

Accolades

Jon Goodell and Loretta Edwards, UAMS Library, collected and delivered books to the Mexican Consulate in Little Rock for the Consulate's Ventanilla de Salud "health windows" program.

Julie Moretz, Associate Vice Chancellor for Patient and Family Care, was invited by the Institute of Medicine to participate in a meeting in Washington, DC about how to increase communication with the leadership of patient and family advisory groups. Currently, UAMS has 70 patient/family advisors and 7 patient and family advisory councils for the hospital, the Institute on Aging and the Cancer Institute.

Laura Smith-Olinde, Office of Educational Development, has been asked to serve on a national committee for the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CAPCSD). In addition to this leadership on the national level, Dr. Smith-Olinde has been selected to serve on a three year term of the Arkansas State Licensing Board.

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Message from the Provost

It has been a very busy fall since we published our first newsletter in September. Thank you for the positive feedback about this newsletter. This issue features information from the departments within the division and some new additions: news from the UAMS Associated Student Government and the UAMS Academic Senate, which is composed of faculty. This newsletter will be a key method to communicate activities about these important campus groups. We have two new and very important offerings for UAMS faculty, which are featured on pages 2 and 12: the Chancellor's Teaching Award Program, which has been restructured to feature two prestigious awards for faculty, and a new Wellness Program. I hope faculty will take advantage of these opportunities for recognition and assistance.



Fall arrived with beautiful colors, and it seems winter is coming early with cold temperatures, but also beautiful blue skies. This is a time to enjoy time with family and friends, to renew relationships, and to express sincere thanks for the abundance of opportunities we have – for great educational programs, for dedicated faculty, and for multiple ways to learn how to care for patients or add new knowledge to make healthcare better.

--Jeanne Heard

Departments within the Division of Academic Affairs

- [Academic Administration and Institutional Studies](#)
- [Office of Academic Services](#)
- [Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence](#)
- [Campus Life and Student Support Services](#)
- [Centers for Simulation Education](#)
- [Office of Educational Development](#)
- [Office of Global Health](#)
- [Office of Interprofessional Education](#)
- [Student Financial Services](#)
- [UAMS Library](#)

Announcement: Room Scheduling for Spring - Office of Academic Services

The Office of Academic Services has completed Spring 2013 schedule for use of classrooms and labs. This is especially difficult this year due to the need to offer training on Epic/ UCONNECT systems to the campus. In essence, our computer labs schedules are full, particularly during January through March. In light of this situation, we are requesting that you notify us as soon as possible about new requests or cancellations of scheduled activities. You can use the online form at <http://oas.uams.edu/schedule-a-room/> or email Kerry Halliburton-Thomas at HalliburtonThomasKE@uams.edu. Thank you for your assistance.

Chancellor's Teaching Award - Office of Educational Development

Established in 2004 to recognize excellence in teaching among faculty in all the colleges and the Graduate School, the Chancellor's Annual Teaching Award program has been reconfigured.

There are now two awards:

- **Teaching Excellence**, focused on recognizing teaching excellence in any discipline.
- **Teaching Excellence in Society and Health**, focused on recognizing advancements in society and health through interprofessional education.

The deadline for submission of nominations and packets is December 31, 2013.

The [guidelines and application form](#) can be found on the Office of Educational Development website.

Any questions about the awards, the nomination process, etc., should be sent to the Director of the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

Accolades

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Allison Streepey, Office of Educational Development was elected by the members to Chair the UAMS Grants Management Certification Program (GMCP) Executive Committee. For more information on the GMCP see <http://intranet.uams.edu/finance/grants/GMCP.asp>

Teresa Boothe, Student Financial Services, was invited to join the Southwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (SWASFAA) training committee. She gave two presentations at the SWASFAA Professional Development Conference November 4th- 8th.

Valerie Howard joined the UAMS Library in September as the Reference and Marketing Librarian. She connects the campus community with library information.

Gloria Kemp, Student Financial Services, will Chair the Arkansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA) History Committee again for 2014.

News and Reflections from Academic Affairs is published quarterly by the Office of the Provost to inform students, faculty and staff about programs and support provided by the Division of Academic Affairs and to highlight UAMS initiatives beneficial to students and faculty.

Questions? Comments?

Contact the Newsletter Editor, Joanna Delavan
jdelavan@uams.edu

Lee Wilbur Joins UAMS Team for Next Steps in IPE - Office of Interprofessional Education



Dr. Lee Wilbur

Dr. Lee Wilbur joined UAMS as Vice Chair for the Department of Emergency Medicine in November and will become Director of Interprofessional Education as of December 1, 2013. Lee led the Interprofessional Education Curricular Reform Initiative at Indiana University and looks forward to working with the academic leadership, faculty, and students at UAMS to improve the care, improve the health, and decrease the cost of health care for Arkansans.

In September the Council of Deans agreed to continue their support of the development of IPE by approving in principle a UAMS IPE pilot study, Bridging Education and Practice. The IPE Steering Committee will work closely with the newly formed group of academic leaders called MAD DASH (see below), and the UAMS academic deans to implement the pilot study by August of 2014. The pilot study will involve faculty and students from all colleges in IPE activities/courses that address the core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice as specified by the Interprofessional Education Collaborative. More information about the proposed pilot study may be found on the Office of IPE website at <http://ipe.uams.edu/activities/ipe-pilot-study/>.

Faculty development is a critical component to the implementation of any IPE program. This past year UAMS has hosted two consultants to speak with faculty about different approaches to IPE. Several faculty and staff have participated in national IPE institutes or meetings and observed nationally recognized IPE programs. The next step for UAMS is for the groups mentioned above to work together to provide faculty development for the pilot study. Helping us in this effort will be the University of Toronto Centre for Interprofessional Education, an internationally recognized center of excellence in IPE. The Centre will provide a three-day course, Educating Health Professionals in Interprofessional Care (EHPIC) next semester for faculty and academic leaders in IPE.

--Diane Heestand Skinner

Making a Difference

In September, a new academic affairs committee was formed with a focus on advancing campus-wide educational initiatives related to improving health and society. The group is comprised of Directors from a variety of areas representing interprofessional education, patient and family centered care, social determinants of health, health literacy, clinical skills and simulation education, global health, faculty development, health information, and the 12th Street Health and Wellness Center. Over the next year, the group will work with the new Director of Interprofessional Education, Dr. Lee Wilbur, to develop educational opportunities focused on preparing students to work as members of healthcare teams and help them effectively communicate with patients and their families.



Dr. Stephanie Gardner

The committee is now identified by the acronym, MAD DASH (Making a Difference: Directors Advancing Society and Health.) Dr. Stephanie Gardner, Associate Provost for Society and Health, serves as Chair of the committee. When asked to describe the group, Dr. Gardner said "It's a high energy group, and it's appropriately named. We know that we have tremendous opportunities to work together, and we feel an urgency to move our efforts in interprofessional education forward."

--Stephanie Gardner

Technical Support for UAMS NW Students

- UAMS Library



Nicholas Larsen

Nicholas Larsen is the new Student Support and Technology Analyst for the UAMS Library. He has been on the team since August, 2013 and has successfully worked with a number of students here on the main campus. We realized early on that we need to extend his support services to our students that attend the UAMS Northwest Campus. To meet this need, he has been busy investigating the best tool in which to work with students remotely. Through the investigative process, Nicholas has researched and tested Blackboard Collaborate, Microsoft Lync, Teamviewer, FreeVNC, and ultimately LogMeIn, which the Library Learning Resource Center is in the process of licensing. LogMeIn will allow Nicholas to remotely connect to any student that has an internet connection and access the computer as if he were sitting beside it.

This will allow him to troubleshoot and fix issues that could not be fixed with a simple phone or email conversation.

Any student not on the main UAMS campus that needs assistance can contact Nicholas via email at njlarsen@uams.edu or by phone at 501-526-6003. If further support is needed, he will discuss the steps needed to remotely connect to a computer. Nicholas is available for technology support Sunday – Thursday 2PM – 10PM. Please feel free to give him a call or send him an email to begin the support process. And as always, if you are in Little Rock at the main UAMS campus, feel free to drop by the Library Learning Resource Center (5th floor of the Library, Education II Building) and ask for help.

--Heather Smith

CHP Students Excited for "Zoo Doo" Lab

- Office of Academic Services

In the September issue of the Academic Affairs newsletter there was an article about the collection of "Zoo Doo" from the Little Rock Zoo for use in labs for the College of Health Professions (CHP).

During the first week of school for the fall semester the CHP Medical Technology students attending Parasitology labs with Academic Services were excited to complete their laboratory exercise using the specimen material collected from the Little Rock Zoo this summer by Laboratory Support staff.

--Susan Carter



Students were instructed to make wet mounts using the "zoo doo".



CHP Medical Technology Students during lab

Teaching Scholars Hosts Patricia O'Sullivan

- Office of Educational Development

The Teaching Scholars program, now in its 18th year, is one of the first such programs of its kind established in an academic health center in the U.S. Sponsored by the UAMS Office of Educational Development, the Teaching Scholars program hosts guest scholar presentations, about important educational topics and issues that are open to all campus.

On October 23, 2013, the UAMS Teaching Scholars program welcomed guest presenter Patricia O'Sullivan, Ed.D., Professor at the University of California, San Francisco College of Medicine. Her presentation, titled *Collaborate! Surprise! It's Complex!*, was about the complexities and benefits of collaborating in health professions education settings and the importance of interprofessional approaches. Dr. O'Sullivan, a former professor in the UAMS Office of Educational Development, has over 30 years of experience in medical and health professions education and research with a focus on clinical education. She has served as a leader for the most prestigious groups in medical education research including Chair of the Research in Medical Education (RIME) Committee for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and Vice-President of the Division for Professions Education for the American Educational Research Association (AERA).

While visiting UAMS, she met with representatives of the Institute on Aging, the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Academic Affairs. Dr. O'Sullivan shared her expertise in educational research towards advancing the goals of collaborative changes in educational programs for UAMS.



Dr. Jeanne Heard (UAMS Provost) and Dr. Pat O'Sullivan

--Carol Thrush



Dr. Diane Skinner (UAMS Director of Interprofessional Education) and Dr. Pat O'Sullivan



(L-R) Dr. Pat O'Sullivan, Dr. Cornelia Beck (Louise Hearne Endowed Chair in Dementia & Long-Term Care, Reynolds Institute on Aging), Dr. Claudia Beverly (Director Arkansas Aging Initiative, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Director AR John A. Harford Center for Geriatric Nursing Excellence) and Dr. Jean McSweeney (Associate Dean for Research, Director, PhD Program, College of Nursing)

Interprofessional Education Moving Forward

- Office of Interprofessional Education

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School provides students of medicine, nursing, public health, pharmacy, health administration, dentistry, and other allied health professions with the opportunity to learn about quality improvement and patient safety at no charge. The online educational community features a growing catalog of online courses and extensive resources.



Dr. Diane Skinner

The IHI Open School movement began five years ago and now reports:

- 613 chapters in 63 countries
- 110,194 students and residents have completed at least one IHI Open School course
- 19,011 students and residents have earned the Basic Certificate of Completion

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences IHI Open School Chapter began its revitalization with an informational meeting on August 30th and reports:

- 135 students, residents, and faculty representing all health professions colleges and the Graduate School have joined the listserv member list.
- 92 students, residents, and faculty have completed the chapter interest survey
- 9 faculty serve as advisors
 - Mr. Rick Ault COPH
 - Dr. Paulette Mehta COM
 - Dr. Chris Cargile COM and Clinical Programs
 - Dr. Andreas Muller COPH
 - Dr. Tom Pilgreen CHP
 - Dr. Denise Ragland COP
 - Ms. Heba Sadaka CON
 - Dr. Don Simpson Office of Global Health
 - Dr. Eugene Smith COM

The UAMS Chapter will hold its second chapter meeting on December 5th at noon in I Dodd Wilson, Room 226 with Dr. Chris Cargile speaking on "Improving Care: A Look at Activities at UAMS".

- For more information about the UAMS IHI Open School Chapter contact Julia Mays at jamays@uams.edu
- For more information about the IHI Open School see <http://www.ihl.org/offerings/IHIOpenSchool/Pages/default.aspx>
- See short video on the Open School movement <http://www.ihl.org/offerings/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Pages/JoinTheMovement.aspx>

--Diane Heestand Skinner

Campus Housing: Where Medicine Lives!

- Campus Life and Student Support Services

The UAMS Residence Hall is home to a diverse group of students and other affiliated guests, including visiting scholars, fellows, residents, student families, and hospital patient families. Residence Hall students and guests come to us from over 42 states, plus the District of Columbia, and from over 30 countries, spanning 5 continents.

The breakdown for residents living on campus averages 80% students and 20% guests. Students from all colleges are represented in the Residence Hall. This year, the average breakdown by college is as follows:

College of Pharmacy	40%
College of Medicine	30%
College of Health Professions	13%
Graduate School	7%
College of Nursing	5%
College of Public Health	5%



2013 Resident Assistants: (L-R) Ashley Wade, Stephanie McGinity, Maegan Martin, Nikki Kissire, and Ashley Hegwood

The Housing Office employs eleven fulltime employees plus five resident assistants (RAs). RAs work the front office after regular business hours on weekdays and weekends. RAs also monitor hallways and plan floor activities each semester.

Additional information about the Residence Hall can be found on the Campus Life Web site: <http://studentlife.uams.edu/>.

--Cheri Goforth

"Adopt a Family" Opportunity

- Academic Administration and Institutional Studies



The Academic Administration and Institutional Studies (AAIS) team is working with Our House, Inc., through their "Adopt a Family" program this holiday season. The mission is to fulfill basic needs and holiday wishes for working homeless families, ranging in size from 2-5 members.

If you'd like to join in this effort, contact Gibson Garrett (garrettgibson@uams.edu) or Dana Venhaus (ddvenhaus@uams.edu) in the AAIS office by email or call 501-296-1376. For planning purposes, please get in touch by December 12th.

--Elizabeth Bard

Lab Support Entertains Undergraduate Visitors to UAMS

- Office of Academic Services



Zhao Yang with visiting high school students

Each summer UAMS invites many high school aged students to campus for science enrichment programs like Pharmacy Camp, Bridging the Gap, M*A*S*H and HEALERS. One of the most popular aspects of these programs is a stop on the 9th floor of EDII for teaching lab experiences. For some of the programs, Pharmacy labs are adapted and all the materials furnished to make products that they can take with them like lip balm, glycerin soap and body lotion. Adding bright colors, scent and glitter make these recipes more fun than the medicinal ones done by the Pharmacy students, and offer the participants lots of choices in how their products turn out. For other programs the students dissect tissue, take blood pressures and conduct physiology experiments. This is good PR for the university as well as a recruitment tool for the

colleges; and the Lab Support staff really enjoys working with these younger students.

--Susan Carter

UAMS and UALR Collaborative Education Simulation

- Centers for Simulation Education

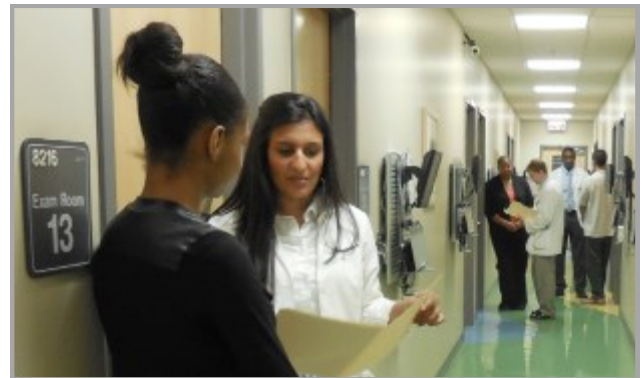
Training through simulation has proven to be effective in many professions to enhance and hone the skills necessary for practice. UAMS Centers for Simulation Education provides training for health care professionals in a safe, effective, and compassionate environment to better develop clinical skills.

The UALR Interpreter Education Program provides education to prepare professional interpreters in all settings to function as linguistic and cultural mediators between individuals who are hearing and individuals who are deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing.

The UALR Interpreter Education Program and UAMS Centers for Simulation Education have joined together to provide a simulated experience for both health care professionals and interpreters who are being trained to bridge the communication barrier between English and American Sign Language.

The Simulated Patient training process is done by training deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing individuals to participate as simulated patients with a specific illness. The "patient" is coached to portray certain symptoms and to display particular emotional characteristics. They are also trained to give corrective and supportive feedback to the medical students regarding their communication skills with patients. Interpreting students are educated in the use of medical terminology, cultural mores consider when negotiating linguistic equivalency and logistics of an interpreter being present.

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Health care professionals review simulated patient charts and meet with the interpreter prior to entering the examining room

UAMS and UALR Collaborative Education Simulation

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UAMS medical students obtain a medical history of the patient and determine a diagnosis while learning appropriate techniques of communicating with a patient using a different language and having a "third" party involved in the process.

The simulation is done on-site at the UAMS Centers for Simulation Education with the UALR Interpreter Education students joining the UAMS medical students. Both learning teams are evaluated during the simulation. UAMS medical students are given feedback regarding their technique in the appropriate use of a sign language interpreter, their interaction with the patient who is deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing, and their effectiveness in obtaining a "barrier-free" medical history. UALR interpreting students are evaluated and provided feedback on their interaction with the medical student, the patient who is deaf, deaf-blind or hard of hearing, their linguistic equivalency and the manner that they handle the logistics of the situation. Both groups of students worked together to provide seamless communication in healthcare for their simulated patients while relying on each other's area of expertise to reach the objective.



Simulated Deaf patient Rondale Ketchum responding to the intake assessment regarding his illness and interpreting student Carlita Edwards provides the interpreting

This joint venture has proven to be very successful for both programs and provides a much-needed exposure to both professionals in training. Although there are benefits to a theoretical approach, nothing can substitute for a living, hands-on experience that is being provided by UALR and UAMS joint efforts.

--Michae Orfanos and Ray James

UAMS Bookstore: Striving to Meet the Needs at UAMS

The UAMS Bookstore strives to meet the needs of all UAMS students, faculty, and staff. Our goal is to provide excellent customer service with the utmost urgency, efficiency, and professionalism.

The UAMS Bookstore makes it easy for UAMS students to use their financial aid to purchase any item carried by the bookstore. Simply fill out a "Bookstore Advanced Purchase Program" form, pick out your textbooks, and checkout. The Bookstore staff is happy to special order any title that is not in stock. Most book orders are received within 3-5 business days. We are implementing a textbook rental option that should be available by the Summer 2014 semester.

The Bookstore carries many different styles of lab coats, with monogramming available, as well as a wide range of styles of scrubs. We also carry a large selection of apparel, accessories, and gift items with the UAMS logo. Students and employees receive a 10% discount on all UAMS merchandise.

We have a wide range of convenience items such as candy, cold beverages, over-the-counter medications, and stamps. The Choco-Latte Café offers flavored coffee drinks along with hot chocolate and smoothies. For more information about the UAMS Bookstore email uamsbookstore@uams.edu, visit our website <http://uamsbookstore.com/>, and "like" us on Facebook www.facebook.com/UAMSBookstore.

--Paige Colclasure

Meet Our New Student Government Officers

- Campus Life and Student Support Services

The Associated Student Government (ASG) would like to welcome the 2013-14 officers: Clinton Aguiar, president; Erica Barr, vice president; Taylor Davis, secretary; and Jaqualane Scales, treasurer.

The purpose of the Associated Student Government is to act as a liaison between students and the faculty/administration. ASG works to make the University a more helpful environment for students in both academic and extra-curricular areas. The ASG promotes the welfare of the students by providing a harmonious and effective learning process; a forum for expression; and economic, social, and cultural advancement so that students can better themselves and their community.



(L-R) Erica Barr, Clinton Aguiar, Taylor Davis, Jaqualane Scales

The ASG holds open meetings at noon on the second Monday of each month in IDW 105 A/B. Students are encouraged to attend to share information and concerns. This year's committee groups include:

- Student Health Insurance/Health Clinic Committee
- Public Relations Awareness/Social/Facebook Committee
- Student Event Committee
- Library Advisory Committee

In September, ASG kicked off the school year with a Back to School Meet and Greet at Cajuns Wharf and later co-hosted the Annual Halloween Party with the UALR Law and Clinton Schools at Next Level Events. Both events were well attended and students can't wait to see what's next!

Additional information about ASG can be found on the Campus Life Web site: <http://studentlife.uams.edu/student-life/asg/>. If you have questions about ASG or committee groups please contact Nakia Dedner at dednernakiaa@uams.edu or call 501-686-5850.

--Nakia Dedner

W.O.W., Wicked, and Getting into Game

- Campus Life and Student Support Services

Following the ASG Cajuns Wharf Meet and Greet and the Halloween Party, the UAMS student event year has continued, including our W.O.W. (War on Weight) Fitness Event held in front of the dormitories and our \$2 Regal Cinema Movie Tickets sales. The highlight of the year was our experience at Wicked the Musical. There were nearly 275 UAMS students in attendance to this "Untold Story of the Witches of Oz". More exciting student events are coming soon.

Now is the perfect time to change up your Sunday routine and watch our UAMS athletes take the field or court. UAMS student intramurals is a popular and well attended extracurricular activity offered to the student body. Students participate in three main sports: Flag Football, Basketball, and Softball. UAMS students just completed the Flag Football season with a total of 10 teams.

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W.O.W., Wicked, and Getting into Game

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2013 intramural flag football champions

The championship team, consisted of students from the College of Nursing, Pharmacy and Graduate School. Intramural Basketball will begin in January and we invite everyone to come out and support our student athletes! Intramural sports information can be found on the Campus Life Web site:

<http://studentlife.uams.edu/student-life/intramural/>.

If you have further questions about Student Events or Intramural Sports please contact Waymond Stewart at wistewart@uams.edu or call 501-686-5850.

--Waymond Stewart

Electronic 1098-T Tuition Statements Available

- Student Financial Services

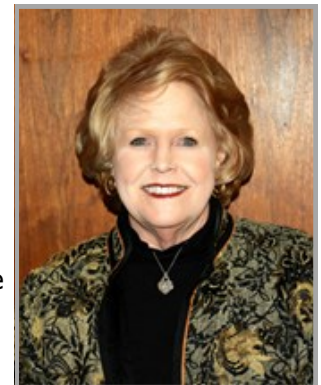
UAMS and Educational Computer Systems, Inc. are offering students the opportunity to receive their 1098-T Tuition Statement electronically this year. Students wanting to receive the 1098-T form electronically, should visit the link below for more information and step by step instructions:

<http://studentfinancialservices.uams.edu/disbursementbilling/1098t/>

In order to take advantage of this service, students need to complete and submit the form on or before December 31, 2013. Students wanting to receive a paper copy of the 1098-T statement, simply do nothing.

The benefits to receiving electronic notification are:

- Online delivery provides access to the form 1098-T earlier than the traditional mailing process.
- Online delivery eliminates the chance that the 1098-T will get lost, misdirected or delayed during delivery, or misplaced once the student receives it.
- Signing up for online delivery is easy and secure.
- Students can receive their 1098-T form even while traveling or on assignment away from their home address.



Gloria Kemp

--Gloria Kemp

Fall 2013 Academic Senate Update

The Academic Senate is composed of all faculty and functions to generate and promote understanding, collaboration, and a sense of community across the UAMS campus. In doing so, the Academic Senate provides a broad base for faculty participation in developing guidelines and regulations for campus affairs including matters that affect the quality of campus life as well as enhance and sustain an environment of academic excellence. Lastly, the Academic Senate serves as a representative forum for communicating ideas and recommendations to the Chancellor.

In the spring of 2013, the Academic Senate conducted its second cross-campus faculty survey to identify current issues that are of importance to the faculty. The results of the survey were presented at the Academic Senate meeting held on October 10th, and are also available on the Academic Senate website <http://academicssenate.uams.edu>. Three areas of concern were consistently identified in each college. These include:

- Faculty teaching efforts are undervalued
- Faculty mentoring is inadequate
- Communication across campus needs improvement

The survey results formed the basis for discussion at a mini-retreat of the Academic Senate council, Deans of each of the colleges, the Chancellor and members of the Chancellor's cabinet. They were also used to set the current priorities of the Academic Senate committees. These priorities are:

Communications Committee (Chair: Dana Gaddy, gaddydana@uams.edu): The charge of the committee is to enhance communication among faculty and between faculty and administration at UAMS. The current priorities are to:

- Identify issues and solutions to improve accurate and timely information exchange with faculty
- Provide mechanisms for disseminating relevant information to faculty across campus

Research Committee (Chair: Michael Borrelli, mjborrelli@uams.edu): The charge of the committee is to facilitate and promote basic, translational and clinical research excellence at UAMS. The current priorities are to:

- Increase research communication and collaboration across campus
- Enhance research support on campus
- Streamline research compliance

Faculty Affairs Committee (Chair: Cesar Compadre, compadrecesarm@uams.edu) The charge of the committee is to facilitate academic excellence at UAMS. The current priorities are to:

- Identify issues and solutions to enhance faculty efforts in teaching and clinical service
- Enhance faculty mentoring and interaction across campus
- Provide faculty input related to recruitment, retention, promotion, and related administrative policy

Any faculty member wanting to participate on one of these committees should contact the Academic Senate President, Steve Post at spost@uams.edu, the Chair of the committee, or any member of the Academic Senate Council.

--Steve Post

Insurance for Faculty Retirees

Beginning January 2014, Medicare-eligible retirees will move to the University of Arkansas System UnitedHealthcare Group Medicare Advantage (PPO) plan. This is an "open access" PPO plan, meaning you can see any doctor or provider that accepts Medicare, regardless if they are in or out of United's network. There will more information on the HR website very soon.

When you retire from UAMS, you may be eligible to continue some of your insurance. The definition of a "retiree" for insurance purposes is someone who, at the time they leave the University's employment:

- Has been covered under the insurance plan for the past ten consecutive years;
- Has worked for the University of Arkansas for ten consecutive years; and
- Has a combined age and continuous years of University of Arkansas service equal to 70 or more.

For example, if you are age 48 and have worked at UAMS for 25 years, and have been covered under the benefit plans for at least the last ten years prior to leaving, you would be eligible for retiree insurance. Your reason for leaving doesn't have to be retirement. For more information visit the HR webpage <http://hr.uams.edu/> or call 501-686-5650.

UAMS Faculty Wellness Program

In 2006 the UAMS College of Medicine developed a wellness program for its faculty with the goal of addressing acute needs that might prevent a person from reaching his/her optimal state of wellbeing. In addition to providing confidential free services, the college also developed a webpage that has many additional resources, thanks to the commitment of Dr. Wendy Ward and a few others. Now, the program is open to faculty in ALL UAMS Colleges and is under the director of Dr. Justin Hunt.

The program's vision is promoting the vitality and health of faculty members to form the foundation for a thriving institution. Its mission is to support the wellbeing of all faculty members.

Specific strategies include:

- Providing confidential access to a psychiatrist in a timely fashion. Initial triage consultations are held onsite at UAMS at a time and place that is convenient for the faculty member.
- Approximately 3-5 initial visits with the psychiatrist. Assistance with referrals outside the program when indicated. Referrals can be to PRI or to community-based providers.
- Providing educational programs to optimize wellbeing and health on campus.
- Leading institutional and environmental change that fosters the health of our entire faculty.

Benefits of the program:

- Rapid access to psychiatric expertise when average waiting times in the community are over 1 month.
- The professional available to the faculty member is a member of the faculty himself and understands many of the stresses of working in the academic health center setting.
- The initial consultations are entirely confidential and without any charge. A significant number of faculty members voice concern about stigma and repercussions associated with seeing a psychiatrist. Documentation is not entered into the UAMS electronic medical record system.
- Creating a culture in our academic medical center that emphasizes the wellbeing of ALL our faculty members.

Access:

Call the service at 501-526-8140. Tammy Demaio will assist in arranging an initial visit with Dr. Hunt. Or visit the Faculty Wellness Program website:

<http://medicine.uams.edu/faculty/current-faculty/faculty-wellness-program/>)

Accolades from UAMS Colleges

College of Medicine

- Second year medical student Parth Shah and Dr. James Graham, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, presented a poster at the 2013 AAMC Philadelphia. The title of the poster was *Student Opinion On The Effectiveness Of A Student Curriculum Committee In The Era Of Pre-Clinical Curriculum Change*.

College of Pharmacy

- The Division of Radiation Health, led by Martin Hauer-Jensen, M.D., Ph.D. was recently awarded a research contract worth \$8.7 million to proceed with advanced development of a promising treatment for use in radiological or nuclear emergency situations. The research contract is the largest in the UAMS College of Pharmacy's 60-year history, said Stephanie Gardner, Ed.D., Pharm.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy.
- For the second consecutive year, College of Pharmacy students placed in the top three business plan finalist teams in the NCPA Pruitt -Shutte Business Plan Competition. Students participating this year are P4 students Bethany Jensen of Roland, Emily Kordsmeier of Sherwood, Tyler Martin of Paragould, and Melody Williams of Springfield.



Dr. Martin Hauer-Jensen

Graduate School

- On November 8 the UAMS The UAMS Graduate School drew more than 150 students from 11 different institutions at its 13th Annual Career Day for Biomedical Sciences. The event allowed students to hear from a variety of professionals, professors and scientists and learn more about graduate programs. Session topics included freelance scientific writing, health systems and service research, teaching at an undergraduate college and biotechnology startups.



(L-R) Dr. Billy Thomas, Dr. Robert McGehee, and Dr. Kristen Sterba

- Robert McGehee, Ph.D., dean of the UAMS Graduate School, was awarded the Visionary Leadership Award from Jackson State University for his work to increase diversity in the Basic Science Graduate Programs at UAMS. Through the combined efforts of McGehee, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School Kristen Sterba, Ph.D. and Vice Chancellor for Diversity Billy Thomas, M.D., UAMS has been able to partner with Jackson State University (JSU) in Jackson, MS., in their Bridge to Doctorate program sponsored by the National Science Foundation and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.