



# Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## Welcome Back

In 2010-11, our office initiated a periodic newsletter for the campus that provides information items and highlights special events. We will continue to do so this year and invite your feedback on how we can make the newsletter beneficial to the campus. Thanks to all members of the campus community for their hard work this past year on behalf of our students. I trust 2011-12 will be a good year for UNA and thank you in advance for all each of will do to advance our mission.

## New Faculty Introduction

Walt Aldridge recently accepted a Visiting Professor position at the University of North Alabama to teach recording techniques and technologies to students in the Entertainment Industry curriculum. His plan is to bring "real world" applications and examples to the program, drawing on over 30 years of experience as a songwriter, singer, musician, engineer and producer. He has exercised his musical skills in Muscle Shoals and Nashville, writing more than 50 top 40 country hits and 8 that made it to the number 1 position. His song "No Getting Over Me" was named one of ASCAP's most performed country songs. "Holding Her and Loving You" was named Song of the Year by the Nashville Songwriters' Association International. His work spans a wide spectrum of music, including artists as diverse as Lou Reed, Peter Cetera and Blessid Union of Souls. Traditional country acts from Conway Twitty to Reba McEntire have also found success with Aldridge's songs. He also produced and co-wrote "I Loved Her First," a number one chart topper for Lofton Creek Records act Heartland. He still enjoys writing and producing music for radio, film and television and performing some 50 shows a year. His hobbies are hunting, fishing and being outdoors whenever possible.

## New Department Chairs

We are pleased to announce the appointment of two new department chairs beginning in 2011-12. Larry Adams is replacing Ron Smith as chair of English. Peggy Campbell is replacing Lee Hurren as chair of Secondary Education on an interim basis. Also, Phil Bridgmon, Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice; Craig Christy, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages; Joy Borah, Chair of the Department of Social Work; Tom Coates, Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation; and Jane Wilson, Department of Human Environmental Sciences; received reappointment to four year terms. Thanks to Ron and Lee for their dedicated service.

## Profiles in Excellence

The 2010-11 edition of this publication included 313 entries highlighting faculty accomplishments in the areas of scholarship and scholarly service. Those accomplishments demonstrate the active professional life of our faculty. To all who participated, thank you.

## SACS

The SACS report was mailed on September 7. It is 489 pages in length and provides a narrative explanation with accompanying documentation and links detailing our compliance with the 80+ SACS and federal requirements. An off-site review committee will convene in Atlanta in November and report back to us on their findings. We still have the QEP document to complete and also the development of a focused report in response to the off-site review prior to the arrival of the on-site committee in late February, 2012. There is no way to adequately describe the effort

and number of work hours required to complete the compliance report. It is an enormous task and many across campus contributed but the names of five individuals must be mentioned. Jerri Bullard, Tom Haggerty, Celia Reynolds, Phyllis Underwood, and BJ Wilson are singled out for their tireless work on behalf of the report. JOB WELL DONE!

#### Personnel Updates

Lisa Burton was recently named Associate Registrar, Lisa Keys-Mathews was recently named Director of the QEP, and Dr. Craig Robertson was recently named Director of Professional and Interdisciplinary Studies. In addition, Dr. Thomas Calhoun has received a change in title to Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs to reflect additional assignments. In addition to the Honors Program, Learning Communities, Educational Technology Services, Continuing Studies and Outreach, Academic Advising and Retention Services, the Writing Center, and Women's Studies, the following areas now report to him: Military and Veterans Affairs, Professional and Interdisciplinary Studies, Admissions Office, Registrar's Office, Student Financial Services Office, and the Quality Enhancement Program. We wish them the best with these new duties.

#### Faculty News

Dr. Jim Couch, Professor of Economics, has been appointed as a member of the Alabama State Advisory Committee (SAC) to the United States Commission on Civil Rights. The Commission conducts fact-finding activities pertaining to discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws based on race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or in the administration of justice.

Congratulations to Joy Borah and Lisa Kirch. Both are UNA's nominees for the NEH Summer 2012 Stipends. The proposal submission deadline is September 29, 2011.