

Accolades

Continuing Education Project Nets \$100,000 Grant

The Office of Continuing Education recently was awarded \$100,000 through a grant from Pfizer. The grant is for a quality improvement project designed to improve pneumococcal vaccine protection for the highest risk, immunocompromised UAMS patients in the multiple myeloma and rheumatology clinics. The project will include health care teams working in these two clinics as well as resident physicians, medical, and nursing students. The project will include an educational intervention, adopting systems changes, developing bilingual patient education materials, and utilization of quality improvement methodology using the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) in three cycles of data collection.

Lea Mabry, M.Ed., director of the **Office of Continuing Education**, is the Primary Investigator (PI). She is joined by co-investigators Robert H. Hopkins, Jr., M.D., a professor in the College of Medicine's departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, and Mary J. Burgess, M.D., assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine's Division of Infectious Disease. **Allison Caballero**, MPH, director of programs and services for the **Center for Health Literacy**, and other members of the CHL team will provide bilingual patient education materials for clinicians in the two clinics to use with their patients.

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Not pictured, book shelves that were recently removed as part of a major Library renovation project.

Ch-ch-ch-Changes

Library trades print journals for more testing, study seating space

Over the past few months the [UAMS Library](#) has undertaken a massive weeding project of its remaining print journal collection. Some items were designated for our Historical Research Collection. But, the majority of 3rd floor print journals were sent to recycling.

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Academic 4-1-1: Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

The mission of the [Department of Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation](#) within Academic Affairs is as varied as its name implies — the department researches, analyzes, compiles and tracks data involved in the administration of the UAMS academic mission.

The department supports the [academic policy](#)-making process for UAMS, reviewing proposals and shepherding them through the approval process of the Academic Policy Committee and the Council of Deans. The group also supplies

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Academic Affairs Focus:

Department of Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

Find them online at:

academicaffairs.uams.edu/irpa

News from Academic Affairs

August/September 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.
Provost and Chief Strategy Officer

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](#)
- [Student Success Center](#)

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](#)

Questions? Comments?

Contact the Newsletter Editor, Jon Parham
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A Message from the Provost

In the [previous issue](#) of this newsletter, leaders in our Student Success Center and Student Wellness program wrote about how the missions of the two programs cooperate and collaborate to the benefit of UAMS students.



Dr. Stephanie Gardner

The UAMS [Vision 2029](#) strategic plan echoes the importance of these two programs. Initiatives to expand the services and resources of those two programs “to align with the needs of UAMS students” are initiatives of the Vision 2029 plan.

From a historical perspective, it’s bittersweet to see the photos from the removal of the book shelves in the UAMS Library. Having been there for decades, they are a piece of this institution’s history. Many UAMS students have hunted issues of journals as sources across so many years.

But the removal of the bookshelves and bound copies of the journals underscore the changing role of university and academic medical center libraries. Technology has put the information from those journals at our fingertips, accessible at anytime, anywhere via our smartphones, tablets or laptop computers. Still, the role of a university library is as vital as ever — just not as a source of books or journals. The UAMS Library is now more a place of active learning, a place where our knowledgeable library team can assist students in their research to strengthen their searches and sources.

And the newly created space will allow our much-in-demand Student Success Center, a part of our Library, to expand and grow its services to better support UAMS students toward success. It will be exciting to see the coming renovations and the results.

Our Wellness program is similarly looking to expand in resources and capabilities to better serve our students and faculty.

My thanks go to those involved in these programs and the expansion efforts. Your hard work will impact UAMS students — as well as those they care for or teach or the research they conduct — for many years to come.

Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

Department Profile

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institutional data to academic programs as part their [accreditation requirements](#) and to researchers for grant proposals.

The department manages the institution's accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the regional accreditation organization for colleges and universities. UAMS is required to have HLC accreditation in order to allow credits and degrees to be transferred from other accredited higher education institutions and to ensure professional licensure for UAMS graduates. Accreditation is also required before students can receive federal financial aid.



The department's staff includes, from left, Jean Chen, Ph.D., associate director, Regina Dennis, academic administration and accreditation manager, Kristen Sterba, Ph.D., associate provost and director, and Rick Jenkins, Ed.D., development systems lead analyst/programmer.

The voluminous amount of information that the four-person team gathers on UAMS, its academic programs and performance is [mainly for reports](#) required by various state and federal agencies, including the Arkansas Department of Higher Education and the U.S. Department of Education. There also is data compiled for internal departments, from Parking Operations to the UAMS Alumni Association.

Kristen Sterba, Ph.D., associate provost for students and administration and the department's director, counted at least 45 reports required annually as part of accreditation or verification purposes on behalf of UAMS or one of its programs.

"Through the data-gathering process, it is like looking at the institution as a whole and being able to understand how the pieces fit together," Sterba said. "This is the kind of work that requires a great deal of attention to detail – making sure the Is are dotted and the Ts crossed, so to speak – but also an attention to the big picture of all of the information that must be compiled and organized to provide clear and accurate reports.

"We have a great team, all of whom are focused on assisting our academic programs in transparency and continuous improvement."

The HLC accreditation process itself is rigorous and requires participation from across UAMS. The process includes submission of thousands of pages of documentation on the part of the institution; a federal compliance review; surveys of students, faculty and staff; and finally an on-site peer review visit. Following the [last site visit in 2017](#), UAMS was reaccredited by HLC for the 10-year maximum.

Now the IRPA team is assisting with preparations for a comprehensive evaluation by HLC in spring 2021. During that evaluation, which is not the same as the reaccreditation process that will not happen again until 2027, the HLC will review work done by UAMS to address questions or issues raised during the 2017 reaccreditation.

With all of the data compiled and kept by the department, Sterba said, she encourages UAMS faculty and staff to contact them when they are seeking information related to the academic mission. "We are happy to serve as a resource of information," she said. "And if it is not information that we have, we are sometimes able to suggest sources for the date."

Find out more about the department online at <https://academicaffairs.uams.edu/irpa/>

Centers for Simulation Education

Standardized Patient Profile

Name Lewis & Betty Garner

How long have you been a Standardized Patient? Lewis (8 years) Betty (6 years). Our niece, who at the time was a UAMS medical student, introduced us to the SP program. She felt her uncle would enjoy "playing a patient" and interacting with the students. She is currently an Orthopedic Specialist with UAMS. In addition, her younger sister is a graduate from the UAMS School of Pharmacy.

Tell us about your career/life other than the SP work that you do.

Lewis retired from an insurance career. Betty retired from a federal government career.

What is your favorite thing about being an SP?

It is interesting to observe the students develop from insecure, sometimes nervous first-year students to mature, confident future medical professionals.

As older SPs, studying the cases stimulates our brains and provides us the opportunity to gain more medical knowledge.



Lewis and Betty Garner

"Once during a diabetic foot exam event, I was told that as a male I had good-looking feet. It was revealed I recently had a pedicure.

Needless to say, I still take some good-natured ribbing about my pedicures. But I will note I am now not the only male SP in my group that shows up with a fresh pedicure."

*- Lewis Garner
UAMS Standardized Patient*

What is your least favorite thing about being an SP?

This is an easy one: sitting in a cold exam room all day dressed in a gown and no socks!

What is your biggest reward about being an SP?

Among the rewards of being SPs is the fact that in a small way we are a part of the students' growth in becoming future medical professionals. After all, one of these students might be our doctor or pharmacist someday. Since feedback has been added to the event, the students are very appreciative of the comments. Many times we are thanked for our participation in the SP program.

Also we have gained knowledge of medical terms, conditions and information we would have never known otherwise.

Over the years, we have enjoyed the friendships made with fellow SPs and staff. As SPs we take our responsibilities seriously, but at the same time manage to have some fun along the way.

Campus Life and Student Support Services

Residence Hall

August meant back to school at UAMS and the Residence Hall was buzzing with enthusiastic new and returning students.

Our residence hall community is unique: a place where professionally minded students live and learn together and form meaningful connections that last a lifetime. UAMS students are part of a community that encourages, supports, challenges and inspires them.

All UAMS students are invited to not only immerse themselves in their studies, but also in the many social and recreational activities and events offered throughout the year by the Department of Campus Life. We look forward to a fun and exciting year!



Returning second-year pharmacy student Alexis Pace (center) and family move her in the Residence Hall.



New College of Health Professions student Rommel Maurera (above left) uses a cart to move some of his stuff into the Residence Hall while new College of Pharmacy student Jazlyn Purnell (above right on the far right) enlists her family to help her move in.



Campus Life and Student Support Services

UAMS Student Center and Local Grounds Café

The Student Center is a popular spot on campus. It is the place to hang out, study, grab Starbucks, breakfast, or lunch from the Local Grounds Café. Jenelle Sullivan, Local Grounds manager, and Trina Bennett of Nutrition Services, have brought their kind spirits and happy personalities into the Student Center. They remember your name, and if you call ahead, they can have your order ready as you walk in the door.

The Student Center is part of the campus culture. Throughout the year, the center hosts many exciting events and activities such as Breakfast @ the Center, Constitution Day/Student Resource Fair, community service projects, holiday music entertainment, relaxation events, GradFest, and more.

Brianna Winkle, a College of Nursing student, said recently that the center's atmosphere is fun, energetic as well as a wonderful place to relax and study.



A group of nursing students (above) and pharmacy students (below) hang out between classes at the UAMS Student Center and Local Ground Café.



Campus Life and Student Support Services

ASG: Back to School with the Arkansas Travs

The 2019 fall semester is off to a fun start! On Aug. 14, the Student Center had a packed house for the Arkansas Travelers student ticket sale, sponsored by the Associated Student Government. Students eagerly poured into the Student Center to get their hands on Pyro Night tickets and the all-you-can-eat buffet pass.

On Aug. 23, students and their families enjoyed an exciting night of baseball, bottomless grilled goodies, and an explosive Pyro display at Dickey-Stephens Park. What better way to kick off the first week of school? Once again, the Associated Student Government hit a home run with the student body!



Office of Educational Development

OED Educators Academy

SIGN UP NOW: For the Educators Academy Teaching Workshops

The Educators Academy's fall series of Teaching Workshops will on Mondays, 4:30– 6 p.m. in IDW 105 a/b. Register in My Compass, UAMS_3419

Fall 2019 Teaching Workshops

Sept. 30	Multiple Choice Exams
Oct. 14	Formative Assessment Techniques
Oct. 21	Providing Feedback
Oct. 28	Communication in the Classroom and Clinic
Nov. 4	Blackboard Basics

OED eLearning Team

Read Our Blog

The eLearning Blog on the [OED Educational Development webpage](#) has tips to help faculty in their Blackboard needs for preparing courses, using tools, making reports, and analyzing data.

Janay White, M.A., blogged about **Tips to Prepare Your Course for the Upcoming Semester** to assist faculty in preparing Blackboard courses for the upcoming semester.

Course Analytics and Student Analytics in Blackboard by **Cristina Gamalie, M.S.E., M.S.**, Shows how Blackboard provides a multitude of reports and data analysis. One of the newest tools is **Course Analytics**. This Blackboard tool can help instructors to review student progress and provide support as needed.

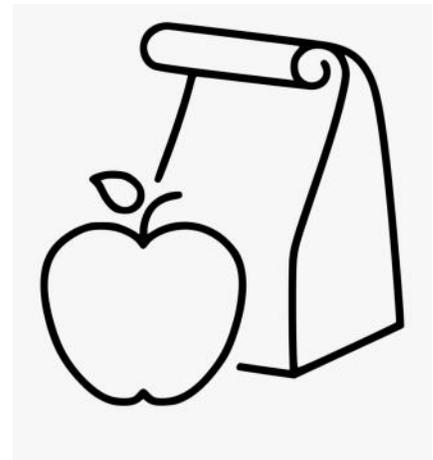
For more information, visit the blog or request assistance from BlackboardHelp@uams.edu.

Blackboard Brown Bag Lunchtime Training

All trainings are held in Shorey 8/16. 10 seats max per session with laptops provided. Distant locations may request a Collaborate Ultra Link. RSVP to carlemarthah@uams.edu to reserve a seat.

Tue Oct. 1	Midterm Reports in Blackboard. How are students progressing?
Thu Oct. 3	Midterm Reports in Blackboard. How are students progressing?
Fri Oct. 4	Midterm Reports in Blackboard. How are students progressing?
Tue Oct. 8	Grading Assignments and SafeAssign in Blackboard
Thu Oct. 10	Grading Assignments and SafeAssign in Blackboard

New to Blackboard? The eLearning Team is also available to help you. Send your request to BlackboardHelp@uams.edu.



Office of Educational Development

Blackboard World Conference 2019

The eLearning team from OED (Martha H Carle, Jacob Martar, Cristina Gamalie and Janay White) attended Blackboard World 2019 in Austin, TX, July 23-25. The annual meeting is designed to provide Blackboard insights, best-practices, and a teaching and learning road map of the future. Over 1500 attendees representing 800 institutions attended workshops, educational sessions and exhibits.

Key points during Blackboard World 2019 included:

- **The use of Blackboard Learn Analytics by Associate Deans, Assessment Directors, Mentors and Advisors** — Combining Learn Analytics with Course Analytics, the Retention Center and Course Reports offers up to date metrics for proactive student interventions. Learn Analytics also provides the eLearning team with tool usage in Blackboard. This drives eLearning’s training schedule and Blackboard updates.
- **Designing courses using the Blackboard Exemplary Course Program (ECP) rubric** — The ECP rubric measures best practices in Course Design, Interaction and Collaboration, Assessment and Learner Support. Instructional Designers utilize the rubric for building course templates that guide instructors to best practices. Template design also offers students consistency in their college/department courses.
- **Blackboard courses are becoming more mobile** — Responsive design is an approach that adapts to the screen size of a user’s device and arranges content orientation and layout accordingly. This allows instructors to build content on their desktops with students seeing an organized display on their tablets, smartphones and laptops.
- **Course mapping with GOALS** — This tool is available now with several reports that map course outcomes (goals and objectives) and quantify student mastery.
- **More Data!** — A new tool will be introduced in 2020 called Bb Data. This will be available on the instructor level giving course data that includes time spent on Collaborate Ultra recordings; SafeAssign reports that include word counts, grammar, and Similarity reports; and reports on keystrokes in Assessments.
- **More new features!** — Projects being developed are Self and Peer review assignments; more video and audio feedback options; and an improved text editor. Several exhibitors offered Video media management, closed captioning, transcription, and accessibility course (web) checks.
- **Networking with TAKO (Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma)** — This valuable time spent with our peers allowed the eLearning team to discuss and share common issues and successes in Blackboard.



Blackboard World 2019 also offered the team several hours of consulting with the Arkansas Account Representative, the regional Vice President, and a Solutions Engineer. Primarily, time was spent talking over the future roadmap of Blackboard updates and products to benefit UAMS.

OED Evaluation Team

Steve Boone, Ph.D., and **Cynthia Mercado, M.B.A., M.A.,** continued to provide evaluation support for the UAMS Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative (AGEC) project. Funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration, this \$3.7 million grant is for 5-year effort to provide high quality training and other programs that support healthy aging in Arkansas. This year marks a 10-year collaboration between the OED Evaluation Team and the AGEC funded projects.

Center for Health Literacy

Health Literacy Webinar Set for Oct. 1

Join a free, live webinar to learn about the importance of health literacy and how you can practice clear health communication to benefit your patients and community.

Health Literacy and its Implications for Effective Patient Care

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019

Time: 2-3 p.m. CST



Effective health communication is imperative for improving health outcomes in patients and community members. Join in the webinar to learn about the implications of health literacy and a few best practices for improving communication with your patients or program participants, including teach-back.

In this session you will learn:

- About health literacy and how it impacts health
- Best practices for improving your communication with patients or program participants
- How to use the teach-back method for confirming understanding

RSVP by emailing healthliteracy@uams.edu

Accreditation Statement:

In support of improving patient care, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

These knowledge based activities will provide pharmacists up to 1.0 contact hours or 0.1 CEU. CE credit information, based on verification of live attendance and completion of the program evaluation, will be provided to NABP within 60 days after the activity completion.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 ANCC contact hours. Nursing contact hours will be awarded for successful completion of program components based upon documented attendance and completion of evaluation materials.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has been authorized by the American Academy of PAs (AAPA) to award AAPA Category 1 CME credit for activities planned in accordance with AAPA CME Criteria. This activity is designated for 1.0 AAPA Category 1 CME credits. PAs should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation. This is a PACE-approved CE course.

UAMS Library

Library

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Dismantling and recycling of shelving and literally thousands of [Princeton files](#) (as scrap metal) also has been completed. This led to reminiscing by veteran Library staff members and faculty about the old orange carpet and also some questions: "Is the shelving on top of the orange carpet OR were the shelving units put on bare concrete?" As see from the pictures taken following the dismantling work, there is still orange from **1976**.

The major changes were part of a project to expand the [Student Success Center](#), which currently lives in the north end of the 3rd floor. The Center will soon increase its testing computers from 37 to 62 in individual carrels (including four private testing rooms). The new testing carrels will expand the testing area for students needing special accommodations, small groups, and those taking on-demand tests.

Renovation of the west side for the Student Success Center expansion will allow 12 enclosed distraction-reduced testing rooms to be converted into individual study rooms available whenever the Library is open. In addition, six group rooms of varying size will be constructed on the east side of 3rd floor. These renovations will lead to more and better individual and small group study areas.

Watch for updates on social media, where you can find the Library on Facebook (www.facebook.com/uamslibrary/) or on Twitter ([@uamslibrary](https://twitter.com/uamslibrary)).

— Susan Steelman, AHIP, Head of Education & Research Services, UAMS Library



The shelf removal created space for an expansion of the Student Success Center's resources for test taking and study areas.

Accolades

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Blake Receives Research Award

Lindsay Blake, AHIP, Clinical Services Librarian in the UAMS Library and her former co-workers from Augusta University were recently awarded the MLA Hospital Libraries Section Professional Development Award for Research.

This award is given for the best published research paper by an HLS member. Here is the citation: Gaines, J.K., Blake, L., Kouame, G., Davies, K.J., Balance, D., Gaddy, V.T., Gallman, E., Russell, M., Wood, E. (2018) Partnering to analyze selection of resources by medical students for case-based small group learning: A collaboration between librarians and medical educators. *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*. 37(3). doi: 10.1080/02763869.2018.1477709.



Lindsay Blake

Academic Affairs Calendar

The following events and activities are hosted by departments within the UAMS Division of Academic Affairs or selected as possibly being of interest to faculty and staff. For more information on any AA event, visit the Academic Affairs or department website or contact the Office of the Provost, (501) 686-5672.

This list also contains continuing education events on campus that are submitted through the UAMS Office of Communications & Marketing. For a complete list of those events, visit <https://news.uams.edu/upcoming-academic-continuing-education-events> (intranet access required).

September

Sept. 30 – Educators Academy Teaching Workshop, “Multiple Choice Exams,” 4:30-6 p.m., IDW 105 a/b. For more information email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

October

Oct 1– eLearning Brown Bag Workshop, “Midterm Reports in Blackboard. How are students progressing?,” noon –12:50 p.m., Shorey 8/16. Limited to 10 participants, email [Martha Carle](mailto:Martha.Carle@uams.edu) to reserve a laptop or receive a Collaborate guest link (to join from a distance).

Oct. 3– eLearning Brown Bag Workshop, “Midterm Reports in Blackboard. How are students progressing?,” noon –12:50 p.m., Shorey 8/16. Limited to 10 participants, email [Martha Carle](mailto:Martha.Carle@uams.edu) to reserve a laptop or receive a Collaborate guest link (to join from a distance).

Oct. 4– eLearning Brown Bag Workshop, “Midterm Reports in Blackboard. How are students progressing?,” noon –12:50 p.m., Shorey 8/16. Limited to 10 participants, email [Martha Carle](mailto:Martha.Carle@uams.edu) to reserve a laptop

or receive a Collaborate guest link (to join from a distance).

Oct. 7– Educators Academy Teaching Workshop, “Introduction to Simulation,” 4:30-6 p.m., location TBD. (Limited to 8 participants.) For more information email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

Oct. 8– eLearning Brown Bag Workshop, “Grading Assignments and SafeAssign in Blackboard,” noon – 12:50 p.m., Shorey 8/16. Limited to 10 participants, email [Martha Carle](mailto:Martha.Carle@uams.edu) to reserve a laptop or receive a Collaborate guest link (to join from a distance).

Oct. 10– eLearning Brown Bag Workshop, “Grading Assignments and SafeAssign in Blackboard,” noon – 12:50 p.m., Shorey 8/16. Limited to 10 participants, email [Martha Carle](mailto:Martha.Carle@uams.edu) to reserve a laptop or receive a Collaborate guest link (to join from a distance).

Oct. 14– Educators Academy Teaching Workshop, “Formative Assessment Techniques,” 4:30-6 p.m., IDW 105 a/b. For more information email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

Oct. 21– Educators Academy Teaching Workshop, “Providing Feedback,” 4:30-6 p.m., IDW 105 a/b. For more information email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

Oct. 28– Educators Academy Teaching Workshop, “Communication in the Classroom and Clinic,” 4:30-6 p.m., IDW 105 a/b. For more information email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

November

Nov. 4– Educators Academy Teaching Workshop, “Blackboard Basics,” 4:30-6 p.m., IDW 105 a/b. For more information email the Educators Academy at EdAcad@uams.edu.

Division of Academic Affairs News

Dennis Joins IRPA

Regina Dennis recently joined the Department of Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation as Academic Administration and Accreditation Manager. She will coordinate activities related to Higher Learning Commission accreditation, work with UAMS program assessment and reporting, UAMS academic affairs policies and serve as IRPA office manager.

Prior to joining IRPA in July 2019, Regina worked in the Graduate School where she served as the Director of Admissions, Business Manager and International Student Advisor. She has a long history of service to UAMS and prior to the Graduate School worked as a program manager for the Translational Research Institute, a clinical studies coordinator for the Department of Endocrinology and a bench scientist for the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. During her brief three years away from UAMS she worked as a financial auditor for hospitals in Arkansas and northern Louisiana.



Regina Dennis