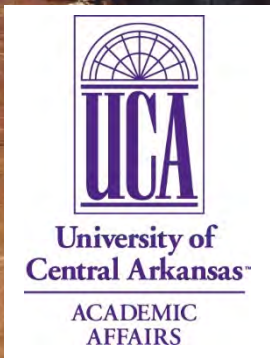


Great Happenings in Academics

April 2016



A Word from our Provost

Dear Colleagues,

Suddenly, we find that we have passed the midway point in the semester, and the campus is busy with activities. For example, the 2016 Annual Student Competitive Art Exhibition is currently on display in the Baum Gallery. Be sure to read about senior Kaylee DeWees on page 4 who received one of the three Best in Show awards for her cast iron piece "Cosmic."

In this issue, we feature the success of Brian Corbin, Director of Transfer Services, who has led the development of transfer agreements with 19 of the community colleges in Arkansas. I have been dedicated to this initiative and am very pleased with our results to date. As the number of graduating high school seniors in Arkansas and the U.S. levels off, the strength of our university's undergraduate programs will depend on our ability to recruit and retain qualified transfer students.

As always, we have many faculty who have received recognition through awards and presentations. I know you will enjoy reading about them.

Please let us know of key happenings in your area that you would like to be featured in a future edition by calling or emailing Suzanne Massey at 450-3126 or SMassey@uca.edu.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Runge
Executive Vice President and Provost



"The achievements
of an organization
are the results of
the combined effort
of each individual."

Vince Lombardi



Awards & Presentations

Dr. John Murphy, Professor of Psychology and Counseling, was honored by the Arkansas Mental Health Education Association (ARMEA) with the 2016 ARMEA School Based Mental Health Advocate of the Year Award. The award recognizes cumulative contributions to the practice of school-based mental health in Arkansas.



Dr. John Murphy (right) with ADE Commissioner Johnny Key.

Dr. Taine Duncan, Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Dr. Jacob Held, Associate Professor of Philosophy, presented papers in February at the 37th annual Southwest Popular American Culture Association conference in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Duncan's paper was titled "Fun Home: Self-Censorship and Emancipation, Beyond Trigger Warnings." Dr. Held's paper was "Stephen King, Horror, and Compassion: Finding Schopenhauer in Haven." Dr. Held was also a roundtable panelist.

Dr. Charles Harvey, Chair and Professor of Philosophy, was the keynote speaker at the Midsouth Philosophy Conference at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Harvey presented his work on "Human(un)kind and the Rape of the World." Also presenting papers at the conference were Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. Bennett McNulty and retired philosophy professor Dr. Jim Shelton.

2 + 2 = Brian Corbin

Sounds like a strange equation, but for Mr. Brian Corbin, Director of Transfer Services, it's the key to developing fruitful partnerships with Arkansas Community Colleges.

Corbin earned a master's degree in education in school counseling and a certificate of advanced study from Niagara University in New York. He worked as a school counselor in Williamsville, NY, (near Buffalo) for four years before moving to Conway in 2000 to take a job in Admissions at UCA. As the Assistant Director of Admissions from 2000-2008 he primarily recruited high school students in the northeast part of the state. Corbin also served as the Director of University Testing from 2008 until 2014, when he was hired as the Director of Transfer Services. UCA had just two transfer agreements in place when he began in the summer of 2014. Since then he has worked diligently to develop 77 transfer agreements with 19 out of 22 Arkansas community colleges. These agreements involve 73 UCA baccalaureate programs of study and have produced a total of 322 individual degree plan checklists for prospective students to follow. A current listing of all 2+2 transfer agreements can be found at uca.edu/2plus2.



Corbin and his wife, Sandra, have been married for ten years and have one stepson in Colorado, Wesley, and two younger sons living at home, Lucas and Matthew.

Announcements

Dr. Julie Meaux, Professor of Nursing and Graduate Program Director, has been selected as an on-site evaluator for the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. She will be a team member participating in the evaluation of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs seeking accreditation by CCNE.

Dr. Candace Dowd Barnes, Associate Professor with the department of Elementary, Literacy, and Special Education, will join the governing board of the National Civility Center. Last year, the Civility Center recognized both Drs. Barnes and Kohler-Evans for their work, *Civility, Compassion, and Courage in Schools Today*.

Dr. Amy Baldwin, Director of University College, has been invited to serve as faculty at the National Resource Center for First-Year Experience and Students in Transition's Institute on the First-Generation Student in July at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Arijit Mukherjee, Assistant Professor of Biology, has had his abstract chosen and has been invited to chair a session on "Biotic Interactions in Roots" at the up-coming conference for the American Society of Plant Physiologists.

UCA's Pediatric Residency in the department of Physical Therapy received a 10-year reaccreditation by the American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education.

University College faculty Keith Pachlhofer, Leslie Gomes, and Cindi Edwards collaborated on "Building a Summer Bridge Math Program: What to Include to be Successful" which was recently presented at the National Assoc. of Developmental Education conference in Anaheim, CA.

Achievements & Recognition

The BBC World Service produced a 9-minute radio program for their historical series "Witness" concerning the book by Dr. Kenneth Barnes, Professor of History, *Journey of Hope: The Back-to-Africa Movement in Arkansas in the Late 1800s*. The program aired worldwide on BBC and in the US on several NPR stations and Sirius Satellite Radio on February 23, 2016. It was web-posted as a podcast at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03jpn0n>.

Mark Spitzer, Associate Professor of Creative Writing, recently published his 23rd book: *Glurk! A Hellbender Odyssey* (Anaphora Literary Press, GA).

Associate Professor of Art Reinaldo Morales was elected to the Southeastern College Art Conference Board of Directors. SECAC promotes the study and practice of art in higher education.

Anthony McMullen, Assistant Professor of Business Law, was honored for the second time since 2012 as the Arkansas Coach of the Year from the Southern Forensics Championship. McMullen coaches the UCA Debate and Forensics team, which recently won its third Arkansas Championship.

Adriian Gardner, speech instructor with University College and Marcia Smith, with the Center for Teaching Excellence, were each honored at a recent ceremony for influential black faculty and staff by the Students for the Propagation of Black Culture.

Dr. David Mitchell, Associate Professor of Economics, has been given the prestigious honor of being registered as a member of the Foundation for Economic Education faculty network <http://fee.org/about/faculty/>. FEE is a national organization whose mission is to "inspire, educate, and connect young adults with the economic, ethical, and legal principles of a free society."

Student's Art is Cosmic



BFA senior student Kaylee DeWees was awarded *Best in Show* for her cast iron piece entitled “Cosmic” at the 2016 Annual Student Competitive Art Exhibition at the Baum Gallery. DeWees cast the iron at the Sloss Iron Casting Conference in Birmingham last April. She was originally looking at molecular structure for the inspiration of the form in this sculpture, and the nature of the iron made her think of comets. DeWees explained, “I liked the connection between the tiniest particles on earth and the large masses in space. I am attracted to metal casting because the large forms held together with tiny connections relate to how individual relationships are sometimes held together by a thread, and how atoms are connected so infinitesimally.”



Jurors examine DeWees' sculpture.

Math Department Hosts Contest

On March 5, 2016, approximately 100 junior and senior high school students in central Arkansas took part in the Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics regional contest held in the Department of Mathematics at UCA. Competition was held in the categories of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Pre-calculus, Calculus, and Statistics. Dr. Carolyn Pinchback, professor of mathematics and Mrs. Loi Booher, lecturer in mathematics, were co-directors and organized the contest. Several such regional contests were held throughout the state. The top three finishers in each category received trophies, and certificates were given to honorable mentions. Mathematics faculty members Dr. Charles Watson and Mrs. Crystal Spellman, department chair Dr. Ramesh Garimella, and all graduate teaching assistants in mathematics helped to grade the tests and present the awards.



The top finishers in each category from each region will be invited to participate next month in the ACTM State Math Contest, to be held at UCA.

Original artwork by Jonathan Glenn



In the Beginning (2014)