

**Cynthia R. Lea**  
Lecturer  
Schedler Honors College  
University of Central Arkansas  
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### **Academic Interests**

Civil rights, history and law; Indigenous people; history of the federal judiciary; disability law; employment law; immigration law; gender, women and law; alternate dispute resolution; LGBTQIA+ history and law; service learning.

### **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

### **Teaching Experience**

Lecturer I, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2013 - present

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

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

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 Beard, 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 2005-Present**

HONC 1310 Core I: The Search for Self, (freshmen) team taught with other core faculty  
 HONC 1320 Core II: The Search for Community (freshmen)  
 HONC 2310 Core III: They Spit On Me In My Homeland, (sophomore) taught with Philip Melton  
 HONC 2310 Core III: Rainbow Rights (sophomore)  
 HONC 2320 Core IV: The Art of Negotiation (sophomore)  
 HONC 3310 Junior Seminar: First Amendment and Religion (junior) taught with Philip Melton  
 HONC 3310 Junior Seminar: Women and Law (junior)  
 HONC 3310 Junior Seminar: Supreme Justice (junior)  
 HONC 3310 Junior Seminar: Voices of Peace, (junior) taught with Rick Scott  
 HONC 3320 Oxford Tutorial (Research methods, junior)  
 HONC 4310 Senior Seminar: Social Justice (senior)  
 HONC 4310 Senior Seminar: Negotiating Peace (senior)  
 HONC 4320 Capstone (formerly known as Thesis) (Writing, senior)

### **Department of Student Transitions (formerly University College), University of Central Arkansas**

ACAD 1300 University Studies (freshmen)  
 UNIV 1100 University Studies (freshmen)  
 UNIV 1301 Transitional Reading (freshmen)

## Honors Thesis Advisor

Present Serenity Morrison, *Love Fest 2022: Exploring Suicide Risk Factors and Mental Healthcare Resources in Arkansas*

2023 Noor El-Houri, *COLLEGE STUDENTS IMPROVING THEIR MENTAL HEALTH: THE BENEFITS OF LOW SENSORY SPACES*

2023 Sydney Nelson, *Undiagnosed Neurodiversity: ADHD and Autism Prevalence in College Age Students and a Guide to Diagnosis*

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

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

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

2018 Farreh 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**

Faculty Advisor for Honors Freshmen Mentors, 2008-2012, 2014 - 2017  
Faculty Advisor for Honors Peer Counselors, 2015 - 2019  
Chair Honors College Co-Curricular Committee, 2015 - 2018  
Search Committee for Assistant Professor, 2012  
Honors College Co-Curricular Committee, 2010 - 2012  
Rohweder Scholarship Award Committee, 2009

### **Committee Service/Service in the University**

University representative, International Partnership Week, ITESO University, Guadalajara, Mexico, February 2023

Faculty Senate Secretary, Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

Duties included taking minutes for all Faculty Senate meetings from May 2020-May 2021. Report on the budget. Run the election of Senators in August/September 2020 and April 2021 to fill vacancies and the part-time representative and the regular yearly vacancies in April. Meet with the Faculty Senate Executives and meet monthly with the President and Provost of the University. Met via Zoom during the summer to discuss the pandemic. Participated in shared governance.

Faculty Senate Representative Fall 2018 - Spring 2021

Duties included being open to constituents to hear about their concerns and report those to the Faculty Senate. Share information with the faculty about the Faculty Senate business. Serve on a committee.

University Scholarship Committee, Faculty representative, Fall 2016-Spring 2020.

As a voting member of the committee we were asked to discuss and approve exceptions for students' scholarships. As a committee we also discussed best practices to help students to understand the scholarship requirements and how to best to keep their scholarships such as enrolling in summer courses. Over the years the committee was asked to comment and approve many changes to forms, policies, etc.

Study Abroad Advisory Committee, 2016 - present

Participation in Health, Safety, Security, and Risk Management training at Mississippi State University, to help the Study Abroad Safety sub-committee with recommendations about risk assessment, 2016.

Member, Study Abroad selection committee for new Director of Study Abroad. August 19, 2022 - August 30, 2022.

To review the candidates for the position of the Study Abroad Director; interview the candidates who were chosen for interviews: come to a consensus with the other committee members and who the best candidate was. Successfully ranked the candidates that were interviewed.

Diversity Committee, Unaffiliated Faculty representative, 2023-present

Faculty Advisor, Autism and Neurodiversity Alliance registered student organization (RSO), 2019-present

Accomplishments include shepherding them to being recognized as an RSO and establishment of the Low Sensory Lounge in Main Hall room 28.

Faculty Advisor, Honors Center Society, the registered student organization of the Norbert O. Schedler Honors College. August 15, 2014 - Spring 2023.

## **Presentations**

Lea, C.R. (August 2023) followed by discussion with Cinthia Gabriela Ramirez Fernandez and Sofia Zarate Cuellar. *Reproductive Rights of Women in Context: Social, Legal, and Political scenarios*. ITESO University, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Lea, C. R. (Panelist). (June 2022). *UCA COIL Pioneers: Lessons learned in spring 2022*. Panel presented at Global Learning Institute, UCA Center for Global Learning and Engagement, UCA.

Lea, C. R. (Oct. 2021). *Human Rights issues in the US concerning LGBTQIA+ people*. via zoom, ITESO University, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Johnson, A, Lea, C. (2019). *SWAP( Students Who Advocate for People): Learning through advocacy and service*. National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Blacher, J., (Facilitator and panelist), Collins, P., Lea, C., (Panelists) *Moving Through*, College Inclusion Summit, Burlington, VT.

Lea, C. (2018). *UCA's SWAP( Students Who Advocate for People)* College Inclusion Summit, Burlington, VT.

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

Lea, C. (2017). *Bathroom Bills, We All Have to Go; How Honors Can Advocate For Everyone*. National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

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

Corbitt, D., Lea, C. (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.

Corbitt, D., Smith, P. J. & Lea, C. (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. (2009). *Student Engagement: Bringing Global Community to an Honors Village*. National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

### **Lectures and Training Facilitated**

Design and presentation of Universal Design concepts for SOS training to discuss problems with inclusion in SOAR and welcome week for autistic and neurodiverse students, Spring 2021.

Design and implementation of selection and training of the Honors Peer Counseling program, 2015 - 2018

Design and implementation of weeklong training for the Freshmen Mentors, 2009 - 2012, 2014 -2018

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

### **Conferences Attended/Continuing Education/Professional Development**

Self-Study Program, *COIL Design Workshop*, UCA, Conway, Arkansas. July 12, 2021 - July 30, 2021.

Workshop, *COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)*, Global Learning Institute, Conway, Arkansas. June 17, 2021.

Conference, *College Autism Summit*, NASPA, October 12-14, 2022, Nashville, TN.

Conference, *College Autism Summit*, NASPA, October 27-30, 2020.

Conference, *College Inclusion Summit*, College Autism Network, October 23-25, 2019, Nashville, TN.

Conference, *College Inclusion Summit*, College Autism Network, November 5-7, 2018, Burlington, VT.

## **Awards, Grant, and Honors Received**

MOVES Grant, ITESO University Guadalajara, Mexico and UCA's Center for Global Learning and Engagement, May 2023.

Faculty members Cinthia Ramirez Fernandez and Cynthia Lea applied for and were funded for a MOVES grant. Each university agreed to send them each for a week to the partner University for a week of meetings and lectures. Each university paid for the round trip airfare of their own faculty member and then paid for the lodging, food, and transportation of the partner university's faculty member. Cynthia Lea traveled to Mexico in August of 2023 and Cinthia Ramirez Fernandez will travel to UCA in September of 2023.

Diversity and Inclusion Award, for the work done to support the LGBTQIA community and to support inclusion overall, PRISM Registered Student Organization, April 2023.

Nominated Teaching Excellence Award, UCA Schedler Honors College, UCA, March 2021.

Award Finalist for the Public Service Award, UCA Schedler Honors College, UCA, August 2020.

## **Administrative Experience**

**Interim Program Coordinator**, Schedler Honors College, University of Central Arkansas, 2014 - 2020

- 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, GroupMe, HCOL, etc. 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.

### **Professional Memberships and Licensure**

License to practice law, Arkansas, August 1999 - present

Certified mediator, 2013 - 2018

Member of the Arkansas Bar Association, 1999 - present

Member of the Alternate Dispute Resolution Section of the Arkansas Bar Association

Member of the Family Law Section of the Arkansas Bar Association