



College of Pharmacy faculty present candidates for graduation as students attend remotely.

Virtual Convocations Celebrate Graduates

Though the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic prevented a UAMS Commencement ceremony for a second year, the colleges found virtual ways to celebrate their graduates.

The College of Pharmacy presented a virtual convocation on May 14 for faculty and graduates, as did the
—Continued on Page 8

**Simulation Education
Team UAMS Makes RIP Week 2021
a Success for Medical Students**

The Rising Intern Preparation (RIP) Week is an important event in the UAMS College of Medicine calendar and helps prepare M4s for intern practice.

The week historically included expert panels, ACLS training and simulations. In 2020 this week was canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions. This year it was successfully delivered virtually, thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee of Karen Dickinson, M.D., MBBS, M.Ed., FRCS, assistant professor of surgery in the College of Medicine and director of interprofessional simulation and clinical skills education in the Office of Interprofessional Education, Matthew Spond, M.D., associate professor of anesthesia in the College of Medicine, and Veronica Ussery, Education Director of the Anesthesia Tech Pipeline Program and GME Program Coordinator for
—Continued on Page 5

Inside this Issue:

- Campus Life and Student Support Services - Page 3

Rhee, Tilford Receive Chancellor’s Teaching Awards

Sung W. Rhee, Ph.D., and J. Mick Tilford, Ph.D., are the recipients of the 2021 Chancellor’s Teaching Awards, a program established in 2004 to recognize excellence in teaching among UAMS faculty.

“Sung and Mick are tremendous assets to UAMS, respected by colleagues and students alike, who advance scholarship and the academic mission of UAMS every day. They are shining examples to which all educators should aspire,” said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, chancellor of UAMS and CEO of UAMS Health.

The Chancellor’s Teaching Awards program is facilitated by the Office of Educational Development in the Division of Academic Affairs.

Tilford is the recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Society and Health Education Excellence. The award recognizes the design and implementation of courses or activities that advance the topics of society and health. It can be through areas of cultural awareness, health care economics, health equity, health literacy, health systems, interprofessional education, collaborative practice, public and population health, patient- and family-centered care, or educational scholarship.

Tilford joined UAMS in 1993 and is a professor and chair in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health. His Health Systems and Services Research academic
—Continued on Page 8



From left, Mick Tilford, Ph.D., Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, and Sung Rhee, Ph.D.

- Office of Educational Development - Page 6
- Center for Health Literacy - Page 8
- Accolades - Page 9

News from Academic Affairs

May 2021 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

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- [Commencement](#)

Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation

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

Society and Health

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- [12th Street Health and Wellness Center](#)
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- [UAMS Library](#)
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- [Student Success Center](#)

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- [Office of Academic Services](#)
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- [Office of Educational Development](#)

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[Center for Health Literacy](#)

[Center for Faculty Excellence](#)

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Office of Strategy Management

Questions? Comments?

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A Message from the Provost

Team UAMS continues to adapt — meeting the challenges of the pandemic.

The latest example came with the annual Rising Intern Preparation (RIP) Week for the College of Medicine. In April 2020, when COVID-19 had only arrived in Arkansas six weeks prior to RIP Week, the event was canceled since there was no way to meet guidelines for physical distancing.

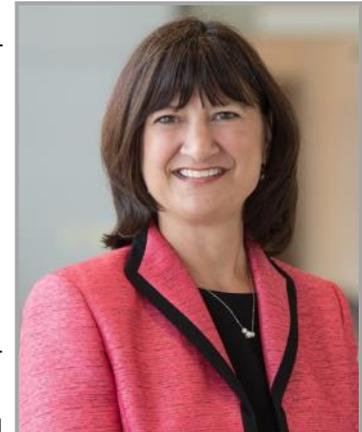
Former UAMS Chancellor Dodd Wilson would often say, when approached with a problem: "I hear the 'what,' but where is the 'so what?'" Facing the "what" of needing to provide this critical training opportunity for our fourth-year medical students this year, RIP Week organizers collaborated across UAMS to develop the "so what."

Those organizers, including the Centers for Simulation Education team in Academic Affairs, successfully transformed the event into a virtual learning experience.

Karen J. Dickinson, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, director of interprofessional simulation and clinical skills training credited a team effort of UAMS faculty and staff, along with standardized patients for the event's success. Multiple simulations on situations new interns could encounter during the first week of their internship were translated for a virtual platform.

The weeklong training included advanced cardiac life support teaching, five virtual panels delivered in a webinar format with Q&A and virtual simulations in Zoom breakout rooms. By the end of the training, the students had rotated through five different patient situations and learned more about optimizing a patients' length of stay in the hospital.

Thanks so much to everyone involved in this effort. Your hard work truly illustrated teamwork, creativity and excellence.



Dr. Stephanie Gardner

Campus Life and Student Support Services

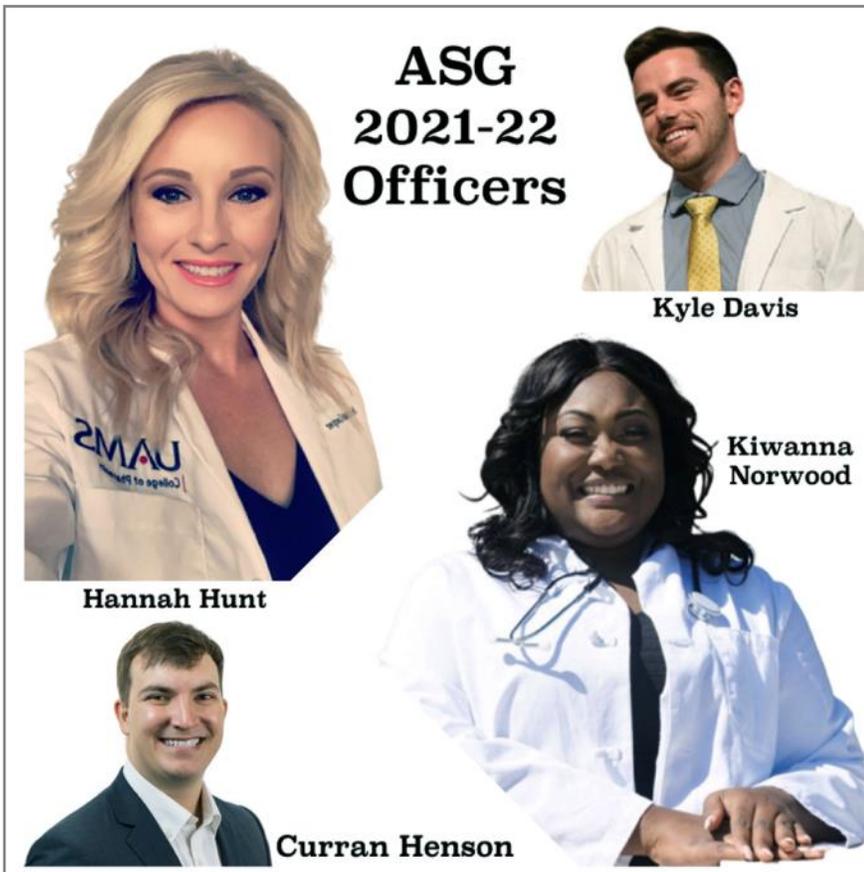
NEW! Campus Life Student Communication App

Campus Life is thrilled to announce that we are launching a new app to help students stay connected to what is happening on campus, right from their phones.

We know that students use smartphones as a primary means to communicate. Students also tell us they are experiencing email overload, especially during this past year. These factors led us to pilot a new mobile app that is custom-built for UAMS students. The new app offers an alternative way for students to receive real-time updates from its live feed. Students can access documents, events, and other campus information right from their phones.

Currently, only selected areas of campus are participating in the pilot project. Next spring, assessment of usage and student feedback will determine if we can expand the project scope to include colleges and other student-related areas of campus.

It's everything UAMS Campus Life, in your pocket



Associated Student Government Officers (ASG)

The 2021-22 Associated Student Government (ASG) voting results are in and it is our pleasure to introduce the new officers.

Now that ASG has wrapped up for the semester, the incoming officers can start planning fall activities, such as the annual Constitution Day/ Student Resource Fair and other back-to-school events and projects.

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

ASG President- Kyle Davis (COP), ASG Vice President- Curran Henson (COM)
ASG Secretary- Kiwanna Norwood (CON), and ASG Treasurer- Hannah Hunt (COP).

Campus Life and Student Support Services



Summer Chill with Loblolly Creamery

ASG closed out the spring semester with curbside events at Loblolly Creamery in the South Main (SoMa) area of Little Rock.

Although ASG was challenged this year with nearly all virtual events, the student organization did not miss a beat. During April and May, 400 UAMS students enjoyed decadent ice cream coolness courtesy of the ASG.

We greatly appreciate owner Sally Mengel, and her amazing team at Loblolly Creamery, for creating two popular events that allowed our students to, safely, enjoy some of the best ice cream in town.



Loblolly Creamery owner Sally Mengel

Nakia Dedner, assistant director for Campus Life and Student Support Services, poses for a photo in front of the Loblolly entrance. Loblolly Creamery is located at 1423 South Main St. They are open Tuesday–Wednesday, 12 pm–8 pm, Thursday–Saturday, 12 pm–9 pm and Sunday 11 am–7 pm.

Student Center



Grab and Go Burgers @ the Student Center

In April, Campus Life and Student Support Services hosted a “grab-n-go” lunch for students. Offerings included hamburgers, cheeseburgers, turkey and veggie burgers with all the trimmings, as well as chips and a drink. Students were thankful for the free, fun and tasty meal. It is priceless seeing our students happy and enjoying being back on campus with a satisfied stomach.

Campus Life and Student Support Services

Intramurals: Spring Softball



Last year, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Campus Life Intramural Sports program was unable to offer softball. This year, however, we were able to offer this favorite intramural pastime by implementing strict COVID guidelines. Students were grateful and they fully embraced being able to play, even with every safety pandemic precaution presented. They were thrilled to compete, joke, giggle and share camaraderie in the splendid sunshine.

Simulation — RIP Week

Continued from Page 1

the Department of Anesthesiology. The week would not have been possible without the support and dedication of the staff of the UAMS Centers for Simulation Education including Travis Hill, Sherry Johnson, Margaret Glasgow, Patti Griffey, Dewayne Allen, Jamie Thornton, Andrew Warr and Jerry Halpain and the incredibly talented simulated patients.

The ACLS education was delivered with great enthusiasm by Susan Robertson and Angela Duncan. Thanks also are due to the incredible faculty educators from the Department of Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Cardiology and Neurology. The expert panel sessions were successful due to those who gracefully gave their time including: chief and interns from multiple specialties, Mara Blakley, Floyd Nutter, Shauna Russell, Janice Nottenkamper, Holly Naramore, Rawle Seupaul, M.D., Ahmed Abuabdou, M.D., and Lowry Barnes, M.D. The week represents an invaluable chance for the M4s to practice high-risk, low-frequency clinical events and ask questions in order to improve their preparedness for intern year.



The team in the Centers for Simulation Education who helped deliver a virtual RIP Week experience for medical students.

Office of Educational Development

eLearning Team

Blackboard's Ultra Base Navigation Update

Blackboard completed maintenance on May 16 to introduce the new Ultra Base Navigation experience.

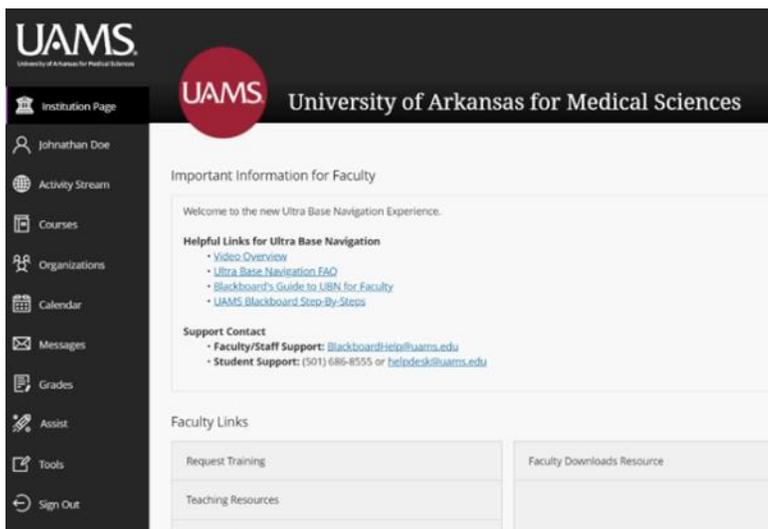
Ultra Base Navigation brings a refined user navigation experience to Blackboard. Please be aware that this update **DOES NOT** impact the way your courses look or operate. However, it does change the look of the front page and changes how you navigate to your courses and notifications.

Please see our [full announcement](#) for more information.

Want to see a demo? Check out our [eLearning Training Sessions](#) page to sign-up for an existing session or request a custom time that works for you.

Additional Ultra Base Navigation Resources:

- [UAMS UBN FAQ Page](#)
- [Ultra Base Navigation Video for Instructors](#)
- [Ultra Base View Menu Guide for Instructors](#)



A look at the new Ultra Base Navigation Experience

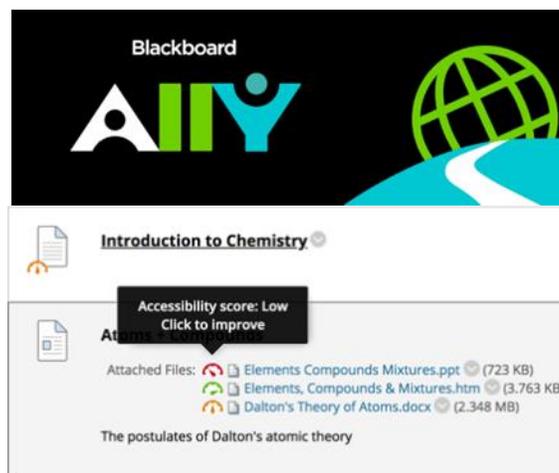
Ally Accessibility Checker: Coming July 1

Starting July 1, Blackboard Ally's accessibility checker tool will be enabled for Fall 2021 courses and beyond. Blackboard Ally is a course accessibility tool with multiple features that can help instructors, students, and the institution. It provides automated alternative file formats, accessibility feedback, and accessibility reports.

Please see our [Introducing Blackboard Ally blog post](#) for more detailed information and screenshots of Ally. Watch for upcoming demos on our [eLearning Training Sessions](#) page or request a custom time. A recording is also available by request.

Additional Blackboard Ally Resources:

- [Ally Help for Instructors](#)
- [Ally Quickstart Guide for Instructors](#)



Meter icons indicate at-a-glance accessibility scores to Instructors

Upcoming eLearning Training Sessions

Please see our [eLearning Training Sessions](#) page for full list of scheduled sessions. For the Summer, our scheduled sessions

focus on introducing Ultra Base Navigation and Blackboard Ally.

If you need training for another Blackboard tool or topic please send your request to Blackboard-Help@uams.edu. Comprehensive training sessions are also available by request. We can accommodate individual and group training.

Office of Educational Development



Educational Scholarship Grantsmanship: How to Write Promising Grant Proposals

Friday, June 4, noon-1 PM*

*Dr. Blanco will be available from 1-2 PM for individual consultations



Maria Blanco, Ed.D.
Associate Dean for Faculty Development
Tufts University, School of Medicine

Educational Research and Scholarship Series
Teaching Scholars, Office of Educational Development, Academic Affairs

A video recording of this session will be available.
Visit the Office of Educational Development website for continuing education information.

Instructional Design Team

The **Teaching Resources Blog** on OED's website focuses on tools to enhance online teaching and other skills. Due to the Covid-19 virus, more courses have been redesigned from in person to online lectures. This blog has great information for review before starting the fall semester in preparation for producing online instruction. Topics include *Writing a Script for Your Video*, *Choosing a Setting*, *Recording Video and Audio Simultaneously in PowerPoint 365*, and *Peer Review of Teaching: Professional Development Through Collaboration and Reflection*.

Center for Health Literacy

Center for Health Literacy Garners International Awards from Center for Plain Language

The UAMS Center for Health Literacy (CHL) recently won two more ClearMark Awards for their pneumococcal vaccine handout, which was created through a collaborative quality improvement project with UAMS Continuing Education and the College of Medicine.

The Center for Plain Language presented the awards at their annual conference in May. The ClearMark Awards recognize outstanding plain language communications from across North America. CHL's entry "Protect Yourself with the Pneumococcal Vaccine" and its Spanish counterpart each received Awards of Distinction in their respective categories.



CHL is especially proud of this work, as its aim to improve pneumococcal vaccination rates among vulnerable patients of the UAMS Rheumatology and Multiple Myeloma clinics was very successful with vaccine protection nearly doubling during the project period. In addition to the development of the award-winning patient education material, the QI project included provider education and systems changes.

These awards are CHL's third and fourth ClearMark Awards since 2017.

Teaching Awards

Continued from Page 1

program grew from part-time to full-time, accompanied by increased grant submissions and publications by students and faculty. He worked with the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville to develop a health care concentration in their Executive MBA program that started in 2017.

Trained as a health economist, Tilford saw a need to equip social scientists with data analytics skills, so he collaborated with bioinformatics and biostatistics colleagues to create a health care analytics academic program at UAMS in 2018. This work laid the foundation for a 2020 National Institutes of Health training grant, creating a network with seven institutions across the country to train doctoral students in advanced analytics toward the goal of eliminating health care disparities.

Rhee is the recipient of the Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes direct teaching, mentoring or educational scholarship between a faculty member and any learner. It can be in all settings, including the classroom, online, clinic or laboratory.

An associate professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Rhee joined UAMS in 2004, with research interests related to new treatments for stroke, hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases. He soon proved an exceptional teacher with improved student outcomes and a flair for using props and technology to spur class engagement. During the pandemic, he adapted to online instruction in ways that encouraged student participation and developed protocols for online exams that quickly became a standard. He assisted faculty members in adopting active learning techniques such as self-paced mobile polling. In 2019, he teamed up as co-director for the Honors in Research Program for medical students — even designing an online system for applications and matching applicants with faculty mentors.

From 2016-2020, second-year medical students selected Rhee, director of the cardiovascular module, as the most outstanding teacher of the year. In 2019, he was chosen for that award by sophomore and senior students, adding to his already numerous teaching honors.

Virtual

Continued from Page 1

College of Medicine. The College of Nursing held a virtual pinning and hooding ceremony on May 15. The Graduate School virtual event was May 13 and the College of Public Health convocation was May 22.

Several of the programs within the College of Health Professions planned their own virtual events, scheduled in May and June and a few later

this year.

On May 6, the UAMS Division for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion held a virtual celebration for underrepresented and minority graduates in all UAMS programs.

The ceremonies were broadcast online for friends and family to watch.

Academic Affairs Accolades

- **Karen Dickinson**, M.D., MBBS, M.Ed., FRCS, director of interprofessional education simulation and clinical skills training in the Office of Interprofessional Education and also an assistant professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Surgery, was recently featured in an online article by the University of Houston about the research article, "Application of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Principles to Surgical Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic," that she co-authored while earning her master's degree there. Find the feature article online at www.uh.edu/education/features/kdickinson.
- **Cynthia Mercado**, MBA, MA, research assistant on the Evaluation Team in the Office of Educational Development, joined authors from the UAMS Reynolds Center on Aging including Robin McAtee, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Geriatrics; Laura Spradley, outreach coordinator for the Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative (AGEC); Leah Tobey, P.T., D.P.T., clinic coordinator and manager for AGECEC; Whitney Thomasson, research assistant, AGECEC; Gohar Azhar, M.D., professor in the Department of Geriatrics, on the manuscript in press "Caregiver Burden: Caregiving Workshops Have a Positive Impact on Those Caring for Individuals With Dementia in Arkansas" submitted to *The Journal of Patient Experience*.
- **Tim Muren**, head of the [Writing and Presentation Center](#) in the Student Success Center, won first place for his poem "Sawhorses" in the first [Drs. Paulette and Jay Mehta Awards in Creative Writing](#). The poem appeared in the latest issue of [Medicine and Meaning](#), the UAMS online literary journal. [Click here to read the poem](#).
- **Kristen Sterba**, Ph.D., associate provost for students and administration, and director of the Department of Institutional Research, Policy and Accreditation in the Division of Academic Affairs, recently gave three presentations at the virtual summit of the national association for graduate enrollment professionals (NAGAP).
The presentations included:
 - NAGAP Summit Special Interest Forum, Kristen Sterba, Cammie Baker Clancy, Francesca Reed. "Stressed, Tired, & Overwhelmed: How to Manage Change at your Institution", Virtual, April 30, 2021
 - NAGAP Summit Special Interest Forum, Kristen Sterba, Julie Deland. "Advanced Professionals Roundtable: Budget Management and Planning", Virtual, April 29, 2021
 - NAGAP Summit Presentation, Kristen Sterba, Travis Coufal, Stephanie Franks-Helwich. "The State of Graduate Program Marketing and Enrollment", Virtual, April 29, 2021
- A joint project of **Center for Health Literacy**, the **Office of Continuing Education (OCE)**, and the **College of Medicine** was presented at a national health education conference. Presenters were **Alison Caballero** and **Katherine Leath** from CHL; **Lea Mabry** and **Richelle Thompson** from the OCE; and **Robert Hopkins, Jr., M.D., Timothy Atkinson**, and **Mary Burgess** from the College of Medicine and clinical enterprise. "QI success story: Improving pneumococcal vaccine rates in immunocompromised adults with help from health behavior theory and plain language" was presented to the National Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).
- Faculty and staff from the **Center for Health Literacy (CHL)** also have several recent presentations and a publication to celebrate:
 - **Alison Caballero**, CHL director, delivered the opening keynote "Take FIVE to make health information more equitable" at the Southeast Health Literacy Conference.
 - CHL leaders **Alison Caballero** and **Katherine Leath**, CHL affiliate faculty member **Jamie Watson** presented "Assessment of a sample of COVID-19 online information under scores need for attention to plain language" to the National Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).
 - **Katherine Leath**, **Alison Caballero**, **Maria Rulvalcaba**, CHL program administrator, and **Emily Taylor**, CHL health educator, presented Developing culturally-relevant materials to address vaccine hesitancy in minority populations. National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM) COVID-19 Infodemic Virtual Symposium.