got to know my interests within the field and assisted me in growing my strengths and weaknesses.

What advice do you have for current students?

Take advantage of your status as a student—network with faculty.

BRADLEY GOSSETT (2010), B.S. IN PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIOLOGY



What are you doing now?

I am in a M.S./Ph.D. program in experimental psychology at Idaho State University. I have a biomedical (INBRE) research assistantship and am primarily doing research using economic concepts, genetics, and pharmacology to study obesity in humans as well as using animal (rat) models of behavior.

What was the best thing about your education in the Psychology & Counseling Dept.?

What I gained from it; the knowledge and the skills I learned and the opportunities this provided.

What advice do you have for current students?

Get involved in research. It is, at the least, a unique learning experience that will provide a greater knowledge of science and its advancements that better the human condition.