Kari Payton
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Donaghey Scholar Program
Degree: B.S., mechanical systems engineering
Hometown: Bentonville, AR
Career: Industrial Simulations Engineer, LM Wind Power, Little Rock, AR
Kari Payton came to UALR Little Rock to play basketball, but then discovered honors, which allowed her to develop both her goals in engineering and in community, engaged work to increase the pipeline of STEM majors from underrepresented groups. As part of her honors experiences, Payton interned with Southwest Power Pool and the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, and now travels the world as an industrial simulations engineer for LM Wind Power in Little Rock. She volunteers with STEP ministries, is a mentor for Girls of Promise, and is the founder of Imagination Camp, which works with middle school students interested in STEM.

Payton Radley
University of Arkansas-Fort Smith
Myles Friedman Honors Program
Degree: B.A., media communications, biology minor; magna cum laude, cum honoros.
Hometown: Van Buren, AR
Career: English Teacher, Van Buren High School, Van Buren, AR
Payton Radley began working as a teacher at Van Buren High School just after graduation in the fall of 2016. She has made a huge impact on her students and colleagues alike. Radley has reinstated a critical reading course in which students develop a deeper perception of fiction and nonfiction writing. She has also established two new student organizations; for one of these, the Green Initiative, She won a grant for operational support. She continues to pursue writing projects and has published a feature article about homelessness in Fort Smith in Do South magazine.

Alan Robinette
National Park College Honors Program
Degree: A.A., liberal arts and sciences/liberal studies, magna cum laude.
Hometown: Hot Springs, AR
Career: Circulation Coordinator, Huie Library at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, AR
After a long career working as a circulation manager for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Alan Robinette returned to school in 2017, earning his associate of arts degree in 2018. He has served as a guest speaker at conferences, including the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers annual meeting and the Arkansas Undergraduate Leadership Conference. Robinette will graduate with a bachelor’s degree from Henderson State University in December of 2019. He will then begin work on his master’s degree in library science.

Abigail Elaine Russ
Quail Ridge Baptist University
Carl Goodson Honors Program
Degree: B.S., biology, chemistry minor; cum laude.
Hometown: Searcy, AR
Career: Doctor of Osteopathy pursuing a fellowship at Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Little Rock, AR
While at OBU, Dr. Abigail Russ received the Carl Goodson Honors Program Scholarship to do research for her senior honors thesis, which studied the affect of ajulemic acid on Ewing sarcoma (a pediatric solid bone tumor). She received the OBU Senior Woman of the Year award. She then moved to Denver, CO, to begin medical school at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She graduated from RVUCOM in 2016 and moved back to Little Rock for her pediatric residency at UAMS/ACH.

Hannah Ratzlaff
John Brown University Honors Scholars Program
Degree: B.A., history.
Hometown: Longview, TX
Career: Exterior Design Consultant, Little Rock, AR
While a student at JBU, Hannah Ratzlaff spent a semester studying abroad at Oxford University, where she became interested in urban planning. She wrote her senior honors thesis on the history of urban planning in her hometown. After graduating from JBU, Ratzlaff studied Urban Strategies and Design at the University of Edinburgh. She then returned to Arkansas, where she now serves as the exterior design consultant for the Division of Arkansas Heritage.

Elizabeth (Lambie) Sullivan
Harding University Honors Scholars Program
Degree: B.A., English, chemistry minor, summa cum laude.
Hometown: Jonesboro, AR
Career: Neurologist at Legacy Spine and Neurological Associates, Little Rock, AR
Dr. Elizabeth Sullivan is a board-certified adult neurologist who specializes in spine and neurological care, with special interests in EMG, nerve conduction, Botox and neuro-ultrasound. She holds subspecialty board certifications in clinical neurophysiology from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and in EMG from the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

On the cover:
After graduating from the University of Arkansas Honors College, C.W. Young (B.S. Comp. E., ’16) headed home to Magnolia, Arkansas to manage process controls at the Albemarle Corporation’s local chemical plant. In his spare time, he helps out on the family farm and raises cattle.
Susan Altrui

Susan Altrui was named director of the Little Rock Zoo in 2016. She previously served as assistant director and director of marketing and development for the zoo and worked in government relations for the Arkansas Public Policy Panel. She has been instrumental in raising the profile of the Little Rock Zoo and helping to raise funds for many of its special exhibits with a focus on conservation. She is also involved with several arts organizations in central Arkansas, has served as the chair of the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival Board of Directors and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Minority Film and Arts Association.

Matthew E. Hardee

Matthew E. Hardee graduated from Henderson, Dr. Matt Hardee attended the highly competitive Duke University School of Medicine, where he completed an M.D. and Ph.D. in chemistry in 2007. He completed an internal medicine rotation at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2008 before moving to the New York University School of Medicine, where he completed his residency in 2011. Although Dr. Hardee’s credentials qualify him for positions across the world, he has chosen to give back to Arkansas and is currently a radiation oncologist at the CARITI Cancer Center in Little Rock.

Whitney Gammill

Whitney Gammill directs the AP Biology PLUS program, which provides professional development to 27 Arkansas high school teachers and curriculum to more than 500 students around the state. This program has more than tripled the number of students passing the AP Biology exam at participating schools. Holden has also made an international impact with her “Biology Professor” channel on YouTube, which has received almost 3 million views and has 30,000 subscribers from more than 180 countries.

Carolyn F. Blakely

Carolyn F. Blakely earned the Walmart/David M. Hillman Excellence in Teaching Award. He is now in his eleventh year as an Associate Professor at UAMS, Little Rock, AR.

Daveante Jones

Daveante Jones has a law clerk to the Honorable Brian S. Miller, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. He is now a labor and employment attorney at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP who represents employers and professionals in a variety of employment matters. He frequently speaks and writes on the emerging topic of surveillance in the workplace.

Roger Norman

Roger Norman has more than 30 years of experience working for major employers in a variety of employment matters. He is a successful attorney who works with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas since 2008 and is a member of the Downtown Little Rock Kiwanis Club. He regularly presents continuing education legal seminars and was named to Super Lawyers’ Mid-South Rising Stars List.

Corey Oliver

Corey Oliver has received the Walmart/ Sam’s Club Teacher of the Year Award and the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teaching Award. He is now in his twenty-third year of teaching middle school English. Oliver says this about his experience: “The UCA Honors College greatly enhanced my undergraduate experience. From opening doors to ancient Egypt through a travel abroad grant, to providing stimulating co-curricular activities, the Honors College has had immeasurable impact on me. Through its interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, honors ignited in me a passion for inquiry and communication, a passion that I have taken into my own classroom.”