

UPCOMING DATES

- January 5, 2009
Spring Registration
8:30-10:30 am
9th floor Ed II
(\$27 late fee applies after this date)
- January 5, 2009
Spring classes begin
- January 13, 2009
Last day to register for Spring Semester
Last day to add a class
- January 19, 2009
Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
- For additional important dates see page 6

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UAMS Graduate School

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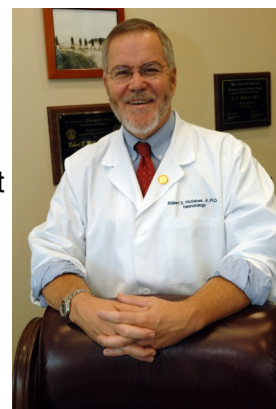
WINTER 2008/2009

Letter from Dean McGehee

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and your spring semester is successfully underway. A lot of great things have happened in the last few months here on campus that either directly or indirectly will have a positive effect on the graduate school. Some of these include the grand opening of the new hospital last week. It is so incredibly amazing, it is really difficult to describe. If you have not taken the opportunity to go on a tour, I strongly encourage you to do so. This fall we had our inaugural Research Induction Ceremony for which I continue to receive great comments. It's very nice seeing all the students in various labs and hallways wearing their coats and feeling good about having been so formally recognized. At our Holiday Reception, we presented over 50 student awards and 11 Mentor Awards recognizing graduate faculty who served as major graduate advisors to summer and fall PhD graduates. We had what was likely the most successful Career Day we have ever had. The majority of our outside speakers were our own alumni, each of whom have distinguished themselves professionally throughout their careers. We recognized Drs. David Wessinger and Dana Gaddy with Chancellor's Teaching Awards for significant contributions to graduate education. The Graduate Student Association continues to be very active with a number of successful events and they been very helpful to the graduate school office in helping with many activities. It was truly an exceptional fall and we have a lot to be grateful for.

We also have a lot to look forward to this spring. We are in the process of establishing some new programs such as a Radiation Biology track in the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences program and we are in discussions with faculty at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville about starting a joint PhD program in Biomedical Engineering. Another major event for the graduate school will be the move to our new permanent (hopefully) offices in the renovated state hospital administrative building. It will be very accessible and very visible to the public alongside the new main entrance into campus. You will all be hearing more about that as we approach the move.

What drives all this excitement and success and is the incredible commitment of everyone working together; our faculty, students, program directors, graduate council, and graduate school staff. With your continued support, we have an equally great spring 2009 in front of us.



UAMS Doctoral Candidates Receive White Coats at Ceremony



Robert McGehee, Ph.D., dean of the graduate school, present Christian Simmons with a ceremonial white coat



UAMS graduate student Patrick Savage recites the "Affirmation of Scientists"

White coats were distributed to 79 University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) graduate students celebrating the initiation of their dissertation research at the inaugural Research Induction Ceremony for doctoral candidates.

Mentors, faculty and family members watched as Robert McGehee Jr., Ph.D., dean of the UAMS Graduate School, presented the ceremonial white coats to students as their mentors escorted them across the stage of the Education West Lecture Hall.

"You are about to embark upon a career that will contribute greatly to society and will ultimately benefit man," McGehee told students. "Don't ever underestimate the importance of your decision to travel this path and treat that commitment with the utmost respect and

dedication to your work."

The students pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy degree all have successfully passed the Ph.D. qualifying exam and are now formal Ph.D. candidates. The ceremony represents an official transition from enrollment in coursework to the initiation of the dissertation research. Students will now set off on a career of discovery in biomedical and health research with the expectation that their work will lead to improvement in health and a better understanding of the human condition.

The Sept. 29 ceremony also marks a time when students have selected their mentor or major graduate advisor who assumes the role of mentor from the program's graduate director. Students'

relationships with mentors being cultivated during this time is an important linkage.

"These relationships often spawn lifetime friendships and a mutually strong bond that is beneficial to both parties," McGehee said.

Following the presentation of the white coats, the students and faculty joined to recite the "Affirmation of Scientists," which publicly acknowledges the acceptance of the expected standards of honor and integrity.

To view a list of the students who received white coats, please visit <http://www.uams.edu/gradschool/students/Research%20Induction%20ceremony%20program.pdf>.

Biomedical Career Day Speakers Pitch Potential Post-Grad Paths

A University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) graduate who parlayed his doctorate into starting a drug development company encouraged others to find a way to use an education to help people.

The [UAMS Graduate School](#) hosted its 11th annual Biomedical Career Day on Oct. 30, drawing 113 attendees from 13 colleges in three states that included undergraduate faculty, students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The event brings together speakers and presentations to discuss available career and education options.

Bill Massey, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of [B.W. Massey & Co.](#), graduated UAMS in 1990, later working as a research scientist for pharmaceutical company Merck before starting his own consultant firm.

“Your Ph.D. is a ticket to the show. It’s a great accomplishment but no guarantee of success,” said Massey, who challenged students to use their knowledge of research methods, data analysis and how to educate themselves to build on their degree.

Ultimately, he urged students to “do things that help people.”

One of his company’s current projects uses pattern recognition software to find ways to make new molecules that could lead to new anti-psychotic drugs. Massey joked that “for a guy who hates math, I now run a company based on math.”

Gwen Childs, Ph.D., professor and chairman of the [Department of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences](#) in the UAMS College of Medicine, found she enjoyed hearing about the successes of others as much as her own successes. That, among other traits, she said, led her toward work in academic and research administration.

Other traits that might demonstrate an interest in administration, she said, include “you like people in science as much as you like science,” “you are able to see both sides of an issue,” and “you enjoy the organizational aspects of work.”

She said students or faculty interested in administration should not let their own research work languish in favor of administrative work. Instead, she said that early in a career it will be their scientific achievements that position them for opportunities in administration.

“The key is to keep your research program strong and multi-task by taking advantage of these opportunities,” Childs said, urging involvement with committees, advisory groups and even community organizations.

UAMS Graduate School Dean Robert McGehee, Ph.D., said he was pleased with the turnout for Career Day.

“It is important for undergraduates to see the types of career opportunities available if they pursued one of our doctoral programs,” McGehee said. “There are many different career paths students can choose. We always try to cover both traditional – academia – and non-traditional careers each year.”

Other presentations included discussion of research grant reviews by a National Institutes of Health scientific review officer. Those talking about their own careers included Jerry Buck, a scientific operations manager at the Arkansas State Crime Lab; Greg Burton, Ph.D., a senior medical liaison for Roche Laboratories Inc. in New Jersey; and science writer Dorothy Miles, a research associate in the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.



Bill Massey, CEO of B.W. Massey & Co., talks about research careers in industry

UAMS Graduate Students Receive Awards at National Conference

Three graduate students in University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) programs recently received awards for their research at a national biomedical research conference.

Lauren Blair, a doctoral candidate in the [biochemistry and molecular biology program](#) at the UAMS [Graduate School](#), received a travel award at the National IDeA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence, held Aug. 6-8 in Washington, D.C. Two students, Stephanie Byrum and Michael Bauer, in the [bioinformatics program](#) operated jointly by UAMS and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) also were recognized for the [quality of](#)

[their individual research](#).

The students received \$1,000 Student Travel Awards to help defray the cost of their attendance at the conference. Recipients were chosen based on rating and peer review of their submitted research abstracts.

Blair works in the lab of Kevin Raney, Ph.D., professor in the biochemistry and molecular biology program. She also collaborated for some of the award-winning research with Alan Tackett, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the biochemistry and molecular biology program.

Blair was recognized for two research posters: "Using electron transfer dissociation

to identify multiple post-translational modifications" and "Using mass spectrometry to elucidate the structure of bacteriophage T4 helicase Dda."

Byrum's major advisor is Larry Suva, Ph.D., professor of orthopaedic surgery and director of the UAMS [Center for Orthopaedic Research](#). Her poster was "A plasma protein profile predicts breast cancer metastasis to bone."

Dan Berleant, Ph.D., an associate professor of information science at UALR, advises Bauer.

Graduate Student Association

Welcome back from the Graduate Student Association! We've completed our first exciting semester as your representatives, and we hope you've enjoyed the GSA funded activities. Next semester, we will continue doughnuts every first Wednesday of the month. Students should also get ready for the Spring 2009 canoe trip! We hope you've had a great holiday and wish you good luck this semester!

Kimberly Reynolds
GSA President
[Click here to visit the GSA website](#)



Graduate Student and Faculty Accomplishments and Awards

Kristen Sterba was appointed Research and Global Issues Chair for the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP). She will serve in this position for two years and will also be a member of the NAGAP Governing Board. NAGAP is the only professional organization devoted exclusively to the concerns of individuals working in the graduate admissions and recruitment environment.

Graduate Student Regional and National Awards

Kristy Nicks, a Ph.D. candidate in the Physiology and Biophysics program, was accepted to attend the 3rd annual National Institutes of Health Graduate Student Research Symposium.

Joy Good, a Ph.D. student in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program, received the University of Central Arkansas McNiece fellowship.

Puneet Bharill, a Ph.D. candidate in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program, was awarded the 2008 Walter R. Nicolai runner up award for meritorious research completed by a pre-doctoral candidate in the area of biomedical gerontology at the 37th Annual Meeting of the American Aging Association

Melodee Harris, a Ph.D. candidate in the Nursing Science program, received the 2008 National Gerontological Nursing Association Mary Wolanin Graduate Scholarship Award.

Graduate School Mentor Awards

Timothy Chambers
Alan Diekman
William Evans
Michael Jennings
Lee Ann Macmillan-Crow
Angus Macnicol

Michael Owens
Kevin Raney
Rosalia Simmen
Pao-Feng Tsai
Wayne Wahls

To view a complete list of graduate student awards received this year, visit <http://www.uams.edu/gradschool/awards/>.

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Spring 2009 Important Dates

February 2, 2009

A mark of "W" will be recorded on the academic record for any course dropped after this date

February 16, 2009

President's Day Holiday

April 17, 2009

Last day to drop a class

April 20-May 1, 2009

Registration for Summer Session

May 1, 2009

Last day to submit thesis and dissertations to Library

May 15, 2009

Last day of the Spring Semester

May 16, 2009

Graduate School Brunch

Commencement

