

Great Happenings in Academics

April 2017



A Word from our Provost

Dear Colleagues,

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

I hope you will enjoy reading about the faculty from the College of Education who have been accepted into the nationally recognized Apple Distinguished Educators (ADE) program. We are excited to be one of the few institutions of higher education that will have three ADEs. I’m also pleased to share news of our annual faculty excellence award finalists and winners.

On the back page, I have shared a frame from a video clip I took, one of a bee in flight that I find fascinating to watch in slow motion.

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 smassey@uca.edu.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Runge, Ph.D.

Executive Vice President and Provost



Smith to Lead Honors College



Dr. Patricia Smith will serve as Interim Dean of the Schedler Honors College for the 2017-18 academic year. Dr. Smith has been with UCA since 2004, with the Honors College since 2005, and has served as Assistant Dean of the Honors College since 2014. She holds a faculty position in Leadership Studies and has her doctorate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in Higher Education Administration. Dr. Smith has published numerous articles on the growth and evolution of honors education and on improving retention in honors. She made significant contributions to the instrument currently being used by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) for assessing and evaluating honors programs and colleges. Dr. Smith has delivered 20 national and international presentations within the honors community and has served on multiple occasions as a consultant to other honors programs. She is an NCHC-certified program reviewer and serves as the chair of the NCHC Research Committee, and as a member on NCHC's Assessment and Evaluation Committee. Dr. Smith is responsible for the creation of the selection and admission process that has been used in the Honors College for the past 11 years. She was instrumental in beginning the Honors mentor and ambassador programs and, last year, led the faculty through a process of refining the mission of the Honors College to focus on empowering students to guide socially responsible change.

Apple Educators

Dr. Victoria Groves-Scott, College of Education Dean, and Dr. Donna Wake, College of Education Associate Dean, have been accepted into the nationally recognized Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program's Class of 2017. Drs. Groves-Scott and Wake are among only 130 educators selected this year in the United States from a pool of over 1,300 to join the more than 2,000 educators worldwide who are passionately committed to the improvement of teaching and learning through educational technology. Both will participate in a professional development academy in Houston, Texas, in July 2017.

UCA is proud to be one of the few institutions of higher education that has three ADEs, as Drs. Groves-Scott and Wake join Dr. Michael Mills from the Department of Teaching and Learning. Under Dr. Mills's leadership, the College of Education began an iPad 1:1 mobile initiative last year that is designed to transform the College of Education classrooms to reflect the new reality where places of learning are becoming increasingly democratized and students expect engagement and increased ownership of the classroom experience. The College of Education's iPad initiative has included significant faculty professional development, faculty coaching on innovative pedagogy using the iPads, ongoing program evaluation, and a renewed commitment to student success and achievement.

The Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program began in 1994, when Apple recognized K-12 and higher education pioneers who are using a variety of Apple products to transform teaching and learning in powerful ways. Today it has grown into a worldwide community of over 2,000 visionary educators and innovative leaders who are doing amazing things with technology in and out of the classroom. More information on this group of innovative educators is available online at <http://www.apple.com/education/ade>.

Announcements

Dr. Brandon Combs, director of assessment, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Association for the Assessment of Collegiate Learning (AAACL).

Family and Consumer Sciences instructor Ms. Rebekah Luong has been elected as the Treasurer for the Arkansas Association of Family & Consumer Sciences.

UCA School of Nursing faculty member Amanda Beaver, MSN, RN has been named to the advisory board for The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) of North Central Arkansas.

Assistant Professor Dr. LaVona Traywick and Visiting Clinical Instructor Mrs. Brittany Saviers represented the UCA Occupational Therapy Department as invited speakers at the Arkansas Gerontology Society's 2017 Spring Conference in Little Rock. Dr. Traywick gave a presentation titled "Grandparents as our Superheroes: Teaching Appreciation of Elders through Art," and Mrs. Saviers' gave a presentation titled "If Dr. Seuss Taught Health Care Ethics 101."

Instructor and DPD Director of Nutrition Rachel Schichtl, MS, RDN, CFC was awarded the 2017 Outstanding Dietetic Educator of the Year by the Arkansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The award is selected through nominations from peers as well as students and is based on innovations in teaching, mentorship, and leadership ability.

Achievements & Recognition

Ms. Madison Sewell was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant for an English Teaching Assistantship for the 2017-18 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Ms. Sewell graduated in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in health sciences and a minor in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies. As a Fulbright awardee she will serve as an English Teaching Assistant in the Czech Republic.

Dr. Sherry Skaggs, assistant professor of criminology, was recognized by the UCA division of Outreach and Community Engagement with the Peter J. Mehl Service-Learning Faculty of the Year Award. She was also awarded RSO Advisor of the Year at the UCA Student Involvement Awards.

An article by psychology faculty Dr. Joan Simon, Dr. Paul Nail, and Dr. Elsom Bihm and School Psychology doctoral student Keyoor Joshi has been published in *Self and Identity* (Volume 16). The article is titled "Defensive Egotism and Self-Esteem: A Cross-Cultural Examination of the Dynamics of Bullying in Middle School."

Associate Professor of Philosophy Dr. Jacob Held received notification of his recently published editorial work, *Wonder Woman and Philosophy: The Amazonian Mystique*. The collection of essays looks at philosophical themes through the lens of Wonder Woman and the DC universe.



64th Annual Service Awards

UCA celebrated the 64th Annual Service Awards on April 18, 2017 by honoring outstanding faculty and staff. Among the awards presented to faculty were the Public Service Award, the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award, and the Teaching Excellence Award. The awards provide recognition of the importance the university places on these three fundamental areas, they publicize the vitality of faculty work in these areas, and they reward faculty who have excelled in their contributions to the university, to their disciplines, and to the world community. Featured on the front page of the newsletter are the three finalists for the 2017 Teaching Excellence Award: Dr. Nelle Bedner, Dr. Melissa Kelley (winner), and Dr. Joe McGarrity.



Pictured above with Provost Runge are the three finalists for the 2017 Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Award: Dr. Andrew Mason, Ms. Charlotte Yates (winner), and Dr. William Taylor.



Pictured above with Provost Runge are the four finalists for the 2017 Public Service Award: Dr. Doug Voss, Dr. Patsy Ramsey, Dr. Kenneth Barnes, and Dr. Taine Duncan (winner).

Also recognized at the award celebration were faculty and staff retirees.

Professor Paul Nail is retiring after 12 years in the Psychology and Counseling department. During retirement, Dr. Nail plans to complete a book that he is currently writing, and, because of his love for teaching, he hopes to continue teaching one class of general psychology per semester for as long as he is able and effective. Dr. Tom Oxner, professor of accounting is retiring after 20 years of service in the College of Business. Retirement plans for Dr. Oxner include racing his vintage Porsche 914. Ms. Karen Jo Hudson, senior lecturer of mathematics for University College, is retiring after 28 years of service and plans to spend her retirement with family, traveling, scrapbooking, sewing, and tutoring. Professor Rick Scott is retiring as Dean of the Honors College after 34 years of service to the University. Dr. Scott plans to travel extensively around the world, compose and record rock music, train to become a master gardener, read, and become more politically active. Dr. Gary Wekkin, professor of Political Science is retiring after 35 years of service. Retirement plans for Dr. Wekkin include traveling abroad and completing his current works on the Clinton presidency. Professor Maurice Lee is retiring as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts after 18 years of service to the University. Dr. Lee plans to travel during his retirement and will teach African-American Literature part time this fall at Hendrix College. Assistant Professor of Geography Jeff Allender is retiring after 27 years of service. Dr. Allender plans to backpack through New Mexico, Canada, and the upper Great Lakes, continue organizing and running K-12 teacher workshops, and guest teach at AP Human Geography high school classes around the state, and hopefully become recertified as a soccer referee.

Other honors bestowed on academic faculty and staff included:



Faculty members Dr. Darshon Anderson, Dr. Michael Kithinji and Dr. Taine Duncan were recognized for their outstanding contribution and commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. Dr. Taine Duncan received the Diversity Inclusive Excellence Award.



Pictured with President Houston Davis is Mr. Thomas Bertram, Information Systems Specialist in the Honors College. Mr. Bertram was awarded the 2017 (Classified) Employee of the year.

UCA owes its success to the dedicated people that provide selfless service day-in and day-out to the students and to the greater Conway community. Congratulations and thanks to all of our outstanding faculty and staff.

Photography by Steve Runge



To Bee or Not to Bee (2017)