

## Career Services Staff



Pat Widders  
Executive Director



Ron Orick  
Director



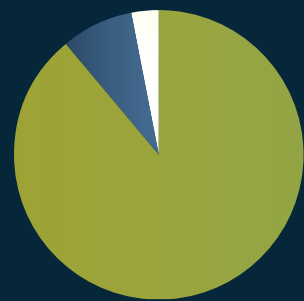
Monique Forehand  
Coordinator



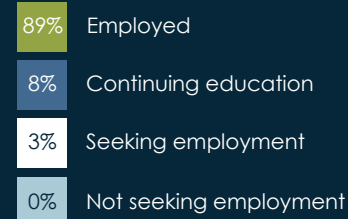
Pam Camp  
Administrative  
Specialist



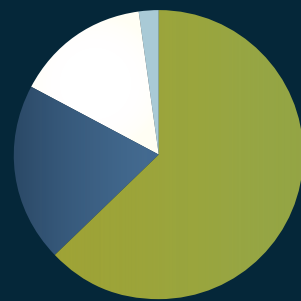
## UAFS Graduate Placement



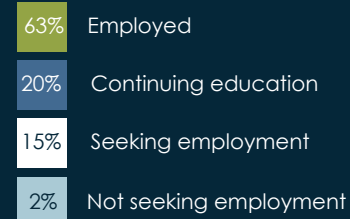
2007-2008



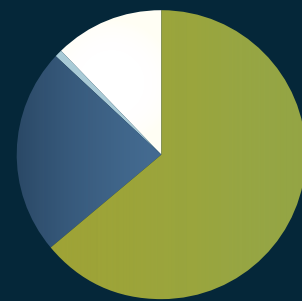
Results derived from 47% of graduate responses to multiple surveys - positive placement of 97%



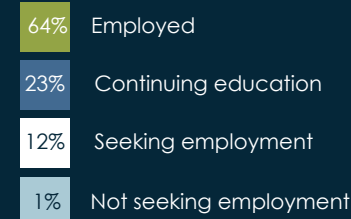
2008-2009



Results derived from 68% of graduate responses to multiple surveys - positive placement of 85%



2009-2010



Results derived from 70% of graduate responses to multiple surveys - positive placement of 88%

## New Majors at UAFS

Two new degree plans at UAFS are giving students the opportunity to impact the way the world sees media and communications. Introduced in 2011, a Bachelor of Arts in Media Communications and a Bachelor of Science in Animation Technology are proving to be very popular with students who want active, involved careers in visual, print, and multimedia communications.

### Bachelor of Arts in Media Communications

While similar to a degree in journalism or general communications, the new media communications degree adds additional classwork in broadcasting, online media, and multimedia communications. It was created by the College of Language and Communications to address a specific need in the River Valley for professionals in this communication niche.

Dr. Susan Simkowski, media communications assistant professor, and Dr. Joe Hardin, Dean of the College of Language and Communications, believe students will have a broad base of knowledge and experience to draw from upon completing the degree. Dr. Simkowski states, "In addition to journalism, students study print, online media, film, advertising, broadcasting, business communications, multimedia journalism and social media."

Internships will play an important role in the degree and the Fort Smith business community has been instrumental in the success of launching the program. Local media outlets and other businesses realize the potential in encouraging new talent in the marketplace, creating a win-win situation for students and businesses alike.

### Bachelor of Science in Animation Technology

Introduced by the College of Applied Science and Technology in the summer of 2011, the degree in animation technology offers exciting opportunities in a variety of career areas. Upon completion of the degree, students will be well equipped to work in the local area in architecture, construction, medical and scientific research, manufacturing, entertainment and gaming, and many others.

According to Argie Nichols, CADD Department Chair, animation technology is advancing and the uses for it continue to expand. Nichols states, "The demand for talented artists is exploding, not just in the entertainment media realm, but as companies find more creative ways to create training tools and technical documents."

Students have two options for internships with the degree; one to work internally in a business and the other is to work on a project for a business while on the UAFS campus. Both options let students apply their skills in digital graphics, photography, videography, and animation creation to produce outstanding work for area firms. Dr. Georgia Hale, Dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology, stated "students have already been busy working with Nestle Corp., Gerdau Special Steel and local architects on various projects. In addition, students have worked with the State Parks Department to create virtual nature trails for people who cannot physically participate in certain hikes. The real-world experience students receive in the program is invaluable."

## Calendar of Events

**Monday, March 5 · 8:45 - 11:00 a.m.**  
Donuts and Degrees  
Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center

**Tuesday, March 6 · 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**  
Spring Health Sciences Job Fair  
Weidman Conference Center (HS 133)

**Wednesday, March 7 · 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**  
Education Career Fair  
Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center

**Thursday, March 8 · 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
Spring Career Fair  
Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center

**Tuesday, March 27 · 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
Criminal Justice Symposium  
(co-hosted by Department of Behavioral Sciences)  
Smith-Pendergraft Campus Center

**Thursday, March 29 · 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
Practice Interview Day  
Latture Conference Center

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# WAHRA Partnership

The Western Arkansas Human Resource Association (WAHRA) has partnered with UAFS for many years by providing human resource professionals to assist students with their interviewing skills. Over the years, many students have used this service to prepare for job searches and to learn important skills that will follow them throughout their professional lives.

The volunteers with WAHRA also enjoy the partnership, as it gives them the opportunity to participate in the community and to briefly step out of their roles as recruiters and become teachers. As professionals in the HR field, members are constantly conducting candidate interviews for positions in the companies they represent, yet they cannot provide interview feedback for the interviewees. The partnership with UAFS allows the WAHRA members to use the experience they've accumulated over years of interviewing to provide valuable feedback to the students who participate in this learning opportunity.

Membership in WAHRA is open to all who are actively engaged in the human resources or industrial relations functions within a business or industrial organization. The WAHRA has developed into a progressive, professional organization devoted to the advancement of knowledge associated with the varied skills required to translate modern business requirements into effective, meaningful employer/employee relations. This organization is affiliated with the Society of Human Resource Management that has more than 250,000 members nationwide.

For more information about WAHRA, please contact Tammy Barthel at (479) 474-7752.



# Pre-Med Internships Help Students Pursue Success

In fall 2011, students in UAFS's College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics with a desire to pursue a professional degree in medicine or medical-related fields have an exciting opportunity to explore their interests through the pre-med internship program.

Facilitated by biology professor Dr. Davis Pritchett and Career Services director Ron Orick, this new program was created to ensure that UAFS students who want to attend medical, dental, pharmacy, or optometry school have the opportunity for first-hand experience in their field of interest. As Pritchett explains, professional schools are evolving in their acceptance criteria, and practical experience is not only preferred, but expected. "Having an experience in a particular field demonstrates to a school how motivated that student is and gives assurance that the student knows what they're getting into. They've had a chance to ask themselves some important questions about whether the field is a fit for them."

UAFS has established partnerships with two agencies in Fort Smith to give students access to the hands-on experience of a medical internship. Currently, Community Dental Clinic and Good Samaritan Health Clinic have interns on site, with the participating students earning one college credit hour for the program. With the program's successful implementation this semester and many qualified students desiring placement, additional partnerships are in the process of being added. Although HIPAA laws make medical internships programs more complicated than they

were a decade ago, Pritchett is quick to acknowledge the thorough work of the University and the program to address the complexities of the system and to ensure that the right students are placed in the right places.

Agencies that participate in the program have the final decision on which students they accept as interns. Before the students reach that stage in the process, they are interviewed by faculty members and the career services staff, and finally by Pritchett and the agency to assess their interests and skills. Once the internship starts, interns are required to keep a log of their experience – not details of patient care, but of how their daily experiences affect them personally and their thoughts on the field and the career.

"Professional schools typically require a personal statement of 'why' a student wants to pursue a career in medicine or allied health. Being able to reflect on how their internship affected them helps students to honestly create that personal statement."

Sometimes the internship process helps students realize a different educational goal than they initially envisioned. Pritchett believes a successful program isn't afraid of helping students find out that they don't like a field they assumed they would love and helping them to refocus on an area where they can achieve satisfaction. Helping students crystallize goals and achieve the highest level of success is the key to this program, and all the internship programs that UAFS conducts in the community.

## What have you gained from your internship?

Myles Aaron Leadbetter  
History with Social Science Teacher  
Licensure 7-12  
Farmington Public Schools

What I have enjoyed about my intern experience is getting to know the students and understanding the differences in their actions and learning abilities. I enjoyed being placed in the 7th grade classroom and learning to relate to my younger students and develop an understanding of how to adapt my planning to reach them better. Overall, being placed in the middle school environment was just what I needed and the staff has been very helpful.



Katie Borengasser  
Imaging Sciences – Medical  
Diagnostic Sonography  
Clinical Rotations

The thing I have enjoyed most out of my clinical internship as an ultrasound student is being able to actually perform the ultrasound exam and scan the patients myself. Working with many different sonographers and radiologists has allowed me to experience a lot of different clinical and hospital environments that I believe will have me better prepared for my own professional career when I graduate.



DeAnne Lee  
Media Communication  
UAFS Alumni Association

Working with the Alumni Association has been a great opportunity that has given me skills that will be beneficial for life. It has given me a different perspective of the alumni association and how the campus grows. I have also been able to see directly how the gifts of scholarships can affect the lives and futures of individuals as well as having the opportunity to spend time with people from all backgrounds and cultures. From the wealthiest of donors to the neediest of scholarship recipients, the diversity found within the walls of the Alumni Association bridges these gaps with compassion, discretion, and understanding.



Channelle Turner  
Psychology  
Department of Human Services

The thing I enjoy the most is the home visits. I get to travel to different homes and encounter all different kinds of investigations. It is fascinating to witness an investigation that has just been initiated and explore how everything is going to play out. And also knowing that I am helping a child live in a safer environment makes me thrilled to be an intern for the Department of Children and Family Services.



Jazlie Cagle  
Mechanical Engineering  
Zero Mountain

The people you work with either make or break an internship. My workplace comrades have made mine. The people at Zero Mountain are helpful, intuitive, hardworking, and most of all fun. Without their guidance, I would be far less knowledgeable in the assignment that was given me, not to mention ammonia freezer systems. Zero Mountain employees welcomed three engineering interns this summer. I'm thankful that I was one of them.



Brad Syrock  
General Technology/Automotive  
Jody's Muffler and Auto Center

I have enjoyed the opportunity of being able to learn in a shop setting, which is an invaluable experience, and learning about the cars of today. The technological advances that have been achieved in the past decade have been extraordinary and learning about those advancements is a tall order. An internship is an opportunity that people should explore during their time as a student in that it lays a ground floor for what it will be like in the real world. This is one thing I wish I would have done sooner as it is enjoyable and rewarding.



Stephanie Longley  
Accounting  
Arkansas Best

During my internship, I have thoroughly enjoyed the team-oriented environment at Arkansas Best Corporation. Everyone is always more than willing to help me learn about numerous aspects of accounting within the corporation. They have given me the independence to work on projects and trust that I will complete them efficiently. This has allowed me to obtain valuable hands-on experience outside of the classroom and gain confidence in my abilities.

