



UNIVERSITY OF
CENTRAL
ARKANSAS™

COLLEGE OF HEALTH &
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Welcome Back!

Faculty & Student Awards
and Recognition

Fall 2020

UCA Faculty Awards Finalists

2019-2020 Public Service Finalist



Dr. Twala H. Maresh, PT, DPT, NCS, ATP
Physical Therapy

2019-2020 Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Finalist



Dr. Femina Varghese, PhD
Psychology and Counseling

2019-2020 Teaching Excellence Finalist



Dr. Brent Gregg, PhD, CCC-SLP
Community Sciences & Disorders

UCA Faculty & Staff Awards



Nancy Bond

Physical Therapy Administrative Assistant
Awarded Classified Employee of the Year



National Program Recognition

➤ Most Affordable Online Programs

- The Sport Management Program was named the 2020 Most Affordable On-line Program by Online U.
 - Nurse Practitioner program ranked as #2 Online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program by NPSchools.com
 - The Online Master's Nutrition Degrees ranked as #1 2020 Most Affordable by Online U.
 - Family Nurse Practitioner program ranked as #2 Post Master's Certificate Program by NPSchools.com
 - Nurse Practitioner program ranked as #4 Most Affordable Online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program by Online U.
 - Doctor of Physical Therapy program ranked in top 20% of DPT programs in the U.S. by US News and World Report.
- The Psi Chi chapter was recognized for a 13th consecutive year as a Model Chapter.

National Student Recognition

- Samantha Oxford, Health Education major named Outstanding Undergraduate Health Education Major of the Year by Eta Sigma Gamma National Honorary Society and The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.
- Lindsey Wade, Doctor of Physical Therapy Graduate, named Outstanding Physical Therapy Student of the Year by the American Physical Therapy Association's Academy of Sports Physical Therapy
- Hershila Lallu, 2021 OTD Class, was accepted to the AOTA Special Interest Section Student Intern Program where she will work with the Academic Education Special Interest Section.
- Chelsey Bull, Counseling Psychology Doctoral Student, was selected as the APA's Division 18's Criminal Justice Section Student Representative . She applied for this national position and was appointed by the section leadership. This is the first time a Counseling Psychology PhD student from UCA has been selected for this.
- Sydney Skaggs, Counseling Psychology Doctoral Student, won the American Psychological Association Division 18 (Psychologists in Public Service) Student Award.

National Faculty Recognition

- Dr. Leah Lowe, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, was the 2020 recipient of the Margaret Moore Outstanding New Academic Faculty Member award from the American Physical Therapy Association.
- Dr. William D. Bandy, Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, was named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association.
- Dr. Femina Varghese was elected to the rank of Fellow by the American Psychological Association (APA).
- Ms. Rachel Schichtl has been inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (FAND) and is recognized for her commitment to the field of nutrition and dietetics, her professional accomplishments and her pursuit of life-long learning.
- Dr. Allen Thomas was named a "Champion of Pride" by The Advocate. "Each year, The Advocate's "Champions of Pride" issue profiles LGBTQ+ activists, artists, politicians, and more from each state who are changing the world for the better. Each Champion is a fine example of how LGBTQ+ people can make a difference in local communities and beyond. But this year, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Pride, we've taken the "Champions" to another level — virtual reality to be exact."

New Department Chairs



Dr. Tina Mankey, Ed.D., OTR/L
Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy



Dr. Kevin Garrison, PT, PhD
Chair, Department of Physical Therapy



Promotion & Tenure



Exercise & Sport Science

Dr. Steve Tucker, PhD, LAT, ATC
Promotion to Professor



School of Nursing

Dr. Susan Gatto, PhD, RN
Promotion to Professor



Promotion & Tenure

Communication Sciences & Disorders



Dr. Towino Paramby, CScD, CCC-SLP

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor



Promotion & Tenure

Health Sciences



Dr. Denise Demers, PhD, CHES

Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor



Promotion & Tenure

School of Nursing



Dr. Pamela Ashcraft, PhD, RN, PHCNS-BC
Promotion to Professor



Promotion & Tenure

Psychology & Counseling

Dr. Dong Xie, PhD
Promotion to Professor



Dr. Marc Sestir, PhD
Tenure



Dr. Femina Varghese, PhD
Promotion to Professor

