



School of Education Newsletter

Issue 3 | April 2020 | Vol. 1

Important Dates

April 12 Easter

April 13-17 Pre-Registration begins for the Summer 2020 and the Fall 2020 semesters

April 20-24 Final Exams for the Spring 2020 Graduates

April 28 Last day to withdraw from the university

April 28 Grades are due for the Spring 2020 graduates



Student Highlight

Keelan Rhodes, a Senior majoring in Rehabilitation Services, has been awarded the Thirland “Danny” McKissic Scholarship from the Arkansas Rehabilitation Association.

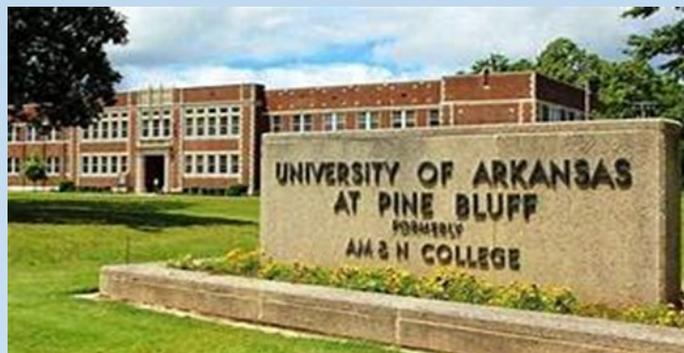
“Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never really knew”

-Cicely Tyson



Staff Highlight

Ms. Kaidra Dockett, the Administrative Specialist II in the Graduate Department, and a GRADUATING SENIOR in the Rehabilitation Services Program, has started a new business called Spoiled Rotten Jewels.



FACE OFF by Dr. Wanda Newell

Students are our sole purpose for being at UAPB. Without students there will be no University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. We need students to exist. Recognizing our need and purpose for students doesn't mean faculty has to roll over to every demand or request by students; but we do have to be respectful and understanding.

Our role as faculty is to teach, give advice and gently guide our students to professional learning, growth and development. This can only occur when there is a true connection between students and faculty. Are we modeling, what it means to be a professional in the field of education to our students; especially during the coronavirus pandemic?

Most of us are where we are because someone was considerate and compassionate to our needs and flaws. We were so glad to be in college, that we kept our mouths shut, learned what we could, and rarely questioned our professors. Our generation was taught to comply, listen and be silent. We did this because we wanted to experience the American dreams after years of seeing our parents struggle to make a good living.

Our generation raised our children to be independent, to knock down walls and to challenge any signs of discrimination and poor will. It's no surprise that our students behave in the ways that they do. They were raised in a world where compliance, and "stay-in-your place," was less valued. Our students have been taught to challenge authority, to question what they believe not to be true and openly express their beliefs and thoughts. Some students do so with grace and politeness. Other students can be downright rude.

As Interim Dean of the School of Education, I constantly seek to find solutions to difficult problems. I often consider how I would like to be treated. When the problem involves students, I think about my children and how I would like them to be treated in this very situation. Most importantly, I think each situation should be dealt with as a learning opportunity for both me and the other person. What lessons can be learned from this encounter?

With the Coronavirus-19 pandemic, we are faced with problems we may not have answers to. Some problems come wrapped with emotions because everyone is stressed and unsure. Getting upset and being angry is not a solution to the problem. Now more than ever, we need to take a minute to breathe and relax. While the problem and aggravation may seem more than we can handle, it really is insignificant to what matters in life. This too will pass.

I simply ask you to nurture our students. Let them know, you will work with them. Treat them so they will want to register for the upcoming summer and fall semesters. Most of all be the person, I believe you to be – a highly professional person who demonstrates love and respect for his or her students.

To be young, gifted and enrolled in college means you are charting your path towards a brighter future. Education has always been considered a major step towards new life-promoting opportunities. Although, students attend colleges and universities, they can miss opportunities to advance in life because they do not fully understand and embrace the lessons to be learned while attending college. Understanding, the secrets of a college education demystifies success. Knowing the secrets of a college education can not only propel students' professional life; but it can clearly distinguish students from others, whom they may compete with for jobs.

Student must know and understand that they are on a path toward professionalism. Being a professional doesn't start after graduation, it starts the freshman year. Somehow students must learn how to develop a disposition that shouts professionalism. The way students operate at home, or with friends and at social gatherings are often not acceptable in professional environments. Let me share with you three powerful secrets for you to think on as you matriculate through college.

Students have to learn to code-switch. Code-switching is changing to meet the required behavior expectations. This pertains to the use of language, physical appearance and etiquette/ mannerism. Please don't be fooled by comments that suggest that you can be "You" especially if "You" doesn't help "You" get where "You" need to be. After all, students attend college to prepare for a better life and to secure a career path. Students need to check their attitudes at the door, be flexible, and learn to use tact, timing and tolerance to achieve their professional goals.

Second, college life should help students to become deep thinkers and problem solvers. Students should learn how to explore various options to addressing problems. They should understand that other people do not always have answers or solutions students may need. Thinking deeply and broadly, helps students to discover an array of options and to see that there is more than one way to "skin-a-cat." Developing strong thinking skills will help with future job assignments where students are expected to lead rather than follow. Develop a "No Excuse," approach to life. It will get you further than you can ever imagine.

The final and third secret pertains to college students learning from their mistakes and problems. Accepting the fact, that no person is perfect and life generally has room for mistakes, will help students gain a healthy perspective on the Art of Resolution. When students see their mistakes and problems as learning opportunities; they will grow beyond exceptions. Students; please always remember that you are braver than you believe; stronger than you seem; smarter than you think and more loved than you will ever know. Therefore you should be gentle in your approach, understanding in your responses and flexible when it comes to resolving issues. These three college secrets will propel you to a bright future and a calmer life. Please take heed to this advice.

University Updates

Credits/ Refunds for Room and Board

It has been authorized that the University is going to prorate credits or adjustments to students in residential housing from room and board costs when the residence halls had to close due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Students that are classified as freshman, sophomores, juniors, and non-graduating seniors will receive a credit for costs after March 11, 2020. The credits will be issued after July 1, 2020 and used towards their general account during the upcoming school year. If you are graduating during the spring 2020 semester you will receive a refund for the unused portion of their room and board and if you have an unpaid balance it will go towards that.

Financial Aid

Pay your Tuition Funds- Sign up at gopyt.com and fill out the survey, NO ESSAY REQUIRED, for a chance at \$5000.

The Arkansas Geographical Minority Scholarship is now open. Please email allenm@uapb.edu or johnsonli@uapb.edu for an application.

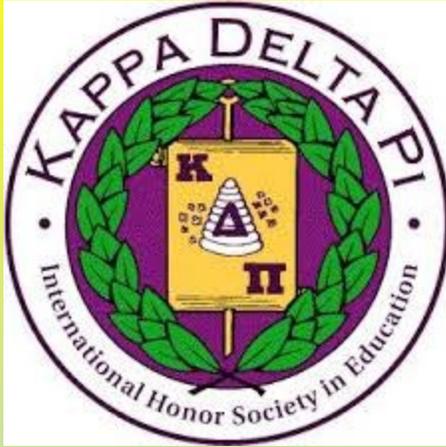


School of Education 2020—2021

Scholarship Recipients

Henry Webb Alexandria Slater Eugene Garrett
Marquesha Avery Braylon Chaffin Sa’Kira Harrison
Salena Evans Ma’Driana Hall Deantae Cooper
Cameron Tittle Rashaun Newton Rodney Jacques
Lorenzo Thompson Caleb Ramsey Denisha Bush
Moriah Roath Sha’Nee Hulsey Jallen Johnson
Tatiyana Hill Erin Jacks

Please contact Ms. Johnson @ johnsonli@uapb.edu for Further instructions on how to receive your scholarships!!!!



Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) will come back during the fall 2020 semester even stronger. During the spring 2020 semester we met a lot of hills and valleys; this just makes us more determined to come back with a vengeance and even more of a purpose. To become a member of this International Honor Society in Education you must be an education major along with the following requirements: 1) completed 30 hours with six of those in education, and 2) a 3.0 G.P.A. If you are interested in becoming a member, please email allenm@uapb.edu or call (870)575-8110.

While working this semester, we have also reactivated the Southeastern Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. Phi Delta Kappa is a professional organization for educators. The location of its headquarters is in Arlington, Virginia. It was founded on January 24, 1906. We are opening this membership to recent graduates in education, graduate education students, and faculty and staff. If you would like more information, please email allenm@uapb.edu or call (870) 575-8110.



On February 18, 2020 the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff gave the approval to create a new organization on campus. This organization is called Delta Sigma Omicron. Delta Sigma Omicron was created so that our Rehabilitation Students, faculty, students and staff with or without disabilities, and students in our affiliate program (i.e. Project Search), would have an organization that would advocate for the inclusion of students who have a disability in the university environment and to act as leaders by presenting the opportunities of life available to them as well as others in the community. We plan to open membership in the fall semester now due to the campus closing and going to online classes due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, if you are interested in becoming a part of this organization or want to learn more about it please email allenm@uapb.edu or call (870) 575-8110.

University Updates Continued.....

Online/Distance Education to Continue During the 2020 Summer Semester

The Board has suspended all face-to-face classes for the 2020 summer semesters. UAPB will offer all of its Summer I and Summer II courses online to enable students to continue their progress toward earning their degrees.

Working Better Together! Hats Off to our Local Teacher Co-Op and Ms. Dora Sanders

UAPB is repurposing its stadium to become a Wi-Fi carrier. Students without Wi-Fi connection can park their cars in front of the stadium and have access to internet. Likewise, thanks to the Arkansas River Teacher Cooperative, school buses have been equipped to bring Wi-Fi to communities where there is a high-need. This will help students who are in public schools districts (Dollarway, Watson Chapel, Pine Bluff and Whitehall) continue with their education during the Coronavirus-19 pandemic. Check the newsletter or call the Co-Op to find the locations and time of bus visits.

We want you to replace your “cabin fever” with thoughts of “Lion Fever.”

Want to contribute to the next newsletter? Send your article or comments to Mitzy Allen at allenm@uapb.edu