

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

Volume IV, Issue 11

Congratulations!

The College of Business received reaffirmation of accreditation by the ACBSP Board of Commissioners on November 18. Formal documentation is expected in early December. Congratulations to all who worked so hard in this effort.

Success!

Dr. Melissa Driskell, Department of Physics and Earth Science, successfully defended her dissertation at the University of Memphis. Congratulations on a job well done!

Isbell Scholar, Bill Strong (Retiring December, 2012)

Retirement is not an end to my professional academic life but a segue into the exciting world of the Isbell Scholar. The *William Reese Strong Endowment for Geography Education* will provide funding for geography activities at UNA and for outreach to the K-12 geography classroom in Alabama. My longstanding relationship with the National Geographic Society as co-coordinator of the Alabama Geographic Alliance will continue, with prospects for additional grant funding to support geography education. As an Isbell Scholar, I plan to be an integral faculty member in the Department of Geography and contribute to teaching and all departmental activities. After almost 40 years at UNA, I look forward to giving back to the University that has nurtured and supported me as a faculty member and, more importantly, the Department of Geography.

New Faculty Introductions

Dr. Shilpa Dasgupta, who goes by Shilpa, is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences. She received a bachelor's degree from St. Xavier's College, India; a master's degree from Jadavpur University, India, in 2002; a master's degree from the University of Colorado Denver in 2007; and a doctorate degree in mathematics (graph theory) from the University of Colorado Denver in 2011. Prior to her appointment at UNA, she worked for some time as a faculty member at Front Range Community College, Westminster, Colorado. Shilpa has two little girls, Isha, age four and Anoushka who just turned one. Her husband's name is Raj. Shilpa and her family enjoy watching movies and travelling.

Dr. Ulrich Groetsch joined the UNA community as Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Political Science. Originally from Bavaria, Germany, he earned his doctorate in 2008 from Rutgers University with a focus on early modern European intellectual history. Before coming to UNA, he taught courses at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, and held a post-doctoral fellowship at the *Research Center for Social and Cultural Studies* in Erfurt, Germany. Dr. Groetsch's research focuses on cultures of knowledge and learning during the early modern period. He is currently revising his book manuscript on the eighteenth-century philologist and Enlightenment radical Hermann Samuel Reimarus (1698-1764) for publication.

A New Twist on Tenure



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