Work Ethic

It's taken Donnie D. King to the top of one of the world's largest corporations and made him our 53rd Distinguished Alumnus.
As the class of 2015 graduates and we look forward to the beginning of another year, I am excited by the challenges and opportunities awaiting the institution. Let me begin by addressing what I know is foremost on the minds of most of our alumni – the search for a new chancellor to succeed Dr. Jack Lassiter. The Search Committee has worked diligently over the past several months to identify and review potential candidates. That process is ongoing and the committee wants to look at more candidates.

As you read in the last issue of UAM Magazine, the university has initiated an ambitious plan to raise $25 million for the construction of a much-needed Center for Science and Mathematics. Our existing Science Center, opened in 1963, was reviewed by architects, who found the structure seriously deficient and in need of replacement. It is imperative that we provide a quality learning environment for our science and mathematics students, who continue to excel at a high level in spite of our outdated facility.

Finally, let me say congratulations to Donnie D. King, our 53rd Distinguished Alumnus. Mr. King has proven once again that a degree from UAM represents a standard of excellence for which we can all be proud. Don’t forget to mark your calendars for Homecoming October 10, and if you’re in the area, stop by for a visit.

Best Wishes,

Jay Jones
Interim Chancellor

ON THE COVER:
Donnie D. King, president of North American Operations and Food Service for Tyson Foods, is our 53rd Distinguished Alumnus.

For information, you may contact:
Linda Yeiser, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and University Relations
(870) 460-1028 (office)
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yeiser@uamont.edu

If you want to find out what’s happening on campus, or want to contact us about something significant that’s happened in your life, check out our website at www.uamont.edu.

Parents, if your son or daughter attended UAM and is no longer living at this address, please notify our office of his or her new address. Thank you.

#BEaWeevil

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Writing creatively

David Brown is the first graduate of UAM’s master of fine arts in creative writing program. A contributing writer for The Atlantic and other publications, Brown is giving back to the program as a visiting professor.

Living with history

As the newly-appointed superintendent of Pea Ridge National Military Park, Kevin Eads is responsible for preserving and maintaining the largest Civil War battlefield west of the Mississippi River.
The Best In Arkansas

Top computer programmers

Two teams of computer information systems students from the University of Arkansas at Monticello continued UAM’s dominance of the Arkansas Collegiate Programming Competition held recently at the University of Central Arkansas.

UAM teams swept the first two places in the Computer Information Systems Division while winning the competition for the 10th consecutive year.

Seniors Brent Wood of Sheridan, Victoria Hankins of Star City, and junior Scott Coburn of Dumas took first place in the COBOL programming competition. All three are computer information systems majors.

The team of Jay Morgan of Monticello, Bryan Pace of Monticello and Charles Paskel of Hamburg placed second.

The winning team completed five of seven problems, while the second place team completed two problems, according to Lori Selby, associate professor of CIS and coach of the programming teams.

The competition was sponsored by Acxiom’s TresNet Division and split into two sections – computer information systems and computer science. Students competing in the CIS section could choose to program in COBOL, Java, or C++.

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BENEDICT FELLOWSHIP

UAM senior April Wright of Conway was recently awarded a Benedict Fellowship for graduate study at the national convention of Alpha Chi National College Honor Society in Chicago.

Wright is a political science and modern languages double major with a minor in communications. Alpha Chi membership is limited to the top 10 percent of an institution’s juniors, seniors, and graduate students. Membership in UAM’s Arkansas Zeta chapter requires a grade point average of 3.6 or better on at least 62 hours of course work.

The Benedict Fellowship is awarded to 10 outstanding seniors and is worth $2,500. The award is named for Dr. Harry Benedict, the first president of Alpha Chi.

“This is a great achievement for April and I want to congratulate her for so honorably representing the university,” said Jay Jones, interim chancellor. “This is just another reminder of the quality of students we have at UAM. Our students more than hold their own with students from larger universities.”

DAY LEADS AHC

Dr. John Kyle Day, associate professor of history, has been elected chairperson of the board of the Arkansas Humanities Council. Day has been a member of the AHC board since 2008.

Day joined the UAM faculty in 2007. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. In addition to his teaching

THE WINNING TEAM

Taking top honors at the state programming competition

The computer programming team of (from left) Brent Wood, Victoria Hankins and Scott Coburn won first place at the 2015 Arkansas Collegiate Programming Competition.
THE CLASS OF 2015

A brief power outage couldn't dampen the crowd or the excitement for the Class of 2015 as they received their degrees at the first of two commencement exercises on May 8.
Fine Arts Facelift

Thirty-nine year-old facility gets new seating, better lighting

UAM has begun a three-phase renovation project to the school’s Fine Arts Center. The project includes refurbished seating, new carpet and step lighting, and upgraded stage lighting for the 440-seat facility. The renovations, which are being paid for with state general improvement funds, will not cause changes to the current fine arts calendar and the facility will continue to be used as the renovations continue, according to Jay Hughes, vice chancellor for student affairs.

The first phase of the project began in late February. Workers from the Arkansas Correctional Industries are being used to disassemble and remove auditorium seating row by row. The seats will receive new padding, be reupholstered and replaced one row at a time by ACI workers.

“By doing it this way, we didn’t have to disrupt auditorium usage during the spring semester,” Hughes explained. “There will be no more than one empty row at any one time during the project, which will reduce seating from 440 to 400.”

According to Hughes, the initial turnaround for replacing the first row of seats was two-to-three weeks. “ACI has worked hard to reduce the turnaround for each subsequent row to a timeframe of one-to-two weeks,” said Hughes.

The second phase will include replacing the carpet in both the auditorium and entry hallway and installing new step lighting along the outside aisles of the auditorium as a safety precaution. The final phase will provide upgraded stage lighting.

“Each of these improvements is needed to modernize and upgrade a facility that has served the institution well for nearly 40 years,” said Jay Jones, interim chancellor. “I think our patrons who regularly attend fine arts events will appreciate the changes we are making.”

The Fine Arts Center, which was dedicated on March 19, 1976, is home to concerts, music theatre productions, student and faculty recitals, guest lectures, and special campus events.
UAM Debate 4th Nationally

The UAM debate and forensics team finished fourth out of 29 schools competing in the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) Convention and National Tournament held recently at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho.

The convention and tournament brought together some of the nation’s top collegiate debate teams. Competing in the professional division, Chris Brown, UAM’s assistant debate coach, an instructor of communications and a UAM alumnus, was named national champion. Brown also won the third place individual speaker award.

Other tournament awards went to Jacob Chisom, a general studies major from Monticello, who placed third out of 112 competitors in the varsity debate competition; Luke Beatty, a business management major from McGehee, who placed ninth out of 104 competitors in novice debate; and Will Rowe, an English and education double major from Pine Bluff; and Ben Graves, a business major from Hot Springs, who tied for 17th.

Season-long awards went to Chisom for third place in varsity debate and April Wright, a communications major from Conway, for sixth place in varsity debate. Breanna Taylor of North Little Rock, an education major, finished third in professional debate while Chris Brown placed ninth and earned the third place individual speaker award. As a team, UAM placed fourth in the season-long professional division sweepstakes.

Soil Judging

Soil judging teams from colleges and universities across the country traveled to UAM in April for the 2015 National Collegiate Soil Judging Competition. The event is sponsored annually by the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America.

Twenty-two teams participated in the competition after qualifying for the national contest at regional competitions held during the fall semester. The teams were comprised of top students in soils, agronomy, geology, earth science and related majors. The event coincided with the 68th General Assembly of the United Nations’ declaration of 2015 as the “International Year of Soils.” The top four finishers at the national competition will represent the U.S. at the International Field Course and Soil Judging Contest in Gödöllö, Hungary, in September.

Collegiate soil judging contests in the U.S. began more than a half century ago and involve the description, classification and interpretation of soil. The events help students recognize important soil and landscape properties and how these characteristics are used to manage soils appropriately with conservation in mind. Contestants enter a soil pit to explore the soil profile, typically a series of unique horizons that formed from the combined effects of geology, climate, topography, organisms, and time. The soil is then classified, and site and soil interpretations are performed.

BEST UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PAPER

A research paper by a UAM student was named Best Undergraduate Paper on American History at the Arkansas Regional Conference of the Phi Alpha Theta national history honor society held recently at UA-Fayetteville.

Sarah Sayyar, a senior history and psychology major from Monticello, authored the award winning paper, entitled “An Analysis of Cinema’s Psychological Reflections of America’s Cold War Political and Social Mentality,” an investigation of the connections between movies and American political culture in the 1960s.

Sayyar was one of three UAM students who presented original research papers at the conference, which was held February 27 and drew undergraduate and graduate students from UAM, UA-Fayetteville, Harding, UA-Little Rock, and Arkansas State.

Other students representing UAM were history majors Jalen Garmon, a senior from Wtihsville, and Hunter Bennett, a junior from Star City. Garmon presented a paper entitled “Bill Clinton: A Continuation of Welfare Reform and Race Relations.” Bennett presented a paper entitled “Reconstruction Arkansas: Continuance of Antebellum Culture.”

The Alpha Nu Zeta chapter at UAM has won the Best Chapter Award for Division II schools (with a student body size of 3,000-6,000) for each of the last seven years. The past two years, it also earned the Nels A. Cleven Award, the highest honor Phi Alpha Theta bestows on its chapters. Membership in Phi Alpha Theta requires a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and completion of at least 12 credit hours in history.
New Name, New Mission

The School of Forestry and Natural Resources reflects an evolving mission

Arkansas’ only school of forestry has a new name to go with a broadened, updated academic direction. The School of Forest Resources at the University of Arkansas at Monticello has been renamed the School of Forestry and Natural Resources, according to a recent announcement by Dr. Philip Tappe, dean of the school. The name change was made to coincide with a new curriculum that provides students with broad options for studying natural resource management while also maintaining excellence in forestry education.

According to Tappe, the changes are being made to “better reflect the role and mission of our academic program and to provide more educational options for persons interested in natural resource management.”

“The school’s new name and program direction bridge the strengths of the existing forestry, spatial information systems and wildlife programs to new opportunities in natural resources communications and environmental sciences,” noted Dr. Jimmie Yeiser, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “These changes should be attractive to a broader range of students and reflect the contemporary scope of our program offerings.”

Currently, the UAM forestry program offers two baccalaureate degrees – the bachelor of science in forest resources with emphasis in either forestry or wildlife management, and the bachelor of science degree in spatial information systems with specializations in either land surveying or geographic information systems. The school also offers a master’s degree in forest resources.

Beginning with the fall 2015 semester, the School of Forestry and Natural Resources will offer the bachelor of science degree in natural resources management with options in forestry, wildlife management and conservation, geospatial science, environmental science, and communications in natural resources. The school will also offer a B.S. in land surveying as well as a two-year associate of science degree in land surveying technology. The master of science degree in forest resources will have four emphasis areas: forest science, wildlife ecology and management, geospatial science, and natural resources management.

“We want to create a broader vision of forestry and natural resources education,” said Tappe. “Our overall goal is to prepare future leaders for wisely managing our renewable natural resources and maintaining a vibrant forest environment.”

Founded on September 1, 1945, by Yale-educated professor Henry H. “Hank” Chamberlin, the original forestry school was a two-year program that expanded to a four-year baccalaureate degree in 1950. By the 1960s, the program was producing leaders in the forestry industry at the state, regional and national level, including F. Dale Robertson, former chief of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, O.H. “Doogie” Darling, forest lands manager for Georgia Pacific Corporation, Larry Nance, deputy state forester of the
A botanical research center and herbarium, which will house more than 27,000 catalogued plant specimens, will soon be the latest addition to the UAM campus. UAM is continuing a campaign to secure private funding for the center. The new facility will house current DNA research being conducted by UAM plant scientists; serve as a classroom and laboratory for biology and botany courses; house a greenhouse for study and research; provide space for two faculty members or a research technician; provide storage space for field and research equipment; and establish a work area for the identification and cataloging of plant specimens.

HERBARIUM TO AID RESEARCH

Fund-raising ongoing for much-needed facility

A botanical research center and herbarium, which will house more than 27,000 catalogued plant specimens, will soon be the latest addition to the UAM campus. UAM is continuing a campaign to secure private funding for the center. The new facility will house current DNA research being conducted by UAM plant scientists; serve as a classroom and laboratory for biology and botany courses; house a greenhouse for study and research; provide space for two faculty members or a research technician; provide storage space for field and research equipment; and establish a work area for the identification and cataloging of plant specimens.

WELCOME TO THE NEW UAM WEBSITE!

Launched May 11 after months of collaborative work

After nearly a year in the planning, UAM’s new website officially launched on Monday, May 11. The site was designed by the Little Rock-based advertising and marketing firm Cranford Johnson Robinson Woods in collaboration with the UAM website committee and instructional technology staff.

Arkansas Forestry Commission, and Frank Wilson, owner of Wilson Brothers Timber Co.

In 1981, the School of Forest Resources added a major in wildlife management and in 1984 received national accreditation from the Society of American Foresters. In 1987, the Arkansas Forest Resources Center (AFRC) was established by the UA Division of Agriculture on the UAM campus to work in conjunction with the School of Forest Resources to enhance research and extension programs. In 1994, the AFRC became a UA Center of Excellence.

New Program

The UAM School of Education has received approval from the Arkansas Department of Education to offer the District Level Administrator Endorsement Program, which meets ADE requirements for a public school superintendent’s license.

The program is completely online and requires 21 credit hours of study. For admission to the program, candidates must have a master’s degree in education with an overall grade point average of 3.0 in graduate coursework. Candidates must also hold current Arkansas Building Level Administrators licensure and have at least one year of experience as a building level administrator. The coursework will begin in the 2015 fall semester.

ROTC Stays

UAM will continue offering its students a minor in military science and a minor in leadership with the option of participating in ROTC.

This announcement follows a communication to the public last fall that the program was consolidating with the ROTC program at the UAPB campus and would close at the end of the spring 2015 semester.

Army ROTC courses have been offered at UAM through a written agreement with UAPB since 2005. According to the agreement, students may enroll at UAM and earn a 26-hour minor in military science over a four-year program of study. A student may also select the leadership minor, a 22-hour academic minor that includes two years of coursework from the military science curriculum as well as courses from other academic programs.

Students minoring in military science may qualify for two-, three-, and four-year scholarship options, including an Arkansas National Guard Scholarship. Arkansas National Guard members may qualify for other scholarships and financial assistance to attend UAM.
All the time, John W. Tyson was on his homeward bound to Memphis. In 1923, he started a small livestock business. In 1928, it expanded quickly to 250 livestock owners. He was the first to establish a company that would revolutionize the livestock industry and the way we eat.

Tyson Foods, Inc., has grown to become one of the largest food processors in the world. With a focus on innovation and sustainability, the company has been instrumental in shaping the future of the food industry. The legacy of the Tyson family who founded and grew the company is the part of the Tyson Foods story that continues to shape and guide it for continued success.

Tyson Foods has a strong commitment to ensuring our company's success is aligned with the growth of the communities we serve. Their commitment to sustainability and innovation has been a driving force behind their success.

Tyson Foods has a strong commitment to ensuring our company's success is aligned with the growth of the communities we serve. Their commitment to sustainability and innovation has been a driving force behind their success.
John Tyson, Sr. and his son, Don, built a small chicken business in Springdale into a worldwide corporate giant. Now much of the direction of that company rests in the hands of Donnie D. King, a no-nonsense guy from Rison who has always believed in the value of hard work. He is UAM’s 53rd Distinguished Alumnus.
Forget the plush oval-shaped office, complete with a matching oval desk and oval chandelier above. Forget the wood paneled walls surrounding a work space large enough for three high level executives.

The man who occupies this office is an unpretentious guy from southeast Arkansas who just happens to be second in command of one of the world’s largest food corporations.

Donnie D. King is president of North American Operations and Food Service for Tyson Foods, Inc., one of the world’s largest processors and marketers of chicken, beef, pork, and processed foods. He is also the 53rd Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Arkansas at Monticello.

King’s success is no accident. He started working part-time at Tyson’s Pine Bluff plant while still in high school, spending spring breaks and summer vacations on the job. His mother, the late Ruby King, had what King describes as a “30-plus year association with Tyson” while his father, the late Marvin King, worked as an independent chicken grower for England Farms.

Donnie attended UAM from 1980 to 1984, pursuing a degree in business management, but never had time for the traditional college experience. He took classes Monday, Wednesday and Friday and worked at Tyson’s Pine Bluff plant on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. “If I wasn’t in class, I was working,” remembers King.

During this time, King caught the eye of Dr. William Abbott, general manager of the Pine Bluff operation, who took an interest in the hard-working college student and showed his young protégé the ropes.

As King neared graduation, he received interest from two poultry compa-
President, North American Operations and Food Services, Tyson Foods, Inc.  
Former President, Prepared Foods, Customer and Consumer Solutions  
Former Senior Group Vice President, Poultry and Prepared Foods  
Member of the Executive Committee, National Chicken Council Board of Directors

At A Glance

King started out with Tasty Bird Foods in Carthage, Tex., which was bought in short order by Tyson. His earlier experience with Tyson, his work ethic, and his willingness to do things that needed to be done landed him a job as assistant plant manager of the Berry Street plant in Springdale in 1986. In a matter of months, he moved up to manager, at 24, the youngest in Tyson history.

The same year, King married Charlotte McKinney of Rison. “I’ve known her all my life,” he says. “Rison’s not a big place. But we didn’t hang out or even like each other in high school.”

That changed when King returned to Rison in 1984 to check in on his father, who was battling cancer. Charlotte was also back in Rison recuperating from a car wreck. The two ran into each other and started talking. “She said ‘Call me,’ but I didn’t,” says King. Two weeks later, he was back in Rison to tend to his father when he passed Charlotte on the street. “She wouldn’t even look at me,” he says. “When she finally talked to me she said ‘I thought you were going to call.’”

Eventually a romance blossomed and Donnie and Charlotte married two years later.

In 1990, Tyson announced the construction of a new plant in Pine Bluff to produce boneless, skinless chicken for KFC. King asked for the opportunity to manage the plant from the ground up and spent the next three years running the Pine Bluff operation.

From there, King began a dizzying climb up the Tyson corporate ladder. In 1993 he became logistics manager at Tyson’s Springdale headquarters, then spent 13 months in Monett, Mo., managing Tyson’s complex of 1,000 plant workers and 500 growers. In 1996, Tyson bought McCarty Farms and King went to Jackson, Miss., to oversee five plants and a large grow-out operation.

In 1999 he returned to Springdale as vice president of several complexes and a few months later took over responsibility for all food service operations. Now he sits at the right hand of Tyson CEO Donnie Smith, supervising production of chicken, beef, pork and processed food while managing the company’s supply chain and food service division.

To understand the scope of King’s responsibility, take a quick look at these numbers — Tyson Foods had annual sales of $42 billion last year; King was responsible for $36 billion of that total.

King doesn’t seem fazed by those numbers. In fact, the bigger the challenge, the more he seems to thrive. “I like dealing with people,” he explains. “I like the challenge. It’s like a large puzzle. I like planning and doing things that others can’t do or haven’t done. And I like getting better every day. I literally get to participate in feeding the world.”

The Kings have two children – daughter Kristen, 26, who works at Vanderbilt University while completing her degree as a nurse practitioner from the University of Tennessee; and son Mark, 24, who lives in Fayetteville and works in food service sales for Tyson.

When he has time, and it isn’t often, King stays in shape by working out, running or biking, and enjoys an occasional trip to Florida. He lives next to The Blessings, a Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course on the north side of Fayetteville, and enjoys an occasional round. But what he really enjoys is work. “To me, working is fun,” he says. “Seeing us be successful is fun.”
David Brown was already an accomplished writer when he came across an advertisement in the Writer's Chronicle in 2013 touting a new online master of fine arts degree program in creative writing.

Brown, a freelance writer and author who is a correspondent for The Atlantic and contributes to The Week and Mental Floss, called Mark Spencer, dean of UAM’s School of Arts and Humanities, the source of the ad.

“We talked about the program and he ended up coming for a visit in May,” recalled Spencer.

Brown liked what he saw, enrolled in the program that summer and completed his degree in August 2014, becoming UAM’s first MFA graduate. “The program usually takes two to three years, but David blitzed through the program in a year,” said Spencer. “Some of our MFA students are brilliant, and he’s one of them.”

Brown not only took classes but also served as a graduate assistant, teaching classes without having to leave his home in Baton Rouge, La. He is currently teaching a class in The Art of Reviewing Books while advising two MFA students who are in the process of completing their theses.

The degree requires completion of 48 hours plus a thesis resembling a book-length manuscript with at least 200 pages of prose and 50 pages of poetry. “There is no doctorate in creative writing,” explained Spencer, “so the MFA is a terminal degree and much like a doctorate in certain disciplines.”

Brown has authored or co-authored three books under the pen name D. B. Grady (Deep State: Inside the Government Secrecy Industry; The Command: Deep Inside the President’s Secret Army; and Red Planet Noir). He studied computer science as an undergraduate at Louisiana State because “it seemed like the smarter thing to do,” but his heart was always focused on being a writer. As a published author, Brown didn’t necessarily need a graduate degree in creative writing, but thought academic credentials would provide more latitude and more say in what he writes. “The MFA allows you to move up in the profession,” said Spencer. “It’s particularly important if you intend to teach at the collegiate level.”

Michael Frizzell became UAM’s second MFA graduate in September and is currently the director of the Learning Center at Missouri State University in Springfield. A total of 18 students were enrolled in the program this spring and five graduated in May.

“This is an exciting time for the program,” said Brown. “One of the benefits of a low residency program is the faculty don’t have to live in Monticello. We have truly great writers from all over the country working in this program. And the technology that’s available gives us the flexibility to try new things no one else is trying. If something doesn’t work, we can self-correct right away.

“In the long run, it’s easy to attract really strong students and teachers.”
PROLIFIC WRITER

David Brown, the first recipient of a master of fine arts in creative writing from UAM.
Restoring the cultural landscape of the most important Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River is the passion of Kevin Eads, the new superintendent of Pea Ridge National Military Park.
On the morning of March 7, 1862, a column of Confederate troops under the command of General Earl Van Dorn struck the 24th Missouri infantry near Elkhorn Tavern in northern Benton County, Arkansas.

Van Dorn’s attack ignited the most important Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River, a two-day conflict that saved Missouri for the Union and eventually allowed Federal forces to cut the Confederacy in half, isolating Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas from the remainder of the southern states.

The Battle of Pea Ridge was fought over a 4,300-acre tract of lush pastures and wooded ridges preserved since 1956 as Pea Ridge National Military Park. Cannons are positioned along the crest of hills and split-rail fences define pasture boundaries.

It’s not hard to imagine what it must have been like when 10,500 Union soldiers clashed with 16,000 Confederates. Kevin Eads does it on a daily basis.

Eads, 47, is the new superintendent of the park, appointed March 8. He’s been at Pea Ridge since 2002, working first as chief of resources management, then chief of management and interpretation, chief of operations, acting superintendent, and finally, superintendent.

Eads is currently leading a comprehensive examination of the park to restore the area to the way it looked in 1862, a daunting task that requires a grasp of both science and history.

Eads learned the science as an undergraduate at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla., where he earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology in 1992, and at the University of Arkansas at Monticello as one of the first graduates of the school’s master’s degree program in forest resources in 2002. Eads was working at Arkansas Post National Monument in 1998 when he heard UAM was ready to begin offering a master’s degree in forestry. He contacted Dr. Phil Tappe, then a member of the forestry faculty and now dean of the School of Forestry and Natural Resources.

“ concealed never been on the campus before, but when I got there, I was hooked,” says Eads. “Dr. Tappe is a great guy and I really liked the environment. Every professor I ever met was personable, took the time to visit with you, and explain whatever area you were having trouble with. That was pretty impressive.”

Eads enrolled in fall 1998 and started field work the next spring, specializing in ticks and tick-born diseases. With Tappe’s help, he received a grant from the National Park Service to help pay his expenses and did extensive research, all while working full time at Arkansas Post.

“Kevin is passionate about natural and cultural resources and enjoys working with people,” says Tappe. “His career success with the National Park Service is no surprise. While working on his degree, he was also working full time at Arkansas Post. In addition to his own graduate research, he was instrumental in initiating additional graduate student research at Arkansas Post and spent significant amounts of his time supporting those projects. Kevin was taking graduate classes, conducting research for his master’s degree, helping other students with their projects, and all of this while also working full-time for the National Park Service.”

Eads has held four different posts with the Park Service. A native of Stilwell, Okla., he worked part-time at the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond, Mo., while still an undergraduate at Northeastern State. He took his first full-time job with the Park Service in 1992 at the birthplace of George Washington on the banks of the Potomac River in northern Virginia. In 1996 he accepted a position in historic interpretation at Arkansas Post. “I wanted to move to different
parks to gain experience,” says Eads, “but also, I liked Arkansas. I always wanted to get back to this area.”

Eads’ first job at Pea Ridge was supervising the completion of 15 miles of split-rail fences spread over 39 historical fields. He and his staff are now engaged in a makeover to restore the park’s cultural landscape to the way it appeared more than 160 years ago. Relying on surveys by the Government Land Office in 1836-37, Eads can tell not only which areas were forested and which were open, but also the types of vegetation in each area.

“We have first-hand accounts from soldiers with detailed descriptions of what they were able to see from certain locations,” says Eads. “Over on Foster’s Field there were three (Union) cannons set up on a line on the south side of the field. One of the reasons they set up there was because they could see Confederate soldiers from there on Little Round Mountain. In March today, with the leaves off as they would have been in March 1862, you couldn’t see them because the trees are too thick. Some of the areas that were open woodland have grown up. Those are things we have to change.”

Eads is passionate about his work and you could sense his excitement as he took a recent visitor on a tour of the park. Pea Ridge includes a seven-mile tour road with 10 stops, 11 miles of trails for horseback riding, and another seven miles of hiking trails. The park sits at the confluence of several historic roads, including the Old Wire Road, which was originally part of the Trail of Tears, the forced migration of the Cherokee Nation to Oklahoma.

“There’s so much for visitors to do here,” he says. “If you’re interested in nature we have an abundance of wildlife. If you like recreation, we have hiking, biking and horseback riding. And if you like history, we have the Civil War, the Trail of Tears, even pre-history. We’ve identified one location that was once a Pleistocene lake.”

The National Park Service will celebrate its centennial in 2016 and Eads is planning more improvements to Pea Ridge, from an expanded parking lot to the renovation of Elkhorn Tavern, which served as a make-shift hospital during the battle.

“Why did the battle happen here?” asks Eads. “You had a military road, which was also the Trail of Tears route. The road was put here because of the topography. There were secondary roads as well. The topography, the roads all made this a logical place for a battle.”
It’s been a good six years for the School of Education at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, according to data released recently by Dr. Peggy Doss, dean of the school. Since 2009, UAM’s programs in both elementary and secondary teacher preparation have been recognized for excellence at both the state and national levels.

The most recent recognition came from the National Council on Teacher Quality’s review of the best undergraduate elementary and secondary teacher preparation programs in the nation. UAM’s elementary education program was rated 14th nationally out of 394 programs in the NCTQ rankings while the middle childhood education program was ranked 27th in a field of...
“We are always pleased when our programs are recognized by any of the various organizations that monitor and review teacher preparation at the higher education level,” said Doss. “But we like to believe a better measure of our effectiveness is the success of our graduates.”

Since 2009, UAM graduates have been honored as Arkansas’s Teacher of the Year (Kim Wilson of Monticello High School in 2012), Arkansas Administrator of the Year (Tony Thurman of Cabot), and Arkansas Superintendent of the Year (Thurman in 2015).

During that time, 100 percent of UAM education graduates have passed the PRAXIS examination for teacher licensure.

Other notable accomplishments for the past six years include:

- selection as one of three STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) schools to pilot the Next Generation Science Exemplar System program;
- receipt of a No Child Left Behind (NCLB) grant to facilitate a summer institute for geometry;
- receipt of an NCLB grant for $57,632 to be used by the STEM Center to provide professional development to promote teaching Common Core standards;
- receipt of $3,178,850 in grants since 2005; $364,750 in 2014;
- hosted a STEM Leadership for Girls Conference;
- three faculty members named to leadership positions of state and national organizations (Dr. Jeff Long- ing, president of the Arkansas Association of Teacher Educators; Dr. Alayne Zimmerly, past president of the Africa
Athletes of the Year

Leaders on the field, on the court, and in the classroom

A football player and three basketball players are UAM’s 2014-15 male and female athletes of the year and scholar athletes of the year.

The male athlete of the year was senior defensive back Mike Early. Capturing the female athlete of the year award was junior forward Jordan Goforth. The male scholar athlete of the year was senior guard Sharif Hudson while junior guard Nikki Mullen was named the female scholar athlete of the year.

Senior defensive lineman Jalen Garmon was selected to receive the Green and White Excellence Award.

UAM’s All-Gac Golfers

Lauren Johnson, Hunter Smith, Theodor Karlsson and Frida Rydberg shoot low, aim high

The UAM men’s and women’s golf teams placed a combined four members on the 2014-15 All-Great American Conference team. Hunter Smith of Little Elm, Tex., and Theodor Karlsson of Mosfellsbaer, Iceland were selected to the men’s team while Lauren Johnson of DeWitt and Frida Rydberg of Jarfalla, Sweden were UAM’s representatives on the women’s team. The four players selected mark the first time in school history for UAM to have multiple golfers earn postseason honors. Johnson earned second team All-GAC honors while Smith, Karlsson and Rydberg were named honorable mention. All four will be back next year.
Baseball / Softball Players Garner Postseason Honors

Three members each from the UAM baseball and softball teams have been named to the 2015 All-Great American Conference teams in their respective sports.

Austin Braddock, Corey Wood and Brian Ray have been named to the 2015 All-GAC baseball team. Braddock and Wood each earned second team honors while Ray made the honorable mention team.

Outfielders Kali Piha and Holly Wilmarth and pitcher Katie Slaughter have been selected to the 2015 All-GAC softball team.

Braddock was UAM’s top starting pitcher with a 2.93 earned run average and a 6-4 record in 11 starts. The senior from Columbus, Miss., finished the regular season ranked sixth in the league in ERA, fourth in wins, first in complete games and third in opponent batting average.

Wood was UAM’s second-leading hitter with a .326 average in 37 games. The junior right fielder from Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada led the Weevils in total hits, extra base hits, triples, runs batted in, total bases and slugging percentage. He was also the team’s leader in multi-hit games and multi-RBI games. He posted 14 games with at least two hits and seven games with at least two RBI.

Ray had a productive rookie campaign for the Weevils, ranking third on the team with a .299 batting average in 36 games. The redshirt freshman outfielder from Crossett, Ark., had 35 hits, five doubles, one triple, four home runs and 24 RBI. He led the team in on-base percentage and stolen bases. He also made it through the entire season without committing an error in the outfield. Ray ranked fifth in the GAC in walks and sixth in on-base percentage.

Piha earned All-GAC first team honors, her second consecutive all-conference selection. She made the honorable mention team last year as a sophomore. Slaughter and Wilmarth each made the All-GAC second team. Slaughter earns her second all-conference award after earning second-team All-GAC honors in 2013 as a sophomore.

Piha is a starter from Bentonville led the Blossoms with a .338 batting average, 20 walks and a .427 on-base percentage. She had 16 games with at least two hits, three games with three hits and one game with four hits. She also reached base a team-high 23 straight games.

Slaughter was UAM’s top pitcher and the sixth best in the GAC with a 2.74 earned run average in 24 appearances. The senior from Austin, Tex., posted a 15-7 record during the regular season, tying for the GAC lead in wins. She ranked fifth in innings pitched, seventh in strikeouts (83 total/4.3 per game), first in shutouts (3) and second in complete games (17).

Wilmarth earns All-GAC honors in her first season with the Blossoms. The junior outfielder from Maryville, Mo., batted .333 and led the team in hits (56), extra base hits (25), home runs (14), runs batted in (39) and slugging percentage (.661). She ranked second in the GAC in home runs, second in total bases and sixth in slugging percentage. She had 14 games with at least two hits, four with three hits and one game with four hits.

2015 Football Schedule

Sept. 3 NW OKLA.* 7:00
Sept. 12 @ SW Okla.* TBD
Sept. 19 ARK. TECH* 6:00
(Homecoming)
Sept. 26 @ Harding* TBD
Oct. 3 @ Okla. Baptist* TBD
Oct. 10 SO. NAZ* 3:00
Oct. 17 HENDERSON* 3:00
Oct. 24 @ Ouachita* TBD
Oct. 31 @ EC Okla.* TBD
Nov. 7 SE OKLA.* 3:00
Nov. 14 @ Southern Ark.* 2:00

2015 Volleyball Schedule

Sept. 4-5 @ Texas Women’s Invit. 3:00
Sept. 4 Texas Women’s 1:30
Sept. 4 Tex. A&M-Comm. 6:30
Sept. 5 Cameron 9:30
Sept. 5 Tex. A&M-Int. 2:30
Sept. 8 @ UA-Pine Bluff 7:00
Sept. 15 @ Ouachita* 6:00
Sept. 18 Stillman 4:00
Sept. 18 @ Alcorn State 6:00
Sept. 22 HENDERSON* 6:00
Sept. 24 @ Harding* 6:00
Sept. 29 SO. ARK.* 3:00
Sept. 29 ALCORN ST. 7:00
Oct. 2 @ Arkansas Tech 5:00
Oct. 3 Washburn 3:00
Oct. 3 @ Mo. Southern 5:00
Oct. 6 UA-PINE BLUFF 6:00
Oct. 9 @ NW Okla.* 7:00
Oct. 10 @ SW Okla.* 12:00
Oct. 16 SO. NAZ.* 6:00
Oct. 17 OKLA. BAPT.* 12:00
Oct. 20 @ Miss. Valley 6:00
Oct. 22 @ EC Okla.* 7:00
Oct. 23 Tex. A&M-Kings 5:00
Oct. 23 @ Midwestern St. 7:00
Oct. 24 @ SE Okla.* 1:00
Oct. 27 @ Southern Ark.* 7:00
Nov. 3 ARK. TECH* 6:00
Nov. 5 OUACHITA* 6:00
Nov. 6 MISS. VALLEY 6:00
Nov. 10 @ Henderson* 6:00
Nov.19-21 Great American Conference Tournament

*GAC game
Home games in ALL CAPS
The Man Who Bleeds Green

Matt Whiting (B.B.A. ’10) is on the front lines raising much needed private funding for UAM’s athletics program.

Whiting understands the role athletics plays at UAM and identifies with both current and former athletes. Whiting lettered two years as a second baseman on the Boll Weevil baseball team in 2009-10 and was named to the Gulf South Conference All-Academic Team. “I know how much private contributions mean to our athletic program,” he says. “I know what it means to be able to travel a little better, to have new uniforms, to play and practice in nicer facilities.”

“Matt has done a wonderful job connecting with our former athletes,” says Chris Ratcliff. “He knows how to relate to them.”

Since last July, Whiting has raised over $280,000 for the athletic program and that total should surpass $300,000 after the annual UAM Golf Tournament in late May.

Some of those funds have been spent on facility enhancement projects, such as the recent renovation to the men's basketball locker room which includes new oak lockers and hardwood flooring. Also impacted have been team travel and supply budgets.

Whiting dreams big and has lofty goals for the future — artificial turf and a new scoreboard for Convoy Leslie-Cotton Boll Stadium, lights for baseball and softball, new baseball and softball locker rooms, and someday, a new fieldhouse for basketball and volleyball.

“Effective fund-raising is about establishing relationships,” says Whiting. “That’s what I love the most, interacting with friends and former athletes. I love hearing their stories about UAM and how their involvement in athletics impacted their lives.”

Retiring Number 14

On October 17, during halftime ceremonies at UAM’s game with Henderson State, the university will retire the number 14 worn with distinction by former Weevil quarterback Sean Rochelle. Now Dr. Sean Rochelle, executive director of the Razorback Foundation, Sean led the 1988 Boll Weevils to a 10-2 season and the second round of the NAIA playoffs. He was a two-time Academic All-American, the AIC Offensive Player of the Year in 1988, and later an assistant football coach for the Weevils.
Legacy Club ($2,500+)  
Mr. Tony Fukouri  
Mr. and Mrs. Rob Leonard  
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Bowlin  
Mr. Darold Dickerson  
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Grider  
Dr. and Mrs. Jimmie Yeiser

Varsity Club ($1,000-$2,499)  
Mr. Jay Bernard  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Loney  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Happy  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sikes  
Mr. and Mrs. William Cheek  
Mr. and Mrs. James Smither  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Summerford  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Morrison  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Berry  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob McGowan  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lennox

Coaches Circle ($750-$999)  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Loken  
Mr. and Mrs. Bonnie McFarland  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Yarbrough

Green-White Club ($500-$749)  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bulloch  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pate  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Cox  
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Morgan  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dickerson  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Linton

Weevil-Blossom Club ($50-$299)  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim Abney  
Mr. and Mrs. Lamar Aldridge  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Hart  
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. John Dawson

Thank you to the generous donors listed above for their outstanding support of UAM Athletics during the 2014-15 season. Your annual donation to the UAM Sports Association provides vital operating resources, allowing over 200 UAM student-athletes to excel in the classroom and in competition. Preparations for the 2015-16 season will kick off July 1 with the UAM Sports Association Membership Drive. Make plans to renew your membership or join for the first time for only $30! Thanks again for your outstanding support of the Blossoms and Weevils! For more information, please contact Matt Whiting, Associate Athletic Director for External Operations, at (870) 460-1758 or whitingm@uamont.edu.

Gifts listed were received from July 1, 2014, through April 30, 2015.

Mr. Charles Searey  
Sleep Centers of Arkansas - Searey  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Smart  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Smith  
Mr. Rusty Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Snook  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfonzo Soliz  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Stanford  
Mrs. Jan Stephenson  
Mr. John Summers  
Ms. Melissa Taylor  
Mr. Nick Temple  
Dr. Max Terrell  
Mr. and Mrs. Luke Thornton  
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thurman  
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Tolin  
Mr. and Mrs. Gwin Turner  
Mr. Kirk Vansant  
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Mr. Keith Wallis  
Ms. Florence Watson  
Ms. Carole Webb  
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White River Diagnostic Clinic - Dr. Seth Barnes  
Mr. Matt Whiting  
Mr. and Mrs. Deryl Wieser  
Ms. Donna Wiley  
Mr. Tommy Wilson  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wise  
Mrs. Karen Wisener  
Mr. and Mrs. James Womack  
Mr. and Mrs. Brady Woosley

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McGehee Nurses Perfect . . . Again

McGehee nursing students achieve a 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-PN licensure exam.

One hundred percent of the December 2014 practical nursing graduates at the UAM College of Technology-McGehee passed the NCLEX-PN licensure examination on their first attempt, according to Bob Ware, vice chancellor for the McGehee campus.

Ware said this is the second consecutive class to earn a 100 percent pass rate and the fourth class out of five to do so. All of the graduates are either employed or they are continuing their education, with most of those preparing to apply for UAM’s LPN to RN program. Members of the December 2014 practical nursing class at the UAM COT-McGehee are (from left, front) James Baker of Monticello, (second row, from left) Rosa Meredith of Eudora, Candace Douglas of Dermott, (third row, from left) Rebecca Jones of Dumas, Katherine Wilkerson of McGehee, Priscilla Cessor of McGehee, Andrea Thomas of Monticello, (fourth row, from left) instructors Nikki Fitzgerald, Kim Ray and Peggie Orrell.

ADULT EDUCATION

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Education, nearly two in 10 Arkansans have not graduated from high school in the last decade.

The UAM College of Technology-Crossett is trying to do something about those numbers. UAM COT-Crossett is offering free classes, one-on-one tutoring, and computer programs to help area students earn the equivalent of a high school diploma.

The program, which is part of the Arkansas Department of Career Education, gives participants the opportunity to earn a GED or a WAGE (Workforce Alliance for Growth in the Economy) certificate. They may also take classes in English as a second language, and receive basic skills tutoring, refresher courses on academic skills, and classes in computer literacy.

Classes are offered Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday and Tuesday evenings from 5-8 p.m.

CDL TRAINING

The UAM College of Technology-McGehee and the Arkansas Human Development Corporation recently created a partnership to provide commercial driver’s license training for five students.

A commercial driver’s license – or CDL – is a driver’s license that allows license holders to drive trucks or combinations with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) that exceeds 26,000 pounds and vehicles transporting hazardous materials.
Louis Dunlap Honored

The African-American Alumni Association continues a legacy of contributions to UAM

Louis Dunlap taught multiple generations of UAM students during his 33 years on the university’s mathematics faculty.

An instructor emeritus who joined the faculty in 1973 and taught until 1996, Dunlap was honored recently by the UAM African-American Alumni Association by the creation of a future endowment in his name. The Louis Dunlap Mathematics Scholarship will be the latest in a growing legacy of contributions to the UAM Foundation Fund by the African-American Alumni Association.

Previously, the association has created the Al Peer Kappa Alpha Psi Leadership Scholarship, the Shay Gillespie Phi Beta Sigma Leadership Scholarship, and the Classie Jones-Green African American Alumni Scholarship.

In addition to the scholarships, the association made a $10,000 contribution to The Centennial Circle endowment in the name of Barbara Blanks Gathen to honor UAM’s first African-American graduate.

“We are so very grateful to the African-American Alumni Association for their continuing generosity and commitment to the university,” said Linda Yeiser, vice chancellor for advancement and university relations. “The Louis Dunlap Mathematics Scholarship joins a growing list of gifts that are creating educational opportunities for future generations. I want to extend a special thank you to the association’s Executive Committee – Shay Gillespie, Classie Jones-Green, and Al Peer – for their leadership and for their devotion to the institution.”

Private Gifts

Robert H. Burch, Jr. Waterfowl Research Endowment – established by family and friends of the late Dr. Robert H. “Bobby” Burch, Jr. for waterfowl research. This fund may be used for any legitimate expenditure for waterfowl research and related academic activities, with first preference to undergraduate or graduate research.

Greg Bland Memorial Scholarship – established by Mrs. Greg Bland and other family and friends of the late Mr. Greg Bland. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansan and have full-time enrollment status in the UAM School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, with first preference given to a chemistry major and second preference to any natural sciences major.

Kelly Bashaw Memorial Scholarship – established by Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bashaw and other family and friends of the late Mr. Kelly Bashaw. The scholarship recipient must be an Arkansan and full-time student of any major.
1990’s
Rob Leonard (BA ’90) was named Monticello’s Man of the Year for 2014 at the annual awards banquet hosted by the Monticello/Drew County Chamber of Commerce and the Monticello Economic Development Commission. Leonard is the director of UAM’s Missionary Baptist Student Fellowship.

Tina (Webb) Groves (BS ’91) has been promoted to executive vice president and chief risk officer at Simmons First National Corp., the holding company of Simmons Bank. Groves has more than 23 years of experience in internal audit and accounting, including eight years with Simmons. Groves was previously senior vice president and manager of corporate audit and compliance.

2000’s
Jared L. Harrington (BS ’01) and Laura Ripley were married February 28, 2015, in Pensacola, Fla. Jared is a broker for National Elite Transportation. The couple resides in Bentonville.

Dr. Bryan H. Hoang (BS ’04), purchased Foscue Medical Clinic in Warren to begin a family practice. A Monticello native, he earned his M.D. from UAMS. He has been practicing medicine in Southeast Arkansas for the past two years.

Janelle Shepherd (BBA ’09) became assistant park superintendent at Historic Washington (Ark.) State Park in January. Shepherd formerly worked in UAM’s Office of Student Affairs.

Lora (Long) Flemister (TC ’09) was named Outstanding Young Leader for 2014 by the Monticello/Drew County Chamber of Commerce and the Monticello Economic Development Commission. Flemister is a nurse at Monticello Medical Clinic.

World Class Cattle Breeder
Jerry Gibson (B.B.A. ’66) named to Maine-Anjou Cattle Breeders Hall of Fame

Jerry Gibson (center) with his 2012 Reserve Grand Champion Maine-Anjou bull, was recently named to the Maine-Anjou Cattle Breeders Hall of Fame. Gibson owns 4J Family Cattle in Decatur, Tex. 4J Family Partnership is comprised of Jerry, June, Jay (’93), & Judd Gibson from Parker, Tex. The Gibsons have been raising Maine-Anjou cattle since 1983 and have strived to put together a herd incorporating both the traditional full-blood Maine genetics as well as progressive, new genes to create cows that are unmatched in the industry. Jerry has been very involved in the Maine-Anjou Association, including President of the Texas Maine-Anjou Association, 2002 National Breeder of the Year, 2006 Maine Man of the Year, and co-founder of the “Maine Traditionalist.” 4J is also a supporter of the Junior Maine Association with donations of heifers to support the Maine-Anjou Junior Nationals in 2006 and 2010.

WEE WEEVILS

Samuel Michael and Wesley Charles Baumgarten, born February 12, 2015, to Matthew Baumgarten (BS ’06) and Rebecca of Birmingham, MI.

Maxwell Reed Kutach Brown, born March 10, 2015, to Meredith (Newton) (BA ’03) and Billy Brown (BBA ’05) of Willow Park, Tex.

Annette Joann Gladden, born April 21, 2015, to John Gladden (BA ’09) and Julie of Monticello.

Sydney Jane Palmertree, born December 23, 2014, to Stacy (Dabney) (BS ’06) and Bob Palmertree (BA ’03) of Murphy, Tex.

Jestyn Meridy Frizzell daughter of Ashton (Pooree) (MAT ’14) and Jordan Frizzell (MAT ’12).
Governor Hutchinson names new chief fiscal officer

Governor Asa Hutchinson has appointed a former federal trade official who once headed Arkansas’ economic development agency to be the state’s chief fiscal officer.

Hutchinson named Larry Walther (B.S. ’70) as the new director of the state Department of Finance and Administration, replacing retiring longtime director Richard Weiss. Hutchinson was recently sworn in as Arkansas’ 46th governor.

Walther is a former member of the board of directors for the Export-Import Bank and had previously served as director of the U.S Trade and Development Agency. Walther directed the Arkansas Department of Economic Development under former Gov. Mike Huckabee. Walther also worked for 30 years with SBC Communications, now AT&T.

Brandi Culp (B.S. ’14), an 8th grade mathematics teacher at Hamburg Middle School, has been selected to receive a Georgia-Pacific Foundation scholarship to attend the Keystone Science School’s Key Issues Institute in Silverthorne, Colo., this summer. This is a professional development conference that helps middle school teachers investigate current environmental issues with their students. The scholarship covers travel expenses, the program and meals.

GP facilities were asked to nominate teachers in their communities. The GP Foundation received 53 nominations and 26 teachers were selected. Culp was selected to participate in the Key Issue Institute within the GP Foundation program.

Don’t forget to join YOUR alumni association. It’s a great way to stay in touch with friends!
Coach of the Year

Mark Upshaw (B.S. ’87) Named 5A Girls Basketball Coach of the Year while leading Hot Springs to state title

(By Erick Taylor, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

After reaching the semifinals of the Class 5A state tournament a year ago, Hot Springs girls basketball coach Mark Upshaw’s goal for the 2014-2015 season had a simple, yet familiar, tone to it.

“Like every team, we wanted to win a state championship, and we expected to have a good year,” Upshaw said. “We lost two seniors from last year, but we had our three leading scorers back. So we really felt like we’d do well.

“But injuries can change the dynamics of a team in a hurry. When that happens, the best thing you can do is try not to panic.” Senior forward Ashley Clayborn tore an anterior cruciate ligament over the summer, and that, in turn, threw a monkey wrench into Hot Springs’ title plans. But teams often embody the mentality of their coach, and that’s precisely what the Lady Trojans did.

Upshaw never wavered in the belief that his team had what it took to capture its first state title in 17 years, and for that, he is named the Arkansas 5A Basketball Coach of the Year.

“The girls were just determined not to lose,” Upshaw said. “When Ashley went down, it was a big blow. But they stayed the course. At times, we did struggle without her in the lineup, but when she returned, you could tell they were ready to go.”

Hot Springs finished 26-4 overall to capture the Class 5A title, Upshaw’s first state championship and Hot Springs’ fourth overall.

But the Lady Trojans had the look of a true championship contender well before their March title run.

“They embraced that challenge this year,” said Upshaw, who’s in his eighth year as head coach. “In the past, we’d have a tough schedule where we’d play some of the better teams, and they wouldn’t be overly excited. But this year was different.

“We played teams like Conway, and the girls were excited at the chance. I think that helped [us] get better.”

Against Pulaski Academy in the state championship game, the Lady Trojans trailed for most of regulation but sent the game into overtime before hitting a free throw with 3.1 seconds left to give them their first state championship since 1998.

“I remember at one point late in the game where I called a timeout and asked, ‘Isn’t this fun?’” Upshaw said. “Before that, I saw where they were getting a little antsy. But they settled down after that and got the job done.”

Upshaw, too, got the job done, and he’s already looking forward to his team defending its title next season.
Friends We’ll Miss

Fred Denton

UAM has lost a long-time friend and supporter. William Frederick “Fred” Denton, 74, of McGehee, a former member of the board of directors of the UAM Foundation Fund and chairman of the UAM Board of Visitors, died Feb. 17, 2015.

Mr. Denton graduated from Sikeston (Mo.) High School. He received a bachelor of science degree in business administration and economics from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo., and graduated from the School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

In 1974, he was appointed charter president and chief executive officer of The First National Bank of McGehee. He also served on the board of directors of the bank until his retirement from active management in 2008, when he was elected chairman of the board and served in that capacity until his death.

Mr. Denton was past president and board member of the former McGehee Optimist Club. He also served as president of the McGehee Rotary Club and president of the McGehee Chamber of Commerce. He was a board member of the McGehee Industrial Foundation. He served on the board of directors of the Chicot-Desha Metropolitan Port Authority from its inception and served as its chairman of the board for approximately 10 years. An avid supporter of UAM, he organized what is now known as the annual Boll Weevil Football Fundraiser.

A familiar face is missing from the UAM campus with the passing of long-time librarian Sandra Dupree Campbell. Mrs. Campbell died February 2. She was 58.

A graduate of Warren High School, Mrs. Campbell joined the UAM staff in 1984 as assistant librarian and was named director of the library in 2001.

Mrs. Campbell held a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and a master of library science degree from Clark Atlanta University. She also completed post-graduate study at Texas Women’s University.

Prior to joining the UAM staff, Mrs. Campbell was director of the Bradley County Library in Warren.

Sandra Campbell

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Prior to joining the UAM staff, Mrs. Campbell was director of the Bradley County Library in Warren.
SAYING GOODBYE

Members of the Class of 2015 said goodbye to UAM at commencement exercises on May 8, including Gregoria Garcia Ibarra, a long-time employee of the Office of Advancement. Good luck, Gregoria! And a special thanks to Greenscape Nursery owner Terry Hopper (BS ’85) for the floral display.