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**SPOLEN,
HADDEN RECEIVE
CHANCELLOR'S
TEACHING
AWARDS**

Members
of Team
UAMS
gathered May
21 to celebrate
10 interns as they
graduated from the 2019

UAMS Project SEARCH program, a job-training program that helps young adults with disabilities develop independent living and working skills.

The students spent nine months at UAMS working in various departments, learning valuable job skills. Each student was presented a certificate of completion and invited to the microphone to tell about their experiences in the program.

Interns Kiera Jones and Anna Lum told the audience they were more confident as a result of their time at UAMS Project SEARCH. Bryce Taylor said he faced challenges during the program, but he overcame them. And Wade Wyeth said during his time working in the Library he “found a mentor who sees something in me that I didn’t see.”

Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, praised the interns for their dedication.

“This class of interns embraced this experience and their enthusiasm never flagged as they tackled new challenges and gained new skills in the process,” he said. “This particular class was especially dedicated, with some of them commuting from Pine Bluff, Hot Springs Village and even Monticello five days a week, because they specifically wanted to intern at UAMS.”

One intern’s grandmother wrote a letter to LeAnn Robertson, UAMS Project SEARCH coordinator, about her granddaughter’s experiences. She thanked Project SEARCH and ARS Counselor for helping the family arrange transportation to and from Little Rock, which is about 1,000 miles each week.

“I am amazed at how she can get around UAMS. She couldn’t do this at her previous school, and she always had a hard time finding her classrooms,” the grandmother wrote. “I am so

UAMS CELEBRATES 10 PROJECT SEARCH GRADUATES



Ten interns graduated from the nine-month UAMS Project SEARCH program on May 21. The job-training program helps young adults with disabilities develop independent living and working skills.

thankful this program has shown her that she can work having a disability and earn an income. I truly owe many thanks to Project SEARCH for helping her grow into an independent young adult.”

Completing its sixth year, the project is a partnership with the Little Rock-based nonprofit ACCESS and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. UAMS Project SEARCH was first of its kind in central Arkansas. It was modeled after a program that began in 1996 at the Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Arkansas state Sen. Missy Irvin served as the graduation’s keynote speaker and urged the graduates not to be defined by their disabilities. Just as the word “hip” has many meanings in the English language — giving it more importance than its three letters would suggest — the graduates have so much to offer their future employers, their communities and the world, she said.

During the program, each intern spent more than 580 hours on the job, as well as having 500 hours of employability skills training, Patterson said. Sixteen departments participated in this year’s program, including Center for Diversity Affairs, Central Supply, Classroom Technologies, Communications &

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UAMS FINANCIAL PICTURE MUCH IMPROVED, PATTERSON SAYS

Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, and other senior leaders told employees May 14 that the financial picture for UAMS is much brighter than it was in fiscal year 2018.

The chancellor recalled that when he was first interviewing for the job, it was a dark time for the institution. UAMS was on track to sustain a \$70 million deficit that year.

“But Team UAMS pulled together through those tough times, and now we are seeing the results of those efforts,” he told a packed house in the Fred W. Smith Auditorium in the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute.

Amanda George, MHSA, CPA, vice chancellor for finance and chief financial officer, said as of March 31, UAMS is running a \$34 million surplus. Even when unbudgeted one-time items are removed, UAMS still has projected a nearly \$4 million surplus for the fiscal year that ends June 30. UAMS has also submitted a balanced budget for fiscal year 2020, she said.

“The hard work we’ve done together has paid off,” Patterson said. “We’ve balanced our budget so that we can fulfill our mission — our mission to teach, our mission to discover and our mission to provide compassionate care.”

This improved financial picture means that UAMS can invest in its most valuable resource — the employees, Patterson said.

Becky Harwell, interim vice chancellor for human resources, announced that UAMS has made strides in efforts to get all employees to a wage of \$14 an hour. All non-classified employees will be raised to this level, effective April 1, with back pay included in upcoming paychecks.

UAMS doesn’t control the pay scale for classified employees, she said. However, leaders are petitioning the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to allow the



pay increase for these employees to \$14 an hour. Classified employees also will receive a 1% raise July 1, she said. In addition, all employees employed at UAMS as of Jan. 1, will receive a COLA 1% lump sum payment in June, Patterson said.

In all, UAMS has earmarked \$20 million for compensation in fiscal year 2020 — \$6 million for the living wage and \$14 million for additional salary adjustments for market and merit-based increases.

Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, provost and chief strategy officer, shared that Patterson had released \$300,000 for year-end research grants and \$125,000 for year-end education grants.

Christina Clark, MBA, vice chancellor for institutional support services and chief operating officer, updated employees on a Master Facility Plan, which goes along with the Vision 2029 strategic plan also in development and should be completed by January 2020. This plan will help UAMS determine where to collocate people and where to put buildings in the future, she said.

ACCOLADES

Olympia Johnson and **Tori Rushing**, patient services associates on F8 Cardiac Progressive Care, have been named the **June 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.

Sunny Kraus, associate director for Institutional Advancement, received the **Golden Mug for May** as the staff

member at the Cancer Institute whose work deserves special recognition.

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

A paper presented by anesthesia resident **Patrick Page**, M.D., and authored by Page and **Indranil “Neil”**

Chakraborty, M.D., director of the Division of Neuroanesthesiology, won second place at the 45th Gulf Atlantic Anesthesia Resident’s Research Conference in Clearwater, Florida.

H7 Medical Oncology was selected as the **Outstanding Area of the Month for June**.

SPOLLEN, HADDEN RECEIVE CHANCELLOR'S TEACHING AWARDS



(Top) UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, and Provost Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D, Ed.D., present Kristie Hadden, Ph.D., (center) with the Chancellor's Award for Society and Health Education Excellence.

John Spollen, M.D., received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence.

John Spollen, M.D., and Kristie Hadden, Ph.D., were recognized May 18 during the UAMS Commencement exercises as the recipients of the Chancellor's Teaching Awards, a program established in 2004 to recognize excellence in teaching among UAMS faculty.

"John and Kristie represent the very best of UAMS," said Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. "Thousands of UAMS students have benefitted from their hard work and dedication."

Hadden was the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Society and Health Education Excellence. The award recognizes the design and implementation of courses or activities that advance the topics of society and health. It can be through areas of cultural awareness, health care economics, health equity, health literacy, health systems, interprofessional education, collaborative practice, public and population health, patient- and family-centered care or educational scholarship.

Hadden joined UAMS in 2012 and is an associate professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Medical Humanities and Bioethics. She also holds secondary appointments in the four other colleges and the Graduate School, a rare feat. She is the director of the UAMS Center for Health Literacy, a multi-disciplinary home for research, consultation and practice on the subject that has garnered national awards for its work. In 2016, Hadden and the center received a four-year, \$2.9 million National Institutes of Health grant to test the effectiveness of health literacy-informed diabetes education at UAMS regional campuses. She previously received a Society of Public Health Educators award and the UAMS Graduate School Achievement Award.

Spollen was the recipient of the Award for Teaching Excellence. It recognizes direct teaching, mentoring or educational scholarship between a faculty member and any

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IN MEMORIAM

ROSHAUNDR A CRINER, 42, OF CONWAY, DIED APRIL 30, 2019. SHE WAS AN R.N. ON E6 PERINATAL/ GYN/URO.

DAVID MOORE JR., 69, OF LITTLE ROCK, DIED MAY 4, 2019. DAVID WAS THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF PATIENT CARE IN RADIOLOGY.

LAURA DUARTE, 56, OF LITTLE ROCK, DIED MAY 6, 2019. SHE WAS A FORMER PATIENT SERVICES ASSOCIATE IN THE CANCER INSTITUTE.

RUDOLPH TERRY PIVIK, PH.D., 76, OF LITTLE ROCK, DIED MAY 10, 2019. HE WAS A RESEARCH PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE'S DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS.

CAROLYN LEWIS, 68, OF PINE BLUFF DIED MAY 26, 2019. SHE WAS AN R.N. IN THE APPOINTMENT BUSINESS CENTER.

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.

OUR VOICES, OUR STORIES



Members of the Ozark Islanders dance group perform at the Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration on May 1. Panelists from the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, India and the Marshall Islands shared the experiences and memories of their native cultures and countries during the “Our Voices, Our Stories” event.

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learner. It can be in all settings, including the classroom, online, clinic or laboratory.

Spollen is a professor and vice chair for education in the College of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry. Over more than two decades at UAMS, he has led curriculum and other program improvements that contributed to improved test scores for medical students.

He has twice received the Chancellor’s Award for Education (2007, 2009) and has been the recipient of the Red or Gold Sash teaching award in the college for 11 consecutive years. He’s also been named the best resident teacher in the department four times, received the college’s Educational Innovation Award (2006) and its Master Teacher Award (2012).



Anna Lum signs to the crowd that she gained confidence as a result of her time at Project SEARCH.

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Marketing, the Fitness Center, Engineering and Operations, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Mail Processing, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Nutrition Services, Patient Transport, Project REACH, Radiology, Rehabilitation Services, the UAMS Library and Volunteer Services.

Since it began in 2013, UAMS Project SEARCH has graduated more than 65 young adults. Of these, more than 75 percent had obtained full-time employment at the time of graduation, and the majority found jobs within a few months of graduating.

This year’s UAMS Project SEARCH graduates are:

- William Armstrong
- LaCorey DeShazier
- Kiera Jones
- Anna Lum
- Nauman Pathan
- Shelby Roush
- Bryce Taylor
- Shijuan Tucker
- Myia Williams
- Wade Wyeth