

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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Chronicle of Higher Education

The lead article in the October 19 issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* listed 15 ideas for reinventing colleges and universities. Idea number one was: **An Old-School Notion: Writing Required**. The article reported on a major research project summarized as follows:

“The researchers found that clearly explained assignments in which freshmen and seniors had to construct meaning through their writing—summarize something they had read, explain in writing the meaning of numerical or statistical data, argue a position using evidence and reasoning—had a noticeable effect on deep and sustained learning.”

Reflections by Ron Shady (Retiring December, 2012)

During my 33 plus years here I have seen many changes to the campus. I have seen the Guillot University Center built, the Raburn wing added to Keller Hall, and the streets in front of the Student Union Building and beside Bibb Graves disappear and become walkways.

Changes in administration have been for the positive. The current administration is the most cohesive and productive administration that I have seen. I want to thank all of the administrative assistants at all levels, the entire staff, and maintenance for the excellent jobs that they do. All of them are never thanked enough for holding us together and helping us to function well. Keep moving forward UNA.

New Faculty Introductions

Carolyn Barske (Carrie) is an Assistant Professor of History in the College of Arts and Sciences and is developing the new public history concentration within the master's degree program. Carrie holds a bachelor's degree in U.S. history and women's studies from Sewanee: The University of the South (2002); a master's degree in history and public history from Northeastern University (2004); and a Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2011). Carrie was a fellow at the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation in 2004. She has taught at the University of Alabama, Huntsville and Middle Tennessee State University. Carrie also served as the Associate Director of the Sewanee Equestrian Center from 2008 to 2011, which is home to the nationally recognized Sewanee Equestrian Team. Carrie relocated to Florence from Sewanee, Tennessee, with her fiancé, Ben Goubeaud, (an arborist), his 12 year-old daughter, Grace, 2 horses, 2 dogs, and 2 cats.

Franklin R. Beckles is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences. He received a bachelor's degree in science from Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas, Venezuela (1999), and a doctoral degree in chemistry from Baylor University, Waco, Texas (2005). Prior to coming to UNA, he was a Visiting Professor of Chemistry at the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas, for two years; an adjunct Professor of Chemistry at Mountain View College, Dallas, Texas, for five years; and worked as a postdoctoral scientist at Macrocyclics Inc., designing and preparing novel compounds for molecular imaging and cancer research applications. He enjoys the outdoors, running and traveling.

Congratulations!

Whitney O'Neal, part-time flute instructor in the Department of Music and Theatre, has completed her doctoral degree requirements at the University of Alabama and will receive the degree in December. Whitney is married to Eric O'Neal, Assistant Professor of HPER. They make a great team for UNA!

Literacy Research

Excerpt from *Literacy and the Generations: Exploring iPads in Early Literacy*, by Kaitlin Ashley and Dr. Katie Kinney.



“According to research, one-half (52%) of 0 to 8 year olds have access to a smartphone, iPod, or iPad tablet. Furthermore, one in ten of these children use these devices for an average of 43 minutes a day.”

Conclusion: Future generations of UNA students will have excellent technical skills and expect to use those skills as a learning tool.

Great FlorAla Tweet! “By the time I leave UNA I'll have a minor in parallel parking!”

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