UPCOMING DATES

- May 27, 2008
  Summer registration
  Classes begin

- June 3, 2008
  Last day to register for
  Summer Session
  Last Day to add a class

- July 3, 2008
  Last day to drop a class

- July 4, 2008
  Independence Day
  holiday

- For additional
  important dates see
  page 6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

UAMS Student Honored with Prestigious Research Seed Grant

UAMS Grad Students Selected to Present at St. Jude’s Symposium

UAMS Graduate School Travel Awards

2007-08 Graduate School Graduates

Graduate Student and Faculty Awards

Important Dates

Letter from Dean McGehee

For those of us in academia, I think without question this is one of our best times of the year. We celebrate and honor all our new graduates through receptions, brunches, convocations, dissertation parties, and a multitude of other events, all of which culminate at our spring commencement. I hope to see many of you at our graduate school brunch and commencement this coming weekend. It is a great time for family, friends and colleagues to get together and share the excitement for all our soon to be new alumni as they move on to the next stages of their lives. For me personally, this week and time of year is my annual “end of the rainbow”. Everything is upbeat, positive, summer is upon us, there’s a remarkable excitement in the air and life is good.

It has been a great year for our graduate school. This year we have 24 Ph.D. graduates, 44 M.S. graduates and 56 M.N.Sc. graduates. Having gone to many of the dissertation and thesis defenses, I continue to be incredibly impressed with the quality of work our students accomplish and the level of mentorship our graduate faculty provide to them. The recognition and awards component of our graduate school receptions keep getting a bit more extended because the number of students who receive national and international attention continue to rise. So it really is a time for all us in the UAMS Graduate School to be excited as we celebrate another successful year.

I am also very excited about many new initiatives that are underway for next year and we will be getting more details out on those as we approach the fall semester. More importantly, while most of us really no longer have summers off, I hope each of you take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your families to get outside and enjoy yourselves. I love summers in Arkansas and at every opportunity we can find, Kay and Mack and I will be on the water at Lake Ouachita. If you are in the vicinity, look for us, we'll strap some skis on you and tug you around for a while. So thanks again for a great year, a better one next year, and in the interim have a great and safe summer.
UAMS Student Honored with
Prestigious Research Seed Grant

Rebecca Gilbride, a student in the M.D. | Ph.D. program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, has been honored by the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation for her research endeavors – one of only 47 selected nationally. Gilbride was chosen for the 2008 Seed Grant Research Program based on her research in the category neoplastic diseases. Her project titled “Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) and Galectin-3 Binding Interactions: Implications for Prostate Cancer Progression” focuses on the possibility that PSA — a biomarker for prostate cancer — also is an agent in progression of the disease.

As one of the 47 national recipients, she will receive a $2,500 seed grant to further her research. The AMA Foundation established the Seed Grant Research Program to encourage medical students, physician residents and fellows to enter the research field. The grants are intended to encourage small basic science, applied, or clinical research projects.

“Rebecca is an excellent student and has shown an exceptional commitment to her education,” said Alan B. Diekman, Ph.D., assistant professor in the UAMS College of Medicine Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Gilbride’s research mentor. “Research such as hers is essential to understanding the biology of prostate cancer and positively influencing men’s health.”

More than 218,000 men are expected to be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, according to the American Cancer Society. When caught early, prostate cancer has a 90 percent cure rate. However, that rate drops dramatically once the disease has metastasized to the bone.
UAMS Grad Students Selected to Present at St. Jude’s Symposium

Two UAMS graduate students have been invited to present their research at the 2008 St. Jude National Graduate Student Symposium.

Lauren Blair, a fourth-year doctoral student in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program, and Sarah Cullen, a fourth-year doctoral student in the Microbiology and Immunology program, were among 43 students selected from about 700 students invited to apply to present their work at the symposium. The conference is March 25-29 at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis.

Blair is studying the structure of a helicase, an enzyme that unwinds DNA, allowing replication to occur. Understanding its structure, she said, could lead to the development new medical treatments. Dr. Kevin Raney, Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is her advisor.

Cullen’s work focuses on identifying the molecular basis of increased inflammation in the elderly. Her advisor is Dr. Usha Ponnappan, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

UAMS Graduate School Travel Awards

This year the UAMS Graduate School awarded over 30 travel awards to graduate students who attended national or international meetings to formally present their research. Some of the conferences that students presented at include the Experimental Biology meeting, the American Society for Neurochemistry annual conference, and the Southern Nursing Research Society. Contingent upon the availability of funds, the Graduate School will pay expenses of $120 per day up to a maximum of five days to cover allowable costs (travel, hotel, registration fees, meals, etc.) provided the department the graduate student belongs to pays the rest. For additional information, please contact the Graduate School at 686-5454. Travel award application materials can be downloaded at http://www.uams.edu/GRADNSCHOOL/faculty/TravelFundsApp.doc.
The Graduate Student Association has had a busy spring term. We began with a night of bowling and food which was well received. We also had a pool tournament in which Thomas Jennings, a graduating MD/PhD from the Biochemistry department, managed to leave his permanent mark on the graduate student lounge in the form of a trophy which will record his win. Also listed on this trophy will be our second place winner, Dean McGehee, third place winner, Wassim Eljouni of Physiology and fourth place, Matt Forestiere of Biochemistry. We had a successful meeting with Dean MchGhee to address any student concerns and we have gotten the wheels rolling on a recycling committee for the Biomedical buildings. We wrapped up the term with a canoe trip to the Buffalo River. Elections for the 2008-2009 GSA are under way. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Lauren Blair
GSA President

Congratulations to our 2007-08 graduates

Ph.D. Graduates
Barbara Baker
January Baumgartner
James Cassat
Brian Donahower
Xinxin Gandhi
David Heister
Arvind Jamakhandi
Thomas Jennings
Thetsu Mon
Xiaojun Ning
Nirmal Phulwani
Yinghui Pu
Vishnu Ramani
Anandi Sawant
Zabeena Shaik
Jennifer Shoemaker
Shalinii Singh
Rohit Singhal
Taasin Srivastava
Rajesh Vadlapatla
Toby Ward
Courtney Wilkins
Rijin Xiao
Dongdong Yu

M.S. Graduates
Cecile Artaud
Lauren Bailey
Carla Bell
Zachary Brodrick
Emily Cheatham
Robert Conrad
Megan Davis
Sonya Davis
Kristyn Fraley
Kelli Halcom
Stephanie Hatton
Darlene Ho
Jennifer Hoelzeman
Cassie Jackson
Eri Johnson
Jennifer Jones
Sudeep Karve
Sarah Kennedy
Helen Kim
Rajshkehr Kore
Kimberly Lockhart
Christopher Lyle
Leslie Miles
Katrina Monroe

Maria Montes
Diane Odom
Joshua Parish
Prathamesh Pathak
Bradley Petkovich
Elizabeth Robken
Ian Ross
Kelly Saviers
Siddharth Sehgal
Brooke Selig
Kelley Sharp
Dena Stoneburner
Kristen Tepera
Kimberly Thomas
Laura Tsang
Carol Tumlison
Allyson Turinski-Bourg
Debra Vittitow
Jennifer Wentz
Rebecca Wynne
Graduate Student and Faculty Accomplishments and Awards

Graduate Student National Awards

Ying Su received a Gerber Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship.

Bruno Pereira and Shuliang Liu received Young Investigator’s Educational Enhancement travel awards to the 2008 American Society for Neurochemistry.

David Terrano received a Central Society for Clinical Research travel award.

Sherin Boctor received a 2008 Neurobehavioral Teratology Society Conference travel award

Shankar Munusamy received a Travel award from the Chair Fund of the Gordon Conference Committee for the "Oxygen Radicals” Meeting in Ventura, CA.

Venkata Bhogaraju won 2nd place in Neuropharm Division of ASPET at the 2008 Experimental Biology meeting

Biny Joseph tied for first place in the oral competition for graduate students in the Cardiovascular Division of ASPET at the 2008 Experimental Biology meeting.

David Heister was selected to attend to NINDS/AUPN/ANA How to Combine Clinical and Research Careers in Neuroscience Symposium. All of his travel and hotel costs will be covered by the NINDS.

To view a list of graduate student awards received during the 2007-08 school year, visit [http://www.uams.edu/gradschool/awards/](http://www.uams.edu/gradschool/awards/).
Graduate School Staff

Robert E. McGehee, Jr., Ph.D.-Dean
rem@uams.edu
501-603-1998

Jackie McRoberts,-Assistant Dean,
Graduate Studies
JEMcroberts@uams.edu
501-686-5454

Kristen Sterba, Ph.D.-Assistant Dean,
Office of Graduate Student Recruiting and
Retention
kmsterba@uams.edu
501-526-7396

Pattie Hamilton-Registrar
pmhamilton@uams.edu
501-686-5454

Pam McCullough-Assistant Registrar
PSMccullough@uams.edu
501-686-5454

University of Arkansas for Medical
Sciences
Graduate School

4301 W. Markham Slot 601
Little Rock, AR  72205
Phone: 501-686-5454
E-mail:
graduateschoolUAMS@uams.edu

www.uams.edu/gradschool

Summer 2008 Important Dates

July 21-August 8, 2008   Registration for Fall Semester 2008-09
July 18, 2008   Last day of summer session
July 28, 2008   Last day to submit thesis and dissertation to Library
August 8, 2008   Degrees awarded