

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

Volume V, Issue 14

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At the magazine's Renaissance Awards ceremony on January 9, two UNA faculty received special awards. Alan Flowers was recognized with the Renaissance Award in Arts & Culture and Bill Strong was recognized with the Renaissance Award in Education and also the overall Renaissance Award. Congratulations to Alan and Bill for this special recognition.

New Faculty

Dr. Jill Simpson is an Instructor in Computer Information Systems in the College of Business. She received a Ph.D. degree in Instructional Leadership with an emphasis in Instructional Technology from the University of Alabama. She received an M.B.A. degree with an emphasis in CIS and a B.S. degree in business technology management, and organizational and human resource management from the University of North Alabama. Jill served as the Director of Teacher Certification in the College of Education and Human Sciences at UNA, and as an adjunct instructor and a clinical teaching assistant in Computer Information Systems for the past nine years. Her research interests include improving the quality of online education. Jill has lived in Florence her entire life, and continues to reside here with her husband and son.

Jonathan Merrill Simms, Library Technology Coordinator, earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Georgia Southern University, followed by a master's degree in library and information studies from the University of Alabama. A resident of Florence since 2007, he spent over five years serving as systems administrator/systems librarian for the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library before coming to UNA. His research interests include the effect of technology and the rise of computer-mediated communication both on social negotiations and on information access in general; how persons of invisible difference (whether that difference is one of ability, orientation, or socio-economic status) are both empowered by and underserved by ready access to digital information; and user experience-based design of data visualization tools.

Research Day

Please mark your calendars for Research Day to be held on April 9 & 10, 2014, in the GUC Banquet Halls. New to Research Day 2014 is the "Three Minute Thesis Competition". All students, undergraduate or graduate, are invited to participate. Students are not required to submit a paper, thesis, or document in order to compete; all disciplines and student research or projects are eligible. If possible, please consider incorporating the Three Minute Thesis concept into your classes. Check out the website <http://threeminutethesis.org/> for additional information.

Please try to work Research Day into your spring schedule. The deadline for student abstracts for presentations and posters is February 17, 2014. Please help us involve students in this important annual event.

Lisa Keys-Mathews

MBA Marketing

The College of Business has signed an agreement with Collegis Education to lead interactive marketing for its MBA. Click [here](#) to see the press release.

The Value of Higher Education

"The worth of [students'] work and the worth of their education is measured in the lives they touch and change for the better, not the size of their bank accounts." (PATRICIA MCGUIRE, President of Trinity Washington University (DC), in her Huffington Post article, "The True Worth of a Higher Education." www.acene.edu/truworth)

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January 16, 2013