



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Departments	2
Greetings From the Vice President.....	3
Our Mission, Vision, and Tenets	3
Our Division Highlights	4
Our Staff Highlights	20

DEPARTMENTS STUDENT AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENTS STUDENT AFFAIRS

- BearCard
- Bear Experience
- Bear Essentials Food Pantry
- Campus Recreation and Wellness
- Career Services
- Center for Leadership Development
- Counseling Center
- Dean of Students
- Diversity and Community
- Employee Engagement and Enrichment
- Housing and Residence Life
- Institutional Diversity and Inclusion
- Office of Accessibility Resources and Services
- Ronnie Williams Student Center
- Student Health Center
- Student Life
- Student Support and Resource Center
- KUCA 91.3FM

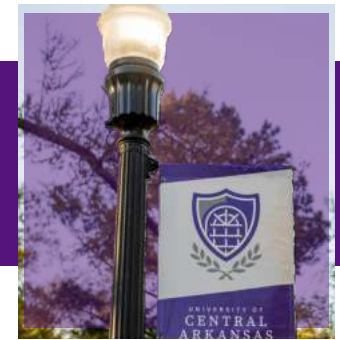




Greetings from The Vice President

On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs, it is with great pleasure to introduce our annual report for the 2022-2023 academic year. Our division consists of highly skilled, educated, and dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to provide care and support for our community. We feel fortunate and proud to be part of the University of Central Arkansas campus. The efforts of our professional and student staff led to a highly successful year. Throughout the pages of this report, you will read about the impact made on our stakeholders as well as the achievements and accomplishments of our incredible staff. We look forward to continue to build upon this fantastic foundation in order to best meet the needs of our students and campus community. Go Bears!

Our Vision, Mission and Tenets



Our Vision

The Division of Student Affairs will be a haven for students and staff to flourish in who they are and build pathways to successful and fulfilling lives.

Our Mission

The Division of Student Affairs will facilitate student and staff growth through support, programs, and engagement. We will provide you with opportunities and environments for community interaction, personal and educational development, wellness, and reflection during your time at UCA and beyond.

Our Tenets

- Building connections
- Advancing and investing in Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity efforts and initiatives
- Strengthening personal purpose
- Enriching the whole person

Bear Essentials Food Pantry

The Bear Essentials Food Pantry achieved significant growth and success across various fronts. From calendar year 2022 to 2023, there was a 64% increase in pantry visits and a 30% rise in new registrations. Moreover, it marked a record-breaking year for fundraising, securing \$22,500 in grant funds and raising \$4,781 on the Day of Giving.

Additionally, it received a generous donation of \$1,235 from the Woodmen of America, Arkansas Chapter. Adding to these achievements, the pantry expanded its network by welcoming four new campus partners. While there was a 20% decrease in food item donations, visitors were still able to have access to a wide variety of food.

5,567

Visits

3,013

Visitors

26,119

Pounds
Donated

62,845

Pounds
Distributed



Bear Experience

Bear Experience represents UCA's co-curricular transcript initiative, a crucial element in our dedication to nurturing experiential learning beyond traditional academic environments. This university-wide initiative aims to empower students to strategically mold their college experiences by aligning them with their academic endeavors, personal values, and future ambitions. Through active participation in thoughtfully curated programs, events, and activities, students develop skills across a wide range of pathways.

Bear Ex has experienced its most significant growth year since its inception in 2019. This year, 39 partners have contributed to the creation of over 400 programs eligible for co-curricular credit. A total of 5,474 students participated in programs where they earned co-curricular credit, and more than 1,400 students have completed 40% of a pathway.

39

Partners

449

Events

5,474

Participants

1,488

40%
Completion



Campus Recreation and Wellness

Campus Recreation and Wellness experienced strong engagement in group exercise, intramurals, and challenge course activities. The UCA HPER Center welcomed over 146,000 visits from students, faculty, staff, and community members. Notable new initiatives such as the Rep Out Competition, the Campus Nap Map, Pickleball clinics, and Suicide Prevention Training all received exceptional feedback.

UCA's Campus Outdoor Pursuits and Adventures (COPA) witnessed significant equipment usage, including 643 backpacking checkouts, 1,364 cycling checkouts, and 595 paddling checkouts. COPA organized 15 events with 102 participants and 46 ropes course events that attracted 1,020 participants. New collaborations with Arkansas Game and Fish and the Arkansas Canoe Club were established, enhancing COPA's offerings and outreach.

146K

Visits

60

Group Classes

29

Intramural sports

132

Wellness Events

Career Services, Internships and Cooperative Education

UCA's Career Services hosted 7 career fairs with approximately 2000 students and 444 employers in attendance. Additionally, the staff facilitated 1,198 student appointments for resume review, interview preparation, and career coaching.

The Career Service World of Work (WOW) closet provided professional wear to 392 students, while the Handshake platform featured 1,559 internship postings.

A new initiative was the On-Campus Employment Fair, held in both the Fall and Spring semesters, aimed at connecting students with campus employers. Notably, each department employer represented showcased the career competencies students could gain if selected to work in their department. This addition highlighted the valuable skills and experiences students could develop for their future through every job opportunity.



104

Workshops

444

Employer
Connections

610

Resume
Reviews

179

Campus
Interviews



Counseling Center

5,149

Contact Hours

1,029

Clients

295

Presentations

132

Wellness
Events

The UCA Counseling Center documented 5,149 client contact hours with 1,029 unique clients. This year marked an extensive outreach effort by the Counseling Center with 295 presentations delivered and over 900 individuals reached. Students consistently express the significant impact of our counselors on their personal growth and development.



Student Health Center

The UCA Student Health Center accommodated 15,007 student visits this year, including 749 patients seeking care at the Women's Health Clinic.

Moreover, the Student Health Clinic took a proactive approach to experiential learning by employing and training 27 student workers. These student workers gained valuable exposure to the healthcare clinical setting and received training in essential best practices, including patient care and confidentiality.

15,007
Student Visits

1,637
Faculty/Staff
Visits

749
Women's
Clinic Visits



Dean of Students

124

Student Visits

68

CARE Team Referrals

43%

Decrease in Withdrawals

The Dean of Students oversees the Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation Team (CARE), which formalizes the communication, collaboration, and coordination of support for students in need of assistance or displaying behaviors that may be intimidating or threatening to others. This process aims to promote the timely reporting of concerns, leading to prompt intervention and minimizing the negative impact on student success.

This year, the Dean of Students Office has experienced a 60% increase in CARE team interactions, a 43% decrease in administrative withdrawals, and has received positive feedback from students who have participated in the conduct process.

Office of Diversity and Community

15

Events

1,035

Attendees

12

Campus Partners

2

Community Partners

The ODC focused on increasing minority student involvement in university leadership opportunities, providing programs and services to foster a university-wide appreciation for diverse perspectives and ensure equal levels of inclusion and participation, as well as collaborating with student organizations to promote communication and the exchange of multicultural perspectives and values.

ODC hosted 15 events reaching 1,035 students and collaborated with 12 internal and 2 community partners to create engaging programs for the entire student body.



Housing and Residence Life

135
Student
Employees

330
Programs

3,364
Total
Occupancy

The Housing and Residence Life Department successfully advanced its mission over the past year with significant accomplishments and continuous improvements. The department set numerous ambitious goals such as developing a new student staff model, enhancing hall signage, digitizing forms, and promoting professional development activities. Most of these goals were achieved, with some still progressing on track for completion. The department hosted 11 major events, including popular programs like Late Night Breakfast and Exam Jam which had over 600 students in attendance both fall and spring semesters.

Additionally, the department facilitated over 330 diverse programs promoting cultural competence, civic engagement, and wellness significantly enriching the campus community. Partnerships with both internal and external departments, such as Wellness, Counseling Center, Learning Communities, and UCA Police Department, further bolstered the department's outreach and impact.

Housing and Residence Life has demonstrated a strong commitment to enhancing student life and maintaining alignment with the university's core values. This commitment was recognized at the 2023 Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers Conference where 3 staff members and 1 graduate assistant received awards for their outstanding service.

Institutional Diversity

40

Events

500+

Participants

12

Sub
-committees

The Office of Institutional Diversity achieved significant success this year by hosting 40 events that drew over 500 participants. Particularly noteworthy were the inaugural Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity (DBIE) Week, consisting of seven events, a DBIE Fair, and the impactful "Unpacking DBIE at UCA" session.

The office's initiatives have effectively institutionalized DBIE as a core value, evident in the increased attendance and involvement at Affinity/Resource Group meetings. Success stories, such as testimonials from participants in the Coaching Circle, highlight its crucial role in nurturing a sense of belonging and community among faculty and administrators.

These efforts reflect positively on the office's contributions to enhancing retention and engagement among both students and employees at UCA.

Office of Accessibility Services and Resources

OARS experienced a notable rise in student registrations and accommodation requests post-pandemic. Fall 2022 had 1038 registered students, a 33% increase in requests from Fall 2021, and Spring 2023 had 856 students with a 45% increase from Spring 2022. The Spring 2023 Student Satisfaction Survey indicated high satisfaction: 93% found the registration process easy, 96% felt supported by advisors, and 87% felt faculty were cooperative.

OARS launched its Captioning Services in Fall 2022 to support deaf and hard-of-hearing students, ensuring equitable access to video content. The service saw increased faculty engagement, with two faculty members submitting 22 videos each in Spring 2022. In July 2022, OARS replaced Read&Write software with ReadSpeaker, a web-based text-to-speech technology, enhancing accessibility for online tests and alternative formats. Significant usage was recorded: Fall 2022 saw 4719 clicks (66% usage), Spring 2023 had 3840 clicks (87%), and Summer 2023 had 743 clicks (88%).



Student Support and Resource Center

The Student Support and Resource Center serves as the central hub for UCA students facing unexpected financial challenges. The center plays a crucial role in connecting students with campus and community resources to help them mitigate financial setbacks that could hinder their academic success.

The Student Support and Resource Center received 774 applications and distributed a little over \$140,800 in aid. This assistance has been instrumental in ensuring that a college education remains accessible to members of our UCA community.

774

Applicants

\$140K

Awarded in aid



Ronnie Williams Student Center

1996

Reservations

5

Summer
Campus
Hosted

90

Student
Orientation
Staffers

1,796

SOAR
Attendees

The Ronnie Williams Student Center saw a vibrant year with 1,996 total reservations, including 373 academic, 155 administrative, 60 external, 974 Registered Student Organizations (RSO), 401 student services, and 33 university training reservations.

The busiest periods were during SOAR and mid-October. The center hosted several summer camps, with notable attendance figures such as Boys State with approximately 600 attendees, Destination Band Camp drawing 1,600, ACC Choir Camp with 800, and the International Trombone Festival attracting 2,000 participants.

Significant updates included the renovation of rooms into a central office suite for First Year Experience and the creation of a new studio space for KUCA 91.3.

First Year Experience (FYE) had a very successful academic year. Summer Orientation and Academic Registration (SOAR) introduced 1,796 students to the UCA campus over the course of 12 sessions. In addition, they hosted their inaugural Family Weekend Brunch which hosted 150 students, family and friends.

KUCA 91.3 FM began construction on a new studio on the first floor and hired 3 new student employees. While student programs were limited due to the transition, roughly 100 UCA athletics games were broadcasted.

The Student Activities Board (SAB) had a stellar year with a total of 50 events with 8,091 students in attendance. SAB hosted two concerts: Getting Spicy with Sean Evans and Caleb McLaughlin in the fall and Tai Verdes/Coin in the spring.

All of these events, initiatives and programs have been instrumental in creating community and a sense of belonging among our students.



Student Life: Greek Life

Greek Life at UCA saw robust participation during the Fall and Spring recruitment periods. In Fall, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) welcomed 154 participants, and the National Panhellenic Council (NPC) engaged 212 women. The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) and United Greek Council (UGC) had 5 and 2 participants, respectively. In Spring, there were 30 IFC participants, 25 NPC participants, 62 NPHC participants, and 3 UGC participants.

Initiations were equally impressive with 124 men joining IFC fraternities and 180 women joining NPC sororities in Fall. The NPHC and UGC each initiated 5 and 2 members, respectively. In Spring, 23 new IFC members, 27 NPC initiates, and 62 new NPHC members and 3 new UGC members continued the trend.

Overall, Greek Life flourished with 1,013 students participating in Spring 2023. Academically, Greek Life members excelled with 71.5% of them maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or above. The thriving participation and academic success of our Greek Life members highlight their positive impact on campus life.

147
IFC Initiates

207
NPC Initiates

67
NPHC Initiates

5
UGC Initiates





Student Life: RSO

UCA saw active engagement in Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) and numerous student activities and events. There were 173 active RSOs with approximately 3,760 students involved, highlighting strong student participation.

Throughout the year, many events were organized and logged into CubConnect. RSOs sponsored 616 events in Fall and 525 events in Spring, while offices sponsored 455 and 209 events, respectively. The Fall semester saw a total of 24,594 attendees across all events, and Spring had 12,236 attendees. These events fostered a lively campus atmosphere by offering students diverse opportunities for engagement.

The overall active involvement in RSOs and high event attendance underscores the dynamic and engaging environment fostered by student organizations and campus offices. This engagement significantly enhances the collegiate experience by promoting a sense of community and active participation among students

173
Active RSOs

3,760
Students Involved

1,805
Events



Student Life: Bear Den & Purple Society

Bear Den had 326 students participated in UCA's student-led sports promotion and school spirit organization, Bear Den. These students worked together to create an amazing atmosphere at each home game and even traveled to a few away games to show their UCA Bear pride.

In addition, 60 students were inducted into UCA's Purple Society. Out of 91 applicants, these students were selected by faculty and staff as outstanding student leaders. They, like many others before them, have made a lasting impression on the fabric of this university, and were honored at a luncheon in the spring.

326
Bear Den
Members

91
Purple Society
Applicants

60
Purple Society
Inductees

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

In addition to their exceptional work on campus, many of our division employees also serve as thought leaders in their respective fields. Here are just a few highlights of the outstanding contributions our team made this year.

- **Kendra Erickson-** Presented at Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) - The lived experience of current military undergraduates during mobilization within an academic year and (SWACUHO) - Covid Hangover Cure. Honored with the SWACUHO: Innovation - for the Purple Profile
- **Dr. Veneta Fricks-** Presented at Southern Association for College Student Affairs and Arkansas Student Affairs Association: "Mic Check: Amplifying Your Voice and Power in the Workplace," a presentation on self-advocacy
- **Ricky Harris-** Presented at SWACUHO-U New Professionals Institute and served as a Coach for a cohort of new professionals and presented on Assessment Basics in Housing & Residence Life.
- **Wendy Holbrook-** Presented at Women's Leadership Academy: Diversity and Inclusion and Understanding Inclusion: Real People, Real Questions, College Bound Arkansas: Parent/Professional Presentation: Faculty Expectations & Rights and Responsibilities.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



- **Sherita Kern**- Presented on Self Advocacy at the Southern Association of College Student Affairs and the Arkansas Regional Student Affairs Association.
- **Doris Pierce**- Presented with the Inclusive Pedagogies working group for the Teaching Excellence Institute (TEI) and on Access for All: The Benefits of Physical and Digital Accessibility for Outreach and Community Engagement.
- **Dr. Craig Seager**- Presented at SWACUHO UCA Housing and Residence Life Purple Profile, Theme: Innovation in Student Success and won, and had new publication in The Journal for College & University Student Housing in April.
- **Dr. Susan Sobel**- Presented at Association of University & College Counseling Center Directors. Lasso Lessons: Using Humor in the Treatment of Trauma and Facilitation of Post-Traumatic Growth.
- **Arian Story**- Serve as panelist during National Alliance on Mental Health Arkansas Annual Conference.
- **Dr. Angela Webster**- Presented at the Arkansas Student Affairs Association Conference: The alphabet soup of diversity, belonging, inclusion and equity, and at the CATCS Spring Meeting in Washington DC: Campus enrichment through diversity, belonging, inclusion and equity.