

Division Accolades

Jean Chen, Ph.D., assistant director of institutional studies in the Department of Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation, was recognized as [one of 36 Phenomenal Women](#) at UAMS, honored as part of the annual National Women's History Month celebration in March. She has provided statistical analysis and consultation on many reporting and assessment requests from the colleges and administrators since joining the team in the Division of Academic Affairs in 2012. She serves as a member of the Chancellor's Diversity Committee and the Chancellor's Minority Recruitment and Retention Committee and has been an internal evaluator on grant proposals for the Center for Diversity Affairs. She also has served as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Genetic Counseling, mentoring students to improve in statistical analysis and data interpretation.



Jean Chen

Lisa Ferris, Ed.S., assistant professor in Instructional Design for the Department of Educational
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The Office of Academic Services team is, from left, James Williamson, research technologist in Lab Support; Kerry Haliburton-Thomas, scheduling coordinator; Zhao Yang, lab operations coordinator; Lindsey Clark, medical laboratory scientist in Lab Support; Susan Carter, manager, Lab administration; Marcus Murphy, biomedical equipment technician; Steven Boone, director of OAS; Wanda Nelson, trainer in the OAS business office; and Summer Mote, assistant director OAS. Not pictured is La Kim Davis, research technologist in Lab Support.

Office of Academic Services Keeps the UAMS Education Enterprise Operating Smoothly

On a typical day in the fall or spring semester, there will be between 50 and 70 classes held on the UAMS campus in spaces managed by the [Office of Academic Services](#) (OAS).

But OAS does more than manage and maintain the classroom spaces on campus. They support the specialized teaching labs and computer labs that are primarily used for computer-based instruction and testing. They also ensure those classrooms and labs have the equipment and technology to meet the needs of instructors and students.

Academic Affairs Focus:

Office of Academic Services

Find them online at:
oas.uams.edu

"This office represents the nuts and bolts of making the education operations function efficiently day to day," said Steve Boone, Ph.D., associate provost for teacher and learning support in the Division of Academic Affairs and director of the offices of Educational Development and Academic Services.

Interestingly, the office's origins can be traced to the 1977 opening of the Education II Building as the first integrated education building on campus — meaning its classroom and lab spaces were

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News from Academic Affairs

April/May 2019 Newsletter

News from Academic Affairs is published bimonthly (six times annually) 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.

Stephanie F. Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D.

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

Departments in the Division of Academic Affairs

Enrollment Services

- [Office of the University Registrar](#)
- [Commencement](#)

Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

- [Academic Administration](#)
- [Institutional Studies](#)

Society and Health

- [Office of Interprofessional Education](#)
- [12th Street Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Center for Patients and Families](#) (on-campus)

Student Services

- [UAMS Library](#)
- [Campus Life and Student Support Services](#)
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Teaching and Learning Support

- [Office of Academic Services](#)
- [Centers for Simulation Education](#)
- [Office of Educational Development](#)

[Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence](#)

[Center for Health Literacy](#)

[Faculty Center](#)

[Office of Continuing Education](#)

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A Message from the Provost

Commencement is always such a happy day for me. It's the highlight and conclusion of the academic year. And in the case of UAMS, it's the largest event held each year — drawing hundreds of graduates and faculty members plus the thousands of friends and family who come to celebrate.



Dr. Stephanie Gardner

For the graduates, the stresses of the year — the classes, the tests, the schedules, the activities, the meetings, the studying, the anxiety and all of the hours invested in pursuit of their degree or certificate — are replaced with smiles and cheers. It's a moment for them to walk across the stage at Verizon Arena in front of family, teachers, peers, the leaders of our institution — and for the first time, everyone watching live on the internet — and receive a diploma symbolizing their successful academic journey.

I know that for an event this big, there are many moving pieces, detailed plans and checklists. Dana Venhaus, who has directed the commencement event for the past several years, and a team of faculty, staff and student volunteers work many long hours to ensure the day's activities run smoothly. It is work that begins months before. The intensity builds to a crescendo on commencement day when all of those details must be in place so that the moving pieces can move at the right time in the proper order to the correct place.

As provost, I am grateful for the hard work of these members of Team UAMS staging this showcase of our academic mission. From my time as a faculty member and dean, I appreciate the attention to detail by our team that allows our graduates and their loved ones to celebrate their day without a hitch.

And for the second time, I was able to enjoy UAMS Commencement as a proud parent. This time, I watched my daughter Erica walk across the stage to receive her doctoral degree in audiology.

It was definitely a happy day.

- Stephanie Gardner
Senior Vice Chancellor and Provost

Commencement 2019

UAMS Graduates 864 Health Care Professionals

It was “all hands on deck” at the campus wide UAMS Commencement ceremony on May 18 at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock.

Despite the threatening weather forecast, over 6,600 people watched as hundreds of graduates from the five colleges and the graduate school crossed the stage. For the first time the event was broadcast live on the internet through a collaborative effort between Classroom Technologies, Communications & Marketing and Verizon officials, via a link on the Commencement website (commencement.uams.edu). The response to being able to broadcast the event live was overwhelmingly positive. By May 31, the commencement video had been viewed more than 1,100 times.

“One man who contacted me was able to watch his grandson receive his medical degree from his hospital bed — that’s what it’s all about,” said commencement director Dana Venhaus.

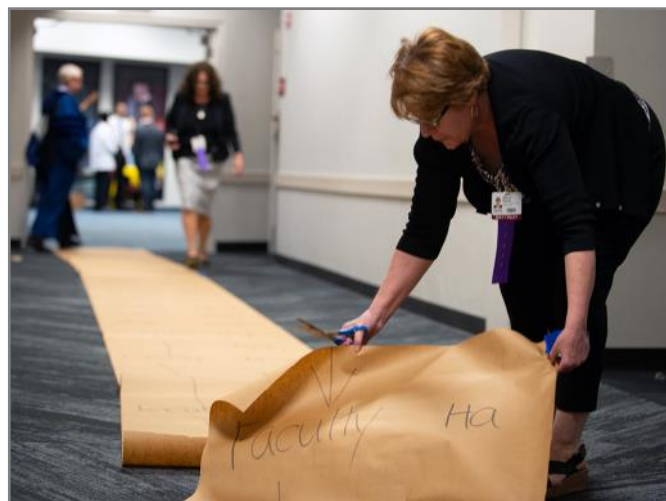
Tina Maddox, Ph.D., associate dean in the College of Health Professions, served as the 2018-19 Grand Marshal, representing this year’s featured college.

In addition to awarding diplomas and certificates, the ceremony included presentation of two Chancellor’s Teaching Awards and the Chancellor’s Award. Kristie Hadden, Ph.D., director of the Center for Health Literacy in the Division of Academic Affairs, received the Chancellor’s Teaching Award for Society and Health Education Excellence. John Spollen, M.D., from the College of Medicine received the Chancellor’s Teaching Award for Teaching Excellence. Gilda Malone Underwood, president of the Schmieding Foundation, was presented with the Chancellor’s Award for her support of UAMS.

Degrees and certificates were awarded to 864 graduates: 30 in the Graduate school, 165 in the College of Medicine, 111 in the College of Pharmacy, 64 in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, 229 in the College of Nursing, and 271 in the College of Health Professions.

The Commencement team included over 30 people, including staff and students who volunteered their time to work the event. Commencement is the campus’ largest single event.

Read the official commencement news release online at: <https://news.uams.edu/2019/05/20/uams-graduates-864-health-care-professionals-2/>



Gibson Garrett (above) from Academic Affairs Enrollment Services was one of the event staff for Commencement.



Kristie Hadden, Ph.D., (above, center) received the Chancellor’s Teaching Award for Society and Health Education Excellence. The commencement ceremony (below) was broadcast live online this year for the first time.



Office of Educational Development

Ferris Serves as Judge for National Lesson Design Contest

Lisa Ferris, Ed.S., assistant professor, Instructional Design, Educational Development, was a judge in the national SoftChalk Lesson Challenge, for the fourth-straight year.

Each spring, the national contest judges online lessons submitted by teacher and faculty in K-12 and higher education institutions across the United States. This year, Ferris judged 11 entries on a variety of subjects, including an "outstanding" lesson on cardiac electrophysiology, and modules on digital humanities, ePortfolios, the chemistry of cookies, environmental issues related to wastewater and runoff, and reproductive systems.

"This year's batch of entries had the highest level of instructional integrity and creativity I've seen since becoming a judge. I've already checked out some of the free tools the faculty used and hope to pass them along to our faculty", she said.

All UAMS faculty have a free license to SoftChalk, a tool that creates web-based, interactive lessons or e-books. For more information, visit <https://www.softchalkcloud.com>. For support or training on SoftChalk, please submit an OED [Service Request form](#).

eLearning Team Introduces Blog

OED's eLearning group now has a blog for news and educational items useful to faculty. The current blog topics focus on Blackboard tools: *Add Variety to Study Materials with Save Time Setting Up Your Blackboard Course—Date Management*, both by Jake Martar, M.Ed. Visit the eLearning blog [here](#).

The eLearning Blog features two **new tools in Blackboard** with step-by-steps, a short video and a Blackboard Guide:

The Attendance tool allows instructors to track: present, late, absent, or excused, within the Blackboard course Grade Center. The tool also calculates basic attendance metrics.

The Date Management tool enables instructors to change all of their due dates and availability dates from one page. Three options for changing the dates are: 1) adjusting from Course Start Date, 2) adjusting by Number of Days, and 3) List All Dates for Review.

Future topics for the eLearning Blog:

June – Collaborate Ultra

July – Course & Student Analytics

For additional information email BlackboardHelp@uams.edu

OED eLearning Team – Blackboard Analytics for Learn

There has been a lot of activity in Blackboard over the past year. One is the use of a new tool, Analytics for Learn, which allows users to discover and keep track of how your students are performing.

This is a sample report from Blackboard Analytics for Learn on how the OED eLearning performed last year.

Student forum posts in Blackboard: 80,000

Blackboard Login for all users:

- All: 12,585,624
- Mobile: 936,165
- Non-Mobile: 11,649,459

Assessment in Blackboard for all users:

- Test submissions: 90,415
- Assignments submissions: 41,067
- SafeAssign assignment submissions: 6,593

Student time access of Blackboard courses: 27,110,725.5 min (51.5 years)

To learn more about Blackboard Analytics for Learn, contact the OED eLearning Team via [Blackboard-Help@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu) or <https://educationaldevelopment.uams.edu/elearning-tools-2/>

Office of Educational Development

Educators Academy

Educators Academy Membership

The OED Educators Academy, founded in fall 2013, currently has 212 members. If you are not a current member, now is the time to join.

The Academy's purpose is to inspire, and sustain a shared institutional vision of high-quality teaching, learning, educational research and scholarship. The Educators Academy sponsors a monthly Faculty Educational Development series, the Fall Teaching Workshop series, the annual Educational Innovation Grants and year-round Teaching Observation by Peers (TOPs) program.

To learn more about the Academy, become a member and receive the monthly *Faculty Matters* eNewsletter, visit [OED Educators Academy](#).

TOPs Offers Teaching Development Services

The Teaching Observation by Peers (TOPs) Program is available for face-to-face teaching [in any setting](#).

The program provides UAMS faculty a feedback process that is voluntary, confidential and formative. Participation in this program encourages reflection of your teaching skills and provides evidence of your journey in developing those skills.

Contact Laura Smith-Olinde at LSO@uams.edu for additional information.

SAVE THE DATES:

Educators Academy Teaching Workshops

The Educators Academy's fall series of Teaching Workshops will be held on Mondays, 4:30–6 p.m., from September through November, location to be determined.

Topics include, active learning strategies, writing multiple choice questions, and introduction to simulation, among others. For more information, email Educators Academy Director Laura Smith-Olinde, Ph.D., at LSO@uams.edu.



Campus Life and Student Support Services

Associated Student Government



New ASG Officers Elected

The Associated Student Government (ASG) Officer votes were tallied and the 2019-2020 ASG officers are (left to right): Cody Timmerman (COM), president; Allison Schneider (COM), secretary; Jeanne Rabalasis (COM), vice president; and Kyle Davis (COP), treasurer. Now that ASG has wrapped up for the semester the incoming officers will start planning for fall events, such as the UAMS Student Annual Arkansas Travelers Pyro Night on Friday, Aug. 23. For more information, students should watch their UAMS student email for ticket sales and location.

Ice Cream!

More than 200 students enjoyed ice cream provided by the local Loblolly Creamery as part of Ice Cream-Palooza on April 10 in front of the Student Center. The event, hosted by the ASG, took advantage of the perfect sunny and warm weather as the parking lot filled with students. Although the line wrapped around the building, students didn't mind. For some, the smorgasbord of flavors complicated decision making with choices including double vanilla, salted caramel, honey lavender and tutti-frutti to name a few.



Campus Life and Student Support Services

Associated Student Government



ASG Volunteers for City Cleanup Event

The Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest community-improvement event. Arkansas has historically been a leader in volunteerism during this three-month springtime effort. This year the ASG joined the volunteer effort by opening the invitation to UAMS students.

On Friday, April 12 and 20, students picked up debris on either side of Markham Street. The five-block area stretched from the Arkansas Health Department to Burger King during the volunteers' lunch hour. Afterwards everyone enjoyed pizza and drinks provide by ASG.

UAMS students who participated, include (top photo, front row, from left) Portia Crawford, College of Public Health; Dia Barber, College of Public Health; and Caleb Ray, College of Public Health. Back row (from left) Stewart Tackett, College of Public Health; Antonije Lazic, College of Public Health; and Harrison Moore, College of Health Professions.



Bottom photo participants are, from left, Brandon Cathey, College of Medicine; Rebecca Philpott, College of Medicine; Cass Martin, College of Public Health; Anna Adams, College of Nursing; and Julie Marcks, College of Nursing. Students who participated but are not pictured: Tiffany Miles, Graduate School; and Tori Johnson, College of Public Health.

Cleanup participants not pictured: Joshua Ledge and Ned Garrett, both from the College of Public Health.

Campus Life and Student Support Services



Spring Gala

UAMS Campus Life and Student Support Services hosted the annual Spring Gala on April 5 at the Chenal Country Club in Little Rock. This year's theme, selected by the Associated Student Government, was "Fire and Ice: Difference makes a fierce UAMS team."

The Gala is a year-end social soiree for all the students to take time out of their hectic schedules to celebrate, mingle and have a blast. Among the elegant decorations, glitz and glamor, the students' smiles shined the brightest. They laughed with their peers while playing virtual reality games, dancing to the hits and making memories to cherish for a lifetime!



Campus Life and Student Support Services

Intramural Softball



The intramural softball season recently wrapped up another season of fun and friendly competition. This year's champions were a team of first-year medical students (upper right photo) who dubbed their team "Base-ic Pitches."

Centers for Simulation Education

Standardized Patient Profile

Name: Nisheedah Golden

How long you have been an SP? 7 years

Tell us about your career/life:

I teach theater classes at Bearden Productions Center for the Arts. I also have assistant directed several plays there. I have taught theater at Murrell Taylor Elementary in Jacksonville. I am an opera singer and sing with the opera company Opera in the Rock. I have performed opera overseas in Shanghai, China. I also am a professional actor having performed in plays at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Murry's Dinner Playhouse, Columbus Creative, Praedara and many more.



Nisheedah Golden

What is your favorite thing about being an SP?

I enjoy working with the students and knowing that I am helping to shape our future health care professionals. I like learning about different diseases and /or problems that occur in our bodies. I also like that it helps sharpen my acting skills.

What is your least favorite thing about being an SP?

The times when I have to do a case at 7:30 a.m. I drive from Jacksonville, so I have to get up earlier to beat the traffic. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy being an SP and doing cases, but who wants to wake up early? *LOL*

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Office of the University Registrar

UAMS Common Catalog Takes Shape

UAMS is preparing to unveil the first university-wide common academic catalog. After decades of separate academic catalogs for each college and the graduate school, a consolidated, single document will improve consistency on policies, procedures and curriculum management information shared across all colleges. A recommendation following the 2017 accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission, accelerated planning for the single catalog that had already been in development.

The first common catalog, for the 2019-2020 academic year, will pull together all academic units, including the Clinton School of Public Service's Executive Master of Public Service degree program, into a single, indexed document with greater consistency of format, content and purpose. Initially, the document will come in the form of a searchable PDF document, but the planning committee will continue to work beyond the initial catalog to develop business processes and plan the next phases of the common catalog development. These later phases include acquisition of new catalog development software, creation of an online catalog to replace the PDF, and development of interfaces with the GUS student information system.



The 2019-2020 UAMS Academic Catalog is scheduled to be available in July 2019. For more information about the common catalog project, contact Clinton Everhart in Enrollment Services at everhart@uams.edu or (501) 686-5113.

Data Analytics with GUS

UAMS will soon introduce a new student data warehouse that will connect to the GUS student information system, providing new reporting and data research functionality for student data contained in GUS. Using Blackboard Analytics (not related to the classroom analytics functionality already in use) and the Pyramid visualization tool, users can create informational and reporting dashboards and more easily create ad hoc reports for a variety of purposes.

Initially, the reporting tool will be available to a limited group of trained department staff later in 2019. A wider rollout is expected sometime after that, adding more departmental users and providing additional training opportunities. Ultimately, the goal is to provide better access to student data so that the appropriate faculty and staff can get more timely information without the same need for time-consuming query and report development directly in GUS.

The data analytics tool will be open to some users later this year and an official name for the system will be announced soon. For more information about this system, contact Alisa Logan in Academic Computing at ARLogan@uams.edu or Clinton Everhart in Enrollment Services at everhart@uams.edu.

Standardized Patient Profile

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What is your biggest reward about being an SP?

It's very rewarding when a student says, "You were so believable as a patient. You are a good actor."

What have you learned about being a patient because of the work you do?

I have learned that it is very important to know all your options when it comes to healing a health problem in your body. Do not be

afraid to ask more questions about your health and to be completely forthcoming about all the pain/issues you are experiencing.

Doctors need all the information they can get to give a proper diagnosis and to fix the problem. A patient is already nervous when they come to a hospital, so having a great bedside manner can really be very comforting and helpful to them.

UAMS Library

Historical Research Center's Friends Group Holds Annual Dinner

The Society for the History of Medicine and Health Professions (SHMHP) held its 38th annual dinner and meeting on April 5 in the UAMS Medical Center Lobby Gallery. The Society supports the UAMS Historical Research Center, a division of the UAMS Library, through programming, a grants program, book acquisitions and other activities. The dinner was attended by 60 individuals.



Former UAMS Library Director and Society Past President Mary Ryan, left, and Edwina Walls Mann.

The featured speaker was Laura Smith, a history instructor at the University of Arkansas, who is completing her dissertation on the professionalization of physicians. She shared some of her research in her presentation "A Tale of Two Communities: The Business of the Medical School and Physician Respect in the Nineteenth-Century South." The founding of the Arkansas Industrial University (A.I.U.) Medical Department, which evolved into what we now know as UAMS, featured prominently in Smith's presentation. This year is the 140th anniversary of the founding of the A.I.U. Medical Department.



(Above) Society President Patricia Wright, Ph.D., left, and Edwina Walls Mann, are pictured at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Medicine and Health Professions. Mann was the inaugural recipient of an award that is also named in her honor.

(Below) Society President Patricia Wright, Ph.D., right, with presenter Laura E. Smith, instructor of history, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

The Society presented its inaugural Edwina Walls Mann History of the Health Sciences Advocacy Award to its namesake, Edwina Walls Mann. The award, established last year, recognizes a person, organization or institution that has demonstrated a sustained commitment or made an exceptional contribution to promoting the study, appreciation, preservation and dissemination of the history of the health sciences in Arkansas. In 1977, Mann, along with the late Dr. Thomas A. Bruce, then-dean of the UAMS College of Medicine, and Rose Hogan, then-director of the UAMS Library, established the History of Medicine Division in the library. The division's name was changed to the Historical Research Center around 1991. Mann helped to establish SHMHP in 1982. She began to volunteer in the Historical Research Center after her retirement in 2000, and she continues to do so today.

"We realized this first award could only go to one person," said [Patricia Wright](#), society president. "Without her, we would not be here tonight; without her, we would not have our society; without her, we would not have our wonderful Historical Research Center; without her, the history of medicine in Arkansas would not be as well-documented."



The UAMS Historical Research Center co-sponsored the dinner. Tim Nutt is the current director of the Center. Additional information on and photos of the Society's dinner may be found at https://news.uams.edu/2019/04/12/edwina-mann-named-first-history-of-health-sciences-advocacy-winner/?_ga=2.84613465.1577983829.1555181585-1180569945.1555181585

Center for Health Literacy

Center for Health Literacy Receives National Award for Patient Guide

The UAMS Center for Health Literacy (CHL) has been honored with a ClearMark Award of Distinction in the Before and After: Print category from the Center for Plain Language for our Chemo Treatment Patient Guide.

This guide was created in partnership with the clinical team at the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute (Cancer Institute). The ClearMark Award recognizes the best plain language communication created by organizations throughout North America.



Because new therapies emerge often the clinical team at the UAMS Cancer Institute wanted a template that would allow for easy production of a plain language, regimen-specific patient guide for each new regimen. The team at the UAMS CHL worked with clinical leaders to develop a new guide template for use with more than 300 chemo regimens. The guides will help cancer patients who are about to start a new chemo treatment understand what to expect during the treatment. The guides incorporate health literacy best practices to ensure that the material is readable, understandable, and actionable.

This is the second time that the UAMS CHL has been honored with a ClearMark Award.

UAMS Library

Come See Arts at UAMS in the Library

The Arts at UAMS display on the 2nd floor in the Library will soon be updated with a new artwork display hanging system that will accommodate the widely varying art we display. The new hanging system makes it quick, easy, flexible in setup and no hammering.



For many years Mary Ryan, emeritus faculty member and former director of the UAMS Library, displayed her photographic artwork and encouraged others to display their works as well. She is now donating her time and financial assistance to support the installation of this modern hanging display system. Additionally, new lighting and a new cloth covering for the exhibit panels will improve the display venue.

The exhibit currently includes photographs of Norway by Ryan and architectural photographs by Dick Williams.

Coming soon: Art from the Heart: Creative Works by Team UAMS

The Library has invited the artists who presented their work at the Arkansas Arts Center in March/April to display their works on the Library 'Arts at UAMS' display on the 2nd floor of the Library. Seventeen artists have already indicated that they want to display their works which run from paintings to sculpture to poetry to a shawl. The Library will publicize the displays as they become available for viewing.

Office of Interprofessional Education

Art from the Heart Exhibit Features Creative Works by Employees, Students

UAMS employees and students showed off their creative sides during the Art from the Heart exhibit April 6 at the Arkansas Arts Center.

About 30 members of Team UAMS displayed paintings, photography, poetry, woodworking, knitting and more at the inaugural event. For a complete list of the artists and their artwork, visit <https://news.uams.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Summary-of-Submissions-1-33.pdf>.

Sponsored by the UAMS Office of Interprofessional Education, the event was the brainchild of Wendy Ward, Ph.D., director of Interprofessional Faculty Development.

"Those who work in a setting with the ill, injured or dying all feel the importance of their work, and the impact it has on the patients and families who come to UAMS," she said. "This work can be stressful as well as deeply satisfying.

"Artistic expression is one way we can express the impact this work has on us internally, the stress, worry and sadness as well as the deeper meaning and purpose in our work."

A panel of judges evaluated the exhibition pieces and selected nine favorites. Those artists were invited to give a short presentation during the event.

"Magnolia Blossom," a painting by Jessica Lowder, a bid coordinator in the procurement office, was the judges' top pick.

Lowder, who previously worked at the Arts Center, said she has been "obsessed with drawing and painting" since she was a small child, going so far as to often abscond with her father's art supplies.

"Magnolia Blossom" is one of a series of flower portraits that Lowder has painted over several years.

The judges' other picks were:

- Kristen Alexander — "Beards," mixed media
- Shalese Fitzgerald — Octahedral with Curve, woodwork



An Art from the Heart attendee examines "Octahedral with Curve," a woodwork piece created by Shalese Fitzgerald.



Jessica Lowder created the judges' favorite piece, "Magnolia Blossom."

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Office of Academic Services*Continued from Page 12*

- Laura Hanson — “Flowing” drawing
- Annlee Hicks — “Blooms,” dried flowers in resin
- Marissa Miller — “Blood, Muscle & Bones” painting
- Parthak Prodhon, M.D. — “Sunset at Pinnacle” photograph
- Manisha Singh, M.D. — “Dementia” poem
- Jennifer Steck — “Old Broadway” painting

Hanson, a radiation safety officer, said her drawing came about because of an online challenge called Inktober in which artists are encouraged to create artwork using ink during October.

“This pushed me way out of my comfort zone as I’ve always drawn with charcoal or pencils,” she said. “This day’s prompt was flowing, which was terrifying. Never would I have attempted drawing water because it is so hard to create a static piece of something that is moving.”

Hicks, a second-year medical student, said she wanted to make something that merged art and her medical career. She created used dried flowers in resin to create the image of a human heart. Several audience members suggested she create more pieces, such as a lung or a kidney.

For Miller, a first-year physician assistant studies student, the painting she submitted was one she started five years ago after being inspired by learning about muscle and bone physiology. After spending time in the gross anatomy laboratory over the summer, she went home, pulled the piece back out and started changing it — adding red, teal and black.

“After my experiences in the lab, I knew the painting wasn’t finished,” she said. “Muscles are much more vibrant in real life than they are in a textbook, which is why I needed to add the red, teal and black.”

“I think the painting is finished now,” she said with a laugh.

Singh’s poem was written with the perspective of a patient with dementia and was a reflection of the sadness she felt while taking care of a dementia patient during her residency.

“Physicians are trained to empathize with our patients,” she said. “Empathy is a shared experience so it does make you a very good doctor. But it also lets you go home with the pain that patient goes through. Poetry allows me to express and process that pain.”



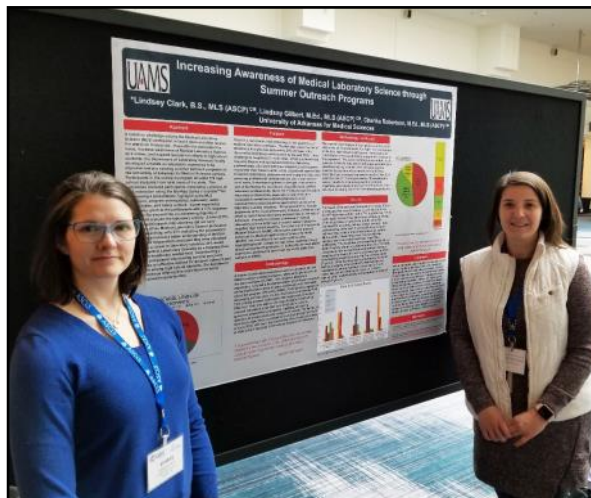
Manisha Singh, M.D., poses next to her poem, written from the perspective of a patient with dementia.

Office of Academic Services

Academic Services, Lab Sciences Collaborators Shine at Lab Educators Conference

UAMS shined recently at the 2019 Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference this past February in Baltimore. Lindsey Clark, [Office of Academic Services](#) lab scientist, attended the conference with several faculty members from the UAMS College of Health Professions' Department of Laboratory Sciences. Conference educational sessions covered topics including interprofessional education, current workforce issues, social media, and safety in the student laboratory.

In addition to attending the conference, Clark also teamed up with colleagues to present the poster "Increasing Awareness of Medical Laboratory Science through Summer Outreach Programs." Cherika Robertson and Lindsay Gilbert, assistant professors in the Medical Laboratory Sciences program, worked with Clark to gather data and create the poster presented at CLEC. The poster outlined an outreach program and recruiting activity conducted in summer 2018 in conjunction with the UAMS [MASH program](#). The hands-on laboratory activity with the high school students on campus as part of the MASH program proved a successful way to educate high schoolers on careers in the field of laboratory science. The poster was well-received at the conference.



Lindsey Clark, a medical laboratory scientist in OAS and assistant professor in the medical laboratory sciences program, (left) and Cherika Robertson, assistant professor in the Medical Laboratory Sciences program in the UAMS College of Health Professions.

Office of Academic Services

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used by all UAMS colleges. To manage those spaces, support services were centralized into what is now the Office of Academic Services.

The three main elements of the OAS' mission:

- Manage the education spaces (classrooms, auditoriums and conference rooms shared by all academic units) scheduled through the [R25 online scheduling tool](#)
- Support the 10 non-clinical teaching and computer labs
- Maintain instrumentation repair for the large inventory of instructional equipment used in the classrooms and labs

Today there are 101 spaces scheduled through R25, from meeting rooms for 8-10 people to auditoriums that seat 200. During Fall 2018, there were more than 4,805 events scheduled in those spaces. By early April 2019, there were already 20,560 events scheduled for this year.

Learning styles have evolved since the 1970s, with the rise of active learning techniques and more team-based programming that is reducing the use

of lecture-driven education delivered in a large auditorium with fixed seating. Boone said that even so, much of the OAS' work remains the same — managing, scheduling and maintaining education spaces.

With the opening of the [Active Learning Center](#) in the UAMS Library in 2012 and the 2016 renovations that created the Flexible Learning Center on the eighth floor of Ed II, the movement is toward more open, adaptable education spaces. This also means being able to connect with students in person or at a distance.

The Lab Support team provides the educational and technical assistance, supplies, computers and equipment for teaching labs in Ed II. Each of the eight lab spaces and two computer classrooms supports most technology applications. The labs can be configured to accommodate up to 200 and the classrooms up to 32.

"We are able to put together almost anything to meet the needs of our colleges," said Susan Carter, director of teaching laboratories. "Being dynamic is important to us and we're happy to work with the colleges and instructors to support innovative teaching."

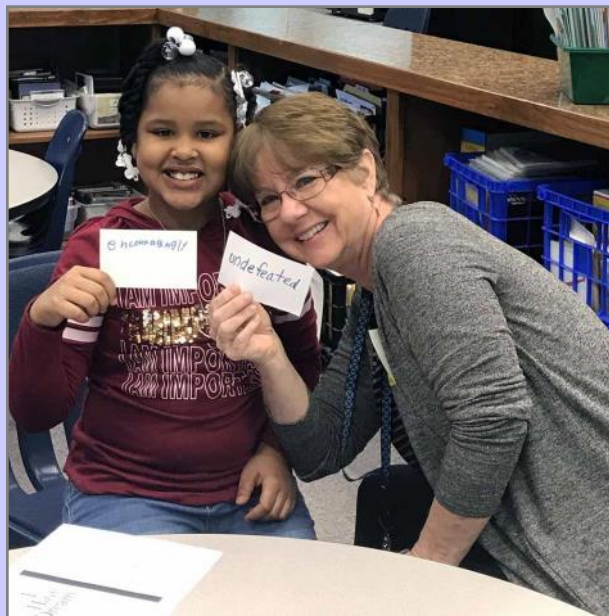
Added Summer Mote, the OAS assistant director: "We are proud of our role in the supporting the education of our state's future health care professionals."

Accolades

Continued from Page 1

Development, recently received the first 'Bee the Difference Tutor' award from Central Arkansas Literacy organization AR Kids Read for her contributions to the organization as a volunteer reading tutor and for helping develop tutor training videos.

AR Kids Read has over 400 volunteer reading tutors who work with 800 1st – 3rd grade elementary school students who are reading below grade level. UAMS officially became a partner with AR Kids Read last year. Each tutor works with two students for 30 minutes each, once a week during the school year. Ferris tutors third graders at Pulaski Heights Elementary and says, "It's one of the easiest, most fun, and most rewarding jobs I've ever had." Rebekah Wills, program director, said of Ferris: "Thanks to Lisa, our volunteers who are spread out across nearly 50 different schools have the opportunity to access quality training resources from our website. We can't thank her enough for her contribution!"



Lisa Ferris and a student in the AR Kids Read program

Via a video message during the organization's "Spellebration" celebrity spelling bee event, Gov. Asa Hutchinson also thanked Ferris for her contribution to helping increase reading literacy among Arkansas students. UAMS employees who are interested in becoming reading tutors for the 2019-2020 school year can visit ARKidsRead.org for more information.

Bonnie Kenney, M.Ed., Instructor, Instructional Design, Educational Development, collaborated with Tremaine Williams, UALR, and Daniel Littleton, UAMS Center for Distance Health, on an article titled "Assessing the Alignment of Objectives, Instructional Activities, and Assessments in a Biomedical Informatics Curriculum", published in the *Journal of Information Technology in Community Health*. To see the abstract in PubMed visit <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30741246>

Division of Academic Affairs News

Travis Hill, M.Ed., became the director of the Centers for Simulation Education on May 13, succeeding **Mary Cantrell**, who retired May 10.

Hill started at UAMS in 2013, directing simulation training that was part of the Epic electronic medical record system implementation.



Travis Hill

Since 2014, he has been the director of simulation technology and outreach in the Centers for Simulation Education. Prior to joining UAMS, he was a simulation specialist at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

He has certifications as a Healthcare Simulation Educator and as a Simulation Healthcare Operations Specialist.