

OUTLOOK



John W. Nutt Medallion Presentation

On Wednesday, April 23, the John W. Nutt medallion presentation was held in the Bowen Auditorium at JEI in conjunction with the spring JEI Advisory Board meeting. Dr. John Shock gave a slide presentation honoring the late John W. Nutt who he first met a few months after he arrived at UAMS as Ophthalmology Chair when Dr. Petursson, who was Mr. Nutt's ophthalmologist, brought Dr. Shock a check for \$2,000 from Mrs. Nutt made out to the Ophthalmology Department. It was the first gift to the department greater than \$25. Mr. Nutt and his wife, Joie, have been supporters of the Ophthalmology since the late 1960s because of his diagnosis of a rare form of glaucoma called pigmentary glaucoma that ended his planned career as an army officer with ranger and airborne qualifications. This was the beginning of his life-long journey in support of eye research and education. With his devoted leadership and enthusiasm he helped to make the Arkansas Center for Eye Research a reality. Later Mr. Nutt became the first Chairman of the JEI Advisory Board serving five years during the critical time of raising money for the research program and building an eye institute. Dr. Shock stated that JEI is adding to his legacy by establishing the John W. Nutt Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology. One of Mr. Nutt's last decisions came a few days before he passed away when he, along with his family, made a substantial gift to endow a chair in his name.



Dr. John Shock delivering a slide presentation honoring the late John W. Nutt

Joie Nutt, along with their three children, David, Kevin and Sharon, accepted the medallions and gave a brief speech regarding John Nutt's life and the effect his glaucoma had on their lives. She said that John never gave up in his search for a cure and was able to find effective treatment at the Jones Eye Institute. She said he was a great supporter of research and was very pleased with the establishment of an endowed chair in his name. She thanked everyone for their kindness.



Sharon Saunders, daughter of John and Joie Nutt, accepting the John W. Nutt medallion. Also seen in the picture are Greg Hartz, Rick Adkins and Dean Debbie Fiser.



Front row: Joie Nutt Back row: David and Lisa Nutt, Scott and Sharon Saunders and Kevin and Connie Nutt



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Two members join the JEI Advisory Board



Dr. John Shock introduced two new board members to be approved by the Board at the spring meeting on April 23. The first was Angela Moody who received her B.A. in communication and B.S. in journalism from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She worked at the American Red Cross from 1999 until 2004 where she held many important positions, the last being Communication and Marketing Manager for Blood Services for Greater Ozark Arkansas Region. She has a long list of community involvement to include Co-Chair of CARTI's Festival after Dark and board member of the Arkansas Zoological Foundation, Big Brothers, Big Sisters and Women and Children First. She was on two important committees for Beebe for Governor in 2007 and was awarded "Woman of the Year" by the Young Democrats of Arkansas. In 2003 she was one of 12 northwest women making a difference in Citiscap Magazine. Angela is married to Ed Moody and has a four month old daughter, Eden Olivia.



The second new member, Carrie Eggart is from Fayetteville. Carrie is the granddaughter of Pat Walker and will be the perfect person to help carry on the spirit of the Walker Family for the JEI. Carrie attended the University of Arkansas studying early childhood development. She currently serves on the boards of the United Way Foundation for Northwest Arkansas and the New School, a non-profit private school. She has also worked as volunteer for the American Heart Association and served on the Heart Gala and Auction Committee. Carrie is married to Miles Eggart and has two children, Walker who is four and Isabelle who is two.

JEI Graduate Student Receives UAMS Travel Award



Bala Manickam, a graduate student in Dr. Nalini Bora's laboratory at the Pat and Willard Walker Eye Research Center, presented a poster entitled "Complement System Plays a Crucial Role in the Pathogenesis of Experimental Autoimmune Anterior Uveitis (EAAU) and Represents a Promising Therapeutic Target" at UAMS Research Week 2008. His poster was among the best posters presented and Bala was awarded with the travel award from "UAMS Center for Orthopedic Research".

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology 2008 JEI Presentations

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, Inc. (ARVO) held its annual meeting named "Eyes on Innovation" on April 27-May 1 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. this year. This meeting provided a forum for vision researchers and practitioners to explore the latest innovative techniques, protocols and tools in development and use by ophthalmic researchers whose quest is to improve patient care and vision and to cure eye diseases.

Nalini S. Bora, Ph.D., from JEI was invited to give a talk at the ARVO annual meeting this year. Her talk was entitled, "Ideal Site to Target the Complement Cascade for Age-Related Macular Degeneration."



Pictured front row: Bala Manickam, Puran Bora, Ph.D., Nalini Bora, Ph.D., and Bharati Matta. **Pictured back row:** Purushottam Jha, Ph.D., Sami Uwaydat, M.D., Anissa E. Buckner, Ph.D., and Ruslana Tyterenko.

Other poster presenters from JEI are listed below:

1. Therapeutic Potential of Recombinant Membrane-Targeted Form of MAC Regulator CD59 In Laser-Induced CNV. P.S. Bora, S. Kaliappan P., P. Jha, N.S. Bora.
2. Role of Complement Factor H (CFH) in immune evasion of uveal melanoma cells. P. Jha, B. Matta, D. Nounamo, J. Sauer, P.S. Bora, N.S. Bora.
3. CD4+CD25+ Regulatory Cells Play A Critical Role in Induction of Tolerance Against EAAU. B. Matta, P. Jha, P.S. Bora, N.S. Bora.
4. Increased Severity of Choroidal Neovascularization in Laser Treated Rats after Alcohol and Nicotine Feeding. S. Kaliappan, P. Jha, V.V. Lyzogubov, R.G. Tytarenko, N.S. Bora, P.S. Bora.
5. Role of Classical, Alternative and Lectin Pathways in the Induction of Experimental Autoimmune Anterior Uveitis (EAAU) B. Manickam, P.S. Bora, N.S. Bora.
6. Role of Complement in Corneal Inflammation J. H. Sohn, P. Jha, P.S. Bora, N.S. Bora.
7. The Role of Complement in Herpes Stromal Keratitis A.E. Buckner, C.O. Ekworomadu, S. Kaliappan, V. Lyzogubov, P.S. Bora, N.S. Bora.
8. Adiponectin Peptide Inhibits Proliferation of Endothelial Cells and Inhibits Vessel Growth in Mouse Model of Laser Induced CNV. R.G. Tytarenko, V.V. Lyzogubov, S. Kaliappan, N.S. Bora, P.S. Bora.
9. Adiponectin Peptide Regulates VEGF and Its Receptors 1 and 2 Expression in Rat Model of CNV V.V. Lyzogubov, R.G. Tytarenko, S. Kaliappan, N.S. Bora, P.S. Bora.
10. Topical Honey for the Treatment of Corneal Abrasions. S.H. Uwaydat, M.N. Wiggins, P. Jha, H.H. Brown, N.S. Bora.



“Runnin’ buddies” article featured in the Arkansas Democrat Gazette

On Monday, May 19, Karen Call along with her running friends were featured in the Health section of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette for their long standing workout support and friendship with one another. The “Endorfemmes”, which is a name Karen came up with and a play on the word endorphins, is a group of women that like to workout together and started doing so in the early 1990s. This group keeps each other on track but also they became fast friends and, as Karen points out, “We’ve gone through boyfriends, divorces, drama with children and elderly parents.” Karen is also the group’s costume designer and the group’s fastest runner. In April, she ran the New York marathon in 4:02.

JEI Appreciation Luncheon for Administrative Assistants and Support Staff



On Friday, April 25, the JEI administrative assistants and support staff were honored with a Mexican themed luncheon catered by El Chico. For dessert was a strawberry cake from Community Bakery. Goodie bags were handed out to all the support staff as special thanks for all their hard work over the years.



Pet of the Month

Cody Latta (belonging to Anna Latta) is a Shelton Sheep Dog called a ‘Sheltie’ born on September 20, 2004. His favorite toy, a plush teddy bear and favorite treat are Coco drops. As you can see in the picture, he also likes to pose for the camera.

Please send a picture and description of your favorite pet to Shannon Hughen-Giger at Shgiger@uams.edu.

JEI Travelers Night Out



JEI Night was held Friday, May 2 at the Travelers game held at Dickey Stephens Park. Over 42 were in attendance for this great event and the weather cooperated with clear blue skies. The Travs won in extra innings with a walk-off bases-loaded double.



ALL EYES ON YOU-STACI GRIMES



What music or books are you currently enjoying?

I love 70s music, some 80s. Classic soft rock has always been my favorite. Elton John, the Beatles are the best, Billy Joel is also good. For books, I love most historical fiction: Anything with a little romance, geography, culture, and interesting characters. James Michener is probably my favorite author.

Who has most influenced your life?

My parents are probably the biggest influence in my life. But my English teacher in eleventh grade helped me realize my strengths and gave me momentum early in my life. One of my teachers/professors in college gave me confidence in my “later early” life.

What inspires you?

People inspire me. I love to be around people from all different walks of life. That is what I enjoy most about UAMS. I love to see how people interact and communicate with one another. We are nothing without each other.

Tell us about your family.

I have a daughter who is a freshman at the University of Arkansas. I have a son who is a sophomore in high school. My husband of 20 years is a marketing manager for IBM. I am the third out of four children—two sisters, one brother.

What do you generally enjoy most when you are away from work?

I enjoy working in my yard/flower gardens, walking/running my two Labradors. I love to play golf and tennis. I enjoy going to the beach/lake with friends/family. The water revitalizes me.

Choose three dinner guests from any period of time. Who would they be?

Jesus Christ, Oprah Winfrey and Bill Cosby.

Where would you go on a dream vacation?

My dream vacation would be to spend a summer in a beach house in the Mediterranean/French Riviera with family and/or friends. I would lie on the beach; do some boating, hiking, reading, and napping. Of course, have someone else cook and clean.

What do most people not know about you?

Most people don't know that I would love to be a professional golfer.



JEI proud parents honor their graduating seniors



Daughter of Dr. Laurie Barber

Ellen Barber is graduating from Little Rock Central High School cum laude. She will be attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville Honor's College, and is the recipient of the Governor's Distinguished Scholarship and the University of Arkansas Honor's College Distinguished Scholarship. Her current area of study interest is biology/pre-med, and she will be provided multiple opportunities for research and study abroad.



Son of Deborah Terry

Dustin Terry is graduating from North Pulaski High School. He will be attending the University of Arkansas at Monticello, and is the recipient of the Leadership Scholarship and the George Clippert Forestry Scholarship. Dustin is interested in pursuing a Science Degree in Forestry.



Daughter of Donna Mattingly

Sarah Mattingly is graduating from Mount Saint Mary Academy magna cum laude and plans to attend the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville this fall, with a current interest in the medical field.

She played various sports at MSM, including soccer, volleyball, and track and was a member on the swim team. She is also president of the Women's Chorus and was awarded Choral Student of the Year 2008, and has volunteered hundreds of hours of work for her church and school. She received the Sr. Phillipa Manning Memorial Scholarship at the Mount St. Mary Sports Banquet in May. She also received awards for being an Honor Athlete (maintaining a 3.5 or higher GPA all 4 years of her athletic experience at MSM).

Calendar of Events, Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

May 10 – Shannon Hughen-Giger

May 11 – Sarah Ross

May 31 – Susan Callans

May 31 – Ruslana Tytarenko

June 6 – Dr. Laurie Barber

June 9 – Bradley Thuro

June 16 - Louise Geer

June 22 – Geoff Brown

June 23 – Stephanie Sanford

June 24 – Karen Call

June 28 – Luci Vega

Anniversaries

May 23 – Dr. Anissa Buckner, 7 years

June 11 – Kathy Rich, 16 years

June 16 – Susan Callans, 5 years

June 16 – Deborah Lieber, 2 years

June

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					