



CASAC MONTHLY

"ADVISING: OUR PASSION. YOUR SUCCESS: OUR REWARD."

College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center Newsletter

May 2024

Volume 3 | Issue 6

Let's finish the semester strong!

Lions.

The end of the semester is here! In this special edition of CASAC Monthly, we celebrate some special people in our college, including faculty, staff, and students! Please finish the semester strong, and reach out if we can be of assistance! Don't forget, we're here all summer!

-Your friends in CASAC!

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PREPARING FOR FINAL EXAMS TIPS FROM YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISORS

1) Check Your Final Exam Schedule

Final exams are within a specified window that may not align with your class time. Double-check the final exam schedule in My.UAFS to ensure you show up on the right day at the right time.

2) Know Where To Go

Final exams are not always held in the exact location of your course. Verify with your instructor where your final will be held.

Pro-Tip: Locate the room ahead of time if you haven't been there before.

3) Try Your Hardest

Finals are challenging, but it is so important that you try your hardest! You are capable of great things! Try your hardest; your faculty will notice the amount of effort you put into your final.

4) Know The Type of Final

Verify what the final exam will be in your syllabus or with your instructor what the final exam will be. Final exams can range from tests to projects to papers and more. Make sure you know how you'll be evaluated.

5) Don't Wait To Register

Don't wait to register for your fall/summer courses until after the final grades are posted. Register for your courses as much in advance as possible to reserve your seat. You can always work with your advisor to change your schedule before the schedule adjustment period ends.

SUMMER REMINDERS:

SUMMER REGISTRATION

It is not too late to register for summer courses! Contact your advisor with questions about what is available for your degree plan.

SUMMER HOURS

The College of Arts & Sciences Advising Center will be open all summer! Our summer hours are as follows:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

FINANCIAL AID FOR FALL 2024 /SPRING 2025

If you are taking summer courses to make up hours for financial aid, make a note of the following:

- Your UAFS scholarships won't be renewed until final grades have been posted for your summer course(s).
- If making up hours for Arkansas Challenge, you must request a transcript be sent to ADHE after final grades for your course(s) have been posted.

12 Self-Care Tips for Finals Week

Finals week can be a stressful time in any college student’s life. We hope the tips we’ve identified below can help you to maintain your wellbeing during finals week. Your advisors in CASAC are here to help! Don’t hesitate to stop by the center if we can be of assistance!

“With the right strategy, your tests can shift from a considerable weight on your shoulders to determining if you’ve accomplished the results highlighted in the course syllabus. The key to having less stress and anxiety during finals week is reducing unproductive habits and not making yourself vulnerable to undesirable pressure.”

<p><u>Don't Procrastinate</u></p> <p>Don't wait until finals week to start studying. Begin studying before it's crunch time.</p>	<p><u>Get Some Rest</u></p> <p>Make sure to take time to rest, relax, and recharge. Your body relies on rest to save important information to your memory!</p>	<p><u>Find A Conducive Study Space</u></p> <p>When studying, find a place that makes sense; somewhere quiet that allows you to focus and accomplish your goals.</p>
<p><u>Create a Focus Playlist</u></p> <p>Find music that allows you to focus and tune out distractions. Some suggest classical music is most beneficial however you can use any music that creates that environment for you.</p>	<p><u>Take Breaks</u></p> <p>Breaks can range from 5 minutes to an hour. They allow your brain to refresh. Complete some of these tips in your break.</p>	<p><u>Nourish Yourself</u></p> <p>Your body relies on nourishment, especially in times of stress. Eat healthy meals/snacks when possible for maximum effect.</p>
<p><u>Set Boundaries</u></p> <p>Boundaries are important; they can be with school, work, friends, and family. Say 'no' when appropriate, even if difficult.</p>	<p><u>Mix Study Methods</u></p> <p>Find ways to study that work for you. Mix methods & strategies to maximize your ability to retain and recall the information.</p>	<p><u>Move/Meditate</u></p> <p>During finals, it is easy to become stagnate. Take time to move, stretch your muscles and mind, and change sitting positions.</p>
<p><u>Prioritize</u></p> <p>All of your work during finals week is important; however, you should prioritize tasks based on difficulty & due date.</p>	<p><u>Find Joy In Little Things</u></p> <p>Get <i>Starbies</i>, have your favorite snack, or watch your comfort show. Treat yourself during finals week!</p>	<p><u>Save Everything</u></p> <p>Accidents happen; power goes out. Save your assignments frequently in the event that something goes awry.</p>

Finals Self-Care Tips Courtesy of [NYU Graduate School](#) & [Point Loma Nazarene University](#).

Six Self-Care Tips for Summer

Just because the semester is over, doesn't mean you can stop practicing self-care. Self-care is a lifelong practice that ebbs, flows, grows, and changes as you evolve throughout your life. Check out these six self-care tips for summer break:

- 1 Spend Time Outside
- 2 Explore Farmer's Markets & Gardens
- 3 Tidy A Small Space
- 4 Make a Playlist
- 5 Try Something New
- 6 Reconnect with Others

Summer Self-Care Tips Courtesy of [Mental Health First Aid](#)



Celebrating Staff Achievements



Justin & Chancellor Riley



Journi



Drake, Journi, & Justin



Justin Martin, Advising Coordinator, was honored at a ceremony hosted by the Faculty & Staff Senates of UAFS in early April. Justin just completed 5 years of full-time service at UAFS. Justin worked part-time at the university from 2015 to 2018 when he began working in the Financial Aid Office.



Journi Goforth, Academic Advisor, will complete her program of study for her Master of Science in Student Affairs Administration from Arkansas Tech University in early May. She will also earn a graduate certificate in advising. Journi's graduate certificate will be her fifth credential from ATU.



The CASAC Professional Advisors (Drake Dye, Journi Goforth, and Justin Martin) presented on holistic academic advising at the Spring 2024 Arkansas Academic Advising Network conference.

A Letter from the CAS Advising Center

Lions,

As we come to the close of another term, we are excited to celebrate the year's accomplishments with you. We are so proud of the people that you are and the work that you put in. As you finish up the semester, pack up your rooms, and go wherever your summer takes you, please know that you're in the thoughts of your advisors, professors, and administrators. We would love to see where you go and what you do, so please tag us in your photos on social media or email us to share your latest feat.

This will be the final edition of CASAC Monthly for the 2023-2024 Academic Year, but we'll be back next year with more information to keep students informed on what's happening in the College of Arts & Sciences Advising Center.

If you have suggestions for improvement or feature stories, please contact us at casadvise@uafs.edu.

-Drake, Journi, and Justin

UPCOMING DATES

- Last Day of Spring Classes..... May 3
- Final Exams Week..... May 4-10
- Commencement (Graduation)..... May 11
- Spring Intersession & Maymester Begins..... May 13
- Spring Grades Available on My.UAFS..... May 16
- Summer Wait List Ends (First 5 wk & 10 wk)..... May 28
- No Summer Registration After 11:59 p.m. May 30

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!



@uafsCASadvise



PLEASE CONTACT US:

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Faculty Advisor Spotlight: Dr. Ragupathy Kannan

Professor of Biological Sciences

What is a Fulbright Scholar?

"The Fulbright Program, the United States government's flagship program of international educational and cultural exchange, offers passionate and accomplished students and scholars in more than 160 countries the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research, exchange ideas, and contribute to mutual understanding. These talented Fulbrighters from all backgrounds inspire, innovate, and contribute to finding solutions to challenges facing our communities and our world." –Fulbright Scholar Program

Dr. Kannan's Experience As A Four-Time Fulbrighter

I have traveled the world as a Fulbrighter. I have had 4 Fulbright Awards: two to India as a Fulbright Scholar (2007, 2019), one to Sri Lanka as a Fulbright Specialist (2020), and one upcoming Fulbright Scholar assignment in the Summer of 2024 to Malaysia. I was (and will be) a crusader for climate change and its effects on biodiversity. In the program in Malaysia, I hope to use Citizen Science portals like eBird and iNaturalist to promote biodiversity awareness and documentation in the nation's species-rich areas, especially on the island of Borneo.



Tell Us A Bit About Your Many Trips to Belize With your Students

The Belize course is one of the most influential courses in our biology program and, indeed, the entire University. It involves an 8-day full immersion in a biologically and culturally rich tropical paradise. Students do a variety of activities day and night to increase their awareness of tropical biodiversity and its importance to human survival and wellbeing. A suite of cultural and archaeological activities (like school visits, tortilla making, and hiking Mayan ruins), plus some downtime for recreation, makes for an absorbing program.

Your Passion for Advising Students

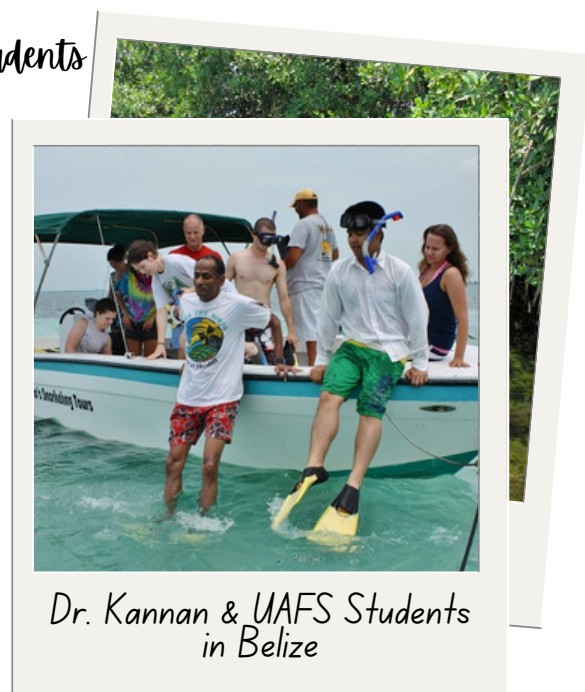
Faculty advising is one way I can take students under my wing and mentor them one-on-one for months until they finish and accomplish their dreams. I maintain a file for each student with hand-written notes on their aspirations and challenges. I systematically help them tackle those issues and overcome difficulties. I constantly think of ways to enhance their academic experiences by involving them in off-campus and off-class endeavors like internships, undergraduate research, or study abroad. My involvement with many of my advisees often extends beyond their tenure here as I mentor them into their post-graduate ventures as well.

Your Advice for Students

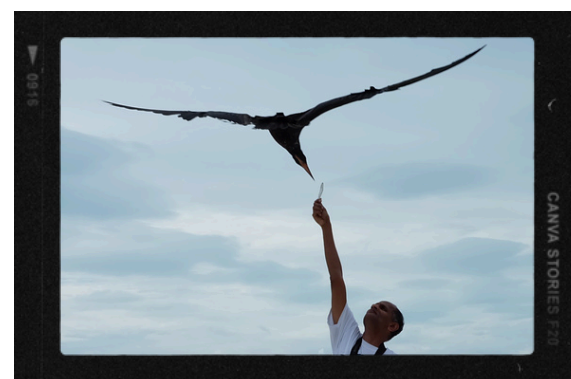
Stay curious. Read. Travel heavily. Always look for ways to satiate and sustain your curiosity. And above all, please know how to tell fact from fiction.

Interests & Hobbies

I have been a passionate bird-watcher and wildlife enthusiast since childhood. Traveling to tropical countries, showing off their splendor and diversity to young enthusiasts, and getting them hooked on natural history is my calling.



Dr. Kannan & UAFS Students
in Belize



Telling Their Stories: CAS Graduating Students

One of our favorite times of the year is sharing the stories of our graduating students. This spring, we're doing a special edition, highlighting many of our graduating or recently graduated students who earned Academic Excellence Awards in their field. All award recipients are shown below. Many of them agreed to share their college experience stories. Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our students!

2024 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Biology: Kelsie Baker

Electrical Engineering (ASEE): Evan Piovesan

English w/ Teacher Licensure: Leah Sheffield Ridenour

Graphic Design: Joanna Hernandez

Mathematics: Kagan Stockton

Mechanical Engineering (BSME): Ben Philpott

Political Science: Korina Lopez

Theatre: Gavin Garrett

Chemistry: Peter Ta

Electrical Engineering (BSEE): Devin Yocum

General Studies: Alyssa Kroth

History: Madeline Brennan

Mathematics w/Teacher Licensure: Taylor Pixley

Media Communication: Nya Stewart

Rhetoric & Writing: Sophia McLain

Computer Science: Michael Resendiz

English: Olivia Garner

Geoscience: Abigale Kelly

History w/Teacher Licensure: Cade Nichols

Mechanical Engineering (ASME): Rosie Nguyen

Music Education-Instrumental: James Estrada

Studio Art: Samara Camryn

Julia White

B.S. Criminal Justice



What are your plans after graduation?

I have a very busy month after graduation which I am super excited about, especially since I won't have to worry about doing schoolwork during it. I am going on a graduation trip with my mom to San Antonio, then my brother-in-law is getting married to a fantastic person I am excited to get to know better. Right after their wedding, I am flying to Europe to stay with my in-laws who live there. Very busy time after graduation, but also very relaxed compared to finals.

After the fun, I am excited to be starting a new career. I have always been very interested in working in law enforcement, hence getting a degree in criminal justice. I also love being outside and interacting with people. To combine all my interests, I am going to pursue the career of park ranger. They get to interact with people, help with events, be outside all the time, and also have law enforcement duties. Plus, I may even get to ride a horse while working! I will be working at Forest Park in St. Louis, which is always lively and full of exciting things. After getting some experience in law enforcement as a park ranger, I plan to get a more investigative job in federal law enforcement. I am very excited to see where this path takes me!

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

I had great advisors while I was at UAFS. All of my appointments were easy to do, and when I had questions, my advisors were super helpful and always answered quickly. I also enjoyed having my main advisor be a Criminal Justice Professor. It was helpful that I was taking many classes from her, so she understood how I was doing academically in school. It was also helpful to have an advisor specifically for graduation year. Without having a meeting specifically about graduation, I would have been stressed about what I needed to do to prepare.

What was the best part of being a lion?

First off, I appreciate how cool it sounds to say I am a lion. UAFS has a great mascot. I enjoyed being a lion because I definitely got a good education out of it. Every teacher I had was informative, and always ready to answer any questions. I am also very appreciative of my advisors working with me my senior year. I moved to St. Louis this year, and they were very helpful in getting me into online classes so I was able to finish up my degree. A lot of places would not have been as accommodating.

The best thing about being a lion was I got to meet my husband! Although I was not on campus a ton, I did make a few friends who introduced me to my future husband. He was an alumni from UAFS (And is working his dream job because of his degree.) and we probably would not have met if we weren't lions.

Korina Lopez

B.A. Political Science



What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation I will be attending the University of Arkansas - Law School. I intend on getting my J.D. and pursuing a career as an immigration lawyer.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advisor was helpful in showing me how my degree plan worked, this allowed me to figure out what classes to take and when to take them in a manner that was effective, which allowed me to graduate a year early.

What was the best part of being a lion?

UAFS has the best community. During my time at UAFS I have been so fortunate to make so many wonderful friends in the classroom, but also while participating in student organizations such as the Campus Activities Board. My professors have all been very approachable and helpful, which has been extremely beneficial to my experience as a student.

Joanna Hernandez

B.S. Graphic Design



What are your plans after graduation?

My plan after graduation is to be a part time Marketing and Communications assistant with the Fort Smith CVB while also interning as a Graphic Designer for One Stone, a Bluebird Company in Rogers, AR with the hope to transition into a full-time graphic designer with them.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience at UAFS has been the smoothest process ever, I did not have one issue throughout my college career which I am thankful for.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The best part about being a lion is the community, there is so much support at UAFS and recognition for everything that you do. Without my peers and faculty's support I could not have accomplished a lot of the things that I have. The cherry on top is how affordable and great the graphic design program is here. Katie Waugh, the department head at Windgate, is amazing at what she does and has brought us so much support.

Peter Ta

B.S. Chemistry



What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to work as a laboratory research assistant or as a chemistry-related professional. Ultimately, I want to attend graduate school earn a Ph.D. in Biochemistry.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

It was a great experience. I received much support from my advisor, and we worked together to earn many successes, including [an academic excellence] award and being announced as the 2024 UAFS undergraduate symposium winner.

What was the best part of being a lion?

It feels like home, where everyone with different dreams can thrive and be their best every day.

Taylor Pixley

B.S. Mathematics - Teacher Licensure



What are your plans after graduation?

Upon graduating, I am excited to begin my journey as an educator at Hackett High School, where I will be teaching Algebra I and II. I will also be pursuing my Master's degree in Applied Statistics through the University of Oklahoma.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience at UAFS, particularly with Dr. Jack Jackson, has been instrumental in shaping my academic and professional trajectory. Dr. Jackson's approach and genuine interest in my success ensured that I not only fulfilled the requirements for my current degree, but also explored opportunities for further education and career advancement. His encouragement to minor in statistics, coupled with insightful conversations about grad school and future plans, played a pivotal role in guiding me towards my decision to pursue a Master's in Applied Statistics. Dr. Jackson's mentorship exemplifies the personalized support and holistic guidance offered by UAFS advisors, empowering students to achieve their full potential.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The faculty at UAFS, especially the math professors, have been an unparalleled source of inspiration and support throughout my academic journey. Their dedication to teaching and genuine care for each student fostered a nurturing learning environment where I not only acquired mathematical knowledge, but also forged meaningful relationships. The opportunity to engage with faculty outside of class through discussions, mentorship, and collaborative research, enriched my learning experience and deepened my appreciation for the academic community at UAFS. Being a lion means being a part of a supportive network of educators and mentors who are committed to nurturing intellectual growth and fostering personal development.

What are your plans after graduation?

I will soon be the mother of a beautiful baby girl, so after graduation, I plan on being on maternity leave. Following that, I plan on starting my dream career in Oxford, Mississippi as a sideline reporter.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience at UAFS was nothing short of amazing! My primary advisor, Justin Martin, always carefully considered my interests and graduation requirements when helping me create my course schedule. Every semester, he thoroughly reviewed course descriptions and guided me with patience and diligence during our meetings. Thanks to his hard work and commitment, I am now graduating with an unexpected double minor.

My secondary advisor, Julie Mosely, also played a huge role in my course scheduling. As an athlete, she found courses that fit my schedule in between practice, weights, and travel. She understood my dedication to my schoolwork and advised me to take online courses so I would not miss class while on the road.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The best part about being a lion was the relationships that I built along the way. The UAFS atmosphere is so inviting! Smiling becomes contagious and somehow even the gloomiest days are the brightest on the UAFS campus. Not only have I built relationships with my classmates, but I also have relationships with the café workers, the custodians, the housing staff, and multiple faculty members, some of whom were never my professors. The best part about being a lion is that I will forever be a lion because I know I can always call UAFS home.

Nya Stewart

B.A. Media Communication



Alyssa Kroth

Bachelor of General Studies



What are your plans after graduation?

My plans after graduation are to look into jobs teaching English as a Second Language. I'd love to teach English abroad. I'm also interested in pursuing becoming a dog trainer/pet trainer, possibly eventually training service dogs.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience has been very interesting. I have had five different advisors throughout my college career due to changing majors so many times. My initial freshman advisor, a Biology advisor, a Nursing advisor, and two General studies advisors. All of them have been or were helpful even though they had different methods of advising me.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The best part about being a lion has been all the friends I've made along the way. I joined many clubs throughout the past five years. I've made so many short-term and life-long friendships. I've grown out of my shell and have been able to explore hobbies I to extents I never would've dreamed of. I've also gained valuable leadership and teamwork experience as an officer for multiple RSOs. I'll miss getting to go to all the different events on campus with my friends so much. I have loved being a lion and will miss it with all my heart.

Abby Kelly

B.S. Geoscience



What are your plans after graduation?

After I graduate, I am going to Mississippi State for graduate school in the fall for geoscience education. I will also be teaching some of the earth science courses there as well.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience has been amazing! The Geoscience department has so many great professors that guide you to learn more and they all work together to help you accomplish your goals.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The best part about being a lion is the community. I have made many life-long friends here and I love how UAFS is a smaller school because it allows you to make a closer connection to the people around you. I would not be the person I am today without my incredible friends and professors supporting me throughout my college journey and into graduate school.

Devin Yocum

B.S. Electrical Engineering



What are your plans after graduation?

I will be working a summer internship with Burns & McDonnell in Houston, TX, in their Transmission & Distribution Global Practice. Following this, I will return to the University of Arkansas to complete my Master of Science in Electrical Engineering.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

Despite the UAFS engineering program being relatively small, my advisors were always available to help and willing to find ways to further my education. I am thankful for the work that all of my advisors have put into making my undergraduate experience the best it could have been.

What was the best part of being a lion?

UAFS is all about its students – something that you might miss out on at other universities. I have always felt that my education and development was the top priority of my professors and the university. UAFS boasts many resources and opportunities for its students while also maintaining a personal connection with its students. I am proud, and thankful, to be a UAFS Lion.

Rosie Nguyen

A.S. Mechanical Engineering



What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to further my education and pursue a Bachelor's of Science (BSME) in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Arkansas - Fayetteville in hopes of becoming an engineer in the local area.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience at UAFS has been smooth as butter. One of the greatest things about being a student at UAFS is that there are so many resources on campus that are there to help you succeed. This includes the advisors. All the advisors that I have been with have been patient and took the time out to answer any questions I've had.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The best part about being a lion to me is that I have been able to form connections and bonds with classmates from diverse backgrounds. Not only am I getting my education at UAFS, but I have also been able to learn more about people and their culture, which has opened my eyes more about the world.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to attend Eastern Kentucky University where I have been accepted to study mammal ecology for my master's degree. I start in the fall of 2024, and after I get my master's, I plan to continue my education to get my PhD.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience was excellent. Not only did my actual advisor, Dr. Sandhya Baviskar, help me, but multiple professors, such as Dr. Ragupathy Kannan, Dr. Jim Belcher, and Dr. David McClellan, have been very impactful on my undergrad experience. They have pushed me in the right direction, and have been nothing short of kind, compassionate, and caring.

What was the best part of being a lion?

The best part about being a lion was being exposed to such a diverse community that enjoys each other. I have made so many great friend from many different backgrounds, and it is refreshing to experience so many different aspects of life. I would say that having that experience is what made being a lion so great.

Kelsie Baker

B.S. Biology



Kat Redhage

B.S. Graphic Design



What are your plans after graduation?

I'm planning to job search for in-house positions in either graphic design or copywriting, as well as sell some of my personal designs online.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

The process has always been smooth for me. It always helps to do your own research into the classes and reach out to professors beforehand, too.

What was the best part of being a lion?

I appreciated the opportunities afforded to the lion art students! Visiting artists, artist talks, clubs, student exhibitions, and walking through an art museum every day allowed for constant inspiration and motivation to create something great.

Olivia Garner

B.A. English



What are your plans after graduation?

Post graduation, I plan on getting a job close to home so that I can continue taking care of my parents and going on a cross country road trip with my family.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

My advising experience at UAFS has been one of the main highlights of my time here. I've had several advisers throughout my time at UAFS, and while every one of them has gained my respect and admiration, two in particular really went above and beyond, and those two people would be Justin Martin and Dr. Laura Witherington. Justin has been there for me through anything I've ever asked of him. Post-graduation, he is still there for me, helping with references, offering his condolences for the recent loss of my grandma, and generally being the person I've come to know him as, which is someone that so many count on and respect, and for good reason. As for Dr. Witherington, I don't have enough time in the day to express my thanks and the sheer respect I have for her. She is a brilliant professor, one of the best even, and she is an amazing advisor. I am a much better writer and person from having gotten the honor to be her student and advisee.

What was the best part of being a lion?

In the beginning, I really took UAFS for granted. Sure, I thought I was lucky to get a full ride scholarship, but the actual value of such an opportunity I completely overlooked. As an English major, I've met, listened to, and worked with, the most brilliant people I've ever met, and I've done so at a place that I initially just considered another cog in the wheel of life. To me, the best part about being a lion was being privy to the knowledge, insight, and true brilliance that is so unique to the UAFS English department. I loved hearing Dr. Sublette talk about race theory, Jordan Peele, and everything in between. I thought it was unreal how Dr. Carlson had an answer for any kind of question, and I truly looked forward to the thought-provoking discussions he would foster in class. Dr. Jones kept you on your toes but was really just as kind and empathetic as he was smart. Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Witherington, the duo I never knew I needed, created some of the most profound and interesting discussions I've ever been a part of, and I will truly miss being in their classrooms. Whether the discussion was about sentimentality, Fuller's three classes of American tourists, or the sphere of domesticity, my hand couldn't write fast enough. I guess what I'm trying to say is, the best part about being a lion was getting to learn from the best and brightest, because it helped me become the person I am today.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I will be taking a two-year break from academia. Afterwards, I plan on pursuing my masters, and eventually, my PhD in Geology with a focus on Carbonates and Invertebrate Paleontology. Once I have my PhD, I want to stay in academia and teach geoscience at a college level.

What was your advising experience like at UAFS?

I would not have been as successful at UAFS were it not for my advisor, Dr. Maurice Testa. He plucked me out from one of his introductory courses and convinced me to pursue Geoscience. Dr. Testa encouraged me to join his research students. There, I participated in two different research projects. The first research project, I studied Carbonatite samples from Magnet Cove, Arkansas. Dr. Testa brought me to Denver, Colorado to present my research at the Geological Society of America. The next year, I joined his research team focusing on the fossilized reefs of the Michigan Basin. I presented my findings on the fossils at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for my second Geological Society conference. I did not have the opportunity to travel across the United States were it not for my advisor. I joined his field trips to several national parks such as Yellowstone, Carlsbad Caverns, the Grand Tetons, and so much more. I am so thankful to have Dr. Testa as my advisor at UAFS. Besides the traveling and research with the help of Dr. Testa, I was hired as a Student Lab Assistant. When applying to grad school, having teaching experience is a major benefit. I found teaching the labs was one of the most reward experiences.

What was the best part of being a lion?

Before joining the UAFS Geoscience program, I was a shy and quiet student. After a few months with my Geoscience classmates, that shell quickly broke. With the friends I made in the Geoscience program, we traveled to Devil's Den twice, hosted several end-of-the-semester parties, and helped each other survive through our courses. While I am excited to graduate with my bachelor's degree in Geology, I am sad to leave the friends I made at UAFS and my advisor, Dr. Testa.

Emily Mero

B.S. Geoscience

