

Great Happenings in Academics

March 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 the academic and professional achievements of Mrs. Debbie Barnes and Dr. John Vanderslice. You will also read the exciting announcement that psychology student Emily Hahn has been appointed as a research coordinator at the Harvard Medical School; and you will learn about the College of Business program that provides networking opportunities through local business leaders who serve as mentors to our women 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, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President and Provost



Barnes Honored as Distinguished Educator



Debbie Barnes, Senior Clinical Instructor in the Department of Elementary, Literacy, and Special Education, was one of two members selected by the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) to receive the 2018 Distinguished Member award. Recognition as a Distinguished Member is the highest award that the Association bestows upon members and is limited to no more than two members in a given year. Eligibility for this prestigious award requires at least 15 years of consecutive membership in the Association, documentation of outstanding contributions to the Association and its affiliate state and regional units, outstanding contributions to the field of teacher education, and recognition by peers as upholding high standards of professionalism. She will be honored at the 2018 ATE Conference in Las Vegas where the Association will celebrate its 98th annual meeting.

Barnes has been a member of ATE since 1994. She is recognized by her peers for her commitment to servant leadership. She has served on several national planning committees, including service as co-chair for the 2003 Summer Conference in Sante Fe and 2007 Summer Conference in Milwaukee. She served on the Nominations and Elections Committee for six years and was the first chair of

the Honors and Awards Committee, serving for six years. Barnes was co-chair of the ATE Strategic Planning Committee for three years. She was elected by her peers to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for a three-year term, and she was a member of the Teacher Reflectivity Commission/Task Force, formed in 2004, and served until 2016. That group has published several manuscripts resulting from their work. She is currently serving on the ATE Task Force of Field Experience Standards. She has received the ATE President's Service Award on three occasions.

Barnes' recognition is based partially on her service to the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators (ArATE) and the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE). She served as President of ArATE in 2001-2002 and President of SRATE in 2002-2003. Her contributions to SRATE were recognized when she received the Roy L. Lauter Distinguished Service Award in 2011.

As a member of the University of Central Arkansas College of Education, Barnes has served as Assistant Dean, chaired multiple search committees, chaired or served on numerous Professional Education Committees, and provided extensive professional development for K-12 teachers. She has served as a consultant both in-state and out of state for institutions seeking national accreditation in teacher education. Her scholarship has been recognized by her peers with dozens of presentations and several publications.

Barnes' recognition continues the rich tradition of UCA's history as a normal school and its commitment to teacher education. She is one of three faculty members from UCA to receive this award. Terry James, Professor and Chair of Leadership Studies received this award in 2012 and Nancy P. Gallavan received the award in 2014. UCA joins Southern Illinois University at Carbondale as institutions with three Distinguished Members in ATE.

Announcements

Emily Hahn, a senior psychology major graduating this spring, has accepted a position as a Clinical/Computational Research Coordinator in the Division of Neurotherapeutics at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. Responsibilities for this position include: Collect and analyze data for fMRI component of closed-loop Deep Brain Stimulation study (funded by Department of Defense) designed to treat a broad range of treatment resistant psychiatric populations. This will be a great professional step for her as she works toward a PHD position in a clinical psychology program.

University College faculty Leslie Gomes and Keith Pachlhofer had the opportunity to present at the annual National Association of Developmental Education (NADE) conference in Oklahoma City, OK. Their presentation, “Co-Requisite Mathematics: Is Success Possible?,” highlighted University College’s recent efforts to be one of the first in Arkansas to fully implement the co-requisite design for all developmental courses. Early results from co-requisite College Algebra and co-requisite Quantitative Literacy show a very high percentage of students completing their credit-bearing math course on their first attempt. This success has garnered attention from other institutions in Arkansas and across the country as well as the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas–Austin.

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) board voted to approve the Masters Degree requirement for the Family and Consumer Science dietetic internship. This officially designates UCA’s program as a Master of Science Dietetic Internship meeting the new requirement of the graduate degree for entry-level practice for Registered Dietitians.

Achievements & Recognition

Dr. LaVona Traywick, assistant professor of occupational therapy, and junior music major Ms. Anna Laura McAfee are Co-PI’s on the Blue&You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas \$1,000 mini-grant awarded to the University of Central Arkansas for Ms. McAfee’s Honors College research project “Interactive Music During Bathing for Persons with Dementia.” A poster presentation on their preliminary research has also been accepted to the Southern Gerontological Society Annual Meeting in April in Ashville, North Carolina.

Dr. Darshon Anderson, assistant professor of psychology, has been elected to the Executive Council of the Southwestern Psychological Association (SPA) and will serve as one of two Professional Representatives on the Council.

Leah Horton, Lecturer II and Assistant Chair of Biology, recently completed her PhD in Interdisciplinary Leadership. Her dissertation, “Toward Capabilities-Based Environmental Leadership: A Case Study from Kanembwe, Rwanda,” was a multi-year study that grew out of the Science and Society in Rwanda study abroad program. Dr. Horton’s work provides empirical data that contribute to the Capabilities Approach literature and also shows measureable improvements to the quality of life of residents of Kanembwe through the introduction of site-built rocket stoves.

Dr. Gary Bunn, director of Candidate Services in the College of Education received the Exemplary Service Award from Sigma Phi Epsilon for his 20 plus years of service at the chapter. Dr. Bunn was one of five recipients of the award during the fraternity’s Carlson Leadership Academy annual awards dinner. Dr. Bunn was a founding member of the UCA chapter in 1988.

Women Students Learn \$mart \$alary Skills

Dr. Tammy Rogers, associate professor of finance and Chair of EFIRM, recently hosted the Women in Business Luncheon featuring keynote speaker Christy Horpedahl, program manager for the Arkansas Center for Research in Economics and instructor for the Honors College. The luncheon brought together students, alumni, faculty, and prominent Conway business women to discuss issues that are important to women students as they prepare to transition from the university to roles in the broader business community. Horpedahl, an American Association of University Women (AAUW) \$tart \$mart Salary Negotiation Workshop certified trainer, discussed how economic principles can help job applicants know the best tactics to use to get the best employment package possible. Research indicates that women are strong negotiators for others but often lack the ability to translate that into success for themselves in terms of salary. After the lunch, students were matched to a community leader by their departments along disciplinary lines for the break out sessions and were also given the book *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg.



Local business leaders serve as mentors for the COB women students. The program was made possible in part by a Chamber of Commerce grant and the UCA Women's Giving Circle.

Vanderslice celebrates *Days On Fire*



Dr. John Vanderslice, associate professor of creative writing, was recently featured on KUAR's Arts and Letters radio program to discuss his new book, *Days On Fire: The Life and Work of Vincent Van Gogh*. The novel explores the tumultuous days of the iconic painter from his early life in Holland to his hospitalization in St. Paul's Asylum. During the radio episode, Vanderslice reads and describes a series of fictional sketches in which Van Gogh interacts with his siblings, confronts his father, elicits help from his brother Theo, and observes and paints the world outside his window at the hospital. Beautiful, haunting music serves as a backdrop throughout the broadcast, including a cello piece by Wil Vanderslice. "I consider myself a careful, diligent and, most of all, patient writer, but 'Days on Fire' pushed me to the limit of my sensibilities," Professor Vanderslice said. "Conceived in 2001, my research did not begin in earnest until 2004, and then that research continued for four years before I began writing. Then the process of writing, revising, cutting, shaping and editing the book took almost five more years. I thought I had the final draft of the book several times before I did." Vanderslice's short stories, essays, poems, and one-act plays have been published in more than eighty journals and anthologies.

Photography by Steve Runge



Raindrop (2017)