





UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

A W A R D S G A L A

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 AT 6:30 P.M.

GUC BANQUET HALL

MASTER AND MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES.....Dr. Mario Mighty
Department Chair of Geography, Associate Professor,
and Director of the Freddie Wood Geographic Research Center

..... Ms. Kerigan Mardis
2024-2025 SGA President

WELCOME AND REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Dr. Kenneth Kitts

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Each academic achievement award is determined by the departmental faculty and is presented to the graduating senior in each academic major based on academic achievement, character, professionalism, and potential.

COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING

PRESENTED BY DR. RYAN ZAYAC, INTERIM DEAN

- ART..... Justin Wells
- BIOLOGY.....Hanna Joy Jefcoat
- CHEMISTRY..... Sarah Clouse
- CINEMATIC ARTS AND THEATRE.....Davis Farlow
- COMMUNICATION ARTS.....Kaylee Elliott
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE.....William Calhoun*
- CULINARY ARTS MANAGEMENT.....Mary Gremillion
- ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY.....Connor Reed
- ENGLISH.....Elise Payne*
- ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.....Maya Ishii*
- FASHION MERCHANDISING AND DESIGN.....Jesselin Shanju Unger*
- FOREIGN LANGUAGES..... Madelyn Merriam
- GEOGRAPHY.....Luke Holcombe*
- GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SCIENCE.....Daniel Dent*
- HISTORY.....Rebecca "Cate" Dill
- HOSPITALITY AND EVENTS MANAGEMENT.....Katharine Lillie*

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES.....	Ryenne Gepford*
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN.....	Kenny Davies
MASS COMMUNICATION.....	Emmie Beck
MATHEMATICS.....	Neely Lovvorn
MECHATRONICS.....	Quinnlan Culbertson
MUSIC.....	Simon Edwards
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCE.....	Hayden Nelson
PHYSICS.....	Caleb Kettering*
POLITICAL SCIENCE.....	Abbinney Story
PSYCHOLOGY.....	Pelageia Tikhomirova
SOCIAL WORK.....	Ella Thompson
SOCIOLOGY.....	Julianna Peters
SPANISH.....	Elena Moore
SUSTAINABILITY.....	Isabel Oliver*

DEAN'S AWARD

Treasure Franklin

ANDERSON COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

PRESENTED BY DR . TERA KIRKMAN, DEAN

ACCELERATED BSN.....	Katie Colson
PRE-LICENSURE BSN.....	Trista Latham
POST LICENSURE RN-BSN.....	Jill Hester
BS APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCE.....	Melissa Odom
BS RESPIRATORY CARE.....	Meagan Curtis

DEAN'S AWARD

Hayden Nixon

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

PRESENTED BY DR . KATIE KINNEY, DEAN

WILLINGHAM AWARD IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.....	Nydia Thomas
WILLINGHAM AWARD IN SECONDARY EDUCATION.....	Sydnee Aaron*
EXERCISE SCIENCE.....	Sarah Lewis
HEALTH AND FITNESS.....	Martha McLaurin*
SPORT AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT.....	Kade Bryant*

DEAN'S AWARD

Clay McGuire

SANDERS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

PRESENTED BY DR. DOUG BARRETT, INTERIM DEAN

ACCOUNTING.....	Beth Ann Tucker
COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS.....	Garrett Bouldin
COMPUTER SCIENCE.....	Montana Merkle
DATA ANALYTICS.....	Mark Haft
FINANCE.....	Garret Statom
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.....	Yenifer Jimenez Gallardo
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.....	Candice Buford
INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP.....	Benjamin Starkey
MANAGEMENT.....	Carlie Steele
MARKETING.....	Anna Beth Barclay

DEAN'S AWARD

Kerigan Mardis

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

PRESENTED BY DR. BRIEN SMITH, PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.....Taylor Anderson, William Calhoun*,
Lauren Christmas*, Fransheska Daza Coello*, Austen Day*,
Audrey Duboise, Grace Evans*, Karlee Faust*, Ryenne Gepford*,
Elli Jarrett*, Laura Lee Keener*, Elena Moore, Shelby Stidham, Abigail Walters

UNIVERSITY AWARDS

THE LION’S CUP

PRESENTED BY JULIETTE BUTLER, SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT.....Beta Alpha Psi

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERISM

PRESENTED BY MATTHEW JONES, DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES
AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.....Beth Ann Tucker

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE AWARDS

PRESENTED BY ANNA LEIGH ROSSI, DIRECTOR OF FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE

FRATERNITY MAN OF THE YEAR.....Charles Woods
SORORITY WOMAN OF THE YEAR.....Olivia Oliphant
DANIEL R. LEASURE FRATERNITY CHAPTER OF THE YEAR.....Pi Kappa Alpha
DANIEL R. LEASURE SORORITY CHAPTER OF THE YEAR.....Zeta Tau Alpha

LAGRANGE SOCIETY AWARDS

PRESENTED BY TAYA BETH SOCKWELL, SENIOR ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR

HOSTESS OF THE YEAR.....Rebekah Callahan
HOST OF THE YEAR.....Oakley Hurst
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.....Troi Cheeks

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY CALVIEE TANDY,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....Ethan Miller

STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY GIGI BROADWAY, COORDINATOR OF UNIVERSITY EVENTS..... Abbinney Story

UNIVERSITY PROGRAM COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY BECCA BUSH,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.....Brody Gravitt

DR. GRAHAM L. SISSON, JR. DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES CHAMPION AWARD

PRESENTED BY JEREMY MARTIN, DIRECTOR OF AUBREY
& ANNIE LOONEY DSS.....Mia Batchelor, Hope Hughes, & Dr. Rachel Winston

PRESIDENT’S DIVERSITY AWARDS

PRESENTED BY DR. MINNETTE ELLIS, AVP FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS, DEAN OF STUDENTS,
AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR UNIVERSITY PRIORITIES

FACULTY DIVERSITY AWARD.....Dr. Melissa DeFoor
FACULTY DIVERSITY AWARD.....Dr. Ann-Marie Irons

GLOBAL LIONS AWARD

PRESENTED BY DR. PO HU, ASSOCIATE VICE PROVOST FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GLOBAL LIONS AWARD INTERNATIONAL.....Dasha Starovoitova
GLOBAL LIONS AWARD STUDY ABROAD..... Madelyn Merriam

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AWARDS

PRESENTED BY MANDY MCGINNIS, SGA VICE PRESIDENT AND ABIGAIL KUSZ, SGA SECRETARY

W. T. MCELHENY AWARD.....Matthew Jones
SPIRIT OF SGA AWARD.....Nicole Ballenger
SENATOR OF THE YEAR.....Matt Hanback
ROBERT L. POTTS HALL OF FAME AWARD.....Mia Batchelor, Kerigan Mardis

UNDERGRADUATE SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED BY DR. K. C. WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS.....Omarie Bartee,
Olivia Britton, Madeline Cooper, & Krimsyn Jones

HALL OF FAME

PRESENTED BY DR. K. C. WHITE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS.....Candice Buford,
Kerigan Mardis, Garret Statom, & Bricen Tapscott

UNIVERSITY MAN OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY DR. KENNETH KITTS, PRESIDENT.....Skyler Ashton Saunders

UNIVERSITY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY DR. KENNETH KITTS, PRESIDENT.....Olivia Oliphant

DR. KIMBERLY A. GREENWAY OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

PRESENTED BY MANDY MCGINNIS, SGA VICE PRESIDENT.....Mary Harber

DISTINGUISHED STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY JEREMY MARTIN, STAFF SENATE PRESIDENT.....Ranee Mitchell

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

PRESENTED BY DR. BRIEN SMITH, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

SERVICE AWARD.....Michael Davidson

ELEANOR GAUNDER PHI KAPPA PHI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

PRESENTED BY DR. BRIEN SMITH, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS.....Dr. Chris DaSambiagio-Moore

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FACULTY AND STAFF AWARDS

PRESENTED BY DR. BRIEN SMITH, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

OUTSTANDING ADVISING, FACULTY.....Jabril Diamond
OUTSTANDING ADVISING, STAFF.....Laura Beasley
DR. JIM F. COUCH OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD.....Dr. Ashton Glover
OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD.....Dr. Amanda Hitt
DR. LAWRENCE J. NELSON OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD.....Dr. Gregory Carnes



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

DR. KENNETH KITTS, President
DR. BRIEN SMITH, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
DR. K. C. WHITE, Vice President for Student Affairs
Student Government Association
Enrollment Marketing and Digital Communications Department
MS. HANNAH CRISP, Graphic Designer
MR. SAMUEL THIGPEN, University Videographer/Photographer
MS. DEDE SIMMONS and MS. KAREN HODGES, University Print Shop
MR. DUELL ALDRIDGE, Assistant Director of GUC Operations and Events Management

UNIVERSITY AWARDS GALA COMMITTEE

MS. REBECCA BUSH, Assistant Director, Student Activities and Leadership Development
MS. JULIETTE BUTLER, Senior Administrative Assistant, Student Engagement
DR. J. MATTHEW GREEN, Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences
MS. JESSIE LINDLEY, Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
DR. TAMMY JACQUES, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
MR. MATTHEW JONES, Director for Student Activities and Leadership Development
MS. SYDNEY SEAL, Executive Assistant to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

2024-2025 SGA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

MS. KERIGAN MARDIS, President
MS. MANDY MCGINNIS, Vice President
MS. MIA BATCHELOR, Treasurer
MS. ABIGAIL KUSZ, Secretary

*An asterisk by a name indicates that the recipient graduated either Summer 2024 or Fall 2024.

POLICY ON NONDISCRIMINATION

UNA adheres to all federal and state civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in public institutions of higher education. UNA will not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, student, or applicant for admission on the basis of race, color, sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran or military status, predisposing genetic characteristics, domestic violence victim status, or any other protected category under applicable local, state, or federal law, including protections for those opposing discrimination or participating in any resolution process on campus or within the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or other human rights agencies. This policy covers nondiscrimination in employment and in access to educational opportunities. Reports of discrimination may be reported to the following areas: Human Resources, Student Conduct, University Ombudsman, Title IX Administrator.