



**Another  
Sign of  
Spring:  
GradFest**



Campus Life and Student Support Services hosted GradFest on March 15-17.

During the annual three-day event, students enjoyed live music, fresh celebratory cookies, and received custom cinch bags full of UAMS “swag.” In addition, 100 gift bags were delivered to the Northwest Campus for distribution to seniors there. Although, not the pre-pandemic, in-person festival from years past, our seniors were thrilled and grateful to be celebrated.

Cheri Goforth Warmack, director of Campus Life and Student Support Services, praised those groups who donated items for the  
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**Office of Continuing Education:**

**Two New Accreditation Types Available**

The UAMS Office of Continuing Education recently added two new accreditation types for your continuing education activities.

In addition to nursing, pharmacy, physician, and physician assistant credits, CE activity planners may now add dietitian credits through the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) and athletic trainer credits through the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC).

UAMS is accredited for commendation through Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education™. Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education establishes the standards for education providers to deliver interprofessional continuing education (IPCE) planned by the health care team for the health care team.

Activity planners can offer any combination of the six credit types for their activity using the same unified application process. The UAMS OCE also will approve activities planned for a single profession.

For additional information or to arrange a pre-application consultation, please contact Courtney Bryant at [bryantcourtneve@uams.edu](mailto:bryantcourtneve@uams.edu) or by calling 501-320-7608.

*(Find more Office of Continuing Education news on page 6.)*

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## News from Academic Affairs

March 2022 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  
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](#)
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#### 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](#)
- [Educational and Student Success Center](#)

#### Teaching and Learning Support

- [Office of Academic Services](#)
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[Arkansas Commission on Child Abuse, Rape and Domestic Violence](#)

[Center for Health Literacy](#)

[Center for Faculty Excellence](#)

[Office of Continuing Education](#)

Office of Strategy Management

#### Questions? Comments?

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

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## A Message from the Provost

UAMS is fortunate to have a strong, thriving group of more than 100 emeritus faculty. This group wishes to remain plugged in and active in the life of this institution even following their retirement.



*Dr. Stephanie Gardner*

We are glad to be able to welcome them back to campus for regular luncheons and an annual fall gathering. Granted, COVID has prevented these gatherings from happening in person but we look forward to being able to host this group on campus again when we can safely do so.

By having a group of emeritus faculty still willing to be engaged with UAMS, we are able to rely on their experience and expertise as mentors to new and junior faculty. They continue to advise current leaders on issues of interest.

The fact that UAMS is still able to lean on the years of experience and collective expertise is simply fantastic. This fact was made more apparent recently when a study by Stanford University analyzed a database of peer-reviewed research literature to develop a list of the world's most influential researchers.

More than 50 UAMS researchers were found to be among the top 2% of researchers as measured by productivity and impact. You can read more about this study and the UAMS researchers who were listed at [news.uams.edu/2022/03/16/study-puts-more-than-50-uams-faculty-among-top-2-of-influential-researchers](https://news.uams.edu/2022/03/16/study-puts-more-than-50-uams-faculty-among-top-2-of-influential-researchers).

I am pleased that so many UAMS researchers were recognized. This underscores the quality of our faculty. Of those 50 from UAMS, 15 were emeritus faculty. To me, this further illustrates that their contributions to this institution, and to generations of students and patients, are sustained long beyond their years of service.

## **Office of Educational Development**

### **Blackboard News**

#### **Upcoming eLearning Training Sessions**

Please see our [eLearning Training Sessions page](#) for our full list of April sessions. If you need training for another Blackboard tool or topic, please send your request to [BlackboardHelp@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu). Comprehensive training sessions are also available by request. We can accommodate individual and group training. All sessions are conducted virtually.

Date	Time	Topic
4/5	12-1 p.m.	Collaborate: Basics
4/6	12-1 p.m.	Discussions, Blogs, & Journals
4/12	12-1 p.m.	Discussions, Blogs, & Journals
4/13	12-1 p.m.	Blackboard: Basics
4/19	12-1 p.m.	Blackboard Groups
4/20	12-1 p.m.	Grade Center: Basics
4/26	12-1 p.m.	SafeAssign: Plagiarism Detection
4/27	12-1 p.m.	Collaborate: Basics

\*RSVP to [BlackboardHelp@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu)

#### **Blackboard Course Archives**

On July 1, eLearning will backup and remove courses created in 2017 and before.

This is part of an effort to maintain our storage limits and performance of the Blackboard tool. Faculty may want to download backups of the grade center or student submissions.

Please see the following how-to documents for these processes.

Downloading Assignment Files ([PDF](#))

Downloading Grades to a Spreadsheet ([PDF](#))

Send any questions or concerns to [BlackboardHelp@uams.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelp@uams.edu).

#### **Presentation Essentials**

#### **Online Modules Now Available for Strengthening Presentation Skills**

OED recently created a series of online modules geared toward developing effective presentation skills.

The modules are located on the [OED Teaching Resources website](#) under the heading "New to Teaching." The four modules include an Introduction, Developing Your Presentation, Designing Your Slides, and Delivering Your Presentation.

#### **GradFest**

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student gift bags. This includes the Educational and Student Success Center, College of Nursing, College of Health Professions, Student Financial Services-Debt Management, Alumni and Annual Giving, Office of the Registrar and Campus Life.

She also thanked the Campus Life team for planning and facilitating the event, stuffing hundreds of bags, and personally congratulating each of our participating seniors.

For seniors who were unable to attend the event, bags will be available in the Student Center until the end of May. Contact Clay Tyler by email [jctyler@uams.edu](mailto:jctyler@uams.edu) or by phone (501) 686-5654.

## **Center for Health Literacy**

### **Center for Health Literacy Offers Plain Language Courses**

Because of the expertise within the Center for Health Literacy when it comes to health literacy and plain language writing, we are often asked to teach others how to communicate health information effectively. We offer training on a variety of topics. Some of our most-recommended include our Applied Plain Language Writing course and teach-back training.

- Applied Plain Language Writing — covers the gamut of nuanced plain language writing best practices and includes interactive exercises and an opportunity to practice new skills with feedback from experts after the course.
- Teach-back training provides a rationale for ensuring learner understanding using this very specific method, allows for practice and feedback of this important communication skill, and often includes a review of some plain language strategies to incorporate into communication.

The center has hosted sessions for a variety of organizations including several state agencies and a regional office of the Network of the National Library of Medicine (National Institutes of Health). We recently hosted our first session tailored to research communications for clinical researchers at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

Currently our team is preparing for a virtual session for public health professionals from external organizations. We are exploring options to host more learning sessions for UAMS employees, so reach out to let us know how we might support your area. In the interim, remember that we provide plain language editing for all UAMS mission areas.

To make a request, please email [HealthLiteracy@uams.edu](mailto:HealthLiteracy@uams.edu) or upload written materials for plain language editing to [www.PlainPages.org](http://www.PlainPages.org).

## **Centers for Simulation Education**

### **Standardized Patient Profile**

**Name:** Bev Kinley

**How long you have been an SP?** 20+ years

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

Since my beginning as an SP about 20 years ago, I raised three sons and released them into the world. The arrival of my fifth grandchild is in May. Crazy! I am also an artist, calligrapher, and backyard chicken keeper.

#### **What is your favorite thing about being an SP?**

There are several things that I enjoy. I absolutely love the students and receive great satisfaction from seeing true learning happen. My fellow SPs are the BEST! We work hard, care about excellence, and, during down time, enjoy being on the same team.

#### **What is your least favorite thing about being an SP?**

My least favorite thing about being an SP has been all the Zoom-time when we could not be in person with the students. I appreciated the continued work, but I missed being with my co-workers and missed being present with the students.

#### **What is your biggest reward about being an SP?**

The biggest reward is hearing from the students about how much they appreciate my verbal feedback and allowing them to practice their skills on me as an SP. They are always very appreciative.

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

I have learned a lot about being a patient in the real world. I notice the small things which a doctor does and does not do in regard to clinical skills.

#### **Anything else you want to share about your experiences as a Standardized Patient?**

It used to be a Clinical Skills Center legend that a student once found a real bug in my ear. The story is true! I had been aware of a live bug in my ear but thought he had exited. The funny part about the story is that the student thought we were so good as SPs that the bug had been placed in my ear. We are committed to our job... but not so dedicated to allow bug implants!



*Bev Kinley holds Charlotte, one of her grandchildren.*

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## **Center for Faculty Excellence**

A [recent study](#) by Stanford University listed over 50 current and retired UAMS faculty among the top 2% of most influential researchers. The UAMS researchers on the list — based on an analysis of a database of peer-reviewed research literature — included 15 emeritus faculty members.

To determine the most influential researchers, the study authors used a combination of citation metrics to rate a researcher's influence in their subfield over the course of their career, through 2019 – the most recently available data. Citation metrics included the h-index, a measure of a researcher's productivity and impact; and hm-index, which accounts for the researcher's co-authorships. The metrics were used to establish a composite indicator, or score.

The publicly available database ranks the top 100,000 researchers (out of nearly 7 million who had published at least five papers) across 22 scientific fields and 176 subfields, according to the composite citation index when self-citations were or were not included. The database also includes researchers not in the top 100,000, according to the composite index, but who were still within the top 2% of scientists in their subfield and had published at least five papers.

"UAMS is fortunate to have a strong, thriving group of more than 100 emeritus faculty," said Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., provost and chief strategy officer. "Your contributions to this institution, and to generations of students and patients, are incalculable.

I am pleased that your impact continues even after your retirement — as evidenced by this study."

UAMS Emeritus Faculty cited by the study included:

- James Aronson, M.D., professor emeritus (Orthopaedics)
- Thomas M. Badger, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Nutrition and Dietetics)
- Patrick H. Casey, M.D., professor emeritus (Pediatrics)
- Gerald A. Dienel, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Neurology and Neurosurgery)
- Debra H. Fiser, M.D., professor emeritus (Emergency and Critical Care Medicine)
- Edgar Garcia-Rill, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Neurology and Neurosurgery)
- Sami I. Harik, M.D., professor emeritus (Neurology and Neurosurgery)
- Jack A. Hinson, Ph.D., distinguished professor emeritus (Pharmacology and Pharmacy)
- Richard Jacobs, M.D., professor emeritus (Pediatrics)
- Philip R. Mayeux, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Pharmacology and Pharmacy)
- Richard P. Morrison, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Microbiology)
- Roger G. Rank, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Microbiology)
- Richard Smith, M.D., distinguished professor emeritus (Psychiatry)
- Sudhir Shah, M.D., professor emeritus (Internal Medicine – Urology and Nephrology)
- Kevin D. Young, Ph.D., professor emeritus (Microbiology)

[See the full list of UAMS faculty recognized](#)

The Center for Faculty Excellence, online at [faculty.uams.edu](http://faculty.uams.edu), keeps UAMS emeritus faculty connected with the institution and with each other. Find out more about the [Emeritus Faculty Group](#) online. The next Emeritus Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, May 5.



## **Office of Continuing Education**

### **Upcoming Managed Conference Continuing Education Activities**

<b>04/01/2022</b> 12-1 p.m.	<b>Webinar:</b> Diabetes Update: Diabetes Prevention Program Visit <a href="#">here</a> to register or for more information for this free webinar.
<b>04/08/2022</b> 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.	<b>Virtual Conference:</b> 2022 Arkansas Nursing Research Conference Visit <a href="#">here</a> to register or for more information
<b>4/23/2022</b> 8 a.m.–5 p.m.	<b>Virtual Conference:</b> 2022 Arkansas Pain Management Symposium Visit <a href="#">here</a> to register or for more information
<b>05/06/2022</b> 12-1 p.m.	<b>Webinar:</b> Diabetes Update: Advances in Peripheral Neuropathy Visit <a href="#">here</a> to register or for more information for this free webinar.
<b>06/03/2022</b> 12-1 p.m.	<b>Webinar:</b> Diabetes Update: Community-engaged Diabetes Research in Arkansas: A Focus on Food Insecurity Visit <a href="#">here</a> to register or for more information for this free webinar.
Please visit the <a href="#">OCE website</a> for a listing of other CE/CME opportunities.	

### **CE Activity Highlight: Geriatrics and Long-Term Care Update**

The *Geriatrics and Long-Term Care Update* is an annual multi-day conference that celebrated its 22<sup>nd</sup> year on Sept. 16-18, 2021. This interprofessional conference met virtually the past two years, and we are hoping to bring participants back in the fall and offer a hybrid conference.

Jeanne Wei, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Donald W. Reynolds Department of Geriatrics in the College of Medicine, serves as the course director. She leads the planning for an activity that is a true testament to interprofessional practice planned by and for the health care team.

The 2021 conference was well attended by 165 health care providers representing nurses, pharmacists, physicians, physician assistants, social workers, long-term care administrators, occupational and physical therapists, and others interested in geriatric patient care. The first day included Interprofessional Management of the Geriatric Patient that featured sections on COVID-19 in the Elderly and Caring for the Rural Patient, with three rapid-fire presentations in each section followed by panel presentations by the faculty. The second day featured Geriatric Medicine Updates on neurological, cardiovascular, renal, and gastrointestinal topics. Saturday's topics were focused on addressing issues in long-term care, palliative care, vaccines, integrative medicine therapies, and medication management.

In addition to UAMS faculty, guest speakers included Bill Gurley, Ph.D., from the University of Mississippi, Robert Zorowitz, M.D., MBA, from Optum, a pharmacy benefit manager and health care provider, Atul Kothari, M.D., from the Arkansas Department of Health, and Krishna Kakkerla, M.D., from the Batesville Pulmonology Clinic.

The Geriatrics Update is always well received by participants. Past comments included, "This is my fourth UAMS Geriatrics conference and was the best as far as quality of lectures and relevance to clinical practice." "Excellent speakers." "Topics were exceptional."

Dr. Wei shared her thoughts about the conference. "This was our best conference yet, thanks to the CME office for their helpful input. We need to keep healthcare professionals updated on the latest advances in caring for older Americans."

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



### **Campus Life Sponsors Virtual Chocolate-Tasting Experience**

Chocolate has long been associated with Valentine's Day. In February, to honor this age-old tradition, Campus Life sponsored a virtual event that treated students to the ultimate chocolate tasting experience. Participants were shipped an elegant display of handmade luxury chocolates and the event host, chocolatier Erica, guided them through an interactive multi-sensory experience of chocolate tasting and pairings. Students also learned about the history of chocolate and the delicate, complex process of making chocolate.



### **ASG Hosts Painting with a Twist (at Home)**

The Associated Student Government hosted Painting with a Twist at Home recently. Although the students miss the in-person studio atmosphere, painting in the comfort of your own space definitely has its perks. The African American-themed event celebrated diversity, equity and inclusion for the month of February.

## **Accolades**

### **Sterba Elected NAGAP President; Sees Presentations Accepted**

**Kristen Sterba**, Ph.D., associate provost for students and administration, was recently elected president of the governing board for NAGAP, the association for graduate enrollment management professionals. Her two-year term begins April 2022. She previously served as the board's vice president. **Sterba** also had an educational session, "Still Stressed, Tired, and Overwhelmed" accepted as a special interest forum for the NAGAP Summit, April 20-23. She will be joined in the presentation by Cammie Baker Clancy from SUNY Empire State College and Francesca Reed from Neumann University. In addition, the presentation "Why should I care about accreditation?" by Sterba and Jennifer Kulbeck from Saint Mary's College of California was accepted for the NAGAP Summit.

### **CHL, Library Collaboration Nets Publication**

**Allison Caballero**, director of the **Center for Health Literacy**, and **Susan Steelman**, head of Education and Research Services in the **UAMS Library**, had their feature article, "Theoretical Influences: Expanding Your Approach to Evaluation of Health Materials," published recently in Doody's Core Titles, <http://www.doody.com/dct/PublicFeaturedArticle.asp?SiteContentID=413>.

## **Division of Academic Affairs News**

### **OED Welcomes Scott Wright, Ed.D. to eLearning Team**

The Office of Educational Development welcomes **Scott Wright**, Ed.D., to the eLearning Team as an Assistant Professor / Instructional Designer. Scott comes to UAMS from the University of Arkansas Global Campus in Fayetteville and the UASystem eVersity in Little Rock where he also served as an Instructional Designer. Prior to that role, Scott was a Course Builder and Faculty Trainer at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro.

Scott's degrees started with a B.S. in Digital Media and Design from ASU Jonesboro, a M.E. in Educational Technology and Ed.D. in Adult and Lifelong Learning from UAF. Scott is certified in Applying the QM Rubrics and as a Peer Reviewer from Quality Matters (QM).

OED welcomes Scott's skills and experiences to the eLearning Team in assisting faculty in the five colleges, graduate school, NW campus and more.

### **Hamilton Takes New Role in Registrar's Office**

**Pattie Hamilton** has accepted a new position in the **Office of the University Registrar and Enrollment Services** as manager of operations, effective Feb. 15. This position was previously filled by **Maryland Avery** until her departure for **Campus Life** last fall. Pattie, who will mark her 23<sup>rd</sup> service anniversary at UAMS in April, previously worked as registrar for registration and enrollment since the OUR was established in 2014. Prior to that, she served as registrar for the UAMS Graduate School.

### **Williams to Manage Veterans Services in Registrar's Office**

**David Williams** recently joined the **Office of the University Registrar** as the new assistant university registrar for veteran services. He succeeds **Charlotte Gass**, who is now associate university registrar. Williams previously worked at the University of Central Arkansas.

### **Williams Joins Office of Continuing Education**

**Candice Williams** is the new education coordinator in the **Office of Continuing Education**. She is a former educator and previously worked for several nonprofit organizations, most recently Children International. She is a Pine Bluff native and proud alumna of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff who currently resides in Little Rock. Outside of work she enjoys baking, traveling, spending time with her family and volunteering with the Urban League of Arkansas Young Professionals where she serves as the state marketing coordinator.