



Kari Payton

University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Donaghey Scholars Program
Degrees: B.S., mechanical systems engineering;
B.A., sociology, '16
Hometown: Bastrop, LA
Profession: Industrial Simulations Engineer,
LM Wind Power, Little Rock, AR

Kari Payton came to UA 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
Hometown: Alma, AR
Degree: B.A., media communications, biology minor, *magna cum laude, cum honore* '16
Profession: 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.



Hannah Ratzlaff

John Brown University Honors Scholars Program
Degree: B.A., history, '16
Hometown: Longview, TX
Profession: 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.



Alan Robinette

National Park College Honors Program
Degree: A.A., liberal arts and sciences/liberal studies, *magna cum laude*, '18
Hometown: Hot Springs, AR
Profession: 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

Ouachita Baptist University
Carl Goodson Honors Program
Degree: B.S., biology, chemistry minor, *cum laude*, '12
Hometown: Sachse, TX
Profession: 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.



Elizabeth (Lambie) Sullivan

Harding University Honors Scholars Program
Degree: B.A., English, chemistry minor, *summa cum laude*, '04
Hometown: Jonesboro, AR
Profession: 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.



Honors Arkansas is an alliance of honors educators across Arkansas collectively working to enhance the scholarly and professional experiences of high-achieving students.

Hometown Heroes

On the cover:

After graduating from the University of Arkansas Honors College, **C.W. Young** (B.S. Cmp.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.



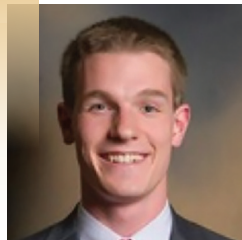
Susan Altrui
Arkansas State University Honors College
Degree: B.A., speech communication, political science minor, '01
Hometown: Sherwood, AR
Profession: Director of the Little Rock Zoo, Little Rock, AR

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.



Sarah Norman Ashby
Arkansas Tech University Honors College Program
Degrees: B.S., biology, B.S., chemistry, '08
Hometown: Benton, AR
Profession: Coordinator for the Opioid Stewardship Program and Coordinator for the Controlled Substance Diversion Prevention Program at UAMS, Little Rock, AR

Dr. Sarah Ashby plays a crucial role in facing the current opioid epidemic in Arkansas. She works directly with hospital administrators, department chiefs, physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other members of the care team to create policies and procedures that promote appropriate opioid use at UAMS and throughout the state. She stayed within Arkansas to pursue her doctorate of pharmacy degree and also earned a Master of Public Health degree with *summa cum laude* honors. She teaches several lectures each year in the College of Pharmacy to pass on her knowledge and train future healthcare providers.



Noah Asher
University of Arkansas at Little Rock Donaghey Scholars Program
Degree: B.A., finance and economics, '19
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: CEO Vascugenix, Little Rock, AR

Home schooled by a single mother, Noah Asher has launched a successful career as an entrepreneur. For the Arkansas Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition, he led a team that worked with a Little Rock cardiologist to bring to market a new technology that would greatly increase the safety of many cardiac surgeries. After winning first prize in that competition (and tens of thousands of dollars in national competitions), Asher turned this honors project into a fully capitalized company, Vascugenix. As CEO, he is determined to keep this rising company in Little Rock despite pressure from various medical supply companies to move out of state.



Meredith Bergstrom
John Brown University Honors Scholars Program
Degree: B.S., family and community services, '08
Hometown: Nairobi, Kenya
Profession: Associate Program Officer, Walton Family Foundation, Bentonville, AR

Meredith Bergstrom grew up as the daughter of missionaries in Kenya and came to JBU to study Family and Human Services. She graduated from JBU Honors in 2008 and then began working for United Way of Northwest Arkansas. She eventually became the director of Main Street Siloam Springs, where she began a movement to revitalize downtown Siloam Springs—a movement that continues to this day. After a hiatus in Florida, Bergstrom has returned to Northwest Arkansas to begin work as an associate program officer for the Walton Family Foundation.



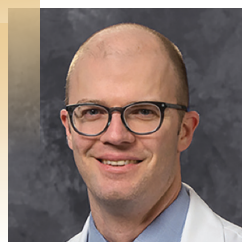
Cale Block
Arkansas State University Honors College
Degree: B.S., journalism, English minor, *summa cum laude*, '04
Hometown: Weiner, AR
Profession: Owner at Barber Law Firm, Little Rock, AR

Cale Block is a first-generation college student from a town of 690 who is now a rising star in the legal profession. After joining the Barber Law Firm in 2012, he became an owner in 2017 and was named to the firm's three-person management committee in 2018. Block assists clients with business and corporate law, construction law, utility and regulatory law, and mergers and acquisitions. He has been involved 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.



Arnetha La'Tres Brooks
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Carolyn F. Blakely Honors Program
Degree: B.S., agriculture-animal science, *magna cum laude*, '97
Hometown: Malvern, AR
Profession: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Jacksonville, AR

Upon graduating from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Dr. Arnetha Brooks earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. As the veterinarian on staff at the Jacksonville Air Force Base, she is committed to exemplifying professionalism in caring for her clients' pet needs by providing incredible patient care and customer service. Dr. Brooks is a thorough and compassionate doctor who cares deeply for each patient and does relief work when her schedule allows.



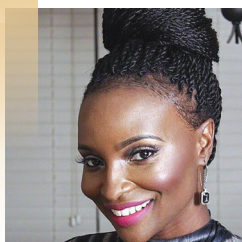
Matthew E. Hardee
Henderson State University Honors College
Degree: B.S., chemistry, *summa cum laude*, '00
Hometown: Arkadelphia, AR
Profession: Radiation Oncologist, CARTI Cancer Center, Little Rock, AR

After his graduation 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 CARTI Cancer Center in Little Rock.



Whitney Gammill Holden
University of Arkansas Honors College
Degree: B.S., chemistry, gender studies minor, *summa cum laude*, '09
Hometown: Maumelle, AR
Profession: Teacher, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts, Hot Springs, AR

Whitney Gammill Holden 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.



Tionna Jenkins
Philander Smith College
McKinley Newton Honors Academy
Degree: B.S., biology, *cum laude*, '01
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: Public Health and Policy Executive, Little Rock, AR

Dr. Tionna Jenkins also holds an M.P.H. in Public Health from UAMS and a Ph.D. in Public Policy, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. As a public health and policy executive she has convened and brokered relationships for Fortune 500 companies, governments, policy makers, NGOs, individuals and directly worked with communities to improve global health and wellness, resulting in \$41.3 million in prevention investments. She is the founder of Plate It Healthy with Dr. Jenkins, a healthy eating & wellness platform that has been featured in both national and local media.



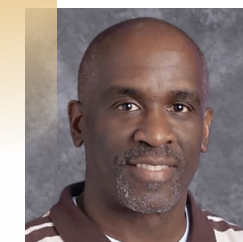
Daveante Jones
Southern Arkansas University Honors College
Degree: B.A., political science, Africana Studies minor, '12
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: Labor and Employment Attorney, Little Rock, AR

Daveante Jones has worked as 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
Arkansas Tech University Honors College Program
Degree: B.A., history, '12
Hometown: Benton, AR
Profession: Program Manager, Community Giving, Walmart Foundation, Bentonville, AR

Roger Norman has managed more than \$70 million in grant funds to address critical social issues across the globe, including disaster relief, diversity and inclusion, and hunger relief. He helped lead Walmart's philanthropic response during times of major disaster, including procuring and distributing products to relief providers and partnering with national nonprofits to address complex challenges. He is currently working on an executive project to reinvent the Walmart Foundation's community giving around the United States.



Corey Oliver
University of Central Arkansas Honors College
Degree: B.A., English, '96
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: English Teacher, Bob & Betty Courtney Middle School, Conway, AR

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."