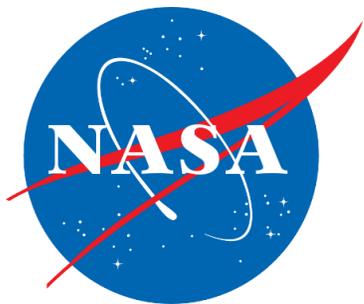


UNA-NASA Partnership



On Tuesday, February 7th, UNA and NASA signed a partnership agreement that opens up opportunities for research, patent application and experiential learning that could help lift NASA to Mars, and UNA students into careers with the space giant. A key element to the partnership is a patent development class that gives students access to NASA's patent portfolio. Student teams will select patents and research, and analyze the commercial opportunities for NASA technologies.

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Experiential Learning Conference

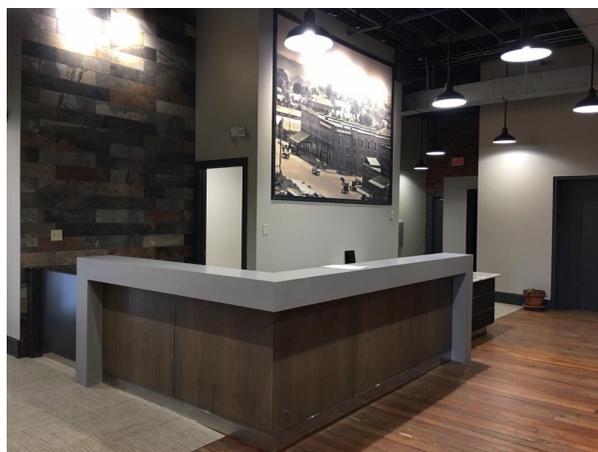
On Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, the University of North Alabama hosted the Best Practices in Experiential Learning Conference. Over 130 faculty and staff participated in the conference, which focused on best practices in internships and service learning; undergraduate research and integrated learning; study abroad and field experiences; integrating experiential learning into the curriculum; and legal practices in working with students outside the classroom. Funding for the conference was provided by the University of North Alabama VPAA's office, Quality Enhancement Plan, University Honors Program, the College of Arts & Sciences, & the College of Business.



Department Receives New Name

The University of North Alabama College of Education and Human Sciences announced that the Human Environmental Sciences Department will now be known as the Connie D. McKinney Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design. The naming was made possible by a \$1 million gift from Chester McKinney, Jr. and Joe McKinney in their desire to honor their late mother, Connie.

Mrs. McKinney studied Home Economics at Florence State Teachers College, now the University of North Alabama, graduating in 1950. Her passion for helping improve the quality of life for families in her community was exemplified by her work with the Franklin County Extension Service of Auburn University. In her role as a demonstration agent, McKinney made a positive impact on those she served by providing valuable, practical information on budgeting and meal planning, modeling new appliances and hosting a weekly radio program on similar topics. The Connie D. McKinney Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design is a fitting tribute to McKinney's dedication to the community she loved and served.



Entrance to the Connie D. McKinney Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design's new facilities.

New Faculty Bio

A native of the Mississippi Delta, Dr. Stephanie L. Coker holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in French from Mississippi College (2000) and the master's and doctoral degrees in French from Louisiana State University (2004, 2007). She joins the Department of Foreign Languages as Visiting Assistant Professor of French. In her courses, Dr. Coker is passionate about introducing students to cultures of the Francophone world; and she incorporates music, film, literature, and current events to develop students' language proficiency as well as their cross-cultural understanding. She has taught summer courses in Paris, France. Her research focuses on the late-medieval hero, Jeanne d'Arc, and the literary depictions of her story. Dr. Coker has retraced Jeanne's steps by touring Domrémy, Vaucouleurs, Chinon, Poitiers, Orléans, Reims, Paris, and Rouen. Her most recent publication examines the American television series Joan of Arcadia. At UNA, she serves as the faculty advisor to the French Club.



Open Invitation

We invite your feedback and stories to make the newsletter more beneficial to campus. Please send submissions with pictures to:

djohnson@una.edu.