

A Word From Our Dean

Full STEAM Ahead into Fall 2018

by Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean



The Fall 2018 semester is off to a great start. I want to take this time to officially welcome all students, faculty, staff, families, alumni, and friends of the College of Arts and Sciences back to campus. This fall, A&S will welcome a total of over 2200 students, over 250 faculty and staff, and 13,000 alumni.

This time every year, I reflect on all of the people it takes to welcome a new cohort of students to college. This year, my perspective is even more refined. I have an 18-year-old going through the process of applying to college. It's been a real eye-opening experience. My entire adult life has been devoted to the value of higher education, and I can honestly say that on the other side of this process I have been getting confused, nervous, and overwhelmed. I am wildly sympathetic to all of the families out there in the jungle of online paperwork, and I cannot imagine what first-generation

college students go through. But... there is a silver lining to all of this chaos that I want to share. **UNA has, by far,** the most student-friendly process to navigate. The fees are reasonable, the application is streamlined, the application submission date is earlier than most other schools, and real people are available to answer questions. They even have a FASFA night to help those in need of navigating the ultimate "survival of the fittest" event – the application process for financial aid and scholarships.

Before even one student starts the first day of class they will have had to interact with the folks from Admissions, Registrar, Financial Aid, Orientation, Advising, Academic Departments, Student Success, Student Life, Health Services, Housing, the Book Store, Dean's Offices, and the Bursar's office. I am sure I will discover even more as my own child progresses through the process.

I want to thank all employees of UNA for all they do to make the dreams of so many young people come true.

Student and Faculty Spotlight



Alyson Bergner

By Savannah Johnson

Alyson Bergner graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of North Alabama with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology. She is currently working on her Masters of Science in Family Studies at UNA.

Bergner said there are many factors why she chose to major in Psychology, but she finds that learning why humans do things that we do is fascinating. Bergner said the Psychology professors make the department unique.

She said, "Each professor is dedicated and encourages critical thinking. They genuinely care about the future of their students."

In undergrad, Alyson interned at the Florence Lauderdale Public Library where she co-taught a class about relationship smarts, which focuses on teaching healthy communication skills to teens. She also completed her Certificate in Family Life Education through her internship.

She is thoroughly enjoying her Master's courses and loves all of the knowledge she is gaining. Her advice to Psychology students is to get involved, join the Psychology Club and talk to your professors.

When asked how the department prepared Bergner for her future, she replied, "There are numerable ways the Psychology Department has prepared me. First, they really encourage research, which can give you an advantage for graduate school. I have also taken a variety of courses that have made me think more critically. In the end, I think the outpouring of support I feel from the Psychology department and even the Sociology and Family Studies Department now has made me feel like anything is possible, and that has impacted me the most."



Associate Professor

Charlton James

By Kayla Braidfoot

Charlton James is the Artistic Director of UNA's theatre program and UNA Summer Theatre. He received his Bachelor's from the University of Utah in Theatre/Acting Emphasis and his Master's in Theatre/Classical Acting from the University of Alabama.

"Graduation is by far my favorite part of working at UNA. I always cry. I can't help it. People have to sacrifice a lot to walk across that stage and when I see people succeed it makes me happy. It also makes me satisfied to think I may have played a role in helping them achieve that success."

When asked what brought him to UNA, James said, "after grad school I lived in New York City for a while as an actor and a film production assistant. I left New York City about a year after 9/11 because the city was wounded, healing, and taking its toll on me." He left NYC to move back to Alabama, and a few years later decided he needed to find a way to use his creativity again. He was hired as an adjunct professor at UNA, and two-and-a-half years later became a full-time professor. "It has been a fun ride!"

James served as an actor, producer and artistic director for UNA Sumer Theatre's *I'll Take You There: The Music of Muscle Shoals*. It was the headliner for the W.C. Handy Music Festival in 2016. He has directed Shakespeare's *A Mid Summer Night's Dream* and Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*. He also portrayed the lead role in *The Guys*, a play that commemorated 9/11 events.

Alumni Spotlight



Jasmine Fleming

Jasmine Fleming is from Winfield, Alabama, and graduated from The University of North Alabama in May 2017 with a Bachelor degrees in Professional Writing/Spanish. While attending the University, she was selected as a semi-finalist in the prestigious Student Fulbright ETA.

She works at Hexagon Geospatial as a Marketing Support Specialist. Her long-term goal is to complete a graduate program in creative writing and pursue a career in this field. Jasmine was very active on and off campus. Her extracurricular activities and honors included Sigma Tau Delta, Foreign Language Department Study Abroad Scholarship, Honors Program Scholarship, Northwest Alabama Reading Aids Volunteer, English Club, Honors Program, Consultant for the Center for Writing Excellence, Art Club, Flor-Ala Writer and Editor, and *Lights and Shadows* Magazine Editor.

Jasmine believes that her experiences in the classroom and studying abroad helped develop her into the person she is today. **Fleming wrote**, "While studying abroad in Spain last summer, I had my first conversation outside the classroom with a native speaker when I met a man sitting outside of a museum. He asked me questions such as why I decided to study Spanish and what I most enjoyed about Spanish culture. When we parted ways, I felt proud that I was able to communicate with him. Without the dedicated instructors who helped me grow my abilities, I wouldn't have traveled to Spain and met new people, and I wouldn't have the increased confidence speaking a second language brings. I look forward to having an opportunity to help other students develop that same confidence in the future."

Jasmine's passion for creative writing and Spanish is still strong. She looks forward to continuing to pursue her dreams of breaking down language barriers by educating others while positively influencing the community.

We're excited about what the future holds for Jasmine and all of our COAS Alumni!

alumni

Alumni Updates

What have you been up to? Let us know. Click the link above and fill in the form with your up-to-date information.

College of Arts and Sciences News

Page Content

Five New Academic Departments Join COAS

School of the Arts (scroll down to read)

Five New Academic Programs Join COAS

by Dr. Amber Paulk



During this academic year, the Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design (HSHD) will dissolve and five new academic programs will be joining the College of Arts and Sciences.

Child Development will be moving to the Department of Sociology and Family Studies, while Interior Design, Fashion Merchandising, Culinary Arts, and Hospitality Management will be moving to the newly named Department of Visual Art and Design.

Along with these new academic programs, we welcome eight faculty and staff members to the college:

Dr. Bob Young – Child Development



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UNA College of Arts and Sciences

Contact:

The College of Arts and Sciences

Room 217 Bibb Graves | UNA Box 5021

P: 256.765.4288