Between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, we said hello to...
Julie Brogan
Graduate and International Recruitment and Admissions/Cell & Molecular Biology
John Mark Cagle
Graduate and International Recruitment and Admissions
Kayla McGrew
International Students and Scholars
Haxhire (Hajeera) Myrteza
Study Abroad & International Exchange
Rabia Shattuck
Graduate and International Recruitment and Admissions
Kalynnn Smith
Graduate and International Recruitment and Admissions
Andrew VanLew
International Students and Scholars
Drew Walker
International Students and Scholars
Romona West
Graduate and International Recruitment and Admissions
We said goodbye to...

- Jinny Lowe
- Melissa Moon
- Grace Tjoclinton
- Samina Yasmin
VISION

The Graduate School and International Education assists the University of Arkansas in excelling at research, teaching, training, and service while fostering student and scholar success and enhancing the overall student academic experience.
The Graduate School and International Education supports the strategic goals of the University of Arkansas to continue as a very high research university; recruits, retains and graduates high-caliber students; advocates for students and student success; facilitates intercultural and international experiences to increase global competencies; and assists in the development of international, inter-disciplinary, and graduate programs.
Annual Report

- Notable Achievements and Changes – unit wide
- Graduate School
- International Education
- Interdisciplinary Studies
Notable Achievements and Changes – Unit Wide

- University Awards
- Professional Awards
- Other Awards
- Grants Received

- National Visibility
- Regional Visibility
- Recognitions
- Outreach
- Development
University Awards – Staff Senate

Employee of the Fourth Quarter – April/May/June 2018 – Cassie Franklin

Employee of the Second Quarter – Oct/Nov/Dec 2017 – Amanda Cantu

Employee of the First Quarter – July/August/Sept 2017 – Melissa Erwin

Staff Scholarship Awardee – Kayla McGrew

Employees of the Year (2017-18) – Amanda Cantu and Cassie Franklin
University Awards – Staff Senate
Employees of the Year

Amanda Cantu  Cassie Franklin
University Awards – Staff Senate
Employee of the Quarter

Melissa Erwin
University Awards -
Staff Senate Scholarship

Kayla McGrew
But just to remind everyone...

Employees of the Quarter 2017
• Audra Johnston
• Heather London
• Sarah Malloy

Employees of the Year 2017
• Sedivy Reigh
• Julie Rogers
University Awards – Collis R. Geren Award for Excellence in Graduate Education

• Bill McComas
• Lisa Kulczak
• Amanda Cantu
University Awards – Hoyt Purvis Award for Service in International Education

• Bruce Ahrendsen
• Fran Hagstrom
• Cynthia Smith
University Awards – Provost’s Office

Peter Ungar, distinguished professor of anthropology and the director of the environmental dynamics doctoral program, was the University of Arkansas’ nomination for the 2018 SEC Faculty Achievement Award.

This is bestowed on one faculty member who has a record of extraordinary teaching and nationally recognized scholarship.
University Awards – Graduate Professional Student Congress

Laura Moix was named the Graduate Professional Student Congress Staff Ally of the Year.
Professional Awards

Curt Rom: *Association of International Education Administrators* Presidential Fellow

Pat Koski: Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education in the Southern Region from the *Conference of Southern Graduate Schools*
Kim Needy:
• Selected to serve on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the GRE Board
• President-elect, Conference of Southern Graduate Schools
Professional Awards

Yassaman Mirdamadi received the Service Recognition Award for Professional Contributions to the National College Testing Association this year for the ninth consecutive year.
Other Awards

Michael Rau was elected to the Staff Senate.
Other Awards

JoAnn Kvamme, Assistant Director of the Environmental Dynamics Program, was awarded the 2018 Service Award from Fort Valley State University for her work to increase diversity and inclusion.
Other Awards

Doug Rhoads, Director of the interdisciplinary graduate program in Cell and Molecular Biology, was selected as the University of Arkansas GSIE Outstanding Mentor.
Grants Received

Kim LaScola Needy, Principal Investigator

Members of the team include Pat Koski, Kathy Sloan, Brian Hill, Alice Griffin, Terry Martin, Lona Robertson, Ruth Nainggolan, Angela Mosley Monts, Angela Williams

“Understanding Ph.D. career Pathways for Humanities and STEM Program Improvement at the University of Arkansas”
Grants Received

Study Abroad and International Exchange received an $8,000 grant from the University Study Abroad Consortium to invest in Curriculum Integration, which maps program opportunities by major.
The Sponsored Students Programs Office was awarded a Foundation Year grant from the SABIC organization.
National Visibility

• The U of A was a sponsor of the Fulbright Association annual conference in Washington DC in November 2017 and served as the major host for a reception at the Canadian embassy with Senator John Boozman, Congressman French Hill and Congressman Steve Womack.

• DeDe Long was elected to the Fulbright Association Board of Directors.
National Visibility

Great Value Colleges named the U of A’s study abroad program the fourth best in the nation, based on variables including affordability and the variety of programs available.
National Visibility

A news article about graduate student Megan Laughlin’s research, written by Amanda Cantu, was circulated across the nation; multiple people contacted Laughlin to learn more about her research and to express their gratitude for her work.
National Visibility

A news article about graduate student Willy Mulimbi Byamungu, written by Amanda Cantu, reached an international audience when it was promoted by the Fulbright Program across the organization’s communication channels.
Kim Needy’s student, Dr. Rufaidah Al-Maian, was the 2017 winner of the Industrial Engineering and Operations Management International Conference Dissertation Award.
Regional Visibility

We hosted the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools in Fayetteville in February 2018 with 230 in attendance.

Planning Committee: Kim Needy, Pat Koski, Curt Rom, Amanda Cantu, Gloria Flores-Passmore, Cassie Franklin, Vicky Hartwell, Lynn Mosesso
Regional Visibility

For that conference, Amanda developed a state-wide booklet to highlight graduate education in Arkansas.

At the conference, Julie Olsen co-facilitated a workshop on *Best Advancement Practices for Graduate Schools.*
Regional Visibility

Malachi Nichols, winner of the University of Arkansas 3MT competition, won the People’s Choice award for his heat at the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools meeting.

Amanda Cantu assisted with the organization of the 3MT competition at the conference.
Regional Visibility

Several staff members presented at the regional NAFSA conference.

In January 2018, Karl Anderson assumed responsibility as the Chairperson and Laura Moix as the Conference Planner for NAFSA Region III.

The Graduate and Professional Student Congress was selected to host the 2018 national conference of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students.

Vicky Hartwell served as the advisor to the GPSC.
Recognitions

• The Fellowships Office hosted more than 200 doctoral fellows, guests and faculty members at the Doctoral Fellows reception in January.

• The Sponsored Students Programs Office held the annual Welcome Reception with the Chancellor in September for new and continuing SSP students along with faculty advisors and international educators.

• We honored interdisciplinary faculty at the first-ever recognition reception in April.
Recognitions

- Holiday Baggo Winners!
- Ugly Holiday Clothing Contestants

- Special thanks to Cassie for organizing this!
Outreach

The Recruitment & Admissions Office hosted the largest Graduate Research Opportunities Forum ever, in March 2018.

We welcomed 12 faculty and administrators from the following minority serving institutions:

- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
- Philander Smith College
- Haskell Indian Nations University
- Central State University
- Johnson C. Smith University
- Utah Valley University
- North Carolina A&T
- University of New Mexico
- Jackson State University
- Claflin University
Outreach

The Recruitment and Admissions Office also organized the *Attracting Intelligent Minds* (AIM) conference in February 2018.

AIM is a diversity recruitment initiative that is sponsored by the Black Graduate Students’ Association (BGSA) and the Graduate School and International Education (GSIE), with support from select faculty, staff and administrators.
Outreach

• The Recruitment and Admissions Office implemented the Graduate Recruitment Assistance Fund to assist departments with their recruitment efforts;
• 18 best practices in graduate education training sessions were held with 67 people attending;
• 45 applications were approved for funding totaling $55,666.
Development

- Total Campaign Arkansas fundraising for GSIE/VPRI was $2,578,058 as of June 30, 2018.
- New non-endowed and endowed Study Abroad scholarship funds totaled $70,000.
- An additional $50,000 was given in endowed scholarship support for international students.
- $10,000 in planned gifts was committed to support international student programs.
Graduate School

• Fall 2017 graduate enrollment was 4,161, a 2.7% decrease from the previous year.

• As a % of the total University enrollment, graduate student enrollment decreased from 15.7% in Fall 2016 to 15.1% in Fall 2017.

• Graduate enrollment of under-represented minorities was 18.3% of total domestic graduate enrollment in Fall 2017 compared to 18.6% in Fall 2016.
Graduate School

In the most recent graduation year (2016-17), we awarded 1,192 master’s degrees (10 more than last year) and 168 doctoral degrees (10 fewer than last year).

The Registration and Graduation Office completed 153 thesis and dissertation pre-checks and cleared 1,350 students for degrees.
In FY 2018, there were 261 doctoral fellows and 7 SREB state doctoral fellows. Six doctoral fellows also hold NSF graduate fellowships. There are 50 Benjamin Franklin Lever Fellows.
Graduate School

The Office of Testing Services tested approximately 20,000 students, prospective students, and other clients in 2017 and received a positive rating of 96.4% on 242 responses on the Test Taker Satisfaction Survey.

Testing Services has partnered with some new companies this year to offer additional tests such as Foundations of Reading, Real Estate, Insurance, etc.

The Salesforce/Pardot CRM imported 31,967 new leads, sent 165,425 automated emails and recorded 18,950 inquiry form submissions.
Graduate School

The Admissions Office processed 8,200 applications in 2017 (spring, summer, fall)

- 4464 domestic graduate
- 1849 international graduate
- 1889 international undergraduate
National events influenced the work of the International Students and Scholars office this year.

- The “travel ban” Executive Order was signed by President Trump in January 2017. The first of these travel bans caused at least 3 Iranian students to be delayed in their arrival to the United States.

- Extreme vetting for certain non-immigrant visas also caused major delays in visa approvals for students and scholars from India and China.

- Then the “Hire American, Buy American” Executive Order created a large amount of documentation for every H-1b petition.

- Hurricanes and earthquakes also created stress among students, especially from Dominica and Mexico.
International Education

• In Fall 2017, international students comprised 5.3% of the University’s enrollment; international graduate students accounted for 17.5% of the total graduate population.

• The enrollment of international graduate students increased over Fall 2016 by 20 students, from 706 to 726, but the population of international undergraduate students decreased from 757 to 730.
International Education

• The ISS created the Custom and Short-Term Programs (CSTP) office. This office consolidated the Visiting Student Program, Inbound Exchange Students, Summer Research, and Special Programs under the new position of Assistant Director for Custom and Short-Term Programs.

• Participation in International Education Week extended to more academic departments and campus services this year including the Music Department, Chartwells, the School of Art, the College of Education & Health Professions, and many others.
International Education

- 115 international students and scholars were matched to 102 Friendship Families and individuals from the NWA region.

- A total of 314 students and scholars presented through the ICT program in 125 events, with 900 presentations reaching 10,265 campus and NWA community members.
International Education

• The Office of Special Programs welcomed the seventh cohort of 28 PAPSS scholars (from Panama) to campus in August 2017.
• The total number of scholars enrolled at the U of A in 2017 was 134.
• The Fall 2017 cumulative GPA for the PAPPPS scholars was 3.11.
Rome Center

• 368 students studied at the Rome Center in Fall 2017, Spring 2018 and Summer 2018, producing 3,809 semester credit hours.

• Two new U of A programs in Communication and Journalism began at the Rome Center.
Interdisciplinary Programs

- Cell and Molecular Biology, M.S., Ph.D.
- Environmental Dynamics, Ph.D.
- Microelectronics-Photonics, M.S., Ph.D.
- Public Policy, Ph.D.
- Space and Planetary Sciences, M.S., Ph.D.
- Statistics and Analytics, M.S.

- CEMB: Doug Rhoads, Adnan Alrubaye
- ENDY: Peter Ungar, JoAnn Kvamme
- MEPH: Rick Wise, Renee Hearon
- PUBP: Brinck Kerr, Valerie Hunt
- SPAC: Larry Roe
- STAN: Mark Arnold
- Program Support: Julie Brogan and Terri Fisher
Fall 2017 enrollment in interdisciplinary graduate programs was 266, a 3.5% increase over Fall 2016.

This represents 7% of the total enrollment in master’s and doctoral programs.
Interdisciplinary Programs

• In the 2016-17 graduation year, the Graduate School awarded 28 interdisciplinary master’s degrees (2% of the total number of master’s degrees awarded)...

• and 22 interdisciplinary doctoral degrees (13% of the total number of doctoral degrees awarded).
Interdisciplinary Programs

• Caitlin Ahrens, a doctoral student in Space and Planetary Sciences, was named a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans award for her efforts in science communication across the nation.
Interdisciplinary Programs

• The Ph.D. program in Cell and Molecular Biology remained the largest Ph.D. program on campus in Fall 2017 enrollments, with 83 students.

• The Public Policy program is the second most diverse doctoral program, with 31.6% minority students (out of total students in the program Fall 2017).

• 62 faculty from 20 departments participated in the Statistics and Analytics program.
Interdisciplinary Programs

- Environmental Dynamics students were co-authors on 11 publications and received over $0.5M in grant money.
- Larry Roe was named the graduate coordinator for Space and Planetary Sciences
- Rick Wise, MEPH director, was selected to participate in the 2018 Professional Awareness, Advancement and Development (PAAD) program on campus.
Thank you for all you do! (It’s a lot!)