



Abigail Elaine Russ
 Ouachita Baptist University Carl Goodson Honors Program
Degree: B.S., biology, chemistry minor, *cum laude*, '12
Hometown:
Profession: Doctor of Osteopathy pursuing a fellowship at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Little Rock, AR

While at OBU, Abigail Russ received the Carl Goodson Honors Program Scholarship to do research for her senior honors thesis, which studied the affect of ajulemic acid on Ewing sarcoma (a pediatric solid bone tumor). She received the OBU Senior Woman of the Year award. She then moved to Denver, CO, to begin medical school at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She graduated from RVUCOM in 2016 and moved back to Little Rock for her pediatric residency at UAMS/ACH. She received an award for her work in the Pediatric Emergency Medicine Department and graduated in June 2019.

Cicely Shannon
 University of Arkansas Honors College
Degree: B.A. economics, *cum laude*, '15
Hometown: Texarkana, Texas
Profession: Consumer Compliance Bank Examiner, Little Rock

Following graduation from the U of A, Truman Scholar Cicely Shannon interned in the Office of First Lady Michelle Obama. She then started a job with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis as an assistant bank examiner. There, she steadily rose through the ranks as she worked to become a commissioned bank examiner, achieving that goal in 2018. She recently returned to Arkansas, where she serves as a consumer compliance bank examiner for the Little Rock branch of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Elizabeth (Lambie) Sullivan
 Harding University Honors Scholars Program
Hometown: Jonesboro, AR
Degree: B.A., English, chemistry minor, *summa cum laude*, '04
Profession: Neurologist at UAMS, Little Rock, AR

Dr. Elizabeth Sullivan is a board-certified adult neurologist who specializes in spine and neurological care, with special interests in EMG, nerve conduction, Botox and neuro-ultrasound. She holds subspecialty board certifications in clinical neurophysiology from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and in EMG from the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine.



On the cover: After graduating from the University of Arkansas Honors College, **C.W. Young** (B.S. Cmp.E., '16) headed home to Magnolia, Arkansas to manage process controls at the Albemarle Corporation's local chemical plant. In his spare time, he helps out on the family farm and raises cattle.

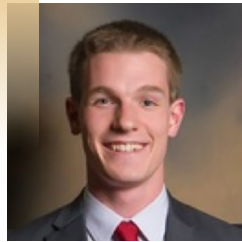


**HONORS
 ARKANSAS**

Honors Arkansas is an alliance of honors educators across Arkansas collectively working to enhance the scholarly and professional experiences of high-achieving students.

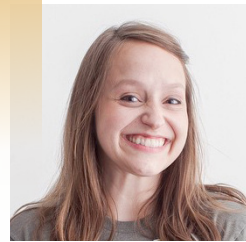


**Hometown
 Heroes**



Noah Asher
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Degree: B.A., finance and economics, '19
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: CEO Vascugenix, Little Rock, AR

Home schooled by a single mother, Noah Asher has launched a successful career as an entrepreneur. For the Arkansas Governor's Cup Collegiate Business Plan Competition, he led a team that worked with a Little Rock cardiologist to bring to market a new technology that would greatly increase the safety of many cardiac surgeries. After winning first prize in that competition (and tens of thousands of dollars in national competitions), Asher turned this honors project into a fully capitalized company, Vascugenix. As CEO, he is determined to keep this rising company in Little Rock despite pressure from various medical supply companies to move out of state.



Meredith Bergstrom
John Brown University Honors Scholars Program
Degree:
Hometown:
Profession: Associate Program Officer, Walton Family Foundation, Bentonville, AR

Meredith Bergstrom grew up as the daughter of missionaries in Kenya and came to JBU to study Family and Human Services. She graduated from JBU Honors in 2008 and then began working for United Way of Northwest Arkansas. She eventually became the director of Main Street Siloam Springs, where she began a movement to revitalize downtown Siloam Springs—a movement that continues to this day. After a hiatus in Florida, Meredith has returned to Northwest Arkansas to begin work as an Associate Program Officer for the Walton Family Foundation.



Cale Block
Arkansas State University Honors College
Hometown: Weiner, AR
Degree: B.S., journalism, English minor, *summa cum laude*, '04
Profession: Owner at Barber Law Firm, Little Rock, AR

Cale Block is a first-generation college student from a town of 690 (2017) who is now a rising star in the legal profession. After joining Barber Law Firm in 2012, he became an owner in 2017 and was named to the firm's three-person management committee in 2018. Block assists clients with business and corporate law, construction law, utility and regulatory law, and mergers and acquisitions. He has been involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas since 2008 and is a member of the Downtown Little Rock Kiwanis Club. He regularly presents continuing education legal seminars and was named to Super Lawyers' Mid-South Rising Stars List.



Matthew E. Hardee
Henderson State University
Degree: B.S., chemistry, *summa cum laude*, '00
Hometown:
Profession: Radiation Oncologist, CARTI Cancer Center, Little Rock, AR

After his graduation from Henderson, Matt Hardee attended the highly competitive Duke University School of Medicine, where he completed an M.D. and Ph.D. in chemistry in 2007. He completed an internal medicine rotation at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2008 before moving to the New York University School of Medicine, where he completed his residency in 2011. Although Matt's credentials qualify him for positions across the world, he has chosen to give back to Arkansas and is currently a radiation oncologist at the CARTI Cancer Center in Little Rock.



Whitney Gammill Holden
University of Arkansas Honors College
Degree: B.S., chemistry, gender studies minor, *summa cum laude*, '09
Hometown: Maumelle, AR
Profession: Teacher, Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts, Hot Springs, AR

Whitney Gammill Holden directs the AP Biology PLUS program, which provides professional development to 27 Arkansas high school teachers and curriculum to more than 500 students around the state. This program has more than tripled the number of students passing the AP Biology exam at participating schools. Holden has also made an international impact with her "Biology Professor" channel on YouTube, which has received almost 3 million views and has 30,000 subscribers from more than 180 countries.



Daveante Jones
J. D. Southern Arkansas University Honors College
Degree: B.A., political science, Africana Studies minor, '12; J.D., University of Arkansas Law School, '16
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: Labor and employment attorney, Little Rock, AR

Daveante Jones has worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Brian S. Miller, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. He is now a labor and employment attorney at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings LLP who represents employers and professionals in a variety of employment matters. He frequently speaks and writes on the emerging topic of surveillance in the workplace.



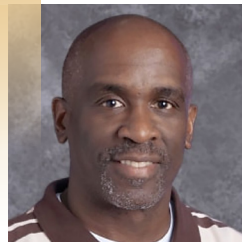
Ashley Long
University of Central Arkansas Honors College
Degree: B.S., biology, '14
Hometown: Harrison, AR
Profession: Veterinarian, Berryville, AR

Ashley Long was the first in her family to attend college, and now, she is the first doctor in her family as well. She is a practicing veterinarian at the Family Pet Vet in Berryville, AR, and serves a rural population in a farming community approximately 45 minutes west from where she grew up.



Roger Norman
Arkansas Tech University Honors College Program
Degree: B.A., history, '12; M.P.S., Clinton School of Public Service, '14
Hometown: Benton, AR
Profession: Program Manager, Community Giving, Walmart Foundation, Bentonville, AR

Roger Norman has managed more than \$70 million in grant funds to address critical social issues across the globe, including disaster relief, diversity and inclusion, and hunger relief. He helped lead Walmart's philanthropic response during times of major disaster, including procuring/distributing products to the relief providers and partnering with national nonprofits to address complex challenges. He is currently working on an executive project to reinvent their community giving around the United States.



Corey Oliver
University of Central Arkansas Honors College
Degree: B.A., English, '96
Hometown: Little Rock, AR
Profession: English teacher, Bob & Betty Courtway Middle School, Conway, Arkansas

Corey Oliver has received the Walmart/Sam's Club Teacher of the Year Award and the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teaching Award. He is now in his 23rd year of teaching middle school English. Corey says this about his experience: "The UCA Honors College greatly enhanced my undergraduate experience. From opening doors to ancient Egypt through a travel abroad grant, to providing stimulating co-curricular activities, the Honors College has had immeasurable impact on me. Through its interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, honors ignited in me a passion for inquiry and communication, a passion that I have taken into my own classroom as a middle level educator."



Kari Payton
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Degree: B.S., mechanical systems engineering; B.A., sociology, '16
Hometown: Bastrop, LA
Profession: Industrial Simulations Engineer, Little Rock, AR

Kari Payton came to UA Little Rock to play basketball, but then discovered honors, which allowed her to develop both her goals in engineering and in community engaged work to increase the pipeline of STEM majors from underrepresented groups. As part of her honors experiences, Payton interned with Southwest Power Pool and the Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, and now travels the world as an industrial simulations engineer for LM Wind Power in Little Rock. She volunteers with STEP ministries, is a mentor for Girls of Promise, and is the founder of Imagination Camp, which works with middle school students interested in STEM.



Hannah Ratzlaff
John Brown University Honors Scholars Program
Degree: B.A., history, '16
Hometown: Longview, Texas
Profession: Exterior design consultant, Little Rock, AR

While a student at JBU, Hannah Ratzlaff spent a semester studying abroad at Oxford University, where she became interested in urban planning. She wrote her senior honors thesis on the history of urban planning in her hometown. After graduating from JBU, Hannah studied Urban Strategies and Design at the University of Edinburgh. She then returned to Arkansas, where she now serves as the exterior design consultant for the Division of Arkansas Heritage.



Alan Robinette
National Park College Honors Program
Degree: A.A., Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies, *magna cum laude*, '18
Hometown:
Profession: Circulation Coordinator, Huie Library at Henderson State University

After a long career working as a circulation manager for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Alan Robinette returned to school in 2017, earning his associate of arts degree in 2018. He has served as a guest speaker at conferences, including the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers annual meeting and the Arkansas Undergraduate Leadership Conference. Robinette will graduate with a bachelor's degree from Henderson State University in December of 2019. He will then begin work on his master's degree in library science. Alan Robinette is a proud Arkansan who is committed to remaining in this state and to helping the next generation achieve their academic and vocational goals.