



Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Suzanna K. Taylor is a new instructor in the Department of Criminal Justice. She grew up in Haleyville, Alabama, and attended the University of North Alabama, obtaining a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and sociology in 2000. After graduating, she was hired as a police officer with the Florence Police Department, Florence, Alabama. She served as a patrol officer for almost two years, and then became a Criminal Investigator with the Criminal Investigation Division. As an investigator, Ms. Taylor investigated property crimes, juvenile crimes, white collar crimes, served as the Crime Scene Investigator/Evidence Custodian, and as the person's investigator (homicide, rape, assault, etc.). In May 2008, she obtained her Master of Science degree in Justice and Public Safety from Auburn University Montgomery. After obtaining her Master of Science degree, Suzanna served as an adjunct instructor for the UNA Department of Criminal Justice. She was the lead investigator in a cold homicide case that ended with a manslaughter conviction in September 2010. She is specifically interested in Crime Scene Management, Education, and Training, and researching more effective ways to solve physical and sexual abuse cases of children. She is an active member of the International Association of Identification and a charter member of the Alabama Homicide Investigator's Association. Suzanna plans to begin her doctoral work in spring 2012 following the birth of her second child this summer.

SPRING ENROLLMENT

Dr Sue Wilson reports that 2011 spring enrollment is 6,758. This is a decline of 30 students in comparison to 2010. Undergraduate enrollment is the same as spring 2010 and graduate enrollment is down 30 students.

SCIENCE BUILDING

Science building consultants will be on campus the week of February 7 to help finalize the allocation of space for the proposed new building. Hopefully, this will allow us to bring the planning process to a close so the plans can be completed and approved by the State.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

The Graduate Council met on January 27. Among the items approved was a new concentration in Exercise Science for the MS in Health and Human Performance. The Curriculum Committee met on February 1. Twenty-two items were reviewed and approved, including a new concentration and teacher certification program in elementary education and collaborative special education, but mostly course revisions and program requirements. Thanks to all academic departments for their good work in maintaining the quality and currency of their curricula.

NOTABLE STATISTIC

A recent report entitled National Postsecondary Student Aid Study provides details on the make-up of the undergraduate student population. A copy of the report is easily accessed on the Internet. One notable finding is that over 22% of undergraduate college-age population in public colleges and universities is age 30 or above and the number increases every year. We can no longer model our services and undergraduate programs based solely on the needs of 18-21 year olds.

WHERE ARE WE ON SUMMER SCHOOL 2010?

At UNA, we have a profit-sharing plan for summer school. If summer school makes a profit, proceeds are returned to the departments that earned it. We are currently finalizing that amount from summer 2010 (keep in mind that we don't close the books on the fiscal year until the end of October). Shortly, the funds will be distributed to the college deans who will distribute it to departments. The funds will be deposited in supply accounts. I am asking deans to encourage departments to minimize use of the funds for departmental supplies to the extent possible in favor of areas such as professional development and/or instructional equipment that impact daily faculty life.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Today marks the start of the Chinese New Year. This year is the Year of the Rabbit. It might be nice to acknowledge this special day to our Chinese students who are such an important part of our campus.