



# Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Yaschica Williams, Assistant Professor, joined the Department of Criminal Justice at the University of North Alabama in August of 2010. She serves as the Graduate Program Coordinator for the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program (M.S.C.J.) and is a member of the Graduate Council and Black Faculty/Staff Association. Before coming to UNA, she served on the faculty of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Memphis. Dr. Williams was born and raised in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She earned her B.A. (1996) and M.S. (1999) in Criminal Justice from The University of Alabama. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology with a concentration in criminology from Western Michigan University (2006). Dr. Williams is a member of the American Society of Criminology (A.S.C.) and Southern Criminal Justice Association (S.C.J.A.) and has scholarly interest in areas of gender, media and society, gender and crime, gender and corrections, parenting and delinquency and media and crime. Within these areas she has co-authored two articles and one book chapter and presented at 11 academic conferences. Dr. Williams has also served as the Co-Principal Investigator on grants focused on offender reentry and juvenile mentoring. She also served as the Evaluator of the Mobile (AL) Healthy Start Program from 1999-2001. Before leaving Memphis in 2010, Dr. Williams served as a consultant with the Jail East Women's Facility. Her primary role was to present findings to the Jail East administration regarding literature on gender-specific classification systems that existed and that could be adopted. Dr. Williams also conducted focus groups with the goal of gathering data on the inmates' perceptions of existing programs in the jail and access to these programs.

## Redstone Arsenal

On January 19, approximately 50 faculty, staff, and administration spent the day visiting the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. The large goal was to create a stronger relationship-to put our institutional face in front of the Arsenal. Specific goals included: a better understanding of how we can prepare our students for careers at the Arsenal; creation of one to one relationships with Redstone personnel; and knowledge of new programs that might better prepare us to respond to explosive growth at the Arsenal. The visit made it clear that considerable potential exists for a fruitful partnership between UNA and the Arsenal. Now that the initial visit has occurred, the important follow up work begins. I encourage those who are interested to review the web site of this enormous facility (a city within a city of 38,000 acres and 34,000 employees). Tours are also available.

Thanks to all who took a day from busy schedules to participate in the visit, and finally, special thanks to Chris Horn and Melissa Medlin for their leadership in pulling the trip together.

## Study Abroad in China

Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, Vice Provost for International Affairs, has been awarded a grant from the U.S.-China Education Trust to provide partial scholarship support for UNA students to study in China this summer. Thanks to Dr. Zhang for this effort. It isn't often that students can get scholarship assistance for study abroad, so please encourage your students to apply through the International Affairs Office in Powers. The deadline is February 1.

## Congratulations

Faculty Senate Chair Terry Richardson married over the Christmas holidays. We wish him the best.