

# Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost  
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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## Student Financial Assistance Update

Amanda Sharp, Associate Director of Student Financial Services, is serving as Treasurer-Elect of the Alabama Association of Federal Student Aid Administrators (AASFAA). She is also a committee chair for the Southern Association of Federal Student Aid Administrators (SASFAA). Thanks to Amanda for her professional involvement on behalf of our students.

## UNA Choruses

The UNA Collegiate Singers, Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble gave a performance to the Alabama Music Education Association Conference attendees on January 10 in Montgomery. Dr. Ian Loeppky served as conductor. It was a great opportunity for our students. Good job!

## Nursing News

The Teddy Bear Clinic was initiated by Dr. Wendy Darby. Preschool children bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal to school and the nursing students give them a "check-up" to help the kids understand a doctor visit.

Project MUNCH prepares gallon bags with servings of food and drink. Children who come to school hungry can have the bags put in their backpacks when they leave on Fridays. Dr. Kristy Oden initiated this project and is managing student nursing participation.

For more information on these programs contact the College of Nursing and Allied Health. Great job!

## Congratulations

Marc Anderson, a senior vocal performance major, recently participated in auditions for the Metropolitan Opera National Council, as well as the Orpheus Competition. Marc is a voice student of Dr. Terrence Brown. Good job!

## Alabama Junior Academy of Science

UNA hosted this conference last Saturday at the East Campus. Dr. Brenda Webb served as regional coordinator for the paper reading competition and Drs. Mel Blake, Lisa Blankenship and David Webb served as judges. This is a great example of professional service.

## New Faculty Introductions

Master Sergeant Keith Thompson is the new Senior Military Instructor for UNA's ROTC Program. Originally from Southwestern Arizona, MSG Thompson joined the Army in 1992 and has served at duty stations in Germany, Redstone Arsenal, and Ft. Bragg, NC., as well as numerous combat deployments during his 20-year career. He holds an undergraduate degree in criminal justice from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, and is preparing to pursue his Master of Science in Criminal Justice at UNA. He is married to Sandee Thompson from Huntsville, Alabama, and they have two children, Chace and Makinzee. Keith enjoys doing many things outdoors such as long distance running, biking (both mountain and road), hunting, fishing, marathons, and triathlons. After the completion of his assignment at UNA's ROTC program, he plans to retire from the Army and stay in the North Alabama area.

Chong Qiu received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Tsinghua University, Beijing in 2007. He then moved to the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M University, College Station. He initially worked on gyroscope-like molecules, and then changed the area of study to aerosol research focusing on two major areas: the formation and aging of soot aerosols, and the impact of amines on atmospheric particle properties. Chong successfully defended the dissertation for his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Chemistry on January 11, 2013, and is expected to receive the degree in May, 2013. Chong serves as instructor in Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene.

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