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## Faculty Affairs Monthly

12/13/2023

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# HAPPY HOLIDAY FROM FACULTY AFFAIRS

Season's Greetings from the Office for Faculty Affairs

During this holiday season, we at the Office for Faculty Affairs would like to take a moment to extend our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones. Throughout the past year, your dedication, expertise, and passion have fostered a vibrant and enriching academic environment. Your unwavering commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service has not only enhanced student success but has also significantly contributed to the reputation and success of our institution.

We hope this holiday season brings you peace, happiness, and relaxation. May you enjoy this time to rest, recharge, and spend cherished moments with family and friends.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration and support for your endeavors in the coming year.

Warm regards,

Stephanie Adams, Eva Cordero, Anna Zajicek

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## Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring

The Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring will be awarded to the department or academic unit on campus that best displays excellence in onboarding and mentoring of early-career and mid-career faculty, including tenure track and non-tenure track faculty. The winning department will receive \$8,000 and a trophy. The unit's name will be placed on a university plaque housed in that department for a year. The Award is sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the Office for Faculty Affairs.

### Eligibility

All academic tenure-home units are eligible to apply for the award. The winner will not be eligible for the following two academic years.

### Applications will be assessed on the following two criteria

How does your department demonstrate its sustained commitment to excellence in new faculty onboarding and mentoring of early-career and mid-career faculty?

How does your department demonstrate commitment to the professional development of faculty mentors and mentees?

The application deadline is February 29, 2024. For more information or to apply please click [here](#).

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## Faculty Mentoring Graduate Student Workshop Series Applications for Spring 2024 Now Open

### Spring 2024 Workshop Schedule

All sessions will take place in Mullins Library from 11:30-1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Applications are now open for Spring 2024 workshop series. Deadline to [apply](#) is **December 15, 2023**.

Seats are limited to keep the sessions interactive.

Wednesday January 17th - Who are you as a Mentor?

Wednesday January 31st - Conflict & Mentoring

Wednesday February 14th - Address Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

Wednesday February 28th - Understanding International Student Needs

Wednesday March 13th - Effective Communication & Setting Expectations

Wednesday March 27th - Promoting Self Efficacy & Independence

Wednesday April 10th - The Don'ts of Mentoring: Legal and Ethical Considerations

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## MEET OUR 2023 BRIDGE PROGRAM COHORT

On December 7, the Office for Faculty Affairs celebrated the third cohort of faculty who finished the 2023 Bridge Program workshop series. This year's cohort consisted of 29 new

tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty, who attended seven workshops focusing on mentoring, grant writing, publishing, and tenure and promotion, among others. The participants were encouraged to continue their professional development by applying to the Beginning Investigator Research Development Support program (BIRDS) offered each spring by the Division for Research and Innovation.



Photo taken December 7, 2023

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## JOSE BOWEN VISITS JANUARY 11-12, 2024

With the arrival of ChatGPT and other large language models, artificial intelligence has become a hot topic of conversation on campuses across the nation. In January, the Office of the Provost, the Teaching and Faculty Support Center, and the Teaching Academy will host a nationally known speaker, [Jose Antonio Bowen](#), who will provide a keynote address at the Winter Teaching Symposium and lead several workshops focused on teaching with artificial intelligence.

More information about Jose Bowen's visit will be provided via the University of Arkansas News.

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# Courses Transition to Blackboard Ultra

**Starting fall 2024, all courses will utilize the Blackboard Ultra interface.**

What does this mean for you?

The shift to Blackboard Ultra signifies a significant upgrade, necessitating familiarity with new features and navigation. The university strongly recommends faculty upgrade courses to Blackboard Ultra by the end of spring to avoid delays in getting courses set up correctly in the fall 2024. Start acquainting yourself with Blackboard Ultra now!

Where can you gain insight into Blackboard Ultra and seek assistance?

Visit [here](#) for comprehensive information. Consider attending an introductory workshop during Ultra Mondays or delve deeper into specific topics during Follow-Up Friday training sessions. The Ultra Video Series offers quick training on various Ultra tools. Additionally, schedule a departmental or one-on-one consultation with a member of the TIPS team.

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## Please Nominate an Outstanding Faculty Mentor

To assist the Office for Faculty Affairs with promoting excellence in mentoring and recognizing outstanding faculty mentors, we encourage non-tenure track, pre-tenure, and mid-career faculty members on our campus to consider acknowledging their faculty mentors.

Outstanding mentors assist their mentees with building excellence in teaching, research, and/or service while encouraging a healthy balance of work and home life. They cultivate faculty career advancement and belonging. Outstanding mentors assist mentees in building their professional networks, advocate for their mentees, and create avenues for mentee recognition. They demonstrate commitment to fostering mentees' professional development and promote mutually beneficial mentoring relationships. For more information on the nomination process or to nominate please visit our [website](#).

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# Professional Development Opportunities at your own pace

The University of Arkansas is a member of the **National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)**. You can log on with your uark email, create your password and enjoy the curriculum! Go to [www.ncfdd.org](http://www.ncfdd.org)

Upcoming Events Scheduled 1:00pm-2:30 pm CST

Tuesday December 12th - Supporting Academic Parents: Recommended Policies and Practices

Thursday January 11th - Every Semester Needs a Plan

Thursday February 8th - How to Align Your Time with Your Priorities

Thursday March 14th - How to Develop a Daily Writing Practice

Thursday April 11th - Mastering Academic Time Management

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## Faculty Collaborative

Don't forget to visit the Faculty Collaborative if you want a space to write, meet, just have a quiet place to think. To make a reservation for use of the classroom or conference room, you send a outlook calendar invitation to HAPG 703-B (conference room) or HAPG 703-C (Classroom) .



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## UA ENGAGE -- Empower. Lead. Transform. Women in STEM at the U of A

The University of Arkansas is proud to be a NSF ADVANCE campus and Faculty Affairs plays a key role in the programming and initiation of UA ENGAGE activities. We are honored to recognize the excellent women researchers in our STEM departments. For more information on UA ENGAGE, visit the [website](#).

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Keep an eye on the Office of Faculty Affairs social media pages to stay up to date. Links to our Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube pages are below.

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