

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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SACSCOC Report

President Cale has received the final report for the substantive change visit by SACSCOC at Athens State. As expected the report cites no recommendations. This is the second year in a row we have received such a report from a SACSCOC visit. Although the official SACSCOC ruling on the Athens off-campus instructional site will not be finalized until the December 2013 annual meeting, the successful visit indicates UNA will be permitted to offer additional programs at Athens State without further review (assuming they are related to existing offerings). The Master's degree in elementary education is now underway at ASU. Thanks to all for their hard work on behalf of this successful outcome!

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Phi Kappa Phi

The board of directors of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi recently awarded the chapter of excellence distinction to 19 chapters nationally. The UNA chapter was among those honored. The award recognizes efforts by local chapters on behalf of academic excellence and service to others. Congratulations to the UNA Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. The local chapter will hold its fall initiation ceremony at 4 p.m. on November 12 in the Guillot University Center Banquet Halls. The campus is invited.

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Visitors on Campus

A nationally known consultant group NCHERM (National Council on Higher Education Risk Management) was on campus to assist UNA with the development of a comprehensive strategy for addressing compliance with Title IX. They will provide a framework for UNA to use and lend technical assistance in moving toward implementation. Last week, a consultant firm, Systems Alliance, was on campus to provide a final report that gives direction to the campus regarding IT risk assessment and action in the event of a catastrophic occurrence. Thanks to all involved in these important efforts.



Study Abroad for UNA Staff

Please keep in mind that UNA staff are eligible to receive a scholarship of \$1500 to participate in a UNA study abroad trip in 2014. Applications may be submitted to Dianne Dodson, Chair of the IPO Committee, by the January 15, 2014, deadline. To see the guidelines click [here](#).

New Faculty

Dr. Gary Padgett is a native Floridian and enrolled Cherokee tribal member. He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary social science education, a master's degree in history, and a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of South Florida in Tampa. He has earned graduate certificates in Cuban studies and diversity. His research interests involve the teaching of history, traditional cultures, and multicultural education. Dr. Padgett has experience working in the field of education in both teaching and administrative roles. He has also worked at the college level as an adjunct history instructor, in magnet schools, Title I schools, renaissance schools, and in tribal education systems. He is proud to have served as a Title I liaison and as a Title VII teacher representative.

Library System Changes at UNA

UNA Libraries migrated to a new automated library system the week of September 23. This move transitioned UNA from ExLibris Voyager to Innovative Interface's Sierra. Dramatic changes will take place behind the scenes as library employees learn new software and workflows. We will minimize the impact on users as much as possible; however, there are always glitches and unknowns when large-scale transition takes place. There may be some lag in the purchasing and processing of new materials as we bring the system online. There will be no disruption in access to online resources. Users searching the online catalog, old UNACAT, will notice some changes in the look and feel. Once we have completed the initial "go live" with the core components of the system, we will start to bring new features and functionalities online. Thanks for your patience!

Melvin Davis, Dean of Library Services

