

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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Congratulations

Natasha Lindsey, Instructional Designer in Education Technology Services, defended her dissertation on January 22, 2014, at the University of Alabama. Her Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership, with an emphasis in Instructional Technology, will be conferred in May.

Three UNA staff have been awarded Study Abroad Travel Grants through the UNA Staff Scholarship Program. Bret Jennings, Director of University Events and Bethany Oliver, Student Engagement, will be traveling with Dr. Koti's group to Tanzania, and Kathleen Richards, Assistant Director of the Writing Center, will be with Drs. Bibbee and Peterson's group in London.

The Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, under the leadership of Judy Sizemore, has received a grant of \$5,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to help fund the 3614 Jackson Highway project, an interpretive plan for the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio. Learn more [here](#).

Ben Baker, Director, Student Financial Services, was awarded \$15,000 from the State of Alabama, Opening Doors College Access Challenge Grant. The grant provides funding to support workshops to educators, students, and parents for college financial planning assistance.

Stephanie Smith, Student Employment Coordinator, received a grant for \$2,000 from the Walmart Foundation. The award is for the support of Student Employment Week Activities sponsored by UNA's Office of Student Employment.

The James E. Holland and James Randal Holland Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in art who demonstrate financial need.

Advancement News

The Dr. Tom E. Moore Memorial Music Endowed Scholarship was signed last week. This scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in music.

Dr. Mike Moeller created three new endowments as a result of his participation in the Isbell Scholars Program. The Michael B. Moeller Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in Chemistry, Option I, or the equivalent. The Catherine Goode Moeller Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to students pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts, or the equivalent. The Chairman's Discretionary Endowment will be used to support activities which enhance the academic mission of the Department of Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene.

Dr. Bill Strong has continued his participation in the Isbell Scholars Program for an additional semester, during Spring 2014.

Ms. Diane Zills, a current student, established the Zills Rising Above Current Use Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to non-traditional students in the helping (health or mental health related) profession, preference given to a single parent, and demonstrated financial need. This scholarship will award \$1,000 to be divided between Fall 2014 and Spring 2015.

Melissa Pettus

New Faculty

Dr. Lee Raney, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, was born and raised in the great state of Florida. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Florida Atlantic University, and his master's and doctoral degrees (also in mathematics) from the University of Florida. His mathematical training is in finite group theory, particularly modular representation theory and character theory. Recently, however, he has forayed into the study of nonassociative structures such as quasigroups and loops. In his very limited amount of spare time, Dr. Raney enjoys cooking, playing golf and ultimate frisbee, listening to music and playing the guitar, and watching his favorite sports teams-- the Florida Gators, the Miami Heat and the Dolphins, and the Cincinnati Bengals.

Dr. Isaac M. Sleadd is an Assistant Professor of Biology. He was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri, where he began his studies at Columbia College. He then transferred to Portland State University in Oregon where he earned his B.S. in molecular biology and microbiology. Isaac's doctoral work (also at Portland State) focused on life in extreme environments—specifically, how do Antarctic fishes thrive at sub-freezing temperatures, and how will they be affected by climate change? To pursue this work, he spent a total of five months living and working in McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Since moving to Florence with his wife, Sandra Keeney, Isaac has become particularly interested in jellyfish—especially the Lion's Mane, which arguably has more school spirit than any other species. Isaac is currently building his research laboratory, which will bring together marine biology, neuroscience and ecological physiology. His teaching specialties are cell biology, human anatomy and physiology, and biochemistry.

Thanks!

Kudos to Stephen Putnam, Craig Michael, and Sarah Murray, Information Technology Services, for their prompt resolution to an Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) software issue. Information Technology Services' expeditious customer service allowed OSP to submit a faculty grant proposal by the submission deadline. Without ITS' knowledgeable assistance hours of faculty time would have been lost. OSP extends their appreciation to Stephen, Craig, and Sarah.

Dr. Tanja Blackstone

Dr. John G. Thornell,
Vice President for
Academic Affairs & Provost
Phone: 256.765.4258
jthornell@una.edu

Ms. Renee' P. Vandiver,
Assistant to the Vice President
Phone: 256.765.4258
rpvandiver@una.edu

Ms. Phyllis Underwood
Administrative Assistant
Phone: 256.765.5950
punderwood@una.edu

