

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

Volume V, Issue 11

QEP Update

The 7th Annual Research Day will be held on April 9-10, 2014. The agenda will include the Department Exhibit Hall in the GUC Banquet Halls, as well as student presentations, lightning talks, a student research reception, and a poster competition. Faculty are asked to add these dates to their syllabus and work them into the spring schedule. Also, please announce to your students that the deadline for student abstracts for presentations and posters is February 17, 2014. Please help us involve students in this important annual event sponsored by Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Office.
Lisa Keys-Mathews

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Service Learning Professional Development

On December 4, we are excited to offer a faculty lunch workshop called *'Introduction to Service-Learning: Integrated, Critically Reflective, Democratic Engagement'* by an expert in the field, Dr. Patti Clayton. We encourage attendance from each academic department on campus; participants will leave the session with concrete possibilities for their own implementation of service-learning. Service-learning has many benefits for our students, community and partners, and our campus family. UNA's service-learning initiative will be formally introduced in January, and this professional development is a great way to kick it off! The lunch workshop on Dec. 4th will be from 11:45-1:45 in the GUC Performance Center. Please RSVP to Jana Beaver at jbeaver@una.edu by end of day on Monday, Dec. 2.

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Nursing Student Presentation

Dr. Tera Kirkman, Director of the Project OPEN Nursing Scholarship and Dr. Ernestine Davis, Co-Director, attended the S.R.E.B. (Southern Regional Education Board) regular meeting for collegiate nursing on November 16-18 in Atlanta, GA. S.R.E.B. invited them to bring OPEN students for a poster presentation. As a Project OPEN recruitment and retention strategy, graduating nursing seniors

Christopher Smith and Domonique Alexander attended and presented the poster pictured here along with a power point presentation.



New Faculty

A Florence native, Jason R. Jones spent much of his childhood chasing insects, reptiles, and other "creepy crawly" creatures throughout Lauderdale County. He graduated from Brooks High School in 1997, and received a B.A. in biology-professional biology option at UNA in 2005. He completed an M.S. in evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee in 2009, with thesis research on color patterns and jaw morphology in two species of terrestrial salamanders. He became Production Manager in 2009 for Biology in a Box, a statewide K-12 science and math educational outreach program sponsored by UT's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS). Jones joined the Department of Biology faculty at UNA as an Instructor in August 2013. He currently lives in Hartselle with a small menagerie consisting of three cats, two snakes, a recently adopted rescue rat, and a noisy beetle named Steve.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs. Anita Garner, Professor of English, on her selection as the Laura Harrison Distinguished Professor of English for 2013-2014. This is a well deserved honor! A prolific writer, she has lectured on Alabama Women Writers with the Speakers' Bureau of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. A founding board member and former president of Alabama Writers' Forum, she has served as poetry editor of *New Virginia Review* and a fiction editor of *storySouth*. Thank you for your excellent efforts!

Dr. Karen Townsend, Associate Professor of Counselor Education, received the Jean H. Cecil Distinguished Counselor Educator Award last week at the annual conference of the Alabama Counseling Association. The award is given annually to a counselor educator who has been an exemplary mentor for counselors and has a history of contributing to counselor training through teaching, publishing, presenting, and supervising at the national, regional, state and local levels. Thank you for a job well done!



Faculty Development Leave

Congratulations to Dr. Valeriy Dolmatov, Professor of Physics and Earth Science and Dr. Lesley Peterson, Associate Professor of English, for being the recipients of faculty development leave in 2014-2015. Dr. Dolmatov will be on leave in the fall semester and Dr. Peterson will be on leave in the spring semester. Both have ambitious scholarship agendas they hope to complete. Thanks to the FDL Committee for their hard work in evaluating the proposals.

