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PA STUDENTS GIVE MORE THAN \$12,000 TO ARKANSAS FOODBANK

PATTERSON GIVES UPDATE TO UA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, gave the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees an update Jan. 31 on the future of UAMS, focusing on the improved financial outlook and efforts to secure

National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation for the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

Patterson reminded the board that in July 2018 UAMS presented its first balanced budget in at least five years. He said he was pleased to report that as of December 2018, UAMS was \$8 million ahead of budget.



Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, gives the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees an update on UAMS' finances and programs during a Jan. 31 meeting.

“We are committed to fiscal discipline because that allows us to do the right thing for our UAMS team members, and for the patients and families and students we serve,” he said. “Fiscal discipline also demonstrates to the state that we are good stewards of the resources we have been given.”

Patterson praised the efforts of Arkansas legislators to support UAMS’ efforts to achieve NCI designation, specifically noting the Republican Women’s Legislative Caucus’ Dream Big Initiative.

He noted there are 70 NCI-designated Cancer Centers in 36 states and the District of Columbia that form the backbone of NCI’s programs for studying and controlling cancer. However, none of those centers are located in Arkansas.

About 68 percent of the funds awarded by the NCI for research and clinical trials goes to NCI-designated centers. Centers without such designation must compete for the other 32 percent. Additionally, many NCI community outreach and program grants are only available to NCI-designated cancer centers.

“Having an NCI-designated Cancer Institute in Arkansas will give Arkansans more access to clinical trials and new therapies,” Patterson said. “Cancer prevention, screening, education and treatment programs will become more widespread throughout the state, even reaching rural areas that historically have been unable to access advanced health care. And, NCI designation is projected to have a yearly economic impact of more than \$70 million on the state and create nearly 1,600 jobs.”

The chancellor also announced the formation of the Institute for Digital Health and Innovation, led by Curtis Lowery, M.D., formerly chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine and medical director for the UAMS Center for Distance Health.

Patterson told the board that growth at the regional campuses is another priority. The majority of family practice physicians in rural areas of the state are trained at one of UAMS’ eight regional campuses.

“Eight is simply not enough,” he said, adding that he would like to see a total of 15 regional campuses operating in Arkansas.

He applauded the growth at the Northwest Regional Campus, noting the accreditation of the Doctor of Physical



Paula McClain, a first-year student in the College of Medicine, speaks to the Board of Trustees as Chancellor Cam Patterson looks on.

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SALLY THE ROBOT NOW SERVING CUSTOM SALADS AT UAMS

A robot named Sally — the first robot of its kind in the industry — is making customized salads 24 hours a day at UAMS, providing guests and employees with a healthy meal option to meet individual needs.

Sally was installed Jan. 30 in the Lobby Café and has averaged 65 salads a day. Customers can choose from 22 ingredients, including roasted chicken, carrots, broccoli, two kinds of cheese, cucumber, tomatoes and sunflower seeds. Two kinds of dressing are offered – ranch and balsamic vinegar, with plans to rotate fresh dressings.

The robot has proved an immediate success, said Tonya Johnson, director of UAMS Nutrition Services, and has to be refilled several times a day.

“We were overwhelmed with the response,” Johnson said. “We expected to sell about 35-40 a day, but from the very first day people have been enthusiastic about choosing a salad where they can get the ingredients they want.”

Each entrée-sized salad is \$7.99. Users can fine-tune the calorie total by adding or subtracting ingredients as well as view full nutritional details for each selection. Ingredients are separated by canisters and replenished on a regular basis. This reduces the risk of foodborne illness and ingredient cross-contamination.

The robot is 3 foot by 3 foot and made by Chowbotics, a Silicon Valley-based food robotics company. UAMS is the third hospital to use Sally the robot. The others are Indiana University Bloomington in Bloomington, Ind., and Erlanger Children’s Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn.

“Because it’s interactive, it encourages people to eat more



Laura Rule, service line nursing director, was the first at UAMS to have a salad prepared by Sally the robot.

healthfully,” Johnson said. “Customers like the touchscreen and watching the ingredients being added to the bowl.”

Johnson had wanted to add a salad bar to the Lobby Café, but space and logistics made it unfeasible. She heard of the robot and upon inquiry, Chowbotics sent one to UAMS as a demo. UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, knew immediately after seeing a demonstration that it was something he wanted visitors and employees to be able to have.

“Sally’s fresh salads are an ideal alternative to a salad bar and fit perfectly with UAMS’ mission to promote a healthier lifestyle,” Patterson said.

40 EMPLOYEES COMPLETE CERTIFIED RESEARCH SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Forty employees received their certificates for successfully completing the Certified Research Specialist (CRS) program in 2018 during a Jan. 31 ceremony. Another 132 employees were re-certified in 2018.

The Office of Research Compliance’s CRS Program provides essential training in key areas for individuals involved in human subjects research at UAMS. Those interested in learning more about UAMS’ research efforts can also take the training. Certified Research Specialists complete 28 hours of coursework and pass a comprehensive proficiency exam.

Each year, the Office of Research Compliance holds an awards ceremony to celebrate the efforts of program graduates, as well as those who recertified. This year’s

keynote speaker was Lawrence Cornett, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for research.

Matthew Kovak was awarded the Bonny Hope Award for Excellence in Human Subject Research. The awardee is chosen by the members of the Certified Research Specialist Program and must be a colleague who works directly in human subject research and demonstrates the following characteristics: dedication to the subject, respect for the subject’s sacrifice, devotion to research integrity, commitment to mentoring and enthusiasm for learning.

A full list of the employees who successfully completed the program and those who were recertified can be found at news.uams.edu/2019/02/11/40-employees-complete-certified-research-specialist-program/.

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Ashton Cheatham, a third-year student in the College of Pharmacy, tells the Board of Trustees why he chose UAMS for his education and how his experiences here have benefited him.

Therapy program and the Internal Medicine Residency program. He also thanked the Schmeiding Foundation for the gift of the building that houses the UAMS Schmieding Center for Senior Health and Education.

Patterson wrapped up his presentation by showing a short video highlighting various UAMS programs. He then introduced two students — Paula McClain from the College of Medicine and Ashton Cheatham from the College of Pharmacy — to speak to the board about their experiences as UAMS students.

McClain, a first-year medical student from Forrest City who previously taught science in middle and high school for several years, is serving as the class president, or “Class Mom,” as she jokingly called the job. Her earliest exposure to the medical field came when she was 15 and her younger brother was born with Down syndrome and congenital heart defects. He was treated at Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

“Instantly, I was just in awe of what physicians can do,” she said.

Cheatham is a third-year pharmacy student from Pine Bluff who said he chose pharmacy because he liked chemistry, and his sister told him pharmacists use a lot of chemistry.

He came to UAMS in no small part because of his experiences in high school with UAMS Pharmacy Camp, a summer immersion program for seniors and recent high school graduates.

“I am glad that I have been able to have my educational experiences in my home state, in close proximity to my home town and my support group,” said Cheatham.

PA STUDENTS GIVE MORE THAN \$12,000 TO ARKANSAS FOODBANK

60,840

That’s how many meals for children the Physician Assistant Studies (PA) program in the College of Health Professions (CHP) bought for the Arkansas Foodbank with the money they raised from their fifth annual Heroes Against Hunger 5K.

Emily McKinney, president for the PA Class of 2019, presented a check for \$12,167.96 to Nick Bradford from the Arkansas Food Bank during a Jan. 31 ceremony. It was the PA program’s largest donation to the food bank’s Food For Kids program. In five years, the PA students have raised nearly \$32,000.

“I am so proud of the hard work our PA students put into fundraising and the race,” said Heather Trudeau, M.P.A.S., assistant professor. “These funds will make a tremendous impact for many Arkansans living with food insecurity.”

The Kelly-Rahn-Turnage (KRT) Fellowship of Physician Assistant Students, which was founded by the inaugural class of PA students in 2013, is responsible for putting on the race, held Oct. 6, 2018, in Murray Park.

Approximately 90 people volunteered their time to make the event happen. The PA students were assisted by CHP faculty and volunteers from the College of Nursing and the Arkansas Foodbank.

For the second year, the Arkansas Medical Pharmaceutical and Dental Association allowed the KRT Fellowship to fundraise through their organization, which meant



Physician Assistant Studies student Emily McKinney presents a check for \$12,167.96 to Nick Bradford (second from left) from the Arkansas Food Bank during a Jan. 31 ceremony. The funds were raised during the PA students' Heroes Against Hunger 5K. Also pictured are Edward Williams, M.P.A.S., (left) chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and director of the PA program, and William Greenfield, M.D., (right) from the Arkansas Medical, Dental & Pharmaceutical Association.

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LEGISLATORS RECOGNIZE UAMS PHYSICIANS, NURSE



Orthopaedic specialist Lawrence O'Malley, M.D., and Jo Smith, a nurse and the director of special projects in the UAMS Center for Patients and Families, were named Doctor of the Day and Nurse of the Day, respectively, on the floor of the Arkansas Senate. A few days later, Johnathan Goree, M.D., (not shown) director of the UAMS chronic pain clinic, was also recognized as Doctor of the Day.

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donations were tax deductible, something that has helped fundraising immensely, McKinney said.

"As future health care providers, the PA students chose a 5K specifically because it highlights the importance of physical activity as a part of preventive health care and community health. It's an activity that benefits one's personal health, but also encourages people to do something together," said McKinney.

"I can't tell you how many families we saw at this year's race -- lots of moms and dads running with their school-age or teenage kiddos," she added."

With 244 runners and walkers, the 2018 race had more participants than ever before.

McKinney said that organizing and fundraising for the event was a great bonding experience for the students.

The students have scheduled the 2019 race for Oct. 5.

"I'm so proud that we had the opportunity to do something to address food disparity in Arkansas," she said.

ACCOLADES

Shane Cate, R.N., who works on F7 Stem Cell Transplant/MIRT, has been selected as the **March DAISY of the Month**, an award to recognize extraordinary nurses.

Draper Garner, a patient care technician in F7 Stem Cell Transplant/MIRT, has been named the **March BEE of the Month**, an award by the Center for Nursing Excellence that honors non-nurse staff who provide exceptional care for patients and families.

Jing Xu, R.N., a registered nurse in Infusion Clinic 1, received the **Golden Mug for February** as the staff member at the Cancer Institute whose work deserves special recognition.

F9 ENT/Orthopedic Surgical Specialties was selected as the **Outstanding Area of the Month for March**.

IN MEMORIAM

MARIE CHOW, 65, OF LITTLE ROCK, DIED JAN. 13, 2019. A PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE'S DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY, SHE RETIRED IN JUNE 2015.

GAY THOMPSON-FREEMAN, 60, OF LITTLE ROCK, DIED FEB. 4, 2019. SHE WAS A CHILD CARE TECHNICIAN AT UAMS HEAD START.

CAROL MURRY, 82, OF LITTLE ROCK, DIED FEB. 13, 2019. SHE HELD MULTIPLE NURSING POSITIONS DURING HER MORE THAN 25-YEAR TENURE AT UAMS, INCLUDING ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF PATIENT CARE IN CLINICAL RESEARCH.

VISIT THE IN MEMORIAM INTRANET SITE, [HTTP://INSIDE.UAMS.EDU/INMEMORIAM/](http://inside.uams.edu/inmemoriam/), FOR FULL OBITUARIES ON UAMS EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY.