



Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Volume III, Issue

New Faculty

Matthew Fulmer is an Instructor at Kilby School, teaching the fifth grade. He graduated from UNA in 2002 with a degree in elementary education. He moved to Auburn where he taught for seven years in grades 2, 3, and 5 and earned a master's degree in elementary education from Auburn University in 2006. In 2010-11, he served as an intermediate reading coach for grades 4-6 in Baldwin County. He is now enrolled again at UNA, seeking an Educational Specialist degree.

Some of his interests are history, writing, and sports. He is grateful to be a member of the Kilby faculty and happy to be back home in Florence.

Active Suspension Program

This new program allows Suspension I students the opportunity to remain on campus in suspended status and take classes in which they did poorly. Currently, about 23 students are participating. The program will be monitored to determine effectiveness including a study of academic performance of these students against students who opt to sit out a semester and return.

A search for a faculty member to manage this program and to provide leadership to expanded academic success efforts was recently completed. I am pleased to announce that Rob Koch, assistant professor of English and director of the center for writing excellence, has accepted that responsibility. If you have questions about active suspension or thoughts about the academic success program on campus, please contact Rob.

Professors Funding Scholarships In Retirement (as authored by Barry Morris)

"To place your name by gift or bequest in the keeping of an active educational institution is to make a permanent contribution to the welfare of humanity"

– Calvin Coolidge

Based on the example ten years earlier of two former Chemistry professors, Dr. Raymond Isbell and Dr. Charles Richmond, Professors Thomas Murray and Barry Morris became the founding members of **PRFSR** in 2008. As Dr. Isbell contemplated his retirement, he suggested to the UNA administration his desire to volunteer his services to teach his classes for one year after his retirement if the university would be willing to create endowment funds with the money he would have been paid had he not retired. The earnings from these endowments would finance scholarships for highly qualified and motivated students majoring in chemistry or industrial hygiene. Soon, a deal was struck and the endowment funds created. Dr. Isbell's generous act was the genesis of what has become a formal initiative of retiring faculty at UNA – *Professors Funding Scholarships in Retirement* or **PRFSR**.

Professors Murray and Morris officially retired at the end of the 2007 – 2008 academic year. They then continued to teach their classes during the 2008 – 2009 academic year for little or no salary. The UNA Board of Trustees, in honor of their voluntary service, established permanent endowment funds. The university endowment established by Morris will be used to provide scholarships for students majoring in economics or finance. Three endowments were created by Murray: one to provide scholarships for chemistry and industrial hygiene majors, one for English majors, and one to supplement the stipend for the recipient of the annual Phi Kappa Phi Teaching Award.

UNA's **PRFSR** program is an example of the classic 'win-win-win' idea. The university's ability to recruit top-notch students is enhanced by the ability to offer more scholarships. The recipients of those scholarships benefit by being better able to absorb the rising cost of college. The professors who made those scholarships possible enjoy the satisfaction of 'giving back' while easing into retirement doing something they truly love - being in a classroom full of students.

With his volunteer year of service, Dr. Clark Mueller, Professor of Political Science, who retired in 2009, created two endowed scholarships; one in political science and one in art. Dr. Thomas Osborne, Professor of History, who retired at the end of the fall semester 2010, is establishing two endowments while he continues in his classrooms during the spring, summer, and fall semesters of 2011 and the spring of 2012. One of his scholarships will be for history majors and one is for international student scholarships. Dr. Alyce Brown, Professor of Nursing, and Dr. Walter Teaff, Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation retired in June 2011 and became **PRFSRs** during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Dr. Greg Risner, Professor of Elementary Education, and Dr. Teresa Leonard, Professor of Nursing, will retire at the end of the fall semester of 2011, and begin their **PRFSR** service in the spring semester of 2012.

Dr. Paul Kittle, Professor and Chair of the Biology Department, Dr. Michael Moeller, Professor and former Chair of the Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene Department, Dr. David Muse, Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department, Dr. Bill Strong, Professor and Chair of the Geography Department, Dr. Larry Adams, Professor and Chair of the English Department, Dr. Linda Lewis, Professor of Education, Ms. Debbie Chaffin, Associate Professor, Librarian, Dr. Kristy Van Rensselaer, Professor of Finance, Dr. Daniel E. Hallock, Professor and Chair of the Management and Marketing Department, and Dr. Kerry Gatlin, Dean of the College of Business, have all indicated their intentions to continue to serve after their retirement so as to create scholarship endowment funds for the departments that have been their professional homes for many years.

These 15 professors from all across the campus and all those who come after them are happily adding their names to the list of those benefactors who love the University of North Alabama and its contributions to the welfare of humanity. And they invite you to join them in experiencing the joy that comes from giving to an institution that holds such special meaning in your life.

Dr. Isbell's generous act was the genesis of the PRFSR program. At the Homecoming Alumni Banquet, an announcement was made to rename this program and henceforth, these professors will be known as Raymond Isbell Scholars and will have their names engraved on a plaque which will be displayed in Bibb Graves Hall.

UNA staff members are also eligible for this program. Those staff and/or faculty members interested should contact Barry Morris at extension 4861 for more information.

Continuing Education Courses

Through the Office of Continuing Education, UNA has been offering credit courses that are also offered through the academic departments. The dual offering of courses creates issues for faculty accountability and tuition equity. In response the Council of Academic Deans has determined that credit courses are to be offered only through academic departments. The Office of Continuing Education, as needed, will continue to offer such courses but for CEU credit.

In Memory

OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN OF DESPAIR, A STONE OF HOPE

Martin Luther King

<u>Faculty Senate</u>	<u>Staff Senate</u>	<u>Academic Calendar</u>	<u>Academic Departments</u>	<u>Handbook and Policies</u>
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