



Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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Graduate Council

The Graduate Council met on September 20, 2012. Among items approved were new courses in study abroad, political science and music. The study abroad courses are one-hour courses designed to prepare students for a successful experience in China. The political science and music courses help the departments respond to special student situations that can't be addressed by current offerings. Thanks to all departments for being continual caretakers of their curriculum, ensuring they meet student needs.

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Why monitor class attendance?



Faculty members have different philosophies about tracking class attendance. Two factors are now in place that encourage both faculty and students to give more attention to class attendance. First, there are new federal regulations that require us to report attendance in cases of potential student aid fraud. Be mindful that the University incurs significant financial cost each year as we pay back the federal government for many such cases. The better system faculty have in place for tracking attendance the more likely fraud can be identified. Second, student retention is a central university goal and poor class attendance is a high-risk indicator. Intervention should occur when students show a pattern of excessive class absences. A student retained is just as valuable as a student recruited. Thank you for your help.

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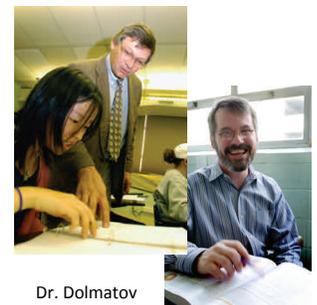


Good Job!

Our office recently received a call from a parent. The father wanted to share with us how well prepared his son was for graduate school and as a teaching assistant at Auburn. He specifically mentioned the excellent teaching and mentoring provided by Dr. Val Dolmatov and by Dr. Brian Thompson in the Physics and Earth Science Department. Once again, we are reminded of the good work done by our faculty and the influence they have on our students.

New Faculty Introduction

Dr. Randy Shadburn serves as Associate Professor of Education and Coordinator of the Education Specialist Degree Program at UNA. He resides in Corinth, Mississippi, and is married to Sherri Shadburn (Director of Nursing and Allied Health at Northeast Mississippi Community College). They have two children, Russ and Anna, a daughter-in-law, Brooke and one grandson, Mason. Randy holds an M.A.Ed. and Ph.D. in Education from the University of Mississippi.



Dr. Dolmatov

Dr. Thompson

Randy began his career teaching high school biology, chemistry and physics for 11 years, then taught physics and physical science for 12 years at Northeast Mississippi Community College. He also served as a High School Principal in Alcorn County, Mississippi. Upon retiring in Mississippi, Randy served as Associate Professor of Education, Associate Dean of Graduate Education and Ed.S./Ed.D. Program Director at Union University.