



Vandiver Receives Honors!

We congratulate Ms. Renee Vandiver on receiving the 2016 UNA Outstanding Alumni Service Award! Thank you for your 28 years of excellent service!

It has been a sincere privilege to be employed at my alma mater for the past 28 years. It was a wonderful experience to celebrate the achievement at the Homecoming Alumni Banquet with three of the Provosts under whom I have served, most notably Dr. Joseph Thomas, the first VPAA and Provost, who taught me everything I know! ~Ms. Renee Vandiver, Executive Assistant to the Provost

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UNA's PMA Celebrates 20 Years!

Lion Pride shines as UNA continues to enhance diversity! The University of North Alabama (UNA) is pleased to announce the triumph of the Presidential Mentors Academy's (PMA) celebration, *A Night of Class and Elegance, Celebrating 20 Years of Success*. The event took place on Friday, October 6 at the Radisson in Sheffield, Alabama. Dr. Ernestine Davis, co-founder of PMA, was recognized for her commitment to diversity and outstanding service to the PMA program. PMA strives for excellence by prioritizing the academic needs of underrepresented students by providing scholarships, one-on-one mentoring, and peer support.



Congratulations!!

Please join us in congratulating the following individuals on their new positions and titles: Dr. Joy Borah, *Senior AVPAA*; Ms. Darlene Townsend, *Interim University Librarian*; Dr. Tanja Blackstone (not pictured), *Interim Institutional Point of Contact for Grant and Sponsored Programs*; and Dr. Molly Vaughn, *Interim Director for OIRPA*.



New Faculty

UNA welcomes Dr. Tabitha Blasingame who received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of North Alabama; her Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of North Alabama; and her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from South University. She holds the certifications of critical care registered nurse (CCRN) and cardiac surgery certification (CSC).



Faculty Research Funding

In support of faculty research, the Office of Academic Affairs is pleased to announce an increase in research funding for the 2017-2018 academic year. Information regarding application deadlines will be forthcoming. In addition, faculty are requested to send their proposals for IRB and Human Subject approval to irb@una.edu. Many thanks to Dr. Chanhong Kang, Chair of the University Research Committee, and Dr. Kristy Oden, Chair of the IRB Committee, for their valuable service and leadership to these committees.

Faculty Recognition



Dr. Gary Padgett (Secondary Education) led his team of undergraduate preservice teachers from the College of Education and Human Sciences to work in, and learn about, the educational systems of indigenous communities in Northeast Oklahoma at Oaks Indian Mission. UNA student, Harper Canaday, states, "This trip was a once in a lifetime experience. I had the chance to travel to Oklahoma with strangers who became my family all while learning about a culture and having the kids at Oaks impact my life and my personal thoughts on teaching." Thank you Dr. Padgett for your positive contribution to our students and our community.

Open Invitation

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

mgraham2@una.edu