



Equipping Students for the Future

As we draw close to the end of another academic year and begin preparing for [commencement](#), we send out congratulations to our entire Fulbright family of graduates. We celebrate not only the undergraduate and graduate students finishing their degrees in Fulbright College, but also all of those earning their bachelor's degrees throughout the university.

All University of Arkansas undergraduates are introduced to brilliant, accomplished Fulbright faculty members. The dedicated scholars who teach English and communication, fine arts and humanities, science, mathematics, social science, world history and civil government provide the university's [State Minimum Core](#). They have shaped the minds of thousands of students who are about to embark on a new chapter of life.

As these young men and women prepare to leave the University of Arkansas and venture out into the world, they leave equipped with the knowledge of their chosen fields, Senator Fulbright's legacy of peace through education and the support of their Fulbright family. I look forward to watching their progress.

Sincerely,

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Legacy



President, Senator, Statesman, Visionary

J. William Fulbright served as the University of Arkansas' president from September 1939 until June 1941. In his first public address in that role, he focused on the importance of an informed, engaged public to the health of a democracy and the maintenance of good government and the role of higher education in producing civic-minded individuals.

According to Fulbright, a broad education enables students to become intelligent voters who are able to recognize false propaganda and

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negative motives, untangle the significant from the meaningless and identify the real and important issues in political life. President Fulbright made this observation more than 75 years ago, and Fulbright College strives daily to form its students into citizens who reflect this vision.

Celebrating milestones in Fulbright's life and career is one of the ways the college helps to nurture his ideas and legacy. At this year's Fulbright Birthday Celebration, three people with multiple connections to Fulbright shared their reflections on and contributions to this living legacy.

Dean [Todd Shields](#) welcomed the audience to the fourth annual Fulbright Birthday Celebration held Thursday, April 9, in the Arkansas Union International Connections Lounge. He introduced three speakers who are not only members of Fulbright College, but also are part of the [Fulbright Program](#) that was started by J. William Fulbright and is run the United States Department of State. [Matt Parnell](#), a doctoral student in the Department of History and Fulbright Scholar from the United States to Egypt, Alia Parveen, a doctoral student in the Cell and Molecular Biology Program and Fulbright Scholar from Pakistan to the U.S., and [Luis Fernando Restrepo](#), assistant vice chancellor of diversity and community, professor of World Languages Literatures and Cultures and Fulbright Scholar from the U.S. to Columbia, each shared their observations with the audience.

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Videos

Matt Parnell

Alia Parveen

Luis Fernando Restrepo

Hogwild Band playing Happy Birthday

Fulbright Scholars at the University of Arkansas wishing Senator Fulbright a Happy Birthday in their languages.

Parnell used his Fulbright to study youth political activism in Egypt in 2010 and 2011. While it improved his scholarship, the opportunity to meet and learn from those in the community was an even greater contribution to his education. He uses those lessons to continue Fulbright's legacy by "fostering peace and understanding through education in the college named after him" and sharing his own experience with those taking his courses on the history of the Middle East.

"I design my classes to give voice to the voiceless, to recognize – as social historians say – people without history in order to make my students think, to challenge their preconceived notions, to point out inaccuracies and generalizations, to force them to separate political interest from human interest," Parnell said.

Parveen was chosen by a group of Fulbright Scholars currently studying at the university to give remarks at this year's event. She came to Fayetteville from Pakistan on a four-year Fulbright Scholarship.

"Today, I am really honored to represent the foreign Fulbrighters here at the University of Arkansas on the 110th anniversary of Senator Fulbright's birth, the father of the Fulbright Scholarship Program," Parveen said. "Coming from a country where there are so many

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stereotypes about the western world and vice versa, what my community leaders and I believe in is that the notion of tension and violence in today's world is not a result of clash of civilizations but clash of ignorance. What I mean by this is that we are ignorant of the west and the west is ignorant of us."

Fulbright's idea of bringing people together from different cultures and backgrounds was designed to combat such ignorance so national leaders and citizens from various countries could talk with one another as individuals rather than relying on stereotypes and presumptions.

"Being a Fulbright and Studying at his home institution, I am now an ambassador of Pakistan here in the United States, and one of the United States and Senator Fulbright in my home country," Parveen said.

Restrepo teaches Spanish, comparative literature and Latin American and Latino studies, and he is a member for the Fulbright Senior Scholar Peer Review Committee for the Andes and Central America Fulbright Program. His Fulbright award took him to Columbia in 2001. In his remarks, he referenced "The Two Americas," an essay by Fulbright in his book *The Arrogance of Power*, which explores the nature of America. Is the country egotistical and self-righteous or is it humble and self-critical?

"The world that we live in is still very uncertain," Restrepo said. "We must learn to live under terrorist threats at home and abroad. In such a time, which of the two Americas will prevail?"

According to Restrepo, following Fulbright's vision of a kind, humble, moderate America is the nation's best chance for bright future. Fulbright College and those who participate in these events celebrate and promote this vision of what the United States, its citizens and its friends worldwide ought to be.

"I am honored to be part of this occasion," Restrepo said. "I enjoy learning about the living legacy of Senator Fulbright."

As in previous years, the celebration included birthday cake, lemonade and a round of Happy Birthday led by the Hogwild Band, which was conducted by director of bands Jamal Duncan. Hoyt Purvis, professor of journalism and former press secretary and special assistant to Fulbright, Kay Goss, chair of the Fulbright

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College Campaign Committee, and many current Fulbright Scholars and alumni of the program were among the event's special guests.

Fulbright College began the [birthday tradition](#) in 2012 with the return of the Fulbright sculpture to its pillar on the west side of Old Main. Remarks by former Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board chairman Tom Healy, Fulbright Scholar and university chancellor [G. David Gearhart](#), and other current and previous Fulbright Scholars as well as dramatic reading of Fulbright's essay *A Concert of Free Nations* by theatre students [Missy Maramara](#) and [Curt Longfellow](#) have been featured as part of the annual event.

Fulbright Birthday Celebration in the Arkansas Union International Connections Lounge. Three speakers included Matt Parnell, Alia Parveen and Luis Fernando Restrepo.

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From 100 to 100,000 Watts, KUAF Celebrates 30 Years

As part of its celebration of [30 years](#) as an NPR affiliate, KUAF hosted a [discussion](#) with panelists Rick Stockdell, P.J. Robowski and Dan Ferritor and moderator Kyle Kellams. The group reminisced about the station's history. From starting in 1973 as a campus radio station with 10 watts in a small house, to becoming part of NPR, through several moves and fund raising drives, to the state-of-the-art studios and 100,000 watts of power it has today, KUAF has had a long and storied past on the University of Arkansas campus.

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The only source of national and international news from NPR, it also offers classical music during the mid-morning and night time hours and a variety of locally produced and public radio programs on the weekends. In 1989, the station reached its current strength of 100,000 watts and 15 years later was named among the top 10 percent of all public radio stations in the United States for community service and financial stability by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Station manager Rick Stockdell was hired by the University of Arkansas in 1980 to teach broadcast journalism. In 1985, with the help of a group of crusaders and support from the university and Fulbright College, he brought NPR to northwest Arkansas. Stockdell started in radio during college at Northwest Missouri State University. During the fall semester of 1969 he helped establish the school's NPR station, which was among the nation's earliest affiliates. After college, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he was a freelance radio reporter for more than a year producing stories for a Canadian radio network, a group of commercial stations in New Zealand and a variety of U.S. stations from Miami, Florida, to Kansas City, Missouri.

News director Kyle Kellams is celebrating 25 years with KUAF. He has produced [Ozarks At Large](#), KUAF's locally generated news magazine, since March 2009 and has served as the radio play-by-play voice for the University of Arkansas women's basketball team and occasionally the baseball team. Kellams worked at KTLO 97.9 FM in Mountain Home, while in high school and later as news director at KKIX 103.9 FM in Fayetteville for a year.

P.J. Robowski was KUAF's music director for 27 years and its first full-time employee. After retiring from KUAF, she moved to New Mexico where she is a glass artist and hosts [Local Flavor](#), a program on [KURU 89.1 FM](#) Gila/Mimbres Community Radio in Grant County. While living in Fayetteville, Robowski was well known by her voice. Ferritor recalled being in public when he heard her voice and said, "That's P.J." without even knowing what she looked like.

Ferritor was the chancellor of the University of Arkansas from 1986-1997 during the growth of KUAF. Ferritor believes that the station would not be what it is today without the tremendous community support it had from the beginning, which continues today.

"They did two fundraisers, raising about \$120,000-140,000 during each one from people who don't have to pledge," he said. "If it wasn't for the loyal listening public, we wouldn't have KUAF – no matter how good Rick and the staff are."

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KUAF now operates with the mission “to be a broadcast leader serving our listening area with programs that challenge, entertain, educate, and inform,” according to the [website](#). It started in an old house on Duncan Avenue then moving to a former apartment complex that was torn down in 2009. The staff had raised more than \$2 million to buy property and build its current facility near the Fayetteville Public Library and the Fayetteville Square.

During the panel, Robowski told a [story](#) about the many times people would call her when they had a problem while on the air:

“People would call me, students or whoever was on the air, usually students, and they’d go, ‘I have a problem, something’s not working.’ And I’d go, ‘Hold on.’ and run and get my car keys and run out to the car and turn it on so I could hear the radio ‘cause I couldn’t get it in my house. It was 100 watts. So I’d check, and then I’d run back in – you know, they didn’t have cell phones then – and I’d pick up the phone and go, ‘OK, how is it now?’ And I’d go, ‘OK, hold on.’ So I’d run back out, you know, get the car turned back on. It was pretty hilarious.” “Today, 30 years later, nine out of the 10 full-time people at KUAF are Fulbright College graduates,” Stockdell said. “That wasn’t something I’ve necessarily done on purpose, but my connection with Fulbright College as a journalism professor has put me in touch with so many quality young people over the years who were interested in public radio that it’s just worked out that way.”

[KUAF 91.3 FM](#) is a listener-supported service of the Walter J. Lemke Department of Journalism in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and School of Arts and Sciences. The station has more than 3,300 annual donors and receives nearly 70 percent of its annual funding from membership and underwriting. It reaches a weekly audience of 60,000 listeners throughout Northwest Arkansas, southern Missouri, eastern Oklahoma and the River Valley.

Panelists share stories with a packed house at Fayetteville Pubic Library

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A Legacy of Support

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics, also known as the STEM fields, have a direct impact on daily modern life. Whether it is the natural world, computers and smartphones, buildings and roads or going to the store and bank, STEM is all around. These are just a few of the reasons that mathematical sciences alumna Dorothy Dortch Kapnic of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, believes so strongly supporting the education of those interested in mathematics.

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Motivated by her own experiences at the University of Arkansas and her commitment to continue the legacy of support she once received herself, Kapnic is creating an endowed award with the goal of increasing diversity in the STEM fields. Her \$25,000 will benefit undergraduate and graduate students in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

“The education I received in mathematics helped me approach things more logically and analyze processes more efficiently,” Kapnic said.

Kapnic grew up outside of Little Rock and attended North Little Rock High School, where she had two significant female mentors in geometry and physics. Thanks to their influence, she chose math as her major when she went to college and continued the U of A legacy shared by her father and sister.

After graduating with her bachelor’s degree, Kapnic’s career then took her back to the same high school where she taught alongside her high school mentors. At their urging, she applied for and received a National Science Foundation fellowship and went on to earn a Master of Arts in math.

Kapnic returned to teaching briefly and then joined AT&T in Kansas City, where she became involved in the computer field as a programmer analyst. She later went on to work for Sunoco in Tulsa and then in Philadelphia, also in computer-related areas. Subsequently, her career took her to Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield where she worked in computer areas before retiring in 2009.

Throughout her academic and professional career, Kapnic found herself in a primarily male-dominated industry.

According to a 2011 U.S. Department of Commerce report, the United States’ STEM workforce is crucial to the nation's capacity for innovation and global competitiveness. The [report](#) also notes that although women fill close to half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, they hold less than 25 percent of STEM jobs, and women with STEM jobs earned 33 percent more than comparable women in non-STEM jobs.

“I realized during my career that I had a responsibility to my gender as well as my position in the company,” she said. “And I realized that, in the long run, women need to help other women.”

Because of this, Kapnic established an award in Fulbright College to benefit other students who will contribute to a diverse educational environment, and she did so after receiving a call from one of the university’s student Hog Callers. The Dorothy Dortch Kapnic Endowed Award in Mathematical Sciences will

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be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students who have at least a 3.0 grade point average and can describe how they contribute to such an environment.

“I feel compelled to help those who come after me, which is why I created this award,” Kapnic said. “You don’t have to have millions to make a difference in an area you care about.”

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One Family, 40 Years, 170 Scholarships

Does the name [Nettie Barnett](#) sound familiar? If not, then the next time you find yourself in front of Old Main, take a look at the beginning of [Senior Walk](#).

Mary Antoinette Barnett Boles, known to all as Nettie, was the first graduate of the University of Arkansas, Class of 1876, and hers is the first name on Senior Walk. In 1973, her son Edwin (also an alumnus) chose to honor the family's long history with the U of A by establishing the Boles-Vaulx Scholarship Fund with a donation as provided in his will.

Edwin Clifford Boles' bequest was made in memory of his mother and "the other members of the Boles and Vaulx families who, as students and as faculty and staff members of the University, have contributed to the establishment and development of the University since its inception."

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Edwin's wife, Huetta Snowden Vaulx, was the daughter of Margaret (Garside) and Rev. James Junius Vaulx, who served as rector at Fayetteville's St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1876-1902). Among the Vaulx family members with close ties to the university were several of Huetta's 11 brothers and sisters. Her sister Julia Ramsay Vaulx served as editor of the *Arkansas University Magazine*, the university's first student periodical, which began publication in April 1893. She was also instrumental in the establishing the University Library. She was appointed librarian in 1914, a post she held full-time until 1935.

The original gift of about \$5,250 has grown to almost 50-times its original size and has provided more than 170 scholarships to "talented and deserving students enrolled on the Fayetteville campus."

"Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference to the university," said Mark Power, associate vice chancellor of development. "The Boles-Vaulx Scholarship Fund is a wonderful example of what a difference gifts can make over time."

In the years since the original gift, friends and family members have added to the fund. Many gave memorials to the fund upon Edwin's death in 1972. Other family members, including Nettie's grandson, [Edwin Vaulx Boles](#), her niece, Frances Barnett, and others left provisions in their wills to add to the endowment. As the balance grew, so did the number scholarships as well as the amount per scholarship provided by the Barnett, Vaulx and Boles families.

While few people are able to make major gifts, many want to [support the university](#), its students and its programs, and several small gifts over a few years can become an endowment that will continue for generations. A gift of \$25,000 is needed to generate enough annual income for an endowed scholarship.

"That's a lot of money for most people, but it can happen in any number of ways," Power said. "We've seen people donate \$5,000 a year for five years. We've also had several people come together, families or other groups, to create a legacy gift. However the total is achieved, once it is endowed, it will continue, and the endowment can grow with additional donations. In this case, it has continued to grow for more than 40 years."

Criteria for scholarship recipients may be as broad or as specific as the donors care to make them by giving preference to qualified applicants based on things such as field of study, extracurricular activities, grade point average or financial need.

In addition to gratitude, many students express amazement when receiving scholarship funding – gratitude for the assistance, and amazement at the generosity of someone they have never met. Fulbright College

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students Nicole Schuler and Millie Hogue are two of the most recent recipients of the Boles-Vaulx Scholarship.

"I am truly grateful that people exist with the generosity to provide opportunities to students who otherwise would be unable to dream," said Schuler, an honors student majoring in anthropology with a triple minor in theatre, art and psychology. "Their selflessness makes all the difference in our lives. They made it possible for me to chase my dreams." "I am so thankful for this scholarship that I had difficulty putting it into words," said Hogue, an honors student majoring in English and journalism. "When I started to write my thank you letter to the family, it just seemed impossible to convey, in a page worth of words, the significance of what they have given to me and to the people I love. This scholarship changed my life." "People give for many reasons," Power said. "Some give out of loyalty to the institution, others out of passion for a specific program or interest. The important thing to remember is that every gift matters."

Hogue eventually found her words, and included this in her letter to the Boles family:

"By giving me this scholarship, you've affirmed something I have long believed about the world: that a single human being has the potential to do great good, that we are all more alike than we are different, and that in the face of a stranger, a good friend may be waiting. I will always believe that you and I are good friends, for no other type of person could have given so generously and so fully as you have given to me."

Nettie Barnett, the first name on Senior Walk, class of 1876.

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Successes



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Fulbright Alumni Share Secrets of Success

Fulbright College alumni Adam Glasier, Suze François and Matt Tolson returned to Old Main in February to share their [advice and experiences](#) for working in corporate America. The dimmed lights and an audience of about 10 students created a small, intimate setting that felt like a discussion between the panelists and students, who had the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the program and to introduce themselves to the panelists.

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Todd Shields, dean of Fulbright College, started the evening by telling students that the skills they learn from a liberal arts education will always be useful – a sentiment that was echoed by others throughout the evening. Following the welcome, Erica Estes, the college’s director of [employer relations](#), introduced the panelists and asked several questions regarding their jobs and past college life.

Glasier, a senior operations finance manager for [Walmart](#), said he hasn’t had a typical day at any of his jobs. François, a senior manager with the [Walmart Foundation](#), said that she is working toward better work/life balance but hasn’t been successful so far. Tolson, a senior management recruiter for Walmart, said a major part of his job is relating to people who have different cultural backgrounds.

The evening’s two most beneficial questions for graduating seniors were “How do you get your foot in the door of a company without knowing anyone?” and “What kind of skills do you use?”

Tolson explained a couple of ways to go about getting a job at Walmart without knowing anyone in the company, such as temporary positions, which include both entry level positions and specialized positions, and working at a store. François added administrative assistant positions as another way to get in the door.

“If you start off as an administrative assistant, you could let your boss know about your aspirations and possibly be given an extra project related to what you want to pursue on top of your regular administrative assistant duties,” she said.

Employees use numerous skills every day. Tolson found that being inquisitive, thinking critically, communicating effectively, listening and being open to challenges, skills he learned while in college, immediately helped him after graduation. Glasier added reading and interpreting information to the list, advice also given by François.

“Critical thinking and the ability to synthesize information are vital to success,” Fran François said. “Good research skills and reading were also important. They allowed me to learn about topics beyond my education and expand your horizon.” “Don’t ever limit yourself,” Glasier said. “Take what you’ve learned in the past and see how it can make you more valuable in the future.”

Tolson had a similar strategy, saying that a first job can help in preparing for future jobs.

“The key is to ask yourself, ‘What can I learn from this that could help me in the next job?’”

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When asked about what advice they would give to their college self, the panelists gave excellent advice. Glasier said he wished that he had taken more electives as an undergraduate student. Tolsan encouraged students to challenge themselves to do the hard things, such as taking on another major or minor, participating in class and in extracurricular activities, studying abroad and putting in extra effort to be in a particular group. François urged the audience members to take in what's around them, learn about their community, have fun and do more presentations.

"You have to do a lot of [presentations] at work," said François.

François also emphasized the importance of "soft skills" and how they can influence others in either a positive or negative way. She suggested building a network of reliable people.

"You don't just want to think about what others can do for you; you also need to return the favor and do something for them."

One of her last pieces of advice was to be humble.

"You may think that you know things, but you don't know anything," she said.

The Corporate Careers Panel was one of several events this semester sponsored by Fulbright College and the [Career Development Center](#) to help educate and empower students to fulfill their career goals.

Panelists discuss their jobs and past college life

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Little Bird Makes Big News

As a review of his day in the field – and one of the most important days of his life – University of Arkansas undergraduate student Mitchell Pruitt sent this e-mail to his colleagues at 2:32 a.m. on November 21, 2014:

“Tonight Kim Smith and I, along with several helpers at the Ozark Natural Science Center, captured and banded a Northern Saw-whet Owl! Only one capture, but there were at least two birds present. One was heard, yes, heard by all three of us responding to the whining

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call of my playback. A second bird was flushed by Kim from the opposite side of a field as the other. The second bird gave the raspy “chit-chit”... ..and coasted over him into the forest. Thirty minutes later, we caught our bird! ...It was an exciting night!”

As Pruitt went on to say, it was [the first time](#) a northern saw-whet had been captured in Arkansas. Between 1959 and 2010, there had been a dozen sightings of the rare bird – much smaller than a screech, barred or great horned owl – but no captures, until he and Smith, University Professor of biological sciences, netted the adult female last November.

Using mist-nets, a technique that includes a fine-gauge, black nylon net to ensnare birds, the researchers captured and banded the owl at the Ozark Natural Science Center near Huntsville. Alyssa DeRubeis, a naturalist and teacher at the center, assisted Smith and Pruitt, who had previously tried the method at other locations in Northwest Arkansas, including Devil’s Den State Park.

The northern saw-whet, whose habitat is typically the northern United States and along various ranges of the Appalachian Mountains, is a small, secretive species that prefers low, brushy areas, especially cedar forests. They eat mice in winter and spend their days silently perched at eye level in trees. Their main predators are other species of owls – barred and great horned owls.

During winter, northern saw-whets are usually silent and difficult to locate, so little is known about their winter distribution. However, recent successes at banding stations in Missouri and Alabama caused Smith and Pruitt to suspect the birds might also occur in Arkansas.

“An interesting thing about saw-whets is some of them migrate south every year, even when there’s plenty of food up north,” said Pruitt, who will use the experience and research for his honors thesis. “This year food must have been abundant in the north because capture rates have been down across the country. But some birds have trickled through.”

The researchers attracted the bird by playing a [recording](#) of the northern saw-whet’s call. Once captured, they examined the bird and took measurements, showing a large female adult in its second year of life. It weighed 86 grams (3 ounces) and had a closed wing-chord of 142 millimeters (5.6 inches). Males and females are distinguished by a combination of weight and wing length.

Mature northern saw-whets can be distinguished from juveniles by flashing a black light on the underside of the wing. Like several other owl species, saw-whets have fluorescent pigments called porphyrins under their wings, and the patterns differ between juvenile and adult birds, Smith said.

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The researchers banded the bird to track its migratory pattern, which will help biologists determine where the birds are wintering. After banding and photographing the bird, the researchers released it. The owl then perched for 10 minutes on a nearby branch, and the researchers took one more photograph before it flew away.

Two weeks after the initial capture, Smith and Pruitt captured another adult female at the Ozark Natural Science Center.

“The fact that we were able to capture two birds in the same place within two weeks of each other is really incredible, given that this owl has only been seen in Arkansas about a dozen times in the last 55 years,” Smith said. “Even more unbelievable is that we have had three owls respond to our tape recording at the Science Center, suggesting that this owl might be much more common in Arkansas than previously thought.”

The researchers will continue their late-night study through spring this year and will repeat netting next fall and winter.

Unless one is a master bird bander, trapping or possessing migratory birds is illegal in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Smith is a master bird bander, licensed by the federal government. He also has an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission permit, an Arkansas Natural Heritage permit and permits from both the National Park Service and Arkansas State Parks. Pruitt is training to become a sub-permit holder.

The little bird made big news around the state and beyond with news coverage of the finding in [The Washington Times](#), [Nature World News](#) and the [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#), and a story on KUAF's [Ozarks At Large](#).

Biology professor Kim Smith and student Mitchell Pruitt examine a northern saw-whet owl caught Nov. 21, 2014, at Ozark Natural Science Center. Photo by Joe Neal.

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Fulbright@uark.edu



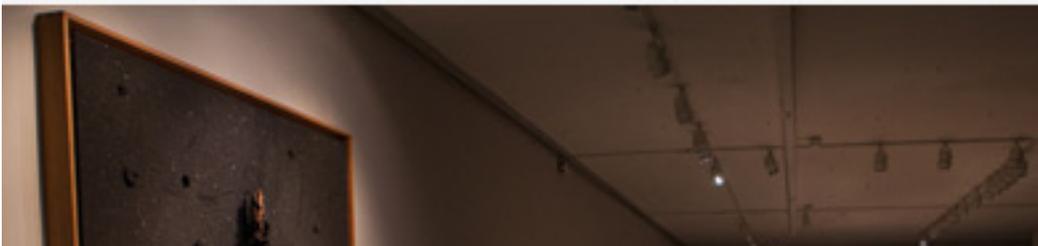
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Theatre, Art, Culture Bring Diverse Perspectives

The Department of Theatre, Department of Art and African and African American Studies Program are bringing diversity to education by using an interdisciplinary approach to expand the ways in which theatre, art and culture can be studied.

African and African American Studies, also known as AAST, is an interdisciplinary program that enhances the core disciplines of a traditional liberal arts education. Through the study of the history and culture of the African diaspora, the program examines the role that race has played in the creation of current society. The theatre and art departments have embraced these connections through hosting special events, guest artists and performances.

In January, the Department of Theatre and the African and African American Studies Program partnered to present *The Mountaintop* by [Katori Hall](#). The play imagines what may have happened on the night before Martin Luther King's assassination at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis.

The collaboration between the department and program broadens the diversity among the students and disciplines involved in the project. The two were integrated into a piece of work demonstrating how multiple fields can be studied side by side and create a new point of view for students.

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“The Department of Theatre is our biggest supporter; we wouldn’t have been able to do it without them,” said Calvin White, director of the program. “Their partnership enables us to reach beyond our usual audience. The play exposes African and African American studies themes to theatre patrons. The production brings together different groups, exposing them to theatre and educating them as well.” “The partnership allows us to strengthen our multi-cultural theatre initiatives and helps us in diversifying our audience,” said Clinnesha Sibley, head of playwriting and undergraduate advisor in the theatre department and an affiliated faculty member with African and African American studies. “AAST is one of the most progressive programs on campus, and we are thrilled to work together to educate and entertain our community.”

With similar goals of inclusivity and diversity in learning, the Department of Art brought renowned artist [Radcliffe Bailey](#) to campus. Bailey uses diverse styles, such as painting, sculpture and mixed media, to create engaging exhibitions that explore themes of ancestry, race and memory. His work has been displayed in [many galleries](#) across the country, and his three-dimensional paintings address African American history and his life as a young southern African American.

Bailey’s work [Storm at Sea](#) was on display in the Fine Arts Center Gallery from Jan. 26-Feb. 20. It visually represents the waves of the ocean, shipwrecks and lives of slaves taken by sea, and it plays on the relationship of the past and present. Bailey’s visit also included a public lecture and consultations with art students. His critiques of their individual work give the students a new perspective on their creative expression from an artist working in the field.

“The Department of Art is always excited when we can bring artists such as Bailey, who have international renown, to our campus,” said Marc Mitchell curator and director of exhibitions for the Fine Arts Center Gallery. “It creates an opportunity for our students to engage with an artist in ways that provide exposure to how professionals think and operate.”

The legacy of J. William Fulbright’s vision of cross-cultural understanding and peace through education lives on through the work of each of these academic areas, which make a conscious effort to expand diversity through a view that is bigger than its own.

By involving an interdisciplinary program, the theatre department broadened its audience and provided an example of how other fields of study can directly relate to all aspects of producing and experiencing a play. The art department deepened the views of its students by hosting an African American artist who focuses

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on history and his own experiences. Those in the African and African American Studies Program were able to experience the powerful ways in which art and theatre can help people interpret ideas in a new and engaging way.

Britney Walker-Merritte and Trey Smith as Camae and Martin Luther King, Jr. in The Mountain

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'Social Sounds' Complement Wisdom Through Fun

It's 7 o'clock on a Thursday evening, and if you happen to be tuned into [KXUA 88.3 FM](#), you'll hear stories that incorporate sociological terms, explanations of sociology concepts and questions about sociology thanks to professor Douglas Adams and his show, *Social Sounds* which airs every week from 7-8 p.m.

Adams, associate professor of sociology, hosts the show for his general sociology class. On the broadcast, he takes callers' questions about lecture topics and reviews material for his biweekly exams. In addition to live calls, students are invited to send text messages with questions regarding information covered in class,

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and he answers the questions on air. The texts help Adams keep a record of messages and participation rates.

He has also tracked student listeners through mentioning a secret word on air. During an exam, he had students write the secret word on the back of their Scantrons and found that 30 percent of the class, or about 110 students, were listening to his show. The secret word was “Durkheim,” as in French sociologist Émile Durkheim who is credited as a principal founder of modern sociology. The week Adams’ show discussed gender, the secret word was “patriarchy.”

“I started the show at the end of the fall 2014 semester when students wanted a review session for the final exam,” Adams said.

Thinking that doing a radio review might be a new way to engage students, he went to the KXUA station manager and asked for a time slot that wasn’t currently used for a program.

“Now that it’s weekly, I cover one chapter per week and try to stay ahead of what other professors are teaching in their sociology classes. My hope is that students in other general sociology classes can also follow along with the show and benefit as well.”

Many of the questions discussed on the show are student-generated and the show gives those in Adams’ class the opportunity to earn extra credit. Adams plans to continue *Social Sounds* as long as it’s successful. He’s even considering holding a live show at the university’s Greek Theatre.

“It’s a lot of fun interacting with my students during the radio show, and it seems to be helping them to gain a better grasp of the material. No one has taken me up on it yet, but I hope that some of my colleagues will eventually want to be part of it, too.”

The show fits well with Adams’ teaching philosophy. He believes in WTF, otherwise known as [Wisdom Through Fun](#). The basic premise is that learning should be an enjoyable process that encourages active participation. In a typical class session, Adams lectures for 25 minutes and spends the rest of the time quizzing his students using a “game show” format, a practice he started incorporating in 2010. The in-class gaming structure he developed allows students in the audience to do a quick self-assessment after each class.

“The gaming process helps students with problem solving skills.”

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He calls this approach [The Relevant Classroom](#), a philosophy that encourages multiple layers of classroom-based engagement and the assessment of learning using a variety of methods. The Relevant Classroom curriculum provides a template for the integration of lectures with slides and videos, in class gaming drills, teamwork and the assessment of out-of-class projects. The platform is adaptable to all disciplines and topics and is scalable for classes from four to more than 400 students.

Adams' [website](#) provides the opportunity for students to review projects and videos created by their peers for ideas, insight, inspiration and some chuckles. More content is added at the end of each semester.

All are welcome, and even encouraged, to learn more about ideas, opinions, beliefs and cultures by tuning in to *Social Sounds* at 7 p.m. Thursdays on KXUA 88.3, follow [@DouglassAdams222](#) on Twitter, and learn more about the students in Adams' classes by watching their [videos](#) on [Diversity in Diversity](#), the Presentation of Self and the Commodification of Self.

Listen to clips from the show

Intro

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Douglas Adams in the radio studio for "Social Sounds"

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