



**NAA Executive Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, April 9, 2021
10:00 – 11:00 AM
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)**

I. Call to Order:

The second of four Board of Directors meetings of the UNA National Alumni Association was held on Friday, April 9, 2021, via Zoom. President Mary Leigh Gillespie called the business meeting to order at 10:04 am.

a. Roll Call and Quorum Report:

Present Board members: Susan Adams, Bishop Alexander, Lisa Clayton, Mary Leigh Gillespie, Savannah Liles, Christa Raney, Gale Satchel, and Tosha-Paige Whitten

Present Board-at-Large members: Jeremy Baham, Rita Buckley, Mike Byers, Gaye Choat, Mike Curtis, Clayton Grider, John Hager, Allison Hall, Cody Holder, Mike Holt, Latasha Howell, Ann-Marie Irons, Eric Kirkman, Anna Milwee, Tina Smith, Sherri Stewart, and Denise Watts

Absent Board Members: Will Hodges, Justin McGill, and Christy Waters

Absent Board at Large Members: Kimberly Alewine, Robert Calhoun, Ryan Clayton, Chris Depew, Melanie Harris, Nicole Henderson, Mason Kirkland, Chris Whitten, and Chelsea Yarber.

Present Non-Board Members: Chloe Brownell, Alumni Relations Grad Student; Tammy Rhodes, Director of First-Year Experience; and Sherry Wilkes, Alumni Relations Senior Administrative Assistant.

UNA Club Presidents: Jeanne Cook and Mike Byers, Mississippi Club; and Tyler Delano, Tuscaloosa Club

b. Approval of Minutes:

Mary Leigh asked for a motion to approve the 03/9/2020 Board at Large meeting minutes. Mike Byers made the motion, and Clayton Grider provided a second.

II. Campus Spotlight Speaker:

Ms. Tammy Rhodes, Director of First-Year Experience, provided an overview of the work and goals of the First-Year Experience Program. Ms. Rhodes wants to create an alumni database so that FYE instructors can invite alumni to serve as guest speakers in these classes. She looks forward to working with alumni to connect alumni to freshmen. She will provide a link for alumni to fill out, and then she will share that link with instructors so that they can select alumni speakers who connect to their course themes and needs.

III. NAA Officer & Standing Committee Reports:

- a. Alumni Programs/Benefits:** Mike Byers reviewed the recent work of the committee. The committee has created a survey for Board members. Please complete this survey and return it to Ms. Sherry. The committee requests guidance from the membership

Via chat, Tosha-Paige reminded the Board of a Listerhill affinity Keystone Card that benefits alumni. Clayton added that any alumni benefit is helpful, but we need to find a way to “have a slice of the pie for UNA, too.”

- b. Finance Committee:** In Justin’s absence, Bishop provided the following financial report:

- i. Alumni Association Greatest Needs Fund**—The current balance is \$43,304.81.
- ii. Alumni Association Distinguished Endowed Scholarship**— The current balance is \$31,799. Bishop announced that we will be able to award the first scholarship this fall.
- iii. Alumni Association Current-Use Scholarship**— The current balance is \$0.00.
- iv. Donor Walk-Through Event**—The UNA Foundation hosted a donor’s event for donors who participated in the Legacy Initiative fundraiser. The next payment of \$3,000 for the Alumni Association’s bench is due on October 1. Photos of the AA bench at Harrison Plaza were emailed.
- v. UNA Foundation Endowment Report**—
- vi. Golf Tournament and Homecoming**—The Association will host the golf tournament this fall during Homecoming, which is October 16.

- c. Student to Alumni Experience**—Savannah highlighted numerous upcoming opportunities for alumni to participate with undergraduate students. She specifically mentioned Light the Fountain and a summer fishing tournament. The committee is still working on the mentor program (possible launch date this fall).

- d. **Alumni Events & Special Projects**—Gaye reported that the committee is waiting on permission from UNA to host Handy Night. The City of Florence has stated that the Handy Festival will take place. If we receive permission, UNA Handy Night will be the last Tuesday in July.
- e. **Alumni Club Reports**—Tyler Delano, President of the Tuscaloosa Club, reported that a basketball event was postponed, but the club is working on a t-shirt fundraiser with sales to begin in May. The Club is also hosting a Trash Pandas game on July 24. One hundred tickets will be available at \$16 each (ticket price includes admission to the game and food/drink, excluding alcohol). The Tuscaloosa Club plans to invite the Shoals and Decatur Clubs. The Tuscaloosa Club is looking for virtual events until they resume face-to-face events.

Gale reported that the Black Alumni Club hosted a successful virtual party during Homecoming.

- f. **Student Alumni Association (SAA) Report**—Chloe reported that twenty students interviewed to be Student Alumni Ambassadors. Combining newly chosen ambassadors and returning ambassadors, we have around twenty participants. These students are excited about their positions and about meeting alumni. If you want to become more involved with the ambassadors and this program, contact Chloe at cbrownell@una.edu or 256-765-5188.

Chloe thanked Bishop, Sherry, and Savannah for helping with the interview process.

IV. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

V. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

VI. Discussion

- a. **UNA Spring Homecoming Weekend**—Mary Leigh recapped the wonderful Spring Homecoming week that took place on March 11-14.
 - i. UNA Homecoming Alumni Awards Ceremony Recap—March 12
 - ii. Homecoming photos: Review the Homecoming photos at the following link: <https://northalabama.smugmug.com/Events/Homecoming-2017/UNA-Homecoming-2021>

- b. Next NAA Board Meeting**—Mary Leigh and Bishop requested feedback regarding our next NAA Board meeting.
 - i.** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 – 11:00 a.m. – Noon (CST)
 - ii.** Campus or Virtual Meeting? Bishop asked the Board if they preferred a campus or virtual meeting, and the Board overwhelmingly requested a campus meeting. Sherry requested that people RSVP so that she can reserve a room that will accommodate our group. Bishop suggested lunch after the 11:00 meeting.
- c. Alumni Engagement**—Bishop requested that alumni leaders provide feedback concerning virtual events that they may have been a part of.

Mary Leigh reminded the Board of National Siblings Day, and Gayle suggested spouse and legacy days as well.

VII. NAA President’s Report:

- a. UNA Giving Day Results**—On March 9, 2021, the donations totaled \$113,736.21.
 - i. Donors:** 230
 - ii. Gifts:** 248
 - iii. Gifts Received from States:** 19 states were represented.
- b. UNA Spring Enrollment Update**—The following link explains the university’s reenrollment report:
 - i.** <https://www.una.edu/pressroom/detail.php?id=1698&date=2021-03-19>
- c. Light the Fountain, now scheduled on Wednesday, April 28**—Mary Leigh encouraged Board members to attend, and Bishop and Mary Leigh reviewed the following schedule:
 - i.** Harrison Plaza
 - ii.** 7:00 pm—Music Begins
 - iii.** 7:45 pm—Pep Rally Begins
 - iv.** 8:00 pm—LFT Ceremony Begins
 - v.** 8:15 pm – 9 pm—Music to close the evening
 - vi.** Special LFT Guest Honoree—Alumna Carol Lyles Reeves, ‘70
 - vii.** Masks are mandatory and social distancing will be enforced for COVID safety protocols
 - viii.** <https://www.una.edu/tradition/light-the-fountain/index.html>

- d. **UNA Food Pantry**—Mary Leigh encouraged Board members to support the UNA Food Pantry: <https://www.una.edu/students/Food-Pantry/index.html>.
- e. **Brick Purchase**—Mary Leigh encouraged Board members to participate in the Legacy Initiative.
 - i. Alumni and Friends—<https://www.fundraisingbrick.com/online-orders/unalegacyalum/>
 - ii. For additional information regarding the engraved brick campaign, contact Laura Hamner at lhamner1@una.edu or call (256) 765-5080.

VIII. Alumni Director's Report:

- a. **Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College Naming Ceremony**—Bishop reported on this event. More info at the following links:
 - i. <https://www.una.edu/pressroom/detail.php?id=1696&date=2021-03-11>
- b. **Save the Date, Fall 2021 Homecoming Weekend**—Bishop provided a brief overview of Homecoming 2021, which is scheduled for October 14-16.
 - i. Fall 2021 Homecoming Nominations – April 1 – July 1
 - ii. Nomination Link: <https://www.una.edu/alumni/awards/index.html>
 - iii. Fall 2021 Homecoming Alumni Awards Ceremony – October 15
 - iv. Fall 2021 Homecoming Theme Contest – April 8 – April 30
- c. **Fall 2021 Homecoming Theme Contest**—April 8 – April 30
 - i. Submit theme ideas to alumni1@una.edu. Contestants are encouraged to submit a theme around the “Year of the Woman.”
- d. **The Year of the Woman Celebration**—June 2021 – July 2022
 - i. www.una.edu/unawoman
 - ii. Kickoff celebration will be featured in the UNA Magazine (June distribution).
 - iii. The Sesquicentennial Task Force Co-Chairs Michelle Eubanks and COAS Associate Dean Jeff Bibbee will address the alumni board at the July 20 meeting about the yearlong celebration and Weekend of Women in spring 2022.
- e. **Sportsman Club Name Change**—The Sportsman's Club has changed its name:
 - i. North Alabama Lions Athletic Club
 - ii. http://roarlions.com/sports/2015/5/25/GEN_0525155032.aspx

IX. Alumni News and Campus Announcements:

Mary Leigh and Bishop reported on upcoming events and noted opportunities for Board members to participate.

a. UNA SOAR Orientation

- i. Volunteers are needed. To sign up, please use the following link: www.una.edu/orientation. Bishop requested that alumni send their information to Savannah if they want to volunteer.

b. SOAR 2021 Summer Schedule

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|------------------------|------------|
| i. Freshman SOAR I | June 7-8 |
| ii. Freshman SOAR II | June 14-15 |
| iii. Freshman SOAR III | June 28-29 |
| iv. Freshman IV | July 8-9 |
| v. Freshman V | July 12-13 |
| vi. Freshman VI | July 15-16 |

c. Celebration Saturdays

- i. Saturday, April 24, 2021
- ii. Email special announcements and photos to alumni1@una.edu or cbrownell@una.edu by April 20.

d. Spring 2021 Commencement - <https://www.una.edu/registrar/>

- i. May 7-8 - Norton Auditorium (This even will be livestreamed.)
- ii. Students are allowed only 4 guests (This number includes infants and children.)
- iii. All graduates, guests, and staff will be required to wear mask.
- iv. Seating will be socially distanced at Norton Auditorium

e. North Alabama Athletics

- i. Athletics Giving Day – Tuesday, May 18, 2021
- ii. Summer Day Camps – will be posted on athletic social media pages soon

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.

2021 NAA Executive Board – Virtual Meetings

- January 12, 2021 - 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- March 9, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- **May 11, 2021 - 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)**
- **July 13, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)**
- **September 14, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)**

2021 NAA Board of Directors – Virtual Meetings

- January 8, 2021 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (CST)
- April 9, 2021 – 10:00 am – 11:00 am (CST)
- **July 20, 2021 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (CST)**
 - Guest Speakers: Past NAA President Michelle Eubanks & Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee (COAS Associate Dean) will address the board about to speak about the Year of the UNA Woman and Weekend of Women (WOW) 2022.
 - By-law Amendments – NAA Executive Board – (Vote Required)
- **September 10 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (CST)**
 - 2021-2022 NAA Executive Board & BOD Elections

2021 Alumni E-Newsletters: E-mail (Check Junk Mail and Clutter Folders)

The alumni newsletters in 2021 will feature Campus News, Alumni Spotlights, and other can't-miss updates about your alma mater.

- February 19
- April 16
- June 18
- August 20
- October 29
- December 17