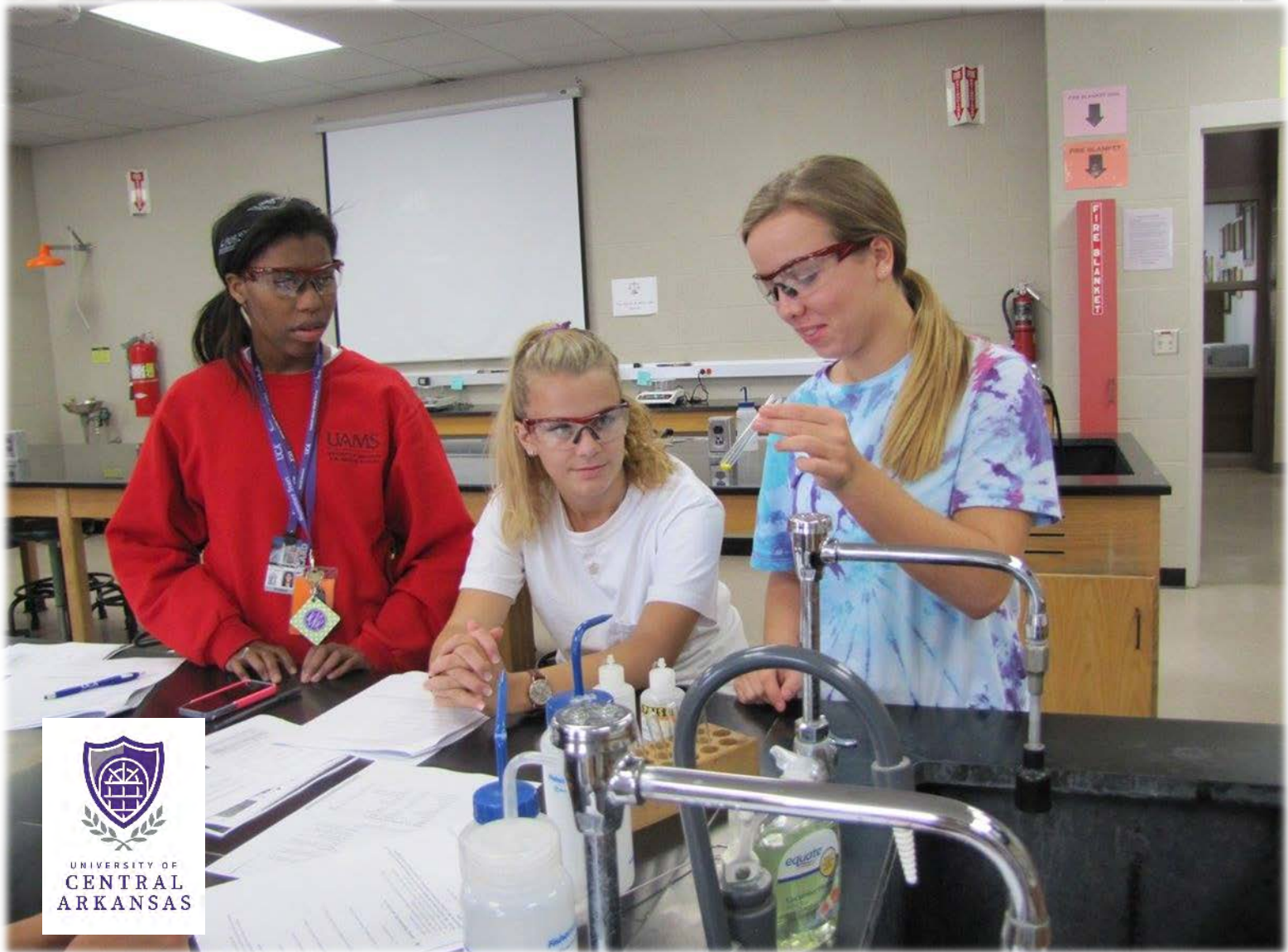


Great Happenings in Academics

June 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 issue highlights some of the programs and people dedicated to student success, either at the high school level, for example Upward Bound or at the college level, such as University College. Both of these programs empower students with the skills and resources they need to succeed in college and beyond.

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



Educator Helps Others Achieve College Dream, too



UCA has a well-kept secret: its very own UC Director Amy Baldwin is a world-renowned pioneering educator and educational entrepreneur. She wrote the first, groundbreaking student success textbook for community colleges and for first-generation students. As a result of her work and thought-leader role with national initiatives such as Complete College America, Achieving the Dream, and the Developmental Education Initiative, Dr. Baldwin has become one of the most sought-after keynote speakers and workshop facilitators on student success and engagement topics.

As Director of University College, Dr. Baldwin oversees a faculty and program dedicated to working with non-traditional returning students and students with developmental needs. The state-mandated curriculum and general education courses are designed to lead to the completion of a two-year Associate of Arts in General Education Degree or to prepare students for progression into baccalaureate degree programs. With over 18 years of teaching experience and a passion for student success, Dr. Baldwin is committed to and has gained considerable acclaim for her efforts toward helping students get in, get through, get out, and get paid. In addition to working as Director of University College, she recently completed her Ed.D. in higher education administration at the University of Arkansas at

Little Rock. Her dissertation focused on the student success of African American males at community colleges.

From 2011-2013, Dr. Baldwin directed the Complete College America grant for nine institutions in Arkansas. Her community college connections include serving as co-director of the Achieving the Dream initiative and the recent appointment as a technical assistance provider (TAP) to the new Developmental Education Initiative (DEI), funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She has provided assessment and leadership by serving as a lead evaluator for Quality Enhancement Projects for several community colleges through the accreditation organization SACS-COC.

Dr. Baldwin has presented over 100 conference presentations, pre-conference and in-service workshops, and keynotes on student success topics including student engagement, social media, college culture and transition, critical thinking, and academic success. Her trade-marked t-shirt, "It's in the Syllabus," received mention in an Inside Higher Ed article in October 2013, and her "It's in the Syllabus" mantra continues to inspire faculty and staff to help students learn how to be successful in college and hold them accountable for that success.



Amy celebrates her recent accomplishment with children Will and Emily

Announcements

Fifteen graduate students in the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program in the College of Business submitted papers for inclusion in the 48th annual meeting of the Southwest Decision Sciences Institute (SWDSI) that was recently held in Little Rock. All manuscripts were peer-reviewed in a blind process and were accepted. The papers were presented at the meeting and were subsequently published in the official conference proceedings. Dr. Mark McMurtrey, professor of MIS and MBA Director, served as program chair for the conference and was named as President-Elect for SWDSI.

Dr. Shawn Charlton, associate professor of psychology, announced that the UCA chapter of Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, was selected for a 2016-2017 Model Chapter award. Only 42 of more than 1,200 chapters internationally receive this distinction. This is the 10th consecutive year that our chapter has received this award. Dr. Charlton also serves as the vice president for the southwest region of Psi Chi.

Annette Gartman, new School of Nursing faculty member, has been named as one of the “40 under 40.” Forty Arkansas nurses have been named to the Arkansas Center for Nursing’s 2017 “40 under 40” list, which honors emerging nurse leaders in the state who are under the age of 40. The 40 honorees were selected using criteria on how each applicant stood out among their peers in four distinctive areas: commitment to excellence, service/outreach, leadership qualities, and contributions to the advancement of the nursing profession.

Achievements & Recognition

University College literacy and writing faculty members Elaine Corum and Flora Salyers recently presented their paper, “The Male Deficit Model and Its Effects on the International Male Student,” at the Seventh Asian Conference on Language Learning in Kobe, Japan.

Dr. Sun Kim, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been selected to receive the 2017 Emerging Dyslexia Research Award from the International Dyslexia Association. Only one researcher is chosen each year to receive this prestigious international award. She will be presented with the award and give a short speech at the 2017 International Dyslexia Association Conference in November.

Dr. Jacob Held, associate professor of philosophy and director of the UCA Core, and Dr. Brandon Combs, director of assessment, recently presented an overview on developing a comprehensive, assessable general education program at the Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) 2017 annual conference in Louisville, KY. Dr. Combs was also voted President-Elect of the Arkansas Association for the Assessment of Collegiate Learning (AAACL).

Exercise and Sport Science instructor Zack Damon recently presented “The Influence of Leadership on Sense of Community: Examining Authentic, Servant, Transactional, and Transformational Theories in Sport” at the North American Society for Sport Management (NASSM) Conference in Denver, CO.



Phelps Elected to Honor Society



Patty H. Phelps, professor in the Department of Teaching & Learning, was recently elected into the honorary Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. The Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter was established in 2011 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions of service to Kappa Delta Pi and exemplified its ideals and excellence in education.

Founded in 1911, Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) is an international honor society that promotes scholarship, innovation, and excellence in the field of education. Dr. Phelps has been a member since 1985. She received the Distinguished Dissertation Award in 1988 after joining the UCA faculty in 1987. Dr. Phelps' involvement in Kappa Delta Pi has spanned three decades. She served as counselor for UCA's Pi Beta Chapter from 1996 to 2001. At the national level, Dr. Phelps served for many years on the Publications Committee, followed by the Communications Committee and then became academic editor for the Kappa Delta Pi Record in 2002 until 2005. She has reviewed scholarship awards for the organization and served on the Nominations Committee as well as the Foundation Board. Currently, Dr. Phelps is a regular contributor to Educator Resources, KDP's online newsletter.

Dr. Phelps will be recognized and inducted during Kappa Delta Pi's 51st Biennial Convocation in October 2017 held in Pittsburgh, PA.

Upward Bound Offers Plenty

The Upward Bound (UB) program at the University of Central Arkansas has received its continuation award for the 2017-18 school year. The program has likewise been awarded another five-year grant cycle beginning in September 2018 for \$257,500 per year.



Upward Bound is 100% federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education to provide fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The UCA program is one of over 700 operating throughout the United States. It serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of UB is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Upward Bound projects provide instruction in math, laboratory science, composition, literature and foreign language.

"UCA received the only continuation award in the state marking the fifth year of our current program cycle," said Michelle Hardin, director of Upward Bound at UCA.

To understand the importance of UB, one only has to know that before entering the program, some of these students never considered college because they either never thought they could attend or had been told the odds against them were too great.

Photography by Steve Runge



Fox in the Grass (2017)