

NEWS & NOTES from the Dean



Watch a greeting from Dean McKinney

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Archaeology students dig getting hands-on field training



Deep inside the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area in the summer of 2022, Dr. Timothy Matney, professor of archaeology, directed students to begin sifting soil at one of two excavation units. They are at an undisclosed Summit Metro Parks location to learn basic archaeological field techniques, in addition to advanced surveying and recording methods.

The dig site is a hands-on lab for the [archaeology field school](#) in the [Department of Anthropology](#). Undergraduate anthropology and geosciences students from the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences are conducting archaeological research in collaboration with Summit Metro Parks staff. Part of the [Certificate in Field Archaeology](#) program, the class teaches students basic field methods, how to extract information from the ground, and how to better understand the pre-contact and historic human occupation of the region.

Watch this video of our students solving real-world problems through the excavation in the Cuyahoga Valley.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: Owen Pinion

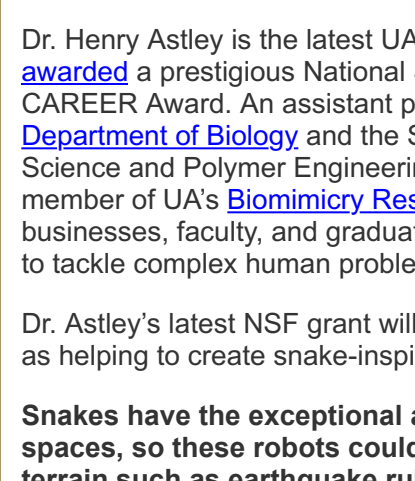
Akronite and [communication](#) major Owen Pinion shares his personal story of imagining himself being a DJ on [88.7 WZIP](#) since he was a youngster and how that role became a reality.



"Being from Akron, Ohio, I grew up listening to the station and have wanted to join WZIP since I was 10 years old. If I only knew 10 years later that I would be on air multiple times a week!"

Watch Owen tell his story

- Listen to WZIP on [TuneIn](#), [Radio.net](#), and other radio apps
- Follow WZIP on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)
- Did you know that [the School of Communication celebrated its 45th Anniversary?](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: David Hamilton '07

Judge David Hamilton started serving his first term as an Akron Municipal Court Judge on January 1, 2023. He is passionate about helping people and it is his desire to use his skill set and legal background to give back to his community.

David, born and raised in Akron, received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology as well as minors in Criminal Justice and Criminology from The University of Akron and his Juris Doctorate at the Western Michigan University.

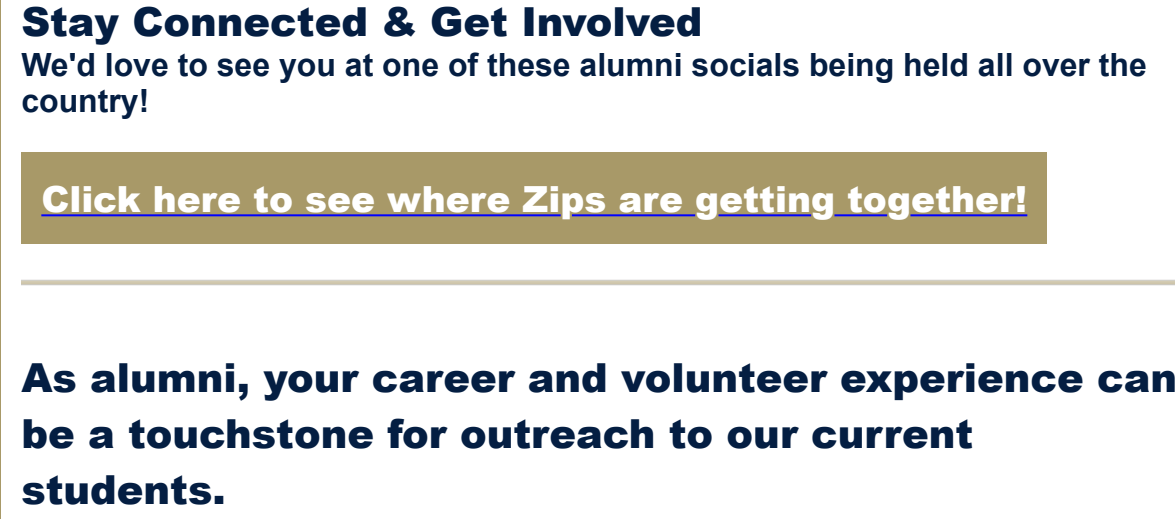
He is a former prosecutor, judicial officer, councilman of District 5 Summit County, chair of Public Safety for Summit County, founder of the Summit County Jail Advisory Commission, founder of the MY-STARS Summer Youth Enrichment Camp, and founder of the Greater Akron Small Business Summit.

He also created COMPASS (Compassion-Opportunity-Mentoring-Purpose-Achievement-Success and Stepping-forward) which is a court-sponsored program geared towards helping young men find their way by providing opportunities that foster personal and professional development, while lowering recidivism rates.

Share your update with us!

Click and tell us what YOU have been up to

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Colleen Barnes, Dance



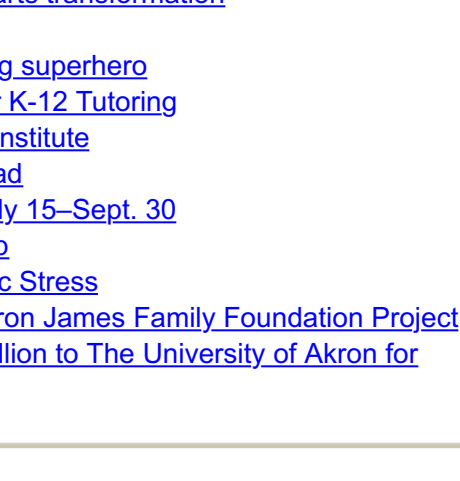
Colleen Barnes, assistant professor of [dance](#), enjoys all forms of dance as well as dance choreography. She's an avid fan of Taylor Swift and has an irrational fear of snakes.

Watch Colleen

[Colleen](#) has worked at the Joffrey Ballet School since 2009, serving in both faculty and administrative roles, where she still leads summer intensives. From 2019-2021, Colleen worked with New Jersey City University and Joffrey Ballet School to develop the curriculum of their BFA program partnership according to National Association of Schools of Art and Design and state standards.

Her scholarly research encompasses ballet's history of exclusion, particularly as it relates to 19th-century ballet and colonialism. This research drives her teaching practice, which intends to encourage students to find autonomy and joy through the modality of ballet.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT: Snake Robots

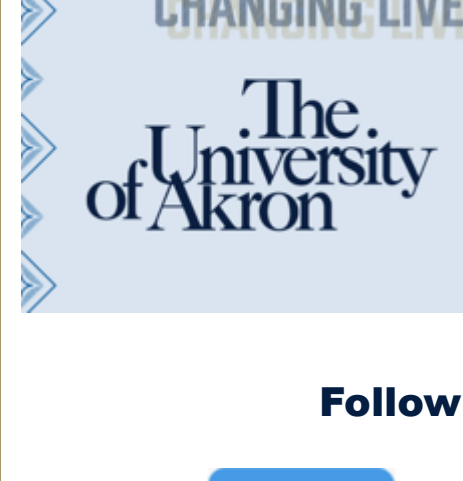


Dr. Henry Astley is the latest UA faculty member to be [awarded](#) a prestigious National Science Foundation CAREER Award. An assistant professor in both the [Department of Biology](#) and the School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, Astley is a faculty member of UA's [Biomimicry Research & Innovation Center](#), an interdisciplinary group of businesses, faculty, and graduate students who collaborate to find nature-inspired solutions to tackle complex human problems.

Dr. Astley's latest NSF grant will fund research on snake locomotion, with applications such as helping to create snake-inspired robots.

Snakes have the exceptional ability to move through complex, cluttered, and confined spaces, so these robots could be useful in a search for survivors in an unpredictable terrain such as earthquake rubble.

Watch more about snake locomotion research



IN SERVICE OF THE PUBLIC GOOD

UA Campus Safety Project - Criminal Justice Studies Department
 A new class project is putting students in charge to help police better understand crime trends around The University of Akron.

This is a multidisciplinary project focused on improving safety in the immediate campus area by supporting housing code compliance, providing crime analysis support for community law enforcement agencies, and educating and providing support to student tenants who live off campus.

[Stephanie Yuhans](#), a practicing attorney and former magistrate, serves as an associate professor of practice, criminal justice studies.

She's leading a group of undergraduate criminal justice studies students in one part of this project to help the University identify nuisance properties in the neighborhood south of Exchange Street that are causing safety issues.

Nuisance properties can be noisy, abandoned or neglected properties, be the location for fights or other violence, or have alleged criminal activity taking place such as the sale or use of drugs and guns on the property.

Check out this news story about their work



Meet the new [Alumni Advisory Council](#) for the Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences, formed in April of 2022.

Stay Connected & Get Involved

We'd love to see you at one of these alumni socials being held all over the country!

Click here to see where Zips are getting together!

As alumni, your career and volunteer experience can be a touchstone for outreach to our current students.

In our [Employer Guide](#), you can review a spectrum of in-person and virtual recruiting options to engage with BCAS students and alumni to build your organization's awareness and fill your talent pool.

Click here and tell us how you want to be involved with [student career readiness](#)

Our Employer Toolkit

Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences News



UA ranked #15 in the country for an affordable pre-med degree

Other news:

- [Not just in baseball: make-up calls happen at home plate and in real life](#)
- [Day of Public Discourse: Debates as a Pathway to Civic Participation and Public-Spirited Professions](#)
- [Communication Faculty, Students Recognized at State Level](#)
- [Knight Foundation commits \\$20 million to UA for arts transformation](#)
- [Welcome New BCAS Faculty](#)
- [International Ph.D. student wins award for creating superhero](#)
- [School of Education Receives \\$499,620 Grant for K-12 Tutoring](#)
- [Cherie Strachan named director for Ray C. Bliss Institute](#)
- [UA awards education scholarship to East C.L.C. grad](#)
- [Synopsis 15: Intersections of Art and Science | July 15–Sept. 30](#)
- [UA and Rubber City Theatre form new partnership](#)
- [Heather Walter talks about CE and Post-Traumatic Stress](#)
- [UA Students Learning to Pay It Forward with LeBron James Family Foundation Project](#)
- [The National Science Foundation awards \\$1.5 million to The University of Akron for undergraduate STEM scholarships](#)

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**BUCHTEL COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
 FIRST YEAR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

ARTS & SCIENCES FIRST YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences is foundational to The University of Akron.

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