



# Academic Affairs Newsletter

*by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*

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## NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Eric O'Neal is a new faculty member in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. Eric received his Ph.D. in Exercise Science from the University of Alabama last August and has a M.S. in Exercise Science and B.S.E. in Physical Education from Arkansas State University. In his final year at the University of Alabama, Eric received the Excellence in Research Award for the College of Education for his dissertation work addressing hydration and nutritional concerns for recreational athletes. For his final two research projects, he secured the first and second highest amounts of external funding ever awarded to a student serving as a PI in the College of Education. Eric's wife Whitney is close to finishing her D.M.A. at the University of Alabama in Music Performance (Flute). The couple will celebrate their fifth anniversary this August. Eric is an avid runner and fisherman and enjoys the many outdoor opportunities the Shoals area has to offer.

Ricardo Nogueira is an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at UNA. He was born in South Brazil. His hometown of "Pelotas" is located in south Brazil, so he is a southern boy, too. Dr. Nogueira went to college in his hometown university, Federal University of Pelotas and majored in meteorology. His first job in weather modification was designed to protect apples from hail using a Russian system with rockets and radar. Later, Ricardo moved to Sao Paulo to work in the Sao Paulo International Airport. For five years, he did weather forecasting for Sao Paulo state and adjacent states. In his second job, he served as a weather anchor on cable TV. The focus was on agribusiness and helping farmers with weather information. That job brought him to the U.S. where he worked for The Weather Channel from 1997 until 2002 doing weather broadcasts to Brazil and sometimes participating in the Spanish side. Following that, Dr. Nogueira pursued master studies from Western Michigan, in Kalamazoo, where he studied how software would help non-science majors to understand better weather concepts and later, completed Ph.D. studies from Louisiana State University with a research topic of tropical cyclones rainfall contribution to annual rainfall over the Eastern United States. He applied GIS (Geographic Information System) to climate data and correlated to major climate factors (El Nino Southern Oscillation and Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation). Dr. Nogueira's hobbies include cooking, basketball and dancing, and he is giving free classes of Argentinian Tango on Mondays from 5-7 p.m. in Flowers Hall.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Dr. Craig Robertson has accepted the position of Director of Professional and Interdisciplinary Studies. He currently serves as interim director for that effort. For 2011-12, he will also continue to serve as Chair of the Department of Sociology. The need for this position is tied to significant growth in our interdisciplinary studies undergraduate degree and the potential for a master's degree as well. Many of the students in these programs are non-traditional students with special circumstances that require careful and extended advisement. Dr. Robertson has done an exemplary job as interim director and we wish him the best as he assumes these new responsibilities. The official start date for his dual duties will be August 1.

## TEXTBOOK ORDERS

The Council of Academic Deans recently met with the new director of the UNA bookstore, Griffin Hite, and his textbook manager Micah Todd to determine the need for policy changes to accommodate new federal guidelines. It was agreed that in the future, we must complete textbook orders much earlier than in the past. The anticipated date is at least a month prior to pre-registration. This is required in order for us to be in compliance with the new federal law on posting textbook information for students. We realize the publishers may cause problems with this timeline but let's do the best we can. Thanks.

#### VITAE FOR PROMOTION AND TENURE

A joint request from the Council of Academic Deans and the University Tenure and Promotion Committee to extend the allowable length of the portfolio vitae to five pages has been approved through shared governance. The change is effective immediately so candidates preparing for submission should note the revision. Be reminded that tenure portfolios are due in the department chair's office by May 1.