

Great Happenings in Academics

July 2017



A Word from our Provost



Dear Colleagues,

This issue of “Great Happenings in Academics” includes a wide variety of interesting articles, perhaps more breadth than any of our previous editions. I hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of the faculty and students in the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences and about award-winning faculty member Dr. Nancy Gallavan from the College of Education.

“Kudu Sunset,” included in this newsletter, is one of my favorite photos from my recent trip to Africa with my Dad. I hope you enjoy it. I want to thank each of you for tolerating my self-indulgence while publishing some of my amateur photography in many of these newsletters. Photography is something I greatly enjoy and also something I hope to improve upon in the coming years. I may need to call upon the experts in the College of Fine Arts and Communication for some assistance!

We have amazing faculty, staff, and students, and I am continually impressed by YOUR activities and accomplishments. Thank you for all that you do to make the University of Central Arkansas the special place that it is today.

Sincerely,

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

Steven W. Runge, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost



Gallavan Earns Award



Dr. Nancy P. Gallavan, Professor of Teacher Education with the MAT Program in the Department of Teaching and Learning and Faculty Liaison to Institutional Diversity, has been selected to receive the 2017 Roy L. Lauter Distinguished Service Award from the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators (SRATE). The annual award recognizes persons who have made cumulative significant contributions to SRATE over a period of at least 10 years for their leadership and service to the organization and their contributions to teacher education in the SRATE region. The annual SRATE conference is hosted by one of the 15 state units; Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators (ArATE) will be hosting SRATE 2017 on Oct 5-7, 2017, in Rogers, AR, where Dr. Gallavan will receive her award.

Dr. Gallavan has been active in ATE for 22 years, serving on the ATE board from 2009-2013 and as the 2013-2014 ATE President along with chairing several commissions and committees. She has received four ATE Presidents' Awards highlighted with receiving the ATE Distinguished Member Award in 2016. Likewise, Dr. Gallavan has been active in SRATE for 12 years, serving on the board from 2009-2017 and as the 2012-13 SRATE President. Prior to her SRATE and ATE presidencies, Dr. Gallavan served as the ArATE 2010-2011 President. As the ArATE 2009-2010 President-Elect, she chaired the 2010 ArATE Conference held at UCA and has continued her ArATE service as the editor of the ArATE EJ (Electronic Journal) for seven years and, most recently, as the interim Executive Secretary for two years.

Grades First Breaks Record

UCA's midterm progress report results for the spring semester were the highest Grades First administrators have ever seen. Nadia Eslinger, Academic Advisor, serves as UCA's campus specialist/trainer for Grades First and has been instrumental in the campus' enhanced use of the system. Eslinger credits the success to Provost Steve Runge's philosophy of helping students to succeed, and what was once used only for Athletic Advising and more recently by the Academic Advising Center as a scheduling tool is now being used to monitor student success and has opened communication outlets between advisor and instructor to provide intervention for students.

During the 2016-2017 academic year, UCA changed midterm grade reporting from Banner to Grades First. The progress report feature in Grades First allows the instructor to input the student's current grade, number of absences, and mark if the student is at risk to fail the class. A student marked "at risk" is contacted by their academic advisor, who will assist them with developing strategies for improvement. In spring 2017, 8,850 out of 9,342 evaluations were returned from professors. This 94% completion rate was achieved because Dr. Runge emphasized the importance of instructors submitting their grades. As a result, 229 students avoided academic probation. Grades First representatives were so impressed with the results that they are now using UCA as a case study for other schools to help them improve their completion rates. To continue with this success, UCA's fall 2018 Mid Term Progress Reports will include freshmen, sophomores, athletes, and students in the UCAN program. Faculty and advisors will also be able to create "alerts" for students who may be facing success challenges.

Grades First is accessible to all faculty and staff members and can be used for scheduling, communication with students, and monitoring success.



Announcements

Interprofessional education faculty and graduate students from the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences have received acceptance of their presentation proposals at the annual convention this November of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) in Los Angeles, CA. Proposals include:

- “Delivering a successful cognitive stimulation program: Lessons Learned,” a seminar by communication disorders and sciences (CSD) faculty Candice Robinson and Richelle Weese, et al.
- “Evaluating Interprofessional Education on Swallowing & Feeding,” a poster presentation by CSD assistant professor Dr. Towino Paramby, occupational therapy assistant professor Dr. Veronica Rowe, family and consumer sciences associate professor and chair Dr. Nina Roofe, et al.
- “Bouncing Back: The role of resilience in therapy for adolescents who stutter,” a presentation by CSD graduate student Courtney Craft and faculty member associate professor Dr. Brent Gregg.
- “Multi-media Instruction: The Benefits of Audio & Pictures in Learning for Students with Reading Deficits,” a poster presentation by CSD assistant professor Dr. Sun Kim et al.
- “Sports-related concussions: A microstructure analysis of narrative production pre-& post-concussions,” a poster presentation by CSD graduate students Katie Beck and Amber Fleming, CSD faculty Richelle Weese, and associate professor and chair Dr. Dee Lane, and exercise and sport science assistant professor Dr. Rock Lee.

Achievements & Recognition

Associate professors of nursing Dr. Pamela Ashcraft and School of Nursing director Dr. Susan Gatto had their manuscript “Curricular Interventions to Promote Self-Care in Prelicensure Nursing Students” accepted for publication in *Nurse Educator*. The manuscript has been given a publication date of May 2018 (Volume 43, Issue 3). Dr. Ashcraft and Dr. Gatto are currently in the final phase of a 4-year longitudinal study of self-care in undergraduate nursing students and professional RNs. This is their second manuscript from this study.

DNP 2017 graduate Ivana Dehorney and associate professor of nursing Dr. Pamela Ashcraft recently had a manuscript, “Effect of Joint Camp on Patient Outcomes Following Total Joint Replacement,” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*. The manuscript has been given a publication date of July 2018 (Volume 33, Issue 3) in the print journal; however, the paper will be published electronically within 8 weeks. Dr. Dehorney is the lead author on the publication, which was based on her DNP project.

Dr. Steve Tucker, associate professor and department chair of exercise and sport science (EXSS), presented a research study titled “Effects of 6-week Open Kinetic Chain and Closed Kinetic Chain Resistance Exercise Programs on Scapular Upward Rotation,” during a podium session at the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in Houston, TX on June 29, 2017. Co-authors on the study were EXSS clinical instructor Sean Engle and associate professor of physical therapy Dr. James Fletcher et. el.

Photography by Steve Runge



Kudu Sunset (2017)