

Great Happenings in Academics February 2017



A Word from our Provost



Dear Colleagues,

Please join me in appreciating and celebrating the many accomplishments and activities of our faculty and students noted in this issue of “Great Happenings in Academics.”

This month we feature several academic programs that provide enrichment experiences outside of the classroom. You will read about our students visiting Washington D.C., presenting research at the state capitol in Little Rock and preparing for the up-coming study abroad trip to England. We’re fortunate to have faculty and staff dedicated to making these extra-ordinary learning opportunities available to our students.

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.

Sincerely,

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

Steven W. Runge
Executive Vice President and Provost



Students Witness Democracy in Action

Ten UCA students recently had the privilege to attend the Presidential Inauguration Academic Seminar, January 8–21, at the Washington Center in our nation's capital. Students took part in daily interactive programming—including guest lectures, small group discussions and budget/policy simulations. Following programming each day, students were able to use the afternoons to meet in groups with faculty leaders, partake in site visits to leadership organizations and “think tanks,” and visit popular Washington D.C. attractions. Sophomore History major Riley Tribble said his favorite activity was visiting the Holocaust museum, while Junior International Relations/Political Science double major Stevie Rae Massey said she was deeply moved visiting the Lincoln Memorial. Junior Zoe Allison said participating in the Women's March the day after the inauguration was a really wonderful experience. Seminar participants were also witness to the most important event in our democracy: the peaceful transfer of power. Regardless of their political party affiliation, the students agreed that the Presidential Inauguration was something they will always remember.

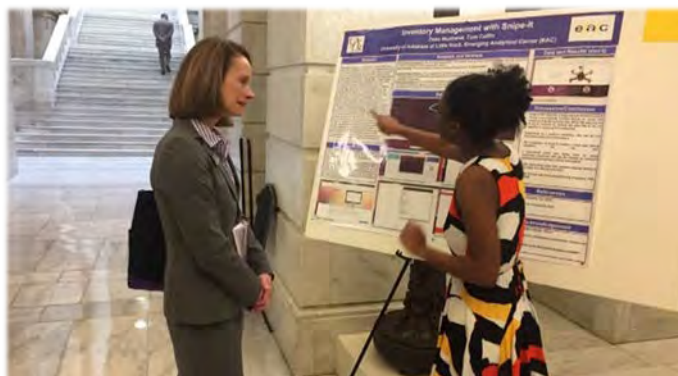


UCA attendees included Riley Tribble, Alex Tatem, Stevie Rae Massey, Zoe Allison, Keely Smith, Laura Craig, and Hannah Hanshaw. Also pictured are two students from ASU.

STEM Students Present Posters at Capitol



More than 110 undergraduate students presented their original research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) on February 15, 2017, at the State Capitol Rotunda in Little Rock. The students had the opportunity to discuss their research with state lawmakers, high school students, media, and the general public, using posters with photographs and other forms of data presentation. The presentations were explained in layman's terms so that all in attendance were able to understand and appreciate the significance of the work. Dr. Patrick Desrochers, professor and chair of the chemistry department, is the principal organizer of the annual event, this year bringing together STEM students from 15 Arkansas public and private universities and colleges.



UCA in the UK

Honors College faculty member Chad Terrell and Honors Dean Rick Scott along with 15 students and Board of Trustees member Elizabeth Farris and her husband are traveling to England this summer to visit “the cradle of British pop music.”

“The Beatles and Pop Culture” is one of several faculty-led study abroad trips offered this academic year. The course examines the profound impact made by bands from Liverpool and London, especially the Beatles, exploring where they lived and worked and studying artifacts of their lives and times that give insight into their creativity. The study abroad group will travel to Liverpool to probe places where the Mersey Beat was born, including visits to the Beatles Story Museum and Cavern Club, and tour sites including Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields, and the Albert Dock at Merseyside and take a bus ride with the Magical Mystery Tour Company.

In London, they will consult collections at the British Library, British Museum, National Portrait Gallery, and the Tate Modern, take guided tours of Beatles-related and Rolling Stones-related sites, with additional trips to the London Film Museum, Shakespeare’s Globe, and London Eye and nearby locations such as Windsor Castle, Cambridge, and Stonehenge. Through readings, presentations, discussions, and research, students will discover how this era became a turning point for Anglo-American popular culture, vaulting it into modernity.



Mr. Terrell and Dr. Scott have co-taught honors seminars on The Beatles and their impact on pop music and culture for the past seven years. This will be the final course and study abroad trip for Dr. Scott, who is retiring after a 34-year career at UCA.

Achievements & Recognition

Mr. Mark Spitzer, associate professor of creative writing, recently discussed his newest literary eco-effort, *Glurk! A Hellbender Odyssey*, on KUAR’s “Arts & Letters” program. The book, published by Anaphora Literary Press, explores and celebrates North America’s largest amphibian, the endangered hellbender salamander, found in Ozark streams and rivers in northern Arkansas. The book was also recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize and is considered an avant-garde epic poem.

Dr. Towino Paramby, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorder, Dr. Veronica Rowe, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and Dr. Nina Roofe, chair and associate professor of nutrition, had an article published in the *Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative Quarterly Review* concerning their interprofessional collaboration effort with a swallowing lab experience.

Dr. Charlotte Yates, assistant professor of physical therapy, has co-authored a publication with Dr. Elizabeth Huett, a 2015 graduate of the UCA DPT program and a 2016 graduate of the UCA Pediatric Physical Therapy residency program. The article has been accepted for publication in *Pediatric Dermatology*.

The American Physical Therapy Association Section on Women’s Health Student Special Interest Group just released its first promotional video. The video was filmed at UCA and features UCA DPT faculty and students. The video will be distributed to physical therapy programs across the United States and will be available on the Section on Women’s Health website. Check out the video at the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI3fC0URKUE>



Achievements & Recognition

Dr. Chad Lairamore, assistant professor of physical therapy, has been elected to Distinguished Fellowship of the National Academies of Practice in Physical Therapy for his outstanding achievements and leadership in the profession.

Dr. Kenneth Barnes, professor of history, has been named the 2017 recipient of the J.G. Ragsdale Book Award by the Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) for the best book-length historical study (nonfiction) on Arkansas history. The award will be presented to Dr. Barnes for *Anti-Catholicism in Arkansas* at the annual conference of the AHA in April.

Dr. David Mitchell, associate professor of economics and director of the Arkansas Center for Research in Economics (ACRE), recently testified before the Arkansas House Public Health, Welfare & Labor Committee, regarding the potential saving the state could generate by allowing nurse practitioners to provide primary care to Medicaid patients. He also testified before the Arkansas State Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee regarding a bill that would benefit Arkansas by reducing the complexity of sales tax on manufacturing repairs and at the same time would remove an economic development program that benefits favored groups.

Dr. Nelle Bedner, professor of communication, has been elected to serve on the Educational Policies Board of the National Communication Association (NCA). The board, which is part of the association's executive leadership team, supports and promotes disciplinary pedagogy.

Big Win for Debate Team

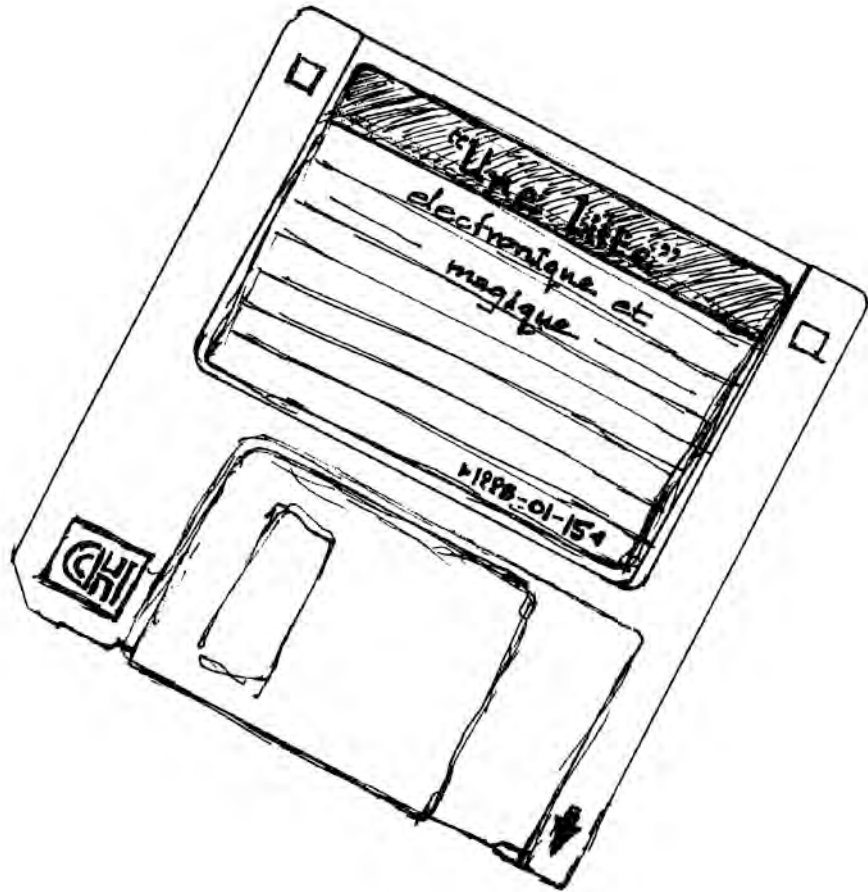


The UCA Debate and Forensics Team was named the fourth best overall team at the 2017 Southern Forensics Championship and was the top Arkansas school in the individual events portion of the tournament, hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi. The students competed against participants from twenty-six different schools from Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Florida. The UCA team will continue competing through the spring semester and conclude the season at the IPDA National Championship on March 23-26, 2017.



Freshman Jacob Holland flashes a winning smile as he proudly displays his trophies.

Commentary by Jonathan Glenn



Obsolescence (1998)