

# Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost  
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

Volume V, Issue 12

## Farewell

Dr. Paul Baird, Chair of the Department of Counselor Education, is retiring at the end of the semester. He started at UNA in 1986 as the Director of the Student Development Center. The UNA community wishes Dr. Baird the best and thanks him for his service to UNA. Dr. Sandra Loew will serve as the new Chair of the Department of Counselor Education.

Dr. Steve Smith, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, also retires at the end of the fall semester. He came to UNA in 1978. Steve has provided great leadership on behalf of UNA and quietly touched the lives of many students and employees. He has the rare gift of being a wonderful problem-solver who doesn't care who gets the credit.

The Isbell Scholars, Linda Lewis and Mike Moeller, complete their service at the end of this semester. We wish them both well in retirement and thank them for their wonderful contribution to UNA.

## Trend

Many public universities are discovering a new spirit of entrepreneurialism and creativity—perhaps engaging in the development of what Michael Crow, President of Arizona State University, has described as “institutional cultures of innovation.” See page five of [Public Purpose](#), Fall 2013. We are there!

## Isbell Scholars

The policy for Isbell Scholars was recently revised to clarify the role of Isbell Scholars in summer school. An Isbell agreement is for fall and spring semesters only, but there is language to allow for an exception in unusual cases.

## Congratulations!

Dr. Vince Brewton, Director of the Honors Program and Associate Professor of English, co-authored a successful \$5000 grant from the Anderson Family Foundation on behalf of the United Way's **Success by 6** initiative. The grant will enable construction of learning trails in Franklin, Colbert, and Lauderdale counties.

Also Congratulations to the UNA football team. They were co-champions of the GSC conference, had a 10 win season, and advanced to the third round of the NCAA playoffs. Great Job!

## New Faculty

Dr. Ashley Johnson earned her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August of 2013. Born and raised in Huntsville, Texas, she attended the University of Texas at Dallas where she earned a B.S. in mathematics in 2008. In June, Dr. Johnson was selected as a Project NExT fellow, a program of the Mathematical Association of America, for the 2013-2014 year. The program helps guide new PhDs in the transition from graduate school to full time teaching positions. In her spare time, Dr. Johnson loves to bike with her husband Robert, play and watch sports (including UNA football!), and bake.

Diane Kutz received a Bachelor's Degree in management from The University of South Florida in 1986 and an MBA in Computer Information Systems from The University of North Alabama in 2009. Diane has been employed in the College of Business as a Clinical Teaching Assistant as well as an adjunct instructor since receiving her MBA and is excited to be a full time instructor in the Department of Management and Marketing. For more than 25 years, Diane Kutz has utilized her business and technical knowledge to effectively integrate business technology in the office environment. She specializes in analyzing current business processes and applying office automation in order to improve efficiency.

## Teacher - Scholar

A recent article, [What Does it Mean to Be a Teacher—Scholar?](#), in *Peer Review*, Summer 2013, describes the role of a teacher—scholar.

## Holiday

On behalf of the academic affairs office, we wish all members of the UNA community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



Dr. John G. Thornell,  
Vice President for  
Academic Affairs & Provost  
Phone: 256.765.4258  
[jthornell@una.edu](mailto:jthornell@una.edu)

Ms. Renee' P. Vandiver,  
Assistant to the Vice President  
Phone: 256.765.4258  
[rpvandiver@una.edu](mailto:rpvandiver@una.edu)

Ms. Phyllis Underwood  
Administrative Assistant  
Phone: 256.765.5950  
[punderwood@una.edu](mailto:punderwood@una.edu)

