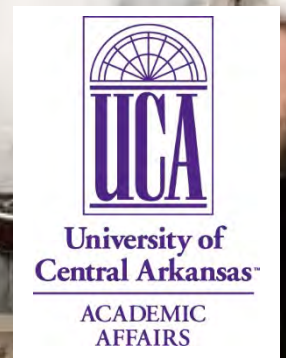


Great Happenings in Academics

May 2016



A Word from our Provost

Dear Colleagues,

This month's newsletter presents the Academic Affairs finalists and winners of the staff service awards and the college faculty award winners. In next month's report, we will explore the recent accomplishments of the faculty excellence award winners.

I hope you will also enjoy reading about UCA's first ever Veterans Education Award and the service learning project completed by students in Dr. Kim Little's American Environmental History class funded by an EDGE grant. It is always exciting to celebrate the excellent work and accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students. Thank you and congratulations to each of you.

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





Awards & Recognition

Faculty and staff gathered together on March 29, 2016 at the 63rd Annual UCA Service Awards to honor recent retirees, employees' years of service, and outstanding faculty and staff. Colleges were also busy this past month having their own award ceremonies to acknowledge the achievements of their colleagues. Pictured below are finalists and winners from university wide and college specific awards.



Mr. Eddie Fugatt,
UCA Classified Employee
of the Year



Dr. Kimberly Little,
Outstanding EDGE Faculty
(CLA)



Dr. Nancy Gallavan,
Outstanding Teaching (COE)



Dr. Rachelle Miller,
Outstanding Research (COE)



Dr. Michael Mills,
Outstanding Service (COE)



Dr. Anthony McMullen,
Teaching Excellence (COB)



Dr. Taine Duncan,
Outstanding Faculty (CLA)



Dr. Doug Voss, Service
Excellence (COB)



Mr. Brian Corbin,
Finalist, UCA Non-classified
Employee of the Year



Dr. Gayle Seymour,
UCA Diversity &
Inclusive Excellence

Who's Who & Who Knew



Dr. Chris Craun, Assistant Professor of History and Headmaster of Minton Commuter College, was named UCAs first ever Veterans Educator Award from Student Veterans of America. UCA chapter president, Susan Marcus, made the following announcement at a surprise ceremony: "A lot of people want to help veterans succeed and take action by promoting services and benefits in their community. Most of these people are veterans themselves or have seen the struggles they face first hand. Dr. Craun is an anomaly. He does not fit into either of these categories and yet he goes above and beyond to advocate for veterans on campus. He recognizes the value that veterans bring to campus and he understands the struggles that they face when trying to adjust to a college environment. Because Dr. Craun understands all this, he has provided a space in Minton Commuter College for a Veterans Resource Center and lounge, he has requested paint to make the space more inviting, and he is assisting Student Veterans of America in locating funding for new furniture for the veterans lounge...These actions are only a brief overview of the strides Dr. Craun takes to ensure UCA can compete among the top military-friendly schools in the nation. For his efforts, Students Veterans of America would like to bestow the first ever Veterans Educators Awards at UCA to Dr. Chris Craun"

Announcements

Ray Ogar, Associate Professor of Art, exhibited artwork in "ViewPoints 2016" for Studio Montclair's 19th Annual Exhibition at aljira: A Center for Contemporary Art in Newark, New Jersey. 107 works were selected from over 1,000 entries from artists in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia.

Amy Hufstедler, Counseling Psychology doctoral student, had a paper (co-authored with Dr. Ken Sobel) accepted in *the Journal of Psychological Inquiry*. The paper, "Does the mere expectation of a cell phone call occupy working memory?" was a project completed while she was an undergraduate psychology major at UCA.

Dr. Ken Barnes, Professor of History, recently received a grant along with the mayor's office to save the oldest bridge in Arkansas (built in 1874). The Springfield Bridge over the Cadron will be restored and moved to Beaverfork Lake in Conway.

Dr. Buela Magimairaj, Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders, presented a lecture in India at the National Seminar on Advances in the Assessment of Management of Childhood Language Disorders on "Working memory mechanisms in school-age children: Implications for children with Specific Language Impairment."

Dr. Greg Naumiec, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, was recently honored as the ACS Professor of the Year by the Central Arkansas Section of the American Chemical Society.

Cory Cobb, a Counseling Psychology doctoral student, has been named one of eight national awardees for the Psi Chi 2015-16 Graduate Fellowship. This award includes \$3,000 to support his graduate education.



Service Learning in Action

Students in Dr. Kim Little's American Environmental History class gave up a weekend to learn how pioneers built roads in the wilderness using hand tools and to interview NPS trail supervisor Frank Smith about his work with the National Park Service. The students hiked two and a half miles down the Compton to Hemmed in Hollow wilderness trail, carrying heavy, awkward hand tools for their work and future NPS work. They then removed a large tree from the trail (again, all by hand) and remediated the trail where the tree had fallen and people created a "social trail" to get around it. Then they hiked out the same way. In camp, they were able to observe a controlled burn and the effects of that kind of forestry maintenance, tying in with more of their class readings. One student commented, "I never could understand how they could burn the underbrush and not catch the whole forest on fire. Now I do!" They also visited a homestead and learned about historic construction techniques. Students – including a few of who had never camped before – teamed up to accomplish all of the logistics necessary to camp, including assisting Dr. Little with historic Dutch oven roasting and baking. The students wrote and received an EDGE grant for their own travel and food expenses. While user statistics are difficult to obtain individually for the portion of trail that students built, the park gets hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. Unusual for a late winter weekend, the trail was full of hikers, so the students got to see firsthand how their work would impact visitors.

This project was one of three service-learning options that students had in American Environmental History.



Photography by Steve Runge



Sunbeam at the Nature Reserve (2015)