

# Great Happenings in Academics August 2016



UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL  
ARKANSAS™

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## *A Word from our Provost*



*Dear Colleagues,*

*Welcome to the next addition of Great Happenings in Academics. Be sure to read about Dean Covington, UCA's new Director of Torreyson Library and also check out the long list of new faculty and academic staff members starting this fall. This month, we share a painting by student Bella Cilia, art major and student worker in the Office of the Provost.*

*Get ready; the Fall semester is almost here!*

*We know that this newsletter contains only a sampling of the impressive accomplishments of our academic community, and we want to continue to spread the word about our activities. Please keep sending noteworthy items to Suzanne Massey at 450-3126 or [SMassey@uca.edu](mailto:SMassey@uca.edu).*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve".

*Steven W. Runge  
Executive Vice President and Provost*



## Grants & Awards

Dr. David Mitchell, Associate Professor of Economics, received word from donors in June that another year of funding (in excess of \$600,000) has been awarded to the Arkansas Center for Research in Economics (ACRE).

As Director of ACRE, Dr. Mitchell oversees a full-time staff of two policy analysts, a program manager and a research assistant; mentors and advises undergraduate Fellows; supports the work of affiliated-scholars and pursues his own on-going research, all in addition to his teaching responsibilities within the College of Business. Dr. Mitchell explains the concept behind ACRE's mission as "improving the lives of Arkansans by promoting ideas that support free markets, economic growth, and good governance."

In the past year, ACRE testified before the legislature, wrote and disseminated policy reports, appeared on radio and television shows, met with grassroots organizations, and published 12 op-eds on topics ranging from school choice to health care to economic development. They provided a public speakers series open to the community, hosted exclusive weekend seminars and colloquiums for faculty and students across the state, and directed reading groups each semester with UCA students. Through the ACRE Fellows program, some of UCA's top students worked with faculty on Arkansas-relevant economic research and presented their work at the SOBIE conference this past Spring in Destin, Florida.

Although not an Arkansas native, Dr. Mitchell has made this state his home. He is raising his family here and has a personal interest in making Arkansas better. Dr. Mitchell is passionate about making Arkansas a freer and more prosperous state for everyone. For more information on ACRE, visit [www.uca.edu/acre](http://www.uca.edu/acre)

## Who's Who & Who Knew



Dean Covington joined the Torreyson Library faculty on July 1 as Library Director. Dean comes from Lyon College, where he had served as director since 1988. He held previous library positions at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, the University of North Texas, and Texas Woman's University. Dean grew up in Knoxville, TN, where he attended the University of Tennessee and earned a BA in History and an MS in Library Science. He later earned an MBA in Personnel & Industrial Relations from the University of North Texas.

Dean has been active professionally throughout his career, serving as president of ARKLink (a consortium of colleges and universities throughout the state), serving on the American Library Association Council, and holding leadership positions in the library associations of Texas and Nevada and the Mountain Plains Library Association. In his spare time, Dean enjoys listening to jazz and 60s/70s rock. He also loves watching, studying and reading about movies. His favorite book is *Catch-22* primarily because of the absurd humor, but also because of the antiwar message which meant a lot to him when he first read it back in the late 60s. Dean's favorite sports team is the St. Louis Cardinals, and the best piece of advice he ever received was "be yourself."

The library will host a reception on Tuesday, August 16, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Torreyson first-floor lobby area. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to come and welcome Dean to UCA.



## Announcements

UCA is bustling with new faces as another academic year gets underway. Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our academic family:

Matthew Moore & Desmond Jones – Sociology  
Vance Lewis & Parker Woodruff – Marketing & Management  
Anita Sego & Thomas Lowder – Health Sciences  
Valerie Coulture & Na Mi Bang – Leadership Studies  
Nathan Meredith, Juliette Riveo-Castro & Marsha Massey – Chemistry  
Kristin Okoli, Lauren Miller, & Alejandro Gonzalez – Languages, Linguistics, Literatures & Cultures  
Brittany Daulton & CariAnn Bergner-Moore – Psychology  
Lisa Vanhooose & Michael Hawkins – PT  
William Flatley – Geography  
Sharon Mason – Philosophy & Religion  
Pretrescia Walker, Erin Fifer, & Amanda Beaver – Nursing  
Garth Johnson, Janet Nakami & Betul Bogrek – Mathematics  
Kaci Griffin, Zach Damon – Exercise Science  
Mark Doderer & Mahmut Karakava – CSCI  
Tammy Haselkorn & Brad Moffitt - Biology  
Ashley Phillips – Accounting  
In Jung (Anna) Song & Weici Yuan – EFIRM  
Dean Covington – Library  
Terra Votaw – ACRE  
LeVona Traywick, Tracey Zeiner - OT  
Vaughn Scribner & John Schneiderwind - History  
Rebecca Stage – Institutional Research  
Pamela Woodard George & Tyler Copeland – International Engagement  
Allen Thomas – Learning Communities  
Brian Young – Baum Gallery  
Marcia Posada & Rebekah Lindsey - FACS  
Dylan McLemore – Public Relations

## Achievements & Recognition

The College of Education has taken on an extraordinary summer service project where faculty have planned and implemented a creative literacy camp two nights a week for eight weeks. Working with UCA education faculty and graduate students, the “BearsRead Literacy Camp” is designed to build on the childrens’ strengths and offer intervention experiences for children who have struggled along their literacy path. The sixty-seven children, entering grades 2–8, attending the BearsRead Camp have done so free of charge because of the deep commitment and volunteer hours provided by the College of Education faculty and students. Faculty members working with the BearsRead program include Dr. Tammy Benson, Ms. DeeDee Cain, Dr. Shoudong Feng, Ms. Sunny Styles-Foster, Ms. Amy Thompson, Ms. Crystal Voegele, Dr. Donna Wake, and Dr. Jeff Whittingham.

\* \* \*

Dr. Donna Lampkin Stephens, Associate Professor of Journalism, was recently inducted into the Arkansas Sportscasters/Sportswriters Hall of Fame. Dr. Lampkin Stephens, a sportswriter in Arkansas since 1984, said she “is humbled and honored to join a group that includes many of the icons of Arkansas sports writing...to be listed along with them is one of the highest honors of my life.”





## Conference celebrates 70th meeting

The National Conference of Academic Deans (NCAD) recently celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> annual meeting with UCA hosting their meetings during the last 15 years. Established in 1941, NCAD is one of the nation's oldest organizations focused on the deanship. UCA Distinguished Dean Emeritus Dr. Neil Hattlestad was instrumental in relocating the conference in 2001 from Texas Women's University to UCA. Under the current leadership of Dr. Kurt Boniecki, Associate Provost for Instructional Support, the conference continues to attract CAOs, deans, and associate deans from public and private universities and colleges across the nation. Dr. Boniecki believes a major strength of the conference is that programs are planned by the deans to address problems relevant to them; the small size of the conference is also a plus. Typically there are 60-70 participants which provides an ideal setting for informal discussions and the development of friendships with fellow deans. The fact that so many participants return to the conference (some for more than 20 years) offers testimony to the value of NCAD.

The conference theme this year was "Meeting the Needs of Today's Students," with keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Taylor addressing the characteristics and expectations of Generation NeXt and the challenges faced by employers as these graduates enter the workforce. Conference attendees participated in panel discussions, concurrent sessions, and case studies, but also had time to enjoy music, food, and networking at the evening reception hosted at UCA Downtown.



## Professor studying water resources in Mongolia

Dr. Zack Donohew, visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, is spending 10 weeks this summer in Mongolia to learn more about how Mongolians are managing their natural resources. As the country's economy grows and diversifies, Mongolians are thinking carefully about how to conserve and protect the environment and natural resources. As the least densely populated country in the world, Mongolia maintains a robust herding culture and amazingly diverse ecoregions, including grasslands and forest steppes and the Gobi Desert that are habitat for a wide variety of aquatic, terrestrial, and avian species, many of which are threatened or endangered.



"Mongolia is a breathtakingly beautiful and friendly country", exclaims Donohew. "Since becoming a democratic republic in 1990, the capital city of Ulaanbaatar has grown from a population of 200,000 to 1.5 million. Updating its water infrastructure and addressing future water demand is critically important." A specialist in water resource management, Professor Donohew has been engaging with local community leaders and regional governments on how they're managing water conflicts and planning for changes in water supply and demand in the future. Dr. Donohew has given talks to provincial water basin administrations across the country and is making plans for future research collaborations.

*Acrylic painting of the UCA Nature Reserve (2015).  
Artwork by student Bella Cilia*



*“Para la Pollita”*