



Summer Meeting | NAA Board of Directors | Video Conference

Friday, July 23, 2021 | 12:15 p.m. | Gunn Commons 330

I. Call to Order:

The third of four Board of Directors meetings of the UNA National Alumni Association was held on Friday, July 23, 2021, in-person and via Zoom. President-elect Susan Adams called the business meeting to order at 12:17 p.m. President Mary Leigh Gillespie attended the meeting via Zoom.

II. Roll Call:

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

Present Board-at-Large Members: Kimberly Ann Alewine, Jeremy Baham, Rita Buckley, Gaye Choat, Ryan Clayton, Mike Curtis, Clayton Grider, John Hager, Cody Holder, Mike Holt, Latasha Howell, Ann-Marie Irons, Eric Kirkman, Anna Milwee, Tina Smith, Sherri Stewart, Denise Watts, and Chris Whitten

Absent Executive Board Members: Will Hodges and Christy Waters

Absent Board-at-Large Members: Mike Byers, Chris Depew, Allison Hall, Melanie Harris, Nicole Henderson, Mason Kirkland, and Chelsea Yarber

UNA Club Presidents: Tyler Delano, HSV/Madison County Club; Joshua Lambert, Shoals Area Club; and Lawrence Davis Jr., Central Florida Club

III. Approval of Minutes:

Susan asked for a motion to approve the 07/13/2021 Executive Board meeting minutes. Clayton Grider made a motion, and Cody Holder provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Campus Spotlight Guest Speakers: Susan introduced the two guest speakers:

- A.** Julie Taylor, Executive Director, Admissions & Innovation, introduced herself and thanked alumni for their support of Admissions and recruitment. Ms. Taylor highlighted New Start scholarships for transfer students (on campus and online), UNA alumni, and military heroes. Since online and master's programs are seeing new growth, New Start scholarships are being offered there, too. Scholarships are also available for Early College and Dual enrollment students. For more information, see www.una.edu/affordable or www.una.edu/scholarships.

Ms. Taylor reported that enrollment for Fall 2021 is positive. Alumni can help by sharing your story. In addition, Ms. Taylor is seeking new partnerships with high schools or community colleges, so please let her know if you have connections.

- B.** Dr. Jeff Bibbee, Associate Dean, College of Arts, Sciences, Engineering and Co-Chair: UNA Sesquicentennial Taskforce, introduced himself and provided a brief history of recent celebrations at UNA.

The Year of the UNA Woman officially launched in June 2021 to celebrate UNA's admission of women in 1872. Dr. Bibbee highlighted upcoming events, including Athletics' Weekly Spotlight of Women in Athletic, Weekend of Women (March 2022), and a summer academic conference (late June or early July 2022). He referenced two additional major milestones in UNA's future: 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the name UNA and the 2030 bicentennial of the university's founding. For more information about The Year of the Woman, click [here](#).

V. Finance Report: Justin presented the Finance Report:

- A. NAA Greatest Needs Fund:** The balance is \$43,304.41. Some expenses are pending, including the SOAR lunch, sponsorship for the Lion Pride Dinner and Auction, and today's event.
- B. NAA Distinguished Endowed Scholarship:** The balance is \$31,799. This scholarship is given out annually and is divided among the five colleges.
- C. Alumni Association Current-Use Scholarship:** The balance is \$0.00. Money in this fund could be used for scholarships at any time. Tosha-Paige suggested the NAA apply for a grant through the Women of Influence.
- D. College Giving Days:** Susan noted that the College Giving Day recently happened, and Bishop said that the dates of future College Giving Days will be released soon. Justin encouraged members to remember the Alumni Association and our events during the College Giving Days.

VI. Standing Committee Report and Alumni Club Reports:

- A. Finance Committee:** Justin provided the following finance committee report. See V.
- B. Nominations:** In Will's absence, Bishop gave the report. The Nominations Committee will convene in late August to discuss slate of candidates for new board members and officers. Date will be set next week (waiting for responses to a poll for available dates) and materials for the meeting will be sent in advance. Please send nominations for Board members to Will.

Nominations will be presented to the full board for a vote during next meeting on September 10. Send questions about the nominations to Will.

- C. Student to Alumni Experience:** Savannah encouraged members to be on the lookout for events planned for the fall for opportunities to support students. A speaker opportunity for FYE will be available this fall. Alumni will be able to fill out a survey with their specialty content area. In addition, a panel (either virtual or in-person) for the Year of the UNA Woman is being planned.
- D. Homecoming Alumni Awards:** Susan reported that Alumni Award nominees are being contacted. A list of award winners is forthcoming (tentatively August 31).
- E. Alumni Events & Special Projects**—Gaye explained the role of her committee as alumni ambassadors and hospitality, greeting people and encouraging them to be involved in the association. The committee will be present at Handy Night. Future events include homecoming and the Jack Karnes Memorial Tournament. The committee is also working with the Golden Lions, classes of 1970 and 1971. The committee will also help at Lunch on the Lawn, tailgating, and Lions Under the Lights.

The Alumni Book Club, led by Derek Malone, commenced with UNA's 2021 One Book, *Grace Will Lead Us Home*. More information is forthcoming.

- F. Alumni Benefits:** Mike Byers was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family, so Bishop gave his report. Earlier in the month, Mike hosted an informal Zoom meeting that was distributed by Bishop via email. Please reach out to Mike if you want to participate in this committee.

G. Alumni Club Updates:

Josh Lambert, President of the Shoals Alumni Club, encouraged members to join. The goal is to make this club the flagship club of the Association. He asked people to join the Facebook page. If you are interested in planning events, please join the events committee.

The Club wants to generate more interest. One idea in the works is a mentoring program to connect alumni with current students.

Tyler Delano, President of the HSV/Madison County Club, reported that the Club hosted a virtual trivia event with Dr. Bibbee. The Club is also hosting a Trash Pandas game on July 24, which is a sold-out event. The event raised \$2,300 for the club's endowed scholarship. Tyler encouraged members to join the leadership team as they continue to grow the club.

VII. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

VIII. New Business:

- A. (Line Item) Lions Under the Lights:** Susan announced that LUL will take place on October 1st beginning at 6:00 pm for the Cocktail Hour and 7:00 pm for Dinner at Harrison Plaza. The rain site location is The UNA Mane Room. Tickets are \$100.00 each, and the proceeds benefit NAA Greatest Needs Fund. The event will feature the *Jeff Eubanks Culinary Arts Management Program*. Registration will launch on September 3rd. Only 100 tickets (limited) will be sold.
- B. (Line Item) New and Expanded Scholarship Opportunities:** Ms. Taylor covered these scholarships in her presentation: New Start Scholarship (On-Campus & Online), UNA Alumni Scholarship, and Military Heroes Scholarship. For more information, see www.una.edu/affordable.
- C. NAA Executive Committee – Officer Title Changes (*Vote Required*):** Susan and Bishop introduced the title changes as voted on by the Executive Board (see minutes from July 13, 2021). However, after discussion, Bishop proposed that the titles of “First Vice-President” and “Second Vice-President” be included. Clayton asked if the titles for First and Second Vice-President would act as subtitles, and Bishop confirmed that they would. Thus, the following changes were proposed:
- First Vice-President – First Vice-President, Vice-President of Administrative Affairs
 - Second Vice-President – Second Vice-President, Vice-President of Internal Affairs
 - Alumni Club Advisor – Vice-President of Community Affairs
 - Treasurer – Vice-President of Financial Affairs
 - Secretary – Executive Secretary

Clayton Grider made a motion to accept the title changes as listed above, and Justin provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Discussion

A. By-Law Updates (Amendments Attached) (*Vote Required – Special Session*):

Bishop email the current Constitution and a rough draft of possible changes to the Board. Bishop will work with Secretary Christa Raney to revise the following areas of the Constitution:

- i.** Article 4.1. – Executive Committee
- ii.** Article 6.1 – A – E
- iii.** Article 6.3 – A, B, and H
- iv.** Article 7 – Duties of the Executive Committee
- v.** Article 8.1 – Standing Committees
- vi.** Article 8.2 – Faculty Alumni Affairs & Staff Alumni Affairs
- vii.** Article 8.5 – Homecoming Alumni Awards Committee
- viii.** Article 8.6 – Executive Committee
- ix.** Article 8.10 – Standing Committees
- x.** Article 8.11 – Standing Committees

B. Lions Under the Lights – October 1: The Executive Board suggested using LUL as an opportunity to honor a 2021 Year of the UNA Woman Honoree. Please reach out to potential candidates and send their resumes to Bishop. We will vote on this honoree at the special session.

X. President-Elect Report:

A. Summer Commencement: Commencement for the Summer Class of 2021 will take place at Norton Auditorium. Both ceremonies will be live streamed at [You.Tube.com/RoarLions](https://www.youtube.com/roarlions). Graduates are allowed a minimum of six guests. NAA President Dr. Mary Leigh Gillespie will give remarks during the ceremony on behalf of the National Alumni Association to faculty, staff, and graduating seniors in attendance.

B. Celebration Saturdays, July 31: Email photos and announcements to alumni1@una.edu by July 26. Featured on Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter.

C. Unpack the Pride—Alumni Volunteer Opportunity: Susan encouraged Board members to volunteer for Unpack the Pride, which will take place from August 11 to August 14. The event is hosted by Housing/Residence Life. Volunteers are needed to help Class of 2025 move into residence halls. Sign up at <https://una.edu/housing/fall-opening/unpack-the-pride.html>.

XI. Alumni Director's Report:

- A. New Athletic Director Search Update:** Bishop reported that three candidates were interviewed, and their bios were available in the *Times Daily*. An offer has been made.
- B. Alumni E-Newsletter, July 30:** The next alumni e-newsletter will be distributed on July 30, 2021.
- C. UNA Fall Classes Begin:** Fall classes begin on Wednesday, August 18.
- D. Year of the UNA Woman – UNA Alumnae Spotlight:** The Office of Alumni Relations will highlight an alumna on the second and fourth Friday of each month. These announcements will be shared on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter.
- E. UNA Handy Night:** This event will take place on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on North Court Street Median, Florence, Alabama. The rain site is The Mane Room. The event will feature *The Midnighters* with an opening performance by *Hollis*. The event is sponsored by the Shoals Alumni Club. Please wear UNA apparel.

XII. Announcements & Good News:

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

- A. Unpack the Pride:** Unpack the Pride is August 11 – 14.
- B. UNA Fall Classes Begin:** Classes begin on Wednesday, August 18.
- C. First Home Football Game:** The first home game is September 11. Tailgating begins at 3:00 p.m., and the Lion Walk happens at 3:45 p.m. Kickoff is 6:00 p.m. The 9-11 game is dedicated to first responders and military.
- D. Congratulations:** Congratulations to Anna Milwee on her promotion to Assistant Director of Compliance and Student-Athlete Welfare. Congratulations to Tosha-Paige on her new position as Lecturer in the UNA Communications Department.

XIII. NAA Calendar of Events:

- A. 2021 NAA Board of Directors – Virtual Meeting:** September 10 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. (CST)

B. 2021 NAA Executive Committee – Virtual Meeting: September 14 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (CST)

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.