



Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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The Commons

The new academic and student commons building is nearing completion. The first floor will include the UNA Bookstore, Listerhill Credit Union, Mane Card Office, Chic-Fil-A, Starbucks, and Frostbite. The second floor will house the University Success Center. The third floor will house the V.P for Enrollment Management and Student Financial Services. There will also be additional classrooms and a conference room. The opening will occur in mid-February, some on the 10th and the rest on the 17th.

The building will be named The Commons for now and represents an exciting addition to campus. For inquiring coffee drinkers, Starbucks will open on Monday, February 17.

New Faculty

Dr. Jesse Prince-Lubawy is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Originally from Sacramento, California, Dr. Prince-Lubawy received his bachelor of science degree in mathematics from the University of California, Irvine in 2007. From there, he continued on to graduate school in the Midwest and received both his master's degree in mathematics (2009) and his Ph.D. in mathematics (2013) from Saint Louis University. Dr. Prince-Lubawy specializes in low-dimensional topology. He hopes to continue his own research (finite group actions on handlebodies) along with working with undergraduates to solve problems in algebra, analysis, and topology. Dr. Prince-Lubawy began his teaching career in 2008 and has taught at a variety of schools including universities and community colleges. He is proud to be part of the UNA family and looks forward to many years here at UNA.

Dr. Meghan Merciers is an Assistant Professor of Music and teaches clarinet, saxophone and music theory. She received a bachelor's in music from the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga (2000), a master's in music from the University of New Mexico (2005), and a D.M.A. from Michigan State University (2011). She is a member of the Encantado Trio, and is an active soloist and collaborative musician, frequently performing new chamber and multimedia works for clarinet. Quite recently, Meghan premiered two works for clarinet trio at the International Clarinet Association's Clarinet

Fest 2013 in Assisi, Italy. She has played in many regional orchestras in Michigan, including the French-American Chamber Orchestra of Flint, Michigan and Lyon, France. She has given numerous master classes throughout the United States, and was a lecturer and performer-in-residence at Conservatoire de Limonest outside Lyon, France in 2012 and 2010. In June 2013, Meghan was invited to review the University of Oklahoma's 36th Annual Clarinet Symposium, and her article was published in the December 2013 edition of *The Clarinet* quarterly journal.

Reminder

Scholarships of \$1,500 are available for UNA staff to participate in UNA Study Abroad trips in 2014. View the [guidelines](#) here. For application information contact Evelyn Roberson at ebroberson@una.edu. The deadline is January 15, 2014.

Harvard Grading Rubric

A Harvard professor offered a humorous, tongue-in-cheek description of the university grading rubric as a protest against grade inflation. Click [here](#) to read. (The New York Times, December 15, 2013, p. SR3)

Tweet of the Week from The Flor-Ala

"FSU better be glad UNA isn't D1"

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