



# Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Mark Snyder is a new Assistant Professor in the Department of Entertainment Industry. He spent the previous three years as Assistant Professor of Music Production and Technology at Delta State University.

As a composer, Mark has written for orchestra, choir, wind ensemble, various chamber combinations, multi-media, film, theatre and dance. His music has been performed throughout the United States, Argentina, Europe, New Zealand, Taiwan and selected for festivals and conferences that include Third Practice, Electronic Music MidWest, National Flute Association, North American Saxophone Alliance, SCI, SEAMUS, Ocean, Imagine and the Imagine 2 Electro-Acoustic Festival which Mark founded and directed. His work has been supported by generous grants from several organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts.

As a performer, Mark has recorded and toured the U.S. with an eclectic list of ensembles: One Ring Zero, Dirtball, Edison's Talking Machine, Amorphic Revelation, Nature Boy Explorer, Easy Chair, Spike the Dog, Klezalachia, GB, J. D. Hutchinson, and Billy Rhinehart. In his current show, Mark uses a laptop, video projector, clarinet, tuba and accordion to create wordless, multimedia compositions, orchestrated with live instrument processing, prerecorded sounds and video. His compositions have been described as “a fantastic and colorful sonic journey of musical storytelling.”

He earned his D.M.A. from the University of Memphis, an M.M. from Ohio University and a B.A. from the University of Mary Washington. He is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS)

## STUDY ABROAD

At least nine UNA faculty members are currently involved in developing courses for summer study abroad. Over 100 students have indicated plans to participate. This action is consistent with our Strategic Plan which indicates a commitment to “create and enhance study abroad opportunities.” For many UNA students whose exposure to other cultures and regions is limited, this experience can be transformational. Thanks to all who support this important academic goal. Let’s start thinking about new study abroad initiatives for 2011-12.

## OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, PLANNING, AND ASSESSMENT

OIRPA has moved to new space. They are now located in Room 326 of Bibb Graves Hall and invite you by for a visit. The space they vacated, Room 17 of Bibb Graves Hall, is being returned to a handicapped-accessible classroom.

## TECHNOLOGY AND TEACHING

A speaker offered this observation at a recent conference: “There is no such thing as a face-to-face course. Even if faculty members are not using technology, students are.”

## THE NEW NORMAL

A recent article in the magazine Public Purpose entitled “Preparing for the New Normal” describes the current trend away from reliance on state funding for higher education as a permanent change, not a response to a temporary economic crisis. According to the article, higher education must “reinvent how we operate.” If you would like a copy of the article that includes ideas from the authors as to how that should occur, please contact our office.