

Cynthia R. Lea
Lecturer I
Schedler Honors College
University of Central Arkansas

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Academic Interests

Civil rights, history and law; Native American history; disability law; employment law; immigration law; women and law; alternate dispute resolution; LGBTQ+ history and law; service learning; college initiatives for autistic and neurodiverse students.

Education

J.D., University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bill Bowen School of Law, 1999
Mental Health Legal Clinic and Mediation Legal Clinic, 1998 - 1999

B.S.E. in History, University of Central Arkansas, 1995
Minor: Honors Interdisciplinary Arts

Academic Honors

Selected to compete in the National Juvenile Law Moot Court Competition, Spring 1999
Awarded Top Paper in Juvenile Law, Fall 1998
Quarterfinalist Bowen School of Law Intramural Moot Court Competition, Fall 1997
Member of Alpha Chi, 1994
Member of Phi Alpha Theta, 1994

Administrative Experience

Interim Program Coordinator, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2014 - present

- Select and train 20+ Honors Ambassadors to help with recruitment and selection of incoming honors scholars
- Serve as Faculty Advisor for the Honors Council, the elected student governance of the Honors Center Society
- Select the Honors Freshmen Mentors (upperclassmen chosen to mentor for the incoming Freshmen through academic and co-curricular programming) and serve as Faculty Advisor
- Coordinate with the Honors Co-Curricular Committee, Honors Administration, and Honors Council to write grant proposals for SGA funding, secure private funding, venue, speakers, and publicity for Honors Challenge Week, a week long lecture series
- Evaluate the recommendation letters of all incoming student applications

- Coordinate the selection process of the incoming honors scholars
Secure the venue for interview days, assign interview groups of potential scholars with interviewers, design programs for the interview activities, coordinate the Ambassadors participation for lunch and tours, coordinate with the Dean of Students, Financial Aid, Housing and Residence Life, Registrar, Academic Advising, Orientation, Public Safety
- Partner with Farris Residence Coordinator to facilitate the work of the Honors Resident Assistants and Honors Freshmen Mentors to develop residence life programming for Honors students
- Communicate through weekly announcements to students through OrgSync and Facebook about Honors events
- Serve as one of two evaluators for all Travel Abroad Grant (TAG) and Undergraduate Research Grant (URGE) applications
- Design and coordinate Honors Freshmen Mentor training with Housing and Residence Life, Counseling, and the Honors College Administration.
- Orchestrate engagement activities
 - *Fall Retreat Weekend: secure the venue for the retreat, work with Honors Core I faculty to design the schedule for the retreat, communicate with Freshmen about food and transportation needs, coordinate with the Mentor staff for activities during the retreat.
 - *Sophomore lectures: communicate expectations for the lecture with sophomores, recruit alumni to facilitate the lectures and discussion.
 - *Senior Commencement Banquet: secure the venue for the retreat, communicate with seniors about dietary needs and guest lists, coordinate the meal, photographer, and program.

Teaching

Overload, Department of Student Transitions, University of Central Arkansas, 2019
Lecturer I, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2013 - present

Instructor, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2010 - 2012

Adjunct Faculty, University College, University of Central Arkansas, 2012 - 2013

Visiting Assistant Professor, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2007 - 2010

Adjunct Faculty, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2005 - 2006

Research Assistant to Professor Michael Beaird, Director of UALR School of Law library, refining and responding to first year law students' research assignments, August 1998 - May 1999

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas

Core I: The Search for Self, (freshmen) team taught with other core faculty

Core II: The Search for Community (freshmen)

Core III: They Spit On Me In My Homeland, (sophomore) taught with Philip Melton

Core III: Rainbow Rights (sophomore)

Core IV: The Art of Negotiation (sophomore)

Junior Seminar: First Amendment and Religion (junior) taught with Philip Melton

Junior Seminar: Women and Law (junior)

Junior Seminar: Supreme Justice (junior)

Junior Seminar: Voices of Peace, (junior) taught with Rick Scott

Oxford Tutorial (Research methods, junior)

Senior Seminar: Social Justice (senior)

Senior Seminar: Gender and Justice (senior)

Thesis (Writing, senior)

University College, University of Central Arkansas

University Studies (freshmen)

Transitional Reading (freshmen)

Department of Student Transitions

ACAD 1300 Journeys to Success: Neurodiversity (freshmen)

Honors Thesis Advisor

2019 Luna Lazovic, *American Dreamers: A Case for DACA*

2019 Jacob Holland, *When the Body is the Medium: Tattoo Permanence and Intellectual Property*

2019 CeCe Newsome, *Something's Just Not Adding Up: Prematurity and its Effects on the Brain and how Children Learn Mathematics*

2018 Farrah Beck, *Mental Health While Abroad: Assessing the Absence of Resources Surrounding Mental Illness and Study Abroad*

2017 Ashley Godwin, *Honors is the Tree: The analysis and further branding of the Norbert O. Schedler Honors College*

2012 Megan Danielson, *Minimizing Trauma: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Child Welfare through Child Advocacy Centers*

2012 Austin Hall, *Homosexuality in Cinema: The Hero or the Villain?*

2012 Lynn Nguyen, *Vietnam: Gender Inequalities and Its Reflection in Health Care for Women*

2010 Kathleen Howell, *Finding Their Voice: Implementing Voice and Communication Therapy in the Transgender Community*

2009 Sean Oakley, Sean, *Is Gayness Next to Godliness?: Exploring the Intersections of Queer Identity and Spirituality*

2009 Jenny Temple, *A Generation's Silence: The Struggle to Discover My Family Tree*

Committee Service/Service in the Department

Assignment Of Instructional Duties Taskforce, January 2019-present

Faculty Senate, Senator, Fall 2018 - present

Scholarship Committee, Fall 2016 - present

Study Abroad Advisory Committee 2016 - present

Faculty Advisor for the Honors Council, 2014 - present

Faculty Advisor for Honors Freshmen Mentors, 2008-2012, 2014 - present

Faculty Advisor for Honors Peer Counselors, 2015 - present

Chair Honors College Co-Curricular Committee, 2015 - present

Search Committee for Assistant Professor 2012

Honors College Co-Curricular Committee, 2010 - 2012

Rohweder Scholarship Award Committee, 2009

Professional Memberships and Licensure

License to practice law, Arkansas, August 1999 - present

Member of the Arkansas Bar Association, 1999 - present

Certified mediator, 2013 – 2016.

Presentations

Brownstone, B., Barringer, W. & Lea, C. (2019). "Observing Constitution Day: "Equal Protection Under the Law?" Constitution Day, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR.

Lea, C. & Johnson, Alexis*. (2019). "SWAP (Students Who Advocate for People): Learning Through Advocacy and Service." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Lea, C., White, T.*, Tollette, Zoe*. (2018). "Practicing Civic Engagement through Leadership." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Smith, P.J. & Lea, C. (2018). "Transgressing to Transcend: Identifying, Attracting, and Serving Minority Students in Honors Education." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Blacher, J., Collins, P., & Lea, C. (2018) "Moving On." College Autism Network, College Inclusion Summit, Burlington, VT.

Bowers, J.D., Connolly, C., Lea, C., Smith, A. & Vahlbusch, J. (2017). "Reframing Diversity Recruitment in Honors." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Lea, C. (2017). "Bathroom Bills, We All Have to Go." Issues in the Public Square conference, Conway, AR.

Smith, P.J. & Lea, C. (2016). "Knowing Your Students: Emotional and Mental Health Needs of Honors Students." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Lea, C. & Blew, J. (2016). "Teaching Diversity Through Exploring the Other." Southern Regional Honors Conference, Orlando, FL.

Lea, C. (2015). "Rainbow Rights: The Diversity of the Search." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Corbitt, D., Lea, C., Blew, B.*, Reinke, C.*, Rolland, A.* (2015). "Creating Community in Honors." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Smith, P. J., Thompson, Allen, Lea, C. (2015) "Campus Partnerships to Meet Student Mental Health Needs." Partners for Student Success Annual Meeting, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Frana, P., Corbitt, D., Roland, A.*, Smith, P. J., Lea, C. & Megan Dwyer* (2014). "Honors Students and the Superman Complex: Dealing with Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Honors Communities." Roundtable at the National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado.

Smith, P.J., Lea, C., Carter, C.*, Jones, I.*, Zagurski, John* (2009). "Student Engagement: Bringing Global Community to an Honors Village." National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Lectures and Training

Sexuality and Health, Farris Honors Hall 2018, 2019

Diversity and the LGBTQ Community, IDEAL freshman leadership team, 2017

Gender inclusive language, Student Government Association, 2017

"Arkansas' Prison Reform and mass incarceration." Lecture for Dr. Taine Duncan's class, 2019

Design and implementation of selection and training of the Honors Peer Coaches, 2015 - 2017

Design and implementation of selection and training for the Honors Mentors, 2009 - 2012, 2014 - 2018

Sexual Harassment Policy at UCA, for all Living and Learning Communities training, 2008

Service projects

Autism and Neurodiversity Alliance partners with Community Connections to have our members and the members of their Teen Game Group and Youth Social Group attend each other's meetings. (2020)

Work with SWAP group as Advisor. Group chose to change their name to Autism and Neurodiversity Alliance and submit paperwork to become an RSO at UCA. (2019)

Fundraiser and Outreach event to benefit the low sensory lounge, Main Hall room 28, and SWAP, including presentation of research. 2nd event grand opening of the Low Sensory Lounge. Schedler Honors Core II class. (2019)

Creation of SWAP, Students Who Advocate for People, a social group for autistic and neurodiverse students at UCA, held focus groups, designed a meeting schedule and activities, created a template for students to write letters to faculty, made a digital film, Schedler Honors Core II class. (2018).

Benefit Concert, LollapaLucie, to benefit Lucie's Place, a non-profit organization that provides homeless LGBTQ young adults in Central Arkansas with safe living environments, job training, and counseling services, Schedler Honors Council, Honors Center Society. (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019).

Fundraiser and Outreach event, with presentation of research, to benefit Lucie's Place, a non-profit organization that provides homeless LGBTQ young adults in Central Arkansas with safe living environments, job training, and counseling services, Schedler Honors Core III class. (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018).

Community Service

Adult Volunteer, Girls Scouts of America, 2016-present

Adult Volunteer, Boy Scouts of America, Venturing Crew 1080, 2016-2020

Adult Leader, Boy Scouts of America, Venturing Crew 1080, Summer Camp 2017

Adult Leader, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 71, Summer Camp 2014, 2015, 2016

Adult Volunteer, Boy Scouts Troop 71, 2014-2017