



Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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Congratulations!

Earlier this week at the annual SACSCOC meeting in Dallas, UNA received reaffirmation of accreditation for 10 years. We did so with no follow up or additional report required. Thanks to all members of the UNA community for the hard work in helping us achieve this outstanding result.

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Commencement

The commencement ceremony is Friday evening at 7 p.m. Betty Nguyen will be the speaker. Approximately 556 students will receive degrees and approximately 497 are scheduled to march.

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New Faculty Introductions

Joon Yea Lee is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Broadcast and Digital Journalism. Joon began her broadcast journalism career as a radio reporter while in college. She received a bachelor's degree in mass communications with a minor in English literature from Sogang University, a Jesuit college in Seoul, Korea. She continued both her education and broadcast career at the University of Missouri at Columbia, where she received a master's degree in journalism. In Korea, she worked for a global marketing research company, TNS, and as a journalist at Arirang Radio/TV Network. She will receive a Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Texas at Austin in May 2013. She teaches production courses and broadcast journalism at UNA.

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Christopher W. Purser is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice. Chris received a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology from UNA in December 1999, a master's degree in sociology from Mississippi State University in May 2003, and a Ph.D. in sociology from Mississippi State in December 2010. During his eight years as a graduate student at Mississippi State, Chris was a full-time instructor in the Department of Sociology, as well as primary academic advisor for the Criminal Justice/Corrections Certificate Program within the sociology major for two years. Prior to his appointment in criminal justice, Chris was an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Murray State University, in Murray, Kentucky, from August 2010 to July 2012. Chris and his wife Stephanie are originally from Florence, and they have two small children, Claudia (3), and Ian (1). In their spare time, they enjoy hiking, backpacking, and anything pertaining to popular culture: most notably, music.

Isbell Scholar

Dr. Linda Lewis has over 34 years of teaching experience in P-12 and in higher education. She joined UNA in January 2005 and is retiring as a full professor of Secondary Education effective December 2012. Dr. Lewis was the 2010-2011 recipient of the Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Teaching, a well-deserved acknowledgement of her commitment to teaching excellence. We commend her for the desire to contribute even more to UNA as an Isbell Scholar!

Good Work!

As another successful semester at UNA comes to a close, thanks to the faculty, staff and administration for all you do for all students and in support of your colleagues.

