



*August brought students back to the UAMS Residence Hall — albeit with safety precautions required by the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though the temporary changes due to COVID-19 will limit how they move about and navigate their living and campus environments, students are excited to be back on campus and back to their academic pursuits.*

### **Accolades**

The **Center for Health Literacy** won an APEX Award in Publication Excellence in the Health and Medical Writing category for its guide, "How to M.O.V.E toward Emotional Wellness." The guide was designed to help teens and adults learn to maintain or improve their emotional wellness. The handbook was developed by the CHL team led by **Alison Caballero**; UAMS College of Public Health associate professor Tiffany Haynes, Ph.D., and Assistant Dean Keneshia Bryant, Ph.D.; and Jamie Watson, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Medical Humanities. Read more on the award and the guide at [news.uams.edu/2020/08/11/center-for-health-literacy-wins-apex-award-for-wellness-guide](https://news.uams.edu/2020/08/11/center-for-health-literacy-wins-apex-award-for-wellness-guide).

The **Center for Health Literacy** and the **Office of Continuing Education** received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in the poster competition in July at the Institute for Healthcare Advancement's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Literacy Conference. The poster  
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### **Students Return to Campus, Residence Hall**

We are thrilled that new and returning UAMS students have arrived and settled in at the Residence Hall (RH) for the 2020 fall semester, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although many students are attending classes remotely, they still chose to return or continue living on campus. Students tell us that they enjoy the campus community and the RH environment is conducive to their academic needs. Even though the temporary changes due to COVID-19 will limit how they move about and navigate their living and campus environments, students are excited to be back on campus and back to their academic pursuits.

A community living environment, such as a residence  
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## News from Academic Affairs

September 2020 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

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

#### Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

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- [Institutional Studies](#)

#### Society and Health

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

#### Student Services

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[Faculty Center](#)

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Office of Strategy Management

#### Questions? Comments?

Contact the Newsletter Editor, Jon Parham  
([jcparham@uams.edu](mailto:jcparham@uams.edu))

#### Academic Affairs

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## A Message from the Provost

Over the course of a couple days in September, I had the chance to speak to some faculty members on both ends of their careers.

I enjoyed spending time at the annual UAMS New Faculty Reception on Sept. 22. Then on Sept. 24, I visited with members of our Emeritus Faculty group. Both events were hosted by our Faculty Center.



Due to COVID precautions we met virtually, of course. I understand the need to conduct these events virtually. It just is not as much fun as when we are able to greet these new colleagues and old friends in person. *Dr. Stephanie Gardner*

What was **not** disappointing was the enthusiasm on display and the fact that our faculty made this effort to connect regardless of the circumstances.

For new faculty members — whether they are just new to the institution or new to academics altogether — the faculty reception offers a formal welcome to UAMS and the chance to meet UAMS leader and other faculty colleagues. I was glad to tell them how fortunate I feel that UAMS has been my professional home for 29 years now.

With the emeritus faculty, it is wonderful that these retirees choose to continue giving some of their time to UAMS. They are engaged and want to help the institution that was their home for so long. They also want to help current faculty members and students thrive.

So even though I had to greet rows of video windows on my computer screen, it was encouraging to see so many faces and so many making the effort to stay connected. These new and older faculty members demonstrated again that while COVID forces us to alter so many routines, it does not stop the spirit of Team UAMS from carrying on.

## **Campus Life and Student Support Services**



*A student completes check-in at the Residence Hall.*



### **Students Return**

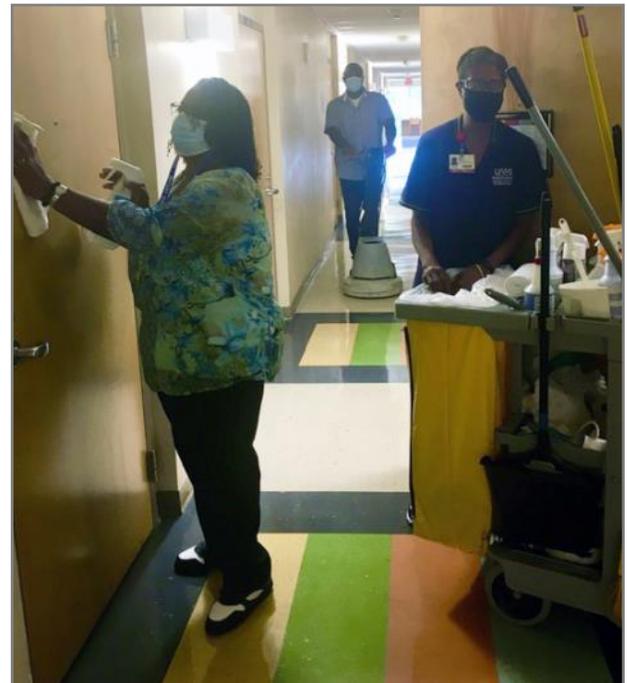
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hall, requires extraordinary measures in order to maintain the highest standards necessary for combating COVID-19. As with the entire campus, our staff faces the challenge of keeping our facility safe and our students and guests healthy.

However, we are up to that challenge and we are committed to following the guidance of UAMS, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Here are some of the safeguards and cleaning practices:

- Modified student check-in process to allow for social distancing and COVID screenings
- Posted signage reminding students to wear masks and practice social distancing at all times
- Implemented enhanced cleaning efforts to wipe down and sanitize high traffic areas (door handles, handrails, elevators, laundry facility, hallways, lobbies, community kitchens)
- Created sanitation stations in each building along with installing additional hand sanitizer dispensers on each floor
- Limiting capacity in elevators and community areas
- Posted COVID19 messages and reminders of the housing guidelines in public areas throughout all buildings including entrances, and common areas



*The Residence Hall cleaning staff implemented enhanced cleaning requirements for the Residence Hall and Student Center, including coordinated efforts to regularly clean and sanitize high-traffic areas.*

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## **Campus Life and Student Support Services**



*2020-2021 Associated Student Government officers are (left to right: Vice President, Kyle Davis, COP; President, Allison Schneider, COM; Secretary, Curran Henson, COM; Treasurer, Mackenzie Reinhart, COP*

### **Associated Student Government**

The Associated Student Government (ASG) activities began over the summer after students participated in the White Coats for Black Lives event. The climate of this event sparked ASG officers, Allison Schneider (President-COM), Kyle Davis (Vice-President-COP), Curran Henson (Secretary-COM) and Mackenzie Reinhart (Treasurer-COP) to take action and team up with the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DDEI).

In September, the officers conducted a survey to learn what diversity means to UAMS students. ASG and the UAMS Office of Communications and Marketing will take these words and create a word cloud art piece that will be placed in the Student Center (SC) in late October. ASG thought this would be a creative way to involve all voices of the student body.

ASG officers and representatives are also actively working on a student diversity statement. This idea was brought to the table by Brian Gittens, Ed.D., vice chancellor for diversity, equity, and inclusion. A signing event will convene for one week in mid-October that invites all students to sign a large diversity statement banner. The project gives students an opportunity to unite and stand committed to uphold the values encompassed within the statement. The banner will also be on display in the Student Center. Through this project, ASG hopes that each time students, employees, and faculty walk into the SC, the echoes of unity will resound.

For more details of upcoming student activities, visit the [Campus Life and Student Support Services webpage](http://campuslifeandstudentupportservices.uams.edu/).

## **Campus Life and Student Support Services**

### **Student Center**

Campus Life and Student Support Services had a unique start to the fall semester. We “Zoomed” our way through new student orientations, which was a learning curve for most. Even with all of the adaptive measures, student excitement and engagement was as present as ever.

The Student Center is OPEN! As students dropped by in small groups, the masks worn could not hide the excitement in their eyes. The Student Center is thoroughly sanitized and COVID-19 safeguards will continue as we make every effort to provide a safe location for students to study or just relax while social distancing. We are excited for students to utilize the friendly and welcoming space again.



*Local Grounds, the coffee shop inside the UAMS Student Center is open (above). Local Grounds offers coffee and pastry pick up (right) and remains a popular spot for students.*



*Vanessa Lewis (left), student services manager, leads a virtual new student orientation via video conferencing platform Zoom.*

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## **Campus Life and Student Support Services**

### **Intramural Sports**

This semester we put a “backspin” on our sports program. We want our students to have fun while also being socially safe.

Therefore, instead of the favorite flag football and bowling, Campus Life is offering tennis as a safe, social distancing sport for students. On Sunday afternoons, from mid September to mid October, students welcome the opportunity to escape from their computers and enjoy the outdoors as they participate in single-play tennis at McClellan High School.



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## **Office of the University Registrar**

### **University Offers Graduation Date Flexibility in Response to COVID-19**

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought many changes to UAMS Commencement and graduation through the spring and summer, including the cancellation of the yearly Commencement event and the possibility of delayed student graduation due to class and clinical activity changes. Some colleges hosted virtual convocation and graduation-related events, and most graduating students were able to complete their academic programs on-time as scheduled.

For other students, the disruption created unavoidable delays in academic progress, so UAMS submitted a special request to the University of Arkansas System to create additional degree conferral dates during the summer and early fall. The request was approved, and the UAMS Office of the University Registrar conferred degrees for 16 students June 15 and July 15, with an additional 23 students are expected to graduate on September 15.

Conferring degrees on additional dates helped reduce the negative impact of COVID-19-related program delays, allowing students to complete degree requirements and avoid additional delays before entering the workforce or starting subsequent academic programs. For more information about graduation and UAMS Commencement, visit <http://registrar.uams.edu> or <http://commencement.uams.edu>.

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## **Division of Academic Affairs**

### **Visitor Policy Set for Academic Exceptions**

To support limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus, UAMS currently has a no visitor policy in place. All activities that may be supported via virtual delivery are strongly encouraged to be completed this way.

In recognition that some operations may not translate well to virtual delivery and propose external visitors on campus, limited exceptions to this policy may be considered to support institutional mission and goals. This process is used for visitors that are requesting entry for a one-time purpose and do not fall under the purview of the Academic Visitor Policy. Examples include prospective student visit, interview (faculty, staff, or student), external speaker for conference/seminar, meeting attendance.

**To request an exception for approval of an external visitor, please submit the required information below at least one week in advance of the visit.** All visitors must complete the UAMS health screening process when arriving on site. Visitors should be instructed to park in [Parking 2](#), and enter at the [Parking 2B screening entrance](#). All visitors must have a scheduled time of arrival appointment time. Visitors must be met at the screening station by the designated Visitor Escort. The Visitor Escort must remain with the visitor at all times on campus to ensure that no unapproved areas are visited.

A schedule report of approved visitors will be on file with the screening station each day to coordinate approved visits. For more information and the online form, visit <https://academicaffairs.uams.edu/visitor-exception-request>.

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## **Office of Educational Development**

The Office of Educational Development is pleased to offer a number of resources, training opportunities, and services for faculty through the [OED website](#).

### **New Faculty Resources**

**The Teaching Resources Page** has brief how-to videos and other tools for developing your classes interactively or online. Teaching resource topics include Best Practices for Pre-Class Assignments, Tips for Recording Video Voice Intros, Sharing a Box File in Blackboard, and Uploading a Video to the Video Index Server.

**The Teaching Resources Blog** introduces helpful topics to faculty in teaching and scholarly work. The first blog, written by **Lisa Ferris, Ed.S.**, Instructional Designer, describes how faculty can legally use resources (videos, photos, documents) for online coursework. The Seven Copyright Best Practices for Online teaching is available on [the OED Website](#).

**The Recording Room for Faculty** is ready to use for recording PowerPoint presentations. To schedule your time and bring the PowerPoint on a flash drive. Zac Walthall of OED will be available to assist faculty in the setup for recordings. If you need service, please complete the Recording Studio Request Form (<http://educationaldevelopment.uams.edu/home/recording-studio-request-form>). Please allow at least 24 hours advance notice for the room to be cleaned and prepared.

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### **Instructional Design Services**

**The OED Instructional Design Team** provides extensive services for colleges, programs and individual faculty in course development. Much of this work has been directed toward implementing online and hybrid based approaches to teaching.

**One-on-one instructional design consultation** is available as well as two new teaching resources for design ideas—the **Teaching Resources page** on the [OED website](#) and the **Course Design Gallery in Blackboard**. To access the design gallery, go to [Blackboard](#), My Communities, search for Course Design Gallery, and click self-enroll.

Faculty and support staff are encouraged to request OED instructional design assistance. To learn more, visit the [Course Design tab](#) on the OED website, and for consultation, complete an [OED Service Request Form](#) with details of what you need.

### **Evaluation Design Services**

**The OED Evaluation team** provides individual and small-group instruction in educational evaluation to UAMS faculty and staff in the following areas: defining desired outcomes, formulating program goals and objectives, reviewing curricular materials, and determining appropriate methods of evaluation. We also provide consultation in: preparing evaluation plans, developing evaluation tools, and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data.

To request evaluation services, please complete the [OED Assistance Request Form](#).

## **Office of Educational Development**

### **Blackboard Training Sessions**

The OED eLearning Team has scheduled **Blackboard Brown Bag Workshops for the remainder of the year. All topics are offered online.** RSVP to [Blackboard Help@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu) to reserve a link to the training. Please make your reservation no later than noon on the day before the session.

In addition to the training sessions, eLearning team members are available for one-on-one training. Please send requests via email to [BlackboardHelp@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu).

**BlackboardHelp@uams.edu** will connect you to an eLearning team member to help faculty **create Blackboard Communities** for organizations, cohort groups, college Collaborate recordings, and other activities. To request a Community or other Blackboard assistance, please email [BlackboardHelp@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu).

<b>October/November/December Blackboard Brownbags</b>			
Mon	10/5/20	noon - 1pm	Blackboard Assignments & SafeAssign
Wed	10/7/20	8:30-9:30	Collaborate Ultra Tools & Tips for Interactivity
Thurs	10/8/20	8:30-9:30	Asynchronous/Synchronous Discussions: Blackboard Discussion Tool/ Breakout Rooms Collaborate Ultra
Fri	10/9/20	noon - 1pm	Blackboard Testing & Respondus Monitor
Tues	10/13/20	4:30-5:30	Student Presentations in Collaborate Ultra
Thurs	10/15/20	8:30-9:30	Discussions, Blogs, Wikis & Journals in Bb
Fri	10/16/20	noon - 1pm	Collaborate Ultra Tools & Tips for Interactivity
Tues	10/20/20	8:30-9:30	Blackboard Grade Center Advanced
Thurs	10/22/20	8:30-9:30	Blackboard Assignments & Rubrics
Thurs	10/22/20	4:30-5:30	Student Presentations in Collaborate Ultra
Tues	10/27/20	noon - 1pm	Blackboard ALLY demonstration
Thurs	10/29/20	8:30-9:30	Blackboard Testing & EAC Visual Data
Thurs	10/29/20	4:30-5:30	Collaborate Ultra Tools & Tips for Interactivity
Tues	11/3/20	8:30-9:30	Blackboard Testing & Respondus Monitor
Thurs	11/5/20	8:30-9:30	Blackboard Grade Center Advanced
Thurs	11/5/20	4:30-5:30	Collaborate Ultra Tools & Tips for Interactivity
Tues	11/10/20	noon - 1pm	Basic Collaborate Ultra with Security Settings
Thurs	11/12/20	8:30-9:30	Copy Spring Course & Date Management
Tues	11/17/20	noon - 1pm	Student Presentations in Collaborate Ultra
Thurs	11/19/20	8:30-9:30	End of Semester Tasks in Bb
Tues	12/1/20	8:30-9:30	End of Semester Tasks in Bb
Thurs	12/3/20	8:30-9:30	Copy Spring Course & Date Management
Thurs	12/3/20	4:30-5:30	Basic Collaborate Ultra with Security Settings
Tues	12/8/20	noon - 1pm	ALLY demonstration
Thurs	12/10/20	8:30-9:30	Copy Spring Course & Date Management
Fri	12/11/20	8:30-9:30	Asynchronous/Synchronous Discussions: Blackboard Discussion Tool/ Breakout Rooms Collaborate Ultra
Tues	12/15/20	noon - 1pm	End of Semester Tasks in Bb
Thurs	12/17/20	8:30-9:30	Copy Spring Course & Date Management

### **\*Comprehensive Blackboard (Bb) Training**

**Comprehensive Bb Training is available by request [BlackboardHelp@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu)**

**Sessions are 2 hours and are available online only. When you register you will be sent a calendar invite and a link for joining.**

**\*Session #1** includes Overview to Blackboard; Communication tools; Assignments; and Rubrics.

**\*Session #2** includes Testing in Blackboard and Respondus products (LockDown Browser, Respondus 4.0; Respondus Monitor) and EAC Visual Data.

**\*Session #3** includes the Grade Center; Groups; Course Analytics; and Collaborate Ultra.

**Accolades***Continued from Page 1*

was authored by leaders at CHL (**Alison Caballero**, M.P.H., CHES and **Katherine Leath**, M.P.H., M.A.), along with **Lea Mabry**, M.Ed. and **Richelle Thompson**, Ed.S., CHES, from the Office of Continuing Education. Also joining the authors were faculty in the College of Medicine (Robert Hopkins, Jr. M.D., Timothy Atkinson, Ed.D., and Mary Burgess, M.D.). The team collaborated on a Quality Improvement project that resulted in significant increases in uptake of pneumococcal vaccine among immunocompromised patients.

**Center for Health Literacy** leaders and affiliate faculty (**Alison Caballero**, M.P.H., CHES, **Katherine Leath**, M.P.H., M.A., and **Jamie Watson**, Ph.D.) recently published a paper on an assessment of public-facing materials related to COVID-19. The paper, "COVID-19 Consumer Health Information Needs Improvement to Be Readable and Actionable by High-Risk Populations," was published in *Frontiers in Communication*, Health Communication edition and can be found at: [www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2020.00056/full](http://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2020.00056/full).

From the **Student Success Center** — **Marybeth Norcross**, M.S.Ed. was voted by the Class of 2020 to deliver the Keynote message at the Physician Assistant Valediction Ceremony, held via Zoom on Aug. 21.

**Jasna Vuk**, M.D., Ph.D., from the **Student Success Center**, along with Karina Clemmons, Ed.D., and Brittany Griffin, M.D. candidate, were awarded a \$2,500 developmental-level 2020 Medical Education Research and Innovation Challenge (MERIC) grant for their work on the "The effect of students' utilization of USMLE Rx preparation materials on passing rates of the USMLE Step 1 exam, medical students' learning and motivation."

**Division of Academic Affairs****Policy Developed to Allow Some Student Events**

To support limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus, all face-to-face student events must be submitted through the online [Event Form](#) for review and approval for AY21 until further notice. This includes on campus and off campus events planned by colleges and recognized student organizations. All activities that may be supported via virtual delivery are strongly encouraged to be completed this way.

In recognition that some events may not translate well to virtual delivery, limited face to face events may be considered to support institutional mission and goals. Event organizers must abide by all applicable COVID-19 directives of the Arkansas Department of Health and UAMS. Large gatherings are discouraged. Approved events shall use sanitation protocols and social distancing practices. Event organizers should keep a list of their event participants in the event of a need for contact tracing.

**To request approval for a face to face student event, please submit the [Event Form](#) at least 2 weeks before the event date.** Information needed for event evaluation includes but is not limited to the following:

- Event description
- How the event will be executed in coordination with the Arkansas Department of Health guidelines
- Expected attendance and who will attend

Find the UAMS Event Form online at <http://events.apps.uams.edu>.