

LEADING WITH CARE

College of
Education &
Health Professions

MAGAZINE
+ ANNUAL
REPORT
2020



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Education
& Health Professions

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It goes without saying that 2020 was different than any of us expected it would be. It brought unprecedented challenges to [our College](#).

But I'm happy to report that we've persevered—and that our resilience, teamwork and critical thinking skills have helped us find opportunities among the challenges. As you would expect from the “home of the caring professions,” our faculty, staff and students have put others before themselves and supported each other through this difficult time.

The result is that we rose to the challenge in a variety of ways—including enhancing remote learning to improve student experiences and outcomes, revising policies to allow flexible instruction and clinical experiences, leveraging opportunities for impactful research, and finding ways to serve our local, regional and state-wide communities.

This year has taught us that the caring professions are more important than ever. It makes me so proud to say that I am part of this college, where we have opportunities on a daily basis to demonstrate our great courage, resolve, innovation and character.



Photo by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

**WE CARE FOR OUR STUDENTS
SO THEY CAN CARE FOR
ARKANSAS AND THE WORLD**



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS

College of Education
& Health Professions

The 2020 U.S. News and World Report ranked the College's graduate education programs, as a whole, as the **No. 37** school of education among public institutions and **No. 50** overall. Online master's degree programs in education climbed to **No. 42**, up from No. 46 in 2019 and No. 56 in 2018. Online graduate education programs were also ranked **No. 14** "Best Online Programs for Veterans" by U.S. News & World Report. The College's Rehabilitation Counseling program was also included among the "Best Health Schools".

Bachelor's Degrees: **90.5%** of our students reported working, continuing education or enlisting in military/volunteer service within 6 months of graduation.

A CARING COLLEGE

5,405

Students (As of fall 2020)

\$590,212

Scholarship awards (Academic year 2019-20)

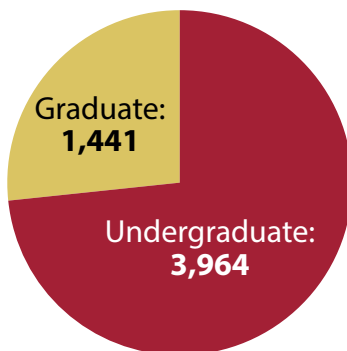
1,351

Degrees awarded (Academic year 2019-20)

507

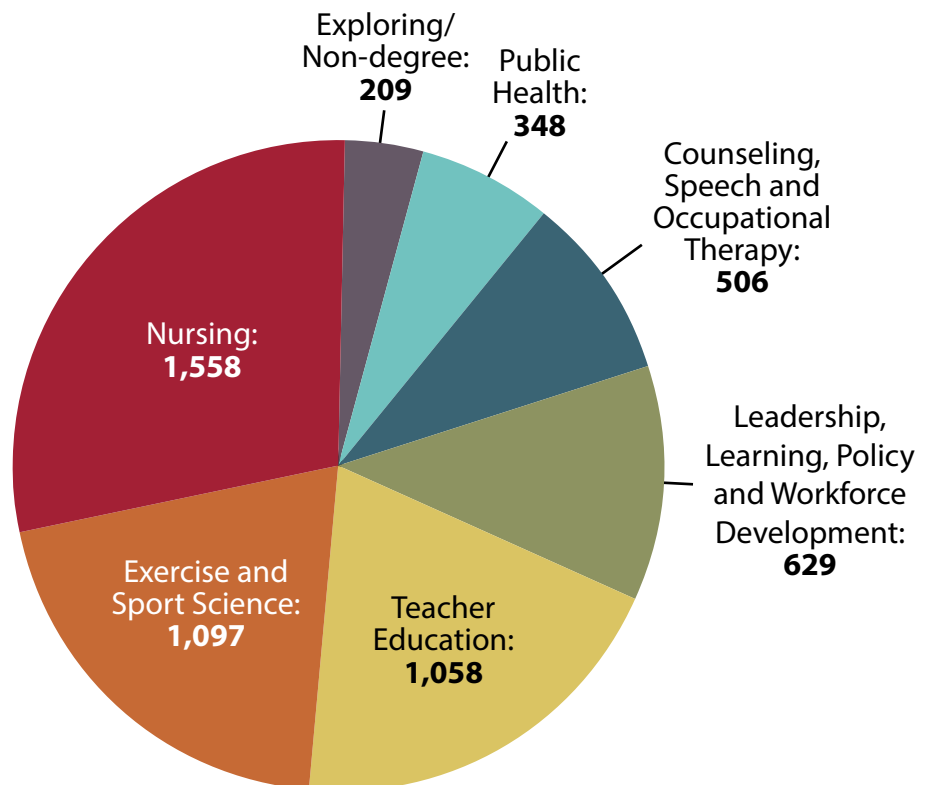
Honors students

STUDENTS



Our College has the largest graduate student enrollment at the [University of Arkansas](#) and the top two largest departments on campus: the [Department of Health, Human Performance and Recreation](#) has 1,592 students and [School of Nursing](#) has 1,558 students

STUDENT NUMBERS BY FIELD OF STUDY





TEACHING IN SYNC

Clinical instructor Bonnie King (in the foreground) teaches students in the K-6 [Master of Arts in Teaching](#) program in a blended, synchronous setting at Peabody Hall. The students attending class in person were able to work with their online classmates in breakout groups.



FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Dr. Vicki Collet, an associate professor in curriculum and instruction, was named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar in 2020. She traveled to Japan and Ireland to research the [teacher education process](#) in those countries.

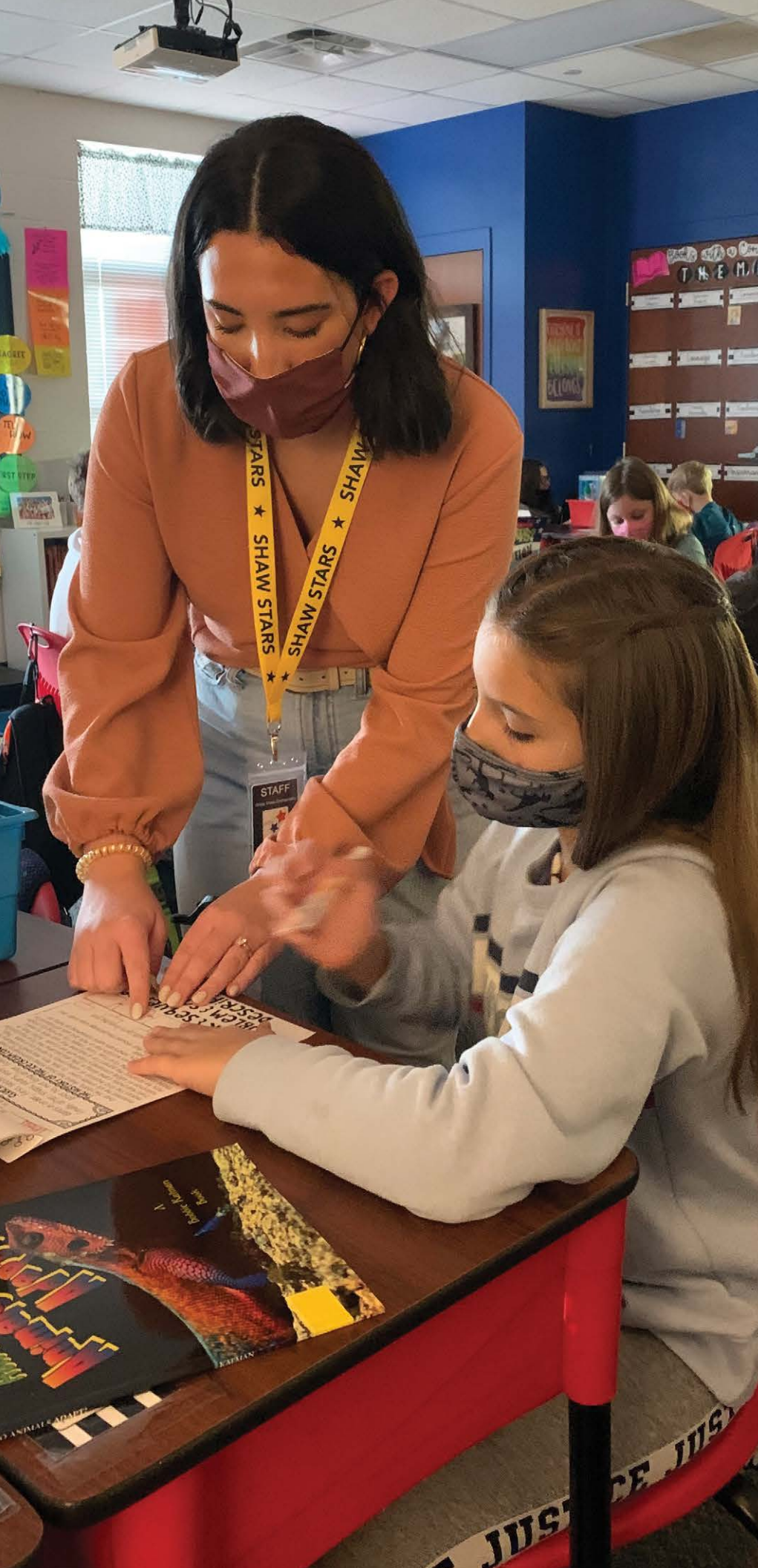


NURSING EXCELLENCE

[The Eleanor Mann School of Nursing](#) earned the University of Arkansas [Daniel E. Ferritor Award](#) in 2020 for Departmental Excellence in Teaching, highlighting the school's commitment to faculty development, student success and innovative teaching and learning.

OUR COLLEGE OFFERS MORE THAN 50 DEGREE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING 17 BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS AND 34 MASTER'S AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMS. WE HAVE OVER 160 FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS WHO HELP STUDENTS GROW IN THE CLASSROOM SO THEY CAN EXCEL IN THE CARING PROFESSIONS.





HANDS-ON LEARNING

Teacher candidates gain hands-on training in area classrooms before graduating and leading their own. U of A student and intern Alex Teeple works with a student in a 4th-grade classroom at Willis D. Shaw Elementary School in Springdale.



TERRELL PAGE

*English Education major,
Honors College Fellow*

Terrell is focused on enhancing digital innovation in the classroom and increasing Black representation in children's media.

"I dream of becoming an English teacher who can use even the most seemingly trivial tool to make an accessible, thought-provoking lesson for all my students."

CULTIVATING CONFIDENCE

Lindsay Terreri, a U of A student and intern, stands at the white board at Harp Elementary School in Springdale. Many teachers use microphones to project their voices while wearing masks.

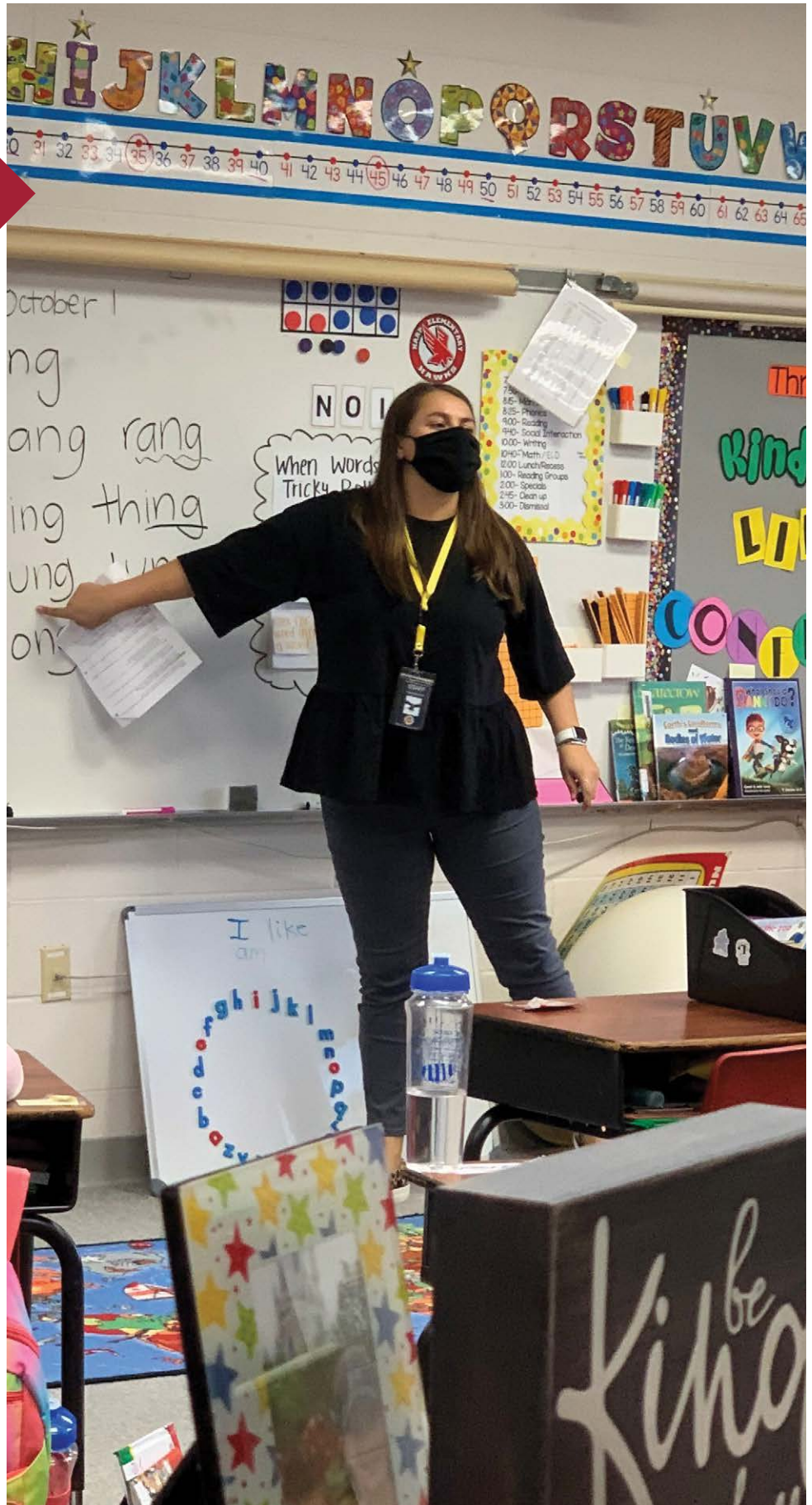


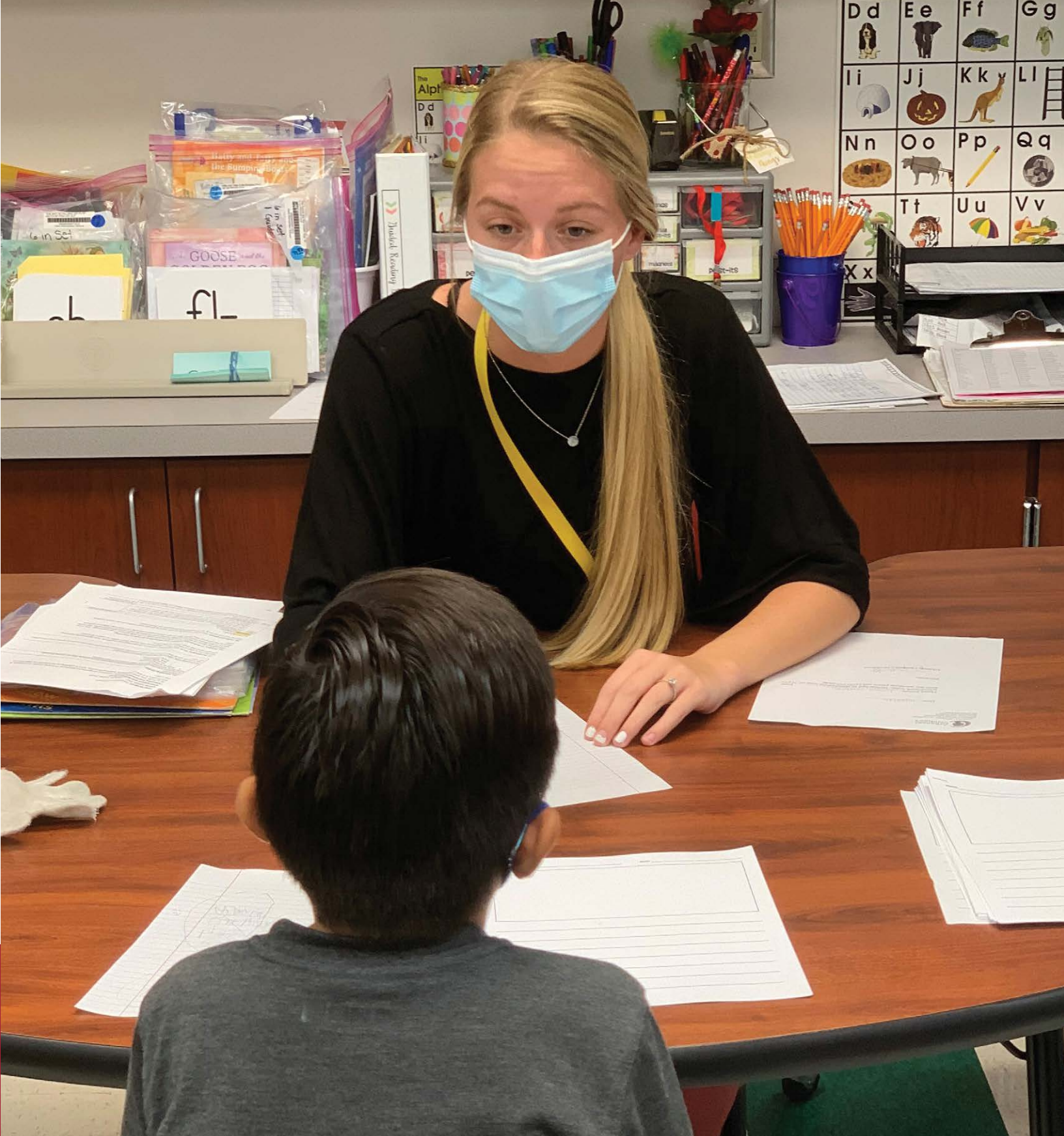
CLAIRE SANCHEZ

Recent graduate of the Master of Arts in Teaching program

Claire is in her first year of teaching at George Elementary in Springdale. She invests her time helping young students who have been abused or incarcerated.

"My goal is to stop the cycle of child abuse and generational poverty through education. Teachers can facilitate grit, resilience and higher ordered thinking skills in many generations to come."





LEARNING TO LEAD Evyn Doran, a U of A student and intern, works one-on-one with a Harp Elementary student. Students are seated far apart in classrooms to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

CARING IN THE

CLINIC



CARING FOR LUNA [The Eleanor Mann School of Nursing](#) has invested in a variety of [new technologies](#) to upgrade its skills and simulation labs. Advances include virtual and augmented reality, new high-fidelity manikins, escape room experiences, tabletop gaming and simulated telehealth.

ALL STUDENTS IN OUR COLLEGE GAIN VALUABLE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THROUGH CLINICAL PRACTICUMS, INTERNSHIPS, OR SKILLS/SIMULATION LABS BEFORE GRADUATION.





SPEECH & HEARING HELP

Our College's [Speech and Hearing Clinic](#) is a university-affiliated practice that has been offering comprehensive speech, language and audiology services for individuals and families since 1960. During the pandemic, services were offered remotely or following CDC guidelines.

This photo was taken in the clinic pre-pandemic.



FIGHTING THE FLU Nursing students gained hands-on, practical experience during several campus flu clinics. They administered more than 1,000 vaccinations to faculty, staff and students.



JULISSA CERVANTES

A recent graduate of the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing

Julissa is working as a nurse at Ascension St. John Medical Center in Tulsa.

"I want to work in a clinic that has a focus on rural areas of Northwest Arkansas. I think access to healthcare is an issue, so if there's a way to do home health or work in a clinic that offers services to everyone, that would be my ultimate dream."



THE DELTA AUTISM PROJECT Dr. Peggy Schaefer-Whitby, an associate professor of [special education](#), took her research and expertise out into the state after she discovered a gap in services and resources available for children with autism and their families in the Arkansas Delta. The [Delta Autism Project](#) in Helena-West Helena closed that gap by training teachers on new ways to help students with autism learn, while building resources and services in the region. Dr. Schaefer-Whitby's work is helping children with autism and their families thrive with access to life-changing services.

OUR COLLEGE OFFERS A VARIETY OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT ARKANSAS AND BEYOND. OUTREACH INITIATIVES INCLUDE THE ARKANSAS ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL EQUITY, THE EDUCATION RENEWAL ZONE AND THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE. DISABILITY-RELATED OUTREACH AND SERVICES INCLUDE AN AUTISM SUPPORT PROGRAM AND PARTNERS FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES.





MILKEN EDUCATOR

Shalisha Thomas is a Pine Bluff High School art teacher and an Arkansas Academy for Educational Equity Fellow through the University of Arkansas. She won the Milken Educator Award in Arkansas for the 2019-20 school year. Shalisha, second from left, poses with students at an Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas exhibit in 2019.



This photo was taken pre-pandemic.

OLLI TAKES A HIKE During the 2019/2020 academic year, the [Osher Lifelong Learning Institute](#) offered adults ages 50 and up an opportunity to participate in nearly 200 activities, including classes, lectures, hikes, field trips, tours and social events.



OLGA KHOKHRYAKOVA

Olga, a Moscow native, is a second-year graduate student in the Community Health Promotion program.

Olga created an online platform called SameSport, which connects people with and without disabilities through shared sport activities. The project involves various fields related to our College, including [exercise science](#), [rehabilitation counseling](#) and [public health](#).



YEAR OF THE NEIGHBOR

The U of A/University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences [Occupational Therapy doctoral program](#) spearheaded a new movement called the [Year of the Neighbor 2020](#) to encourage connection and to counteract loneliness during the pandemic. Occupational Therapy student Ashlyn Elliott participated by delivering bags of food and uplifting treats to her neighbors.



CALLED FOR DUTY

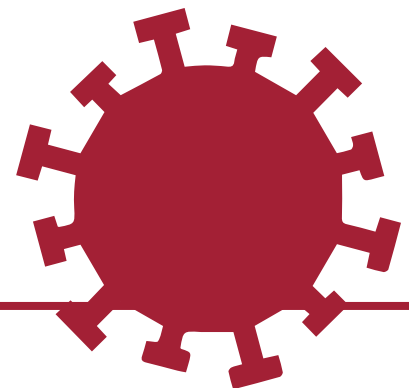
When Gov. Asa Hutchinson called up National Guard medical units to help hospitals deal with an influx of people seeking treatment for COVID-19, staff and students from the University of Arkansas were [there to help](#). Airman Ayana Thompson, a public health major in our College, was among those who helped screen patients.



PANDEMIC GENDER GAP

Dr. Gema Zamarro, a professor and endowed chair in teacher quality, joined forces with faculty at the University of Southern California Center for Economic and Social Research to gather data on [gender disparities](#) during the pandemic. Researchers found that job losses, childcare duties and mental distress disproportionately affected women. They continue to gather data.

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, OUR FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS ANSWERED THE CALL, SERVING AT HOSPITALS, CREATING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND OFFERING RESEARCH INSIGHTS.





REDUCING THE SPREAD

Dr. Susan Patton, director of our nursing school, helped test aerosol boxes in the simulation lab in the early weeks of the pandemic. The boxes were used by clinicians during the intubation process to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in hospital settings. Engineering professor Morten Jensen partnered with a cardiothoracic anesthesiologist at Washington Regional Medical Center to produce the boxes.

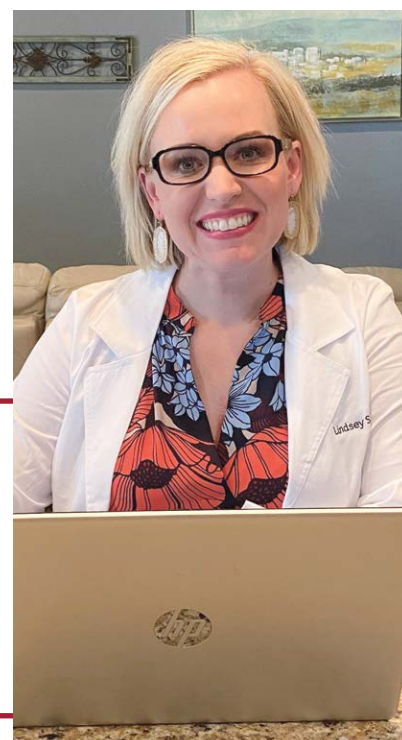


STEPPING UP

Maisie Burns, a nursing student who graduated in December 2020, stepped up to work at Washington Regional Medical Center to help with COVID-19 testing clinics.

INTENSIVE CARE

Lindsey Sabatini is the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing's new interim assistant director. She returned to bedside care as an ICU nurse during the COVID-19 pandemic.



SEWING SUPPORT

Graduate students Jingshu Chen (left) and Xi Lan enlisted help from members of the Northwest Arkansas Chinese Association, the Walson Chinese School and Grace Chinese Christian Church to sew masks during the pandemic. The sewing team sold their masks to raise money for the association's COVID-19 Response Team fund to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for local hospitals. Donors could receive a mask or request that it go to a healthcare worker.



COMMUNICATION UPGRADE

Communication Sciences and Disorders and Apparel Merchandising and Product Development faculty worked together to brainstorm a mask design that made communicating with speech and hearing clients easier during the pandemic.

WISE COUNSEL

Graduate students in our Counselor Education and Supervision Program offered online mental health counseling to help serve the community during the COVID-19 health crisis. Hilda George is a doctoral student in the counseling program.



CARING THROUGH

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



These photos were taken pre-pandemic.

IN 2020, THE COLLEGE ADDED AN [OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DOCTORAL PROGRAM](#) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES. THIS WAS THE FIRST DUAL PROGRAM WITH UAMS IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY. STUDENTS TAKE CLASSES AND PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES ON [BOTH CAMPUSES](#). ON THE U OF A CAMPUS, STUDENTS LEARN IN A SPLIT-LEVEL HOUSE, A NON-TRADITIONAL TRAINING GROUND TO EMPHASIZE EVERYDAY, REAL-LIFE CHALLENGES PEOPLE FACE IN THEIR HOMES AFTER ILLNESS OR INJURY. AT UAMS, STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO 7,000 SQUARE FEET OF NEW LEARNING SPACE, INCLUDING TWO “APARTMENTS.”



CARING THROUGH

RESEARCH



Drs. Nicholas Greene (left) and Tyrone Washington, both associate professors in exercise science, received a five-year, \$1.6 million National Institutes of Health grant to [research preventing cancer cachexia](#), a wasting syndrome that's present in up to 80% of cancer patients. The syndrome largely affects the muscles and other body tissues. Their research will lead to better health outcomes for cancer patients.



Dr. Tingting Liu, an assistant professor at the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing, was awarded a three-year, \$446,268 grant from the National Institutes of Health to help [improve brain function among people with Type 2 diabetes](#) through targeted exercise. The long-term goal is to develop a personalized exercise program for high-risk individuals, based on their genomic profiles. Dr. Liu (center) is demonstrating how to use a pulse oximeter.



Dr. Brent Thomas Williams, associate professor in the Counselor Education and Supervision program, spoke to an audience of federal and state lawmakers at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. about the [PROMISE initiative](#) (*pre-pandemic*). Dr. Williams was principal investigator of the PROMISE grant, which provided job training and paid work experiences for low-income teenagers with disabilities across Arkansas. Many of the teenagers, ages 14 to 16, found new career paths. Some of the participants enrolled in college. The program, which was funded by a \$36 million award — believed to be the largest research grant ever received by the U of A — ended in September 2020 after seven years.

OUR COLLEGE HAS RECEIVED OVER \$100 MILLION IN GRANTS AND EXTERNAL FUNDING OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS. FACULTY ARE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN FOR THEIR [SCHOLARLY WORK AND RESEARCH](#). WE HAVE EIGHT RESEARCH LABS AND CENTERS AND FACULTY STUDY EVERYTHING FROM SPORT CONCUSSION TO AGING TO PLAY THERAPY.





Dr. Primack speaking at TEDMED

The College's [new dean](#), Dr. Brian Primack, is an expert on technology use and its effect on emotional health — for better or worse. His research in the field has led to 250 scholarly publications that have been cited in news sources like NPR, *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine, *Cosmopolitan* and *U.S. News & World Report*. Dr. Primack's background as an educator and medical doctor makes him uniquely qualified to lead the College.

During the pandemic, when people are spending even more time online, his knowledge has been sought out by a variety of media outlets, including *Rolling Stone*.

The American Journal of Preventive Medicine recently accepted for publication Dr. Primack's [groundbreaking research](#) paper that details the first large, national study to show a link between social media use and depression over time. Dr. Primack, along with former colleagues from the University of Pittsburgh, found that young adults who use increased amounts of social media are significantly [more likely to develop depression](#) within six months.

Dr. Primack, a dad to two teenagers, has also done extensive research on cigarettes and vaping, alcohol use, innovations in health education, and reducing health disparities. In all, he's received over \$10 million from organizations like the National Institutes of Health to support his research.

Dr. Primack's background as an educator and medical doctor makes him uniquely qualified to lead our College. He graduated from Yale University with degrees in English and math in 1991. After that, he earned a master's degree in education from Harvard University, focusing on adolescent development, psychology and education. In 1999, he graduated first in his class from Emory Medical School.

Q&A WITH THE DEAN

Q: What prompted your interest in social media use and emotional health?

Emotional health issues like depression and loneliness are now at epidemic levels. The suicide rate in the U.S. is at a 30-year high. There are potential benefits and ways that social media can enrich our lives. But, I think we need to do a better job of helping people optimally use social media.

Q: What are your top three values as a leader?

One is resilience. If we expect perfection, it's a sure way to be disappointed all the time. On the other hand, if we go into each challenge with acceptance and flexibility, we'll be more likely to keep a positive attitude, and even to find creative opportunities that sometimes come out of the challenges.

A second crucial value is kindness. I believe that the core of any higher education institution such as our College is its people—students, staff, faculty, administration, alumni and partners in the community. When kindness is the foundation of how we work together, we are much more likely to feel appreciated ourselves, to succeed in our endeavors, and to enjoy what we do.

A third is teamwork and camaraderie. When I was a classroom teacher, I still remember the groans the students had when I announced that we were going to work on a group project. But now I'm certain those same kids recognize the importance of working together! If we work together well and synergize our talents, we can achieve truly remarkable things.

Q: What's your favorite way to de-stress?

That's easy: the dog and the guinea pigs! We have an adorable poodle mix named Ellie who loves to go on walks. She always lends a sympathetic ear when I need to talk about a long day. And then there are the guinea pigs, Bella and Zoey. We got them from a shelter near Pittsburgh, and they're just adorable.

CARING

ALUMNI



This photo was taken pre-pandemic.

SWINGING FOR THE FENCES [Jake Smith](#), an exercise science alumnus, runs a baseball non-profit for kids called 1and1 Ministries in multiple countries. Jake said his time as a Razorback student athlete and honors student taught him important lessons in leadership, resilience and time management—lessons he has used well to succeed in medical school and with his charity.

OUR ALUMNI IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE EVERY DAY ACROSS ARKANSAS, THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. OUR COLLEGE'S GRADUATES TEACH CHILDREN FROM PRESCHOOL THROUGH ADULTHOOD, HELP DELIVER BABIES AND PROVIDE CARE AND COMFORT TO THE ELDERLY. THEY DIRECT RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS THAT BOOST HEALTH AND REJUVENATE THE SPIRIT, AND THEY HELP THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THE POWER OF SPEECH TO REGAIN IT.





This photo was taken pre-pandemic.

BLAZING A TRAIL

Former athletic training graduate student [Jessica Cohen](#) is the assistant athletic trainer and physical therapist for the Portland Trail Blazers. She's one of just a few female athletic trainers working in the NBA and credits the U of A program for preparing her to work with high-level athletes.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI The College named three University of Arkansas alumni as [Outstanding Alumni Award winners](#) in 2020.



Erica Boughfman, vice president of clinical services at Ozark Guidance in Northwest Arkansas, has made a significant impact in the mental health field.



Dr. Jim Rollins served as the Springdale School District's superintendent for 38 years before becoming president of Northwest Technical Institute in 2020.



Andrew Young is a national leader in scholastic journalism and a multifaceted education professional who teaches eighth-grade English Language Arts and Pre-AP at Woodland Junior High School.

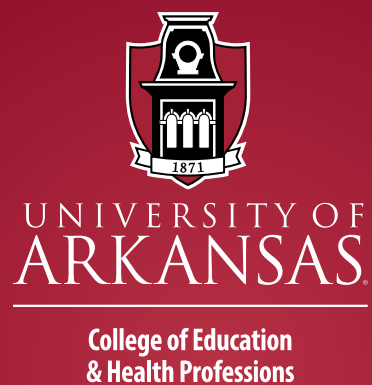


MADDIE STINSON

A recent Master of Arts in Teaching graduate

Maddie is now a special education teacher at Sky Ranch Elementary in Oklahoma.

She brought the organization "Miss Amazing" to Arkansas when she was a U of A student. The non-profit provides confidence-building opportunities for girls and women with disabilities.



Find a digital version of this magazine at coehp.uark.edu/reports/2020. Data for this report and reports from previous years are available at coehp.uark.edu/reports.



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