

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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Study Abroad

The Criminal Justice Department will host its first study abroad program November 30 – December 6, 2013. Students will visit London under the direction of Instructor Wayne Bergeron, LTC (Ret.). The trip will focus on international law enforcement and emergency response. Ten students are enrolled. Congratulations to the Criminal Justice Department for its first study abroad trip.

Annual Social Work Fall Reception

The Social Work Department and the Social Work Organization hosted their annual fall reception on November 13. The theme of the conference was “Weaving Advocacy and Resiliency.” Area social workers and other licensed professionals were able to receive CEU credit for participation. Thanks to the Social Work Department for hosting this event and for extending its mission on behalf of the Shoals.

Faculty Community Service

Dr. Yaschica Williams, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, recently joined the Board of Directors of Rape Response and the newly formed Family Justice Center. Thanks to Dr. Williams for her community efforts.

New Faculty

Aaron Tennessee Benson received his MFA in ceramics from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and his BFA in ceramics from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He has been an intern at Anderson Ranch Art Center in Colorado, and a long term resident and MJD Fellow at the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana. Benson’s work has been published, collected, and exhibited throughout the United States. His work uses an assortment of material such as clay, steel, wood, concrete, and gold to explore his interests in time and eternity. He is married to Allison Benson who is also a ceramic artist. They have three beautiful children: Reese, Knox, and Bray. Aaron and Allison are both committed to the arts as a profession and lifestyle.

Dr. Andrea Hunt, Assistant Professor of Sociology, earned a bachelor’s degree in social and behavioral sciences from Rogers State University in Claremore, Oklahoma and a master’s degree in sociology at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. She earned a Ph.D. in sociology with a minor in women’s and gender studies from North Carolina State University in 2012. While at NC State, she completed the Preparing Future Faculty program and two certificate programs in college teaching. After graduating, she served as a postdoctoral teaching scholar at NC State. Her recent research focuses on families with children with disabilities and the effects that caregiving has on parental employment and mental health. Her other interests in sociology include the life course, gender, race, child and adolescent outcomes, and survey research. She is also active in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Some of her research in this area focuses on implementing problem-based learning, teaching first year students to do research, inquiry-guided learning, the pedagogical effectiveness of distance education, training graduate students to teach, and the role of academic advising in student retention.

Building Champions

The UNA Pride of Dixie Band recently attended the Bands of America Grand National Championships and the Percussion Arts Society International Conference. The Band received exemplary reviews at the Bands of America competition. On Friday, November 15, the UNA Drum Line won the championship at the Percussion Arts Society defeating Indiana University, University of Michigan, and Lamar University in a head-to-head elimination competition. What a great performance! Congratulations Dr. Jones and Dr. Moyer!



ZITS



Marshal Space Flight Center

A group from the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville came to campus last Friday to meet with faculty and staff about possible partnerships with UNA. Their schedule included a tour of campus and the planetarium, discussion with faculty from different disciplines, and a luncheon. Thanks to Melissa Medlin for coordinating the effort.