



# Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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## **New Faculty**

Dr. Jessica Stovall is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics at UNA. She was born and raised in northeast Arkansas. Jessica received her B.S.E in Mathematics from Arkansas State University. Both her master's and Ph.D. degrees are from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Dr. Stovall's research is in Functional Analysis with an emphasis on Operator Theory. Jessica loves to teach and enjoys helping students foster a love of mathematics.

## **Child Defend**

On February 3, a kickoff event was held to celebrate the beginning of this statewide project which will be housed at UNA. With financial support from the Children's Trust Fund, the Child Defend program will create a network of resources to support the legal network charged with litigating cases that involve protection of children. Thanks to Phil Bridgmon and the Department of Criminal Justice for their efforts to secure this program and bring it to life at UNA. For more information, please contact Dr. Bridgmon.

## **Entertainment Industry**

The University has entered into an agreement to lease building space at the corner of Tombigbee and Pine in downtown Florence. The Department of Entertainment Industry will relocate to that space this summer. Their current space in GUC is inadequate and the new space affords numerous opportunities to grow the program. The faculty members in the department are enthusiastic about the move. Space renovations will occur in the early summer and the department will move no later than August 1. Gary Baker and the Noiseblock Music Group, an active commercial music studio, operate in the adjacent space and will work closely with the department. Also, the Keynote Room (located in the space) is a performance venue that seats 300+ that can be managed by the department to afford students a full range of entertainment industry experiences. This is an exciting partnership that should greatly benefit our students and faculty as well as downtown Florence. For more information, please contact Dr. Bob Garfrerick.

## **SACS**

In less than three weeks, the SACSCOC visiting committee will be on campus to conduct the 10-year accreditation review. The dates are February 27 through March 1. It is important that the campus community be prepared for this visit. Key to preparation at this time is becoming familiar with the QEP. Please review carefully the materials that will be shared with campus over the next two weeks. Also, give extra attention to visitors during that time. If someone appears lost, please assist them with directions. Thanks in advance for your support of this important milestone in the life of the University.

## **Accreditation**

Congratulations to the Department of Human Environmental Services for obtaining accreditation of the

interior design program from the National Kitchen and Bath Association. Much hard work by the faculty and staff of the department preceded this recognition. We are proud of our colleagues in HES!

### **Reverse Transfer**

For some time now, the University has been working with Northwest Shoals Community College to develop an agreement for UNA to work with NWSCC on identifying students eligible for reverse transfer. Reverse transfer is a practice whereby students who transfer from a community college to a senior college prior to receiving their AA degree are allowed to use credit hours accumulated at the senior college to earn their community college degree. Community college students often transfer to a senior college prior to finishing based on timing. This results in poor graduation rates. Being a good neighbor to NWSCC, UNA is willing to assist with this effort and support reverse transfer. NWSCC makes the judgment about eligibility for graduation. UNA simply provides the data. As the details are finalized, additional information will be provided.

### **Congratulations**

Autumn Slusser, a marine biology major and UNA Honors Program student, has received a grant of \$2,860 from the Audubon Society Walter F. Coxe Grant-in-Aide-of-Research program. Her proposal is entitled “Effects of Total Suspended Solids on Foraging Success in the Freshwater Snail *Leptoxis praerosa*.” Thanks to Dr. Terry Richardson and the Department of Biology as well as the Honors Program for supporting her research efforts. With the advent of the QEP, we will hopefully see more of these kinds of awards. Thanks to all faculty on campus for their support of student research.

### **Good Job!**

The College of Nursing and Allied Health recently dedicated a new simulation lab. It will use the latest technology to provide life-like, hands-on experience in clinical care for our nursing majors. Thanks to Dean Bailey and the CONAH faculty and staff for their efforts to expand simulation in their curriculum.

### **Sad News**

The State of Alabama notified UNA last week of its intent to close the Group Home for young women that has been a part of our campus for the last 18 years. The Group Home has been a place for young women in trouble when there was no place else for them and also a resource setting for the Department of Social Work and other academic programs. Thanks to all who have supported that effort, especially Professor Jackie Winston in Social Work, who has devoted much of her professional life to the management of the Group Home and who has been instrumental in its success.

<a href="#">Faculty Senate</a>	<a href="#">Staff Senate</a>	<a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>	<a href="#">Academic Departments</a>	<a href="#">Handbook and Policies</a>
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