

## Faculty Affairs Monthly

4/16/2025



Each year in the second week of April, we celebrate you, our faculty, for the great work you do for students, staff, and your colleagues.

To show our appreciation, you had the opportunity to get free coffee, discounts at the bookstore and UREC, a daily drawing for various prizes, and attend a Razorback baseball or softball game at a discounted price.

In this issue we want to highlight the faculty and departments who were recognized at the Annual Provost Faculty Recognition Reception.

We also highlight a visit from the SEC Fellows, graduates from our Leadership Exploration Program, and a professional development workshop sponsored by COHEP. Enjoy!

Please congratulate your colleagues on their achievements, we do!

## 2025 Daniel Ferritor Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching



The School of Journalism and Strategic Marketing Department in the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences received the 2025 Daniel E. Ferritor Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching sponsored by the Chancellor's Office.

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## 2025 Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Mentoring



University Libraries received the 2025 Provost Award for Departmental Excellence in Faculty Mentoring.

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## SEC UA Faculty Achievement Award





The SEC UA Faculty Achievement Award honors those with excellent records in both teaching and scholarship. This year's recipient is Dr. Bill McComas.

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## ACUE Credential in Effective College Teaching 2024-2025 Academic Year



**Fall 2024 recipients** - Brianna Annaratone, Carly Franklin, Dave Bostwick, Deanna Shields, Phil Harrington, Eric Button, Ginger Blackstone, Hilary Bowling, James Roddy, Joshua Girshner, Karl Schubert, Kasey Walker, Kevin Brady, Matt Gerner, Robert Saunders Rocio Ritter, Rodica Lisnic, Sarah Denison, Weston Perrine  
**Spring 2025 recipients** - Trish Amason, Brian Rickard, Rebecca Leach, John Wayne Morris

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## 2025 Faculty Applause Winners



The Faculty Applause Award is co-sponsored by the Associated Student Government and the Office for Faculty Affairs. This award gives students the opportunity to recognize a professor who has made a lasting impact on them during their time at the U of A. This year's recipients:

Mostafa Elsaadany, Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Rupesh Kariyat, Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology  
Reba McDermott, Department of Accounting  
Mandel Samuels, Department of Counseling, Leadership, and Research  
Methods  
Melinda Schroeder, Department of Mathematical Sciences

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## 2025 Outstanding Mentors



The Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award is sponsored by the Provost's Office and given to faculty who were nominated by their peers and colleagues for serving as an outstanding mentor to other U of A faculty. This year's Outstanding Faculty Mentors are:

Ed Clausen, University Professor, Chemical Engineering  
Ingrid Fritsch, Professor, Chemistry & Biochemistry  
Ben Runkle, Associate Professor, Biological Engineering  
Annie Smith, Professor of Law  
Carl Smith, Professor, Landscape Architecture

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## **Faculty Mentoring Graduate Students Workshop Series Graduates**





This workshop provides faculty with the opportunity to learn best practices in mentoring to inspire, direct and professionally develop graduate mentees and post-docs. The workshop also helps faculty develop a mentoring philosophy, experiment with various mentoring methods and discuss mentoring challenges and successes with peers.

2024-2025 Graduates are:

Tim Evans, Department of Biological Sciences  
Sun Ferreira, Department of Food Science  
Timothy Kral, Department of Biological Sciences  
Christine Rickabaugh, University Libraries  
Christian Tipsmark, Department of Biological Sciences  
Hannah Wright, Department of Horticulture Cooperative Extension  
Service  
Megan York, University Libraries

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## Bridge & BIRDS Workshop Series Graduates

The Bridge Program is sponsored by the Office for Faculty Affairs and the U of A ADVANCE ENGAGE grant. This program provides mentorship and onboarding resources to new faculty through an innovative and

comprehensive teams-based approach. The Bridge Program also allows new faculty to network with other faculty across departments and schools.

The Bridge Program is offered in the fall semester and transitions into the Beginning Investigator Research Development Support Program (BIRDS) in the spring semester. The BIRDS Program, offered by the Division of Research and Innovation, focuses on peer networking, finding funding and general grantsmanship training. Participants learn about the services that Research Development offers investigators on campus and work with the Research Development team to create personalized research and funding plans.



**Bridge Program Completion:**

Marco Dehnert, Department of Communication

Samira Feyzi, Department of Food Science

James Sinclair, Department of Curriculum & Instruction





### **Bridge & BIRDs Program completion:**

Kariah Brust, University Libraries  
Candace Cunningham, Department of History  
Sun Ferreira, Department of Food Science  
Cody Hackett, University Libraries  
Hannah King, University Libraries  
Zachary Lookenbill, Department of Music  
Reetam Majumder, Department of Mathematical Sciences  
Megan York, University Libraries

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## **2025 Faculty Appreciation Week Drawing Winners**

During Faculty Appreciation Week, faculty received free coffee and discounts at Hog Heaven and the U of A bookstore. In addition, over 300 faculty entered our daily drawing to receive one of our door prizes. The winners are listed below.

**Two Suite Tickets:** Alejandro Martin Gomez, College of Engineering

**Fizz Facial Bar:** Virginia Parkman, Mathematical Sciences

**Razorback T-Shirts:** Faith Lessner, Biological Sciences Manuel Meji,

Marketing/Transportation Sisi Hu, School of Journalism and Strategic Media Cristina Ballatori, Music Erin Henry, Accounting Susan Bristow, Information Systems

**Razorback Cups:** Shijun Gao Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Virginia Siegel, Mulins Library, Emily Offenbacher, Nursing

**Razorback Buttons:** Carlos Nicolas, Mathematical Sciences

**Razorback Sweatshirt:** Lynn Meade, Arts and Sciences

**Lunch Boxes:** Daniel Magoulick, Biological Sciences

Md Riajul Hossain, Biological Sciences Derico Setyabrata, Animal Sciences Josiah Leong, Psychology Shari Moxley, AFLS Human Environmental Sciences

**Umbrella:** Ido Kilovaty, Law Mark Arnold, Mathematical Sciences Diana Dunbar, Nursing

**Coffee Mugs:** Natalie Edwards, Curriculum and Instruction Hannah King, Mulins Library

**Notebooks:** Blair Bullock, Law Chandler Arel, Cooperative Extension Service Jay McAllister, Mullins Library Rob Curry, Industrial Engineering

**Free Gear Rental:** Benjamin Runkle, Biological Engineering

**Personal Training:** Cara Spencer, Theatre

Thank you to Athletics, The Campus Bookstore, UREC, Fitz Beauty Bar, TFSC, and Office of the Chancellor for your generous donations!

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## 4th Annual UA ENGAGE Leadership Exploration Program Concludes



The 2025 UA ENGAGE Leadership Exploration Program ended April 4th with a graduation ceremony for the program's fourth cohort. Representing five colleges across campus plus the University Libraries system, these 17 faculty members worked throughout the spring semester to complete program objectives, develop their career intentions, and build their on-campus networks.

"This group of faculty members were engaging, authentic and came to each session ready to learn and share their leadership stories. They took away a lot from the program, but our workshop leaders including myself, Fiona Goggin and Christie Craig left each session energized and inspired by the important contribution that the program is making to develop strong and capable university leaders," said Dean Kim Needy of the College of Engineering, creator of the program.

The UA ENGAGE Leadership Exploration Program, funded through NSF ADVANCE, is a semester-long workshop series that aims to help mid-career faculty evaluate which future leadership roles best align with their personal strengths and values. The four-session series is also designed to promote leadership capacity within our institution, strengthen participants' peer networks, and improve retention by offering tangible



takeaways for holistic career planning. Participants are mid-career faculty (associate or full professors) nominated by their colleges and selected based on established career success and leadership experience.

Dr. Shauna Morimoto, Associate Dean in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, leads the UA ENGAGE Team as PI for the NSF ADVANCE grant. “We are thrilled with another successful year for the Leadership Exploration Program! Now a mainstay on our campus, the program continues to foster talent that supports faculty success across the U of A,” said Morimoto.

Participants from previous cohorts have moved into new leadership roles in administration, research, teaching, and entrepreneurial ventures, signaling the lasting value of the Leadership Exploration Program to the University of Arkansas as well as participants.

The 2025 UA ENGAGE Leadership Exploration Workshop cohort:

Erika Almenara, World Languages and Literatures

Emily Baker, Architecture

Michelle Lee Barry, Civil Engineering

A Burcu Bayram, Political Science

Adrienne Callander, School of Art

Aysa Galbraith, First Year Engineering

Laura Herold, School of Human Environmental Sciences

Jennifer Hoyer, World Languages and Literatures

Marty Maxwell Lane, School of Art

Christine Ralston, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Shirin Saeidi, Political Science and Middle East Studies

Virginia Siegel, University Libraries

Amanda Sullivan, Health, Human Performance and Recreation

Johanna Thomas, School of Social Work

Jada Thompson, Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness

Ellen Urton, University Libraries

Heather Walker, Chemical Engineering

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**A Spring Evening of Connection: The SEC  
ALDP Alumni Dinner at the University of**

## Arkansas



On Tuesday, April 1, the University of Arkansas Provost's Office hosted a dinner in celebration of academic leadership, community, and connection. The occasion: a special networking dinner for the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP), bringing together past and present fellows, university and college leaders, and a group of guests from sister SEC institutions.

The dinner served as a long-awaited in-person gathering for a group of visiting SEC ALDP participants. Originally scheduled to meet in February, their trip had been delayed by a last-minute shift to remote delivery due to weather. The April evening, however, offered a beautiful setting at the newly renovated University Library—and a meaningful opportunity to gather face-to-face.

Adding a special touch to the evening, entertainment was provided by the U of A Inspirational Chorale, under the direction of Lauren N. Claire. Their performance uplifted the room and underscored the spirit of the evening: celebration, belonging, and the promise of continued collaboration.

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## COHEP Faculty Development Workshop Highlight



The College of Education and Health Professions recently hosted a lunch and learn session for new assistant professors about statewide education and health data. Dr. Josh McGee, associate professor of education reform and 21st Century Endowed Chair in Education Accountability and Transparency, led the discussion. McGee, who formerly served as the chief data officer for Arkansas, has extensive experience using large state data sets to conduct research and help state agencies make evidence-based decisions.

Many attendees were part of the college's first cluster hire and have research interests aimed at maximizing the health and education outcomes of students in Arkansas schools. This lunch and learn session was part of the Early-Career Faculty Research Engagement and Mentoring Program, a key action item of the college's WE CARE Strategic Plan, which launched in August 2023.

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## **Beyond Promotion: Mid-Career Planning Workshop for Faculty**

**On April 18th**, UA ENGAGE will host the 2nd annual 'Beyond Promotion: Mid-Career Planning Workshop' for tenure-track faculty. The target audience are those ranked Associate Professor or higher, as the program will focus on exploring career pathways following promotion



and/or tenure. Facilitating the workshop on behalf of UA ENGAGE will be Fulbright Associate Dean Shauna Morimoto.

During the workshop, panel discussion and exercises will include:

- Building holistic career plans both within the institution and as individuals
- Opportunities beyond “traditional” routes and timelines
- Resources for planning the next stages of your career

The event will be held in CORD 324 from 9:00am – 10:30am, with breakfast provided. Space is limited, and registration shall be first come, first served. **Please use this [link](#) to register for the workshop prior to April 17, 2025.**

If you have any questions, please contact Christie Craig at [cgcraig@uark.edu](mailto:cgcraig@uark.edu).

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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)

Join Today!

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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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