Profiles in Excellence gives recognition to the scholarly accomplishments of our faculty. Broadly defined, those accomplishments include artistic endeavors, creative initiatives, original research, scholarly books, articles and presentations, funded grants, and/or academic services. These efforts augment scholarship at the University but also enhance the integral relationship between teaching and research. They are often an extension of research collaboration with our students and with colleagues at other institutions.

The publication of Profiles in Excellence affords an opportunity for the University to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of the University of North Alabama faculty. The accomplishments reported herein are but a small part of the numerous examples of hard work contributed by the faculty on behalf of the numerous constituencies served by the University.

The mission of the University of North Alabama is broad based but gives special attention to the creation of an environment of discovery and creative accomplishment. Profiles in Excellence embraces that mission. To all who contribute on its behalf, thank you.

Dr. John G. Thornell
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
One of the primary, motivating factors that attracted me to the University of North Alabama, where I began my service as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost on July 1, was the scholarly productivity and overall quality of the faculty. As it does each and every year, Profiles in Excellence chronicles the diverse publications and research accomplishments of our high-achieving faculty members, many of whom have cultivated national and international reputations. As a faculty member dedicated to maintaining an active research agenda myself, I am inspired and impressed by the myriad of accomplishments highlighted here. I’m especially proud of the number of collaborative and interdisciplinary projects and activities, which represents a positive trend across the academy and one to which I’m personally committed. I was fortunate to have collaborated with over 40 other scholars and researchers on the recently published book, Best Practices in Online Teaching and Learning Across Academic Disciplines (George Mason University Press), which I edited and contributed multiple chapters. I hope you enjoy reading this year’s Profiles in Excellence!
ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS AWARD FOR
OUTSTANDING
ADVISING

Dr. Jana P. Beaver
Chair of the Department of Management
and Marketing, Associate
Professor of Management

1998, B.S.Ed., Business and Office Ed 7-12,
University of North Alabama; 2000, M.A.Ed.,
Business and Office Administration, University
of North Alabama; 2003, Ph.D., Instructional
Leadership, The University of Alabama

Dr. Jana Beaver has always found advising students to be very rewarding and time well spent. Long before she became department chair, she realized that this aspect of her job is very important for both recruiting and retention of majors and minors. She strives to provide excellent customer service and give each advisee her undivided attention. Students and parents want to get the most benefit for their investment in higher education, and this means listening to their needs and wants for the future and providing guidance for their journey, even if that translates into study in another discipline.

When the University (First Year) Advisor program started several years ago, Beaver wanted to be involved. While it was important for her personally to advise students at all stages of their college career, she was eager to assist this group of first year students. When Beaver advises freshmen during their first semester, she spends quite a bit of time asking about the adjustment to university life. Are they making new friends? Have a good roommate? Getting involved on campus? Working a part-time job and how many hours? How are classes? What is causing stress? If those things are not going well, they work together to turn things around since these are barriers to academic success. Beaver also likes to focus on the type of class scheduling that is best to match student personalities with academic needs—an area in which, before college, students have not had much input. By the second semester, Beaver believes that students are usually ready for more in-depth conversations about their interests and in determining a major. Getting good advising and exploring career options early on allows students to maximize their experience by adding a minor, certificate, or even a double major without much extension to their college career.

Beaver also advises many upper level students, helping to put together the best course combinations for success, encouraging internships, and assisting in plans for careers or graduate school. Just as freshmen require a lot of time, some seniors need additional guidance to resolve graduation deficiencies and for career planning.

In addition, Beaver enjoys assisting students in study abroad through the Magellan Exchange Program. She reviews upcoming course offerings in the country where they will study and she works with students to achieve appropriate course equivalencies. Beaver feels it is important that study abroad not delay scheduled graduation. Sometimes she is creative to make it work but in most cases, Beaver believes the benefits of the academic and cultural experiences far outweigh the academic and cultural experiences.

UNA has many international students studying in the College of Business and sometimes advising them can be challenging because of the multiple requirements for degree completions with partner schools and strict stipulations some governments have with the types of courses in which students may enroll. The international students often need extra reassurance, so Beaver typically spends a considerable amount of time advising them. However, she enjoys interacting with this population that adds a great element of diversity to the university environment.

On a daily basis, Beaver advises multiple students and during registration, it is often all she does during a workday. Students are sometimes confused or upset, sometimes they excitedly bounce in to tell her good news, and she encounters almost every other scenario imaginable. Her goal is to have students leave with answers to their questions and with a comfort level of being on the right path. Beaver likes knowing that she helped someone get through the day, or helped him or her choose a career path. Again, investing in the life of a student is time well spent.

“There is only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that’s your own self.”

— Aldous Huxley

UNA 2016 - 2017 Profiles in Excellence • Page 2
Dr. Xihui “Paul” Zhang  
Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems

1993, B.S., Earth Sciences, Nanjing University; 1996, M.S., Earth Sciences, Nanjing University; 2002, M.S., Engineering Technology, University of Memphis; 2004, M.S., Management Information Systems, University of Memphis; 2009, Ph.D., Management Information Systems, University of Memphis

Dr. Xihui “Paul” Zhang is an associate professor of computer information systems in the College of Business. He joined UNA in January 2009 before he earned a Ph.D. in business administration with a concentration in management information systems from the University of Memphis in August 2009.

Zhang is a prolific researcher with interests ranging from social and organizational aspects of information systems to software development and testing, as well as business intelligence and data warehousing. His dissertation, Understanding Conflict between Developers and Testers in Software Development: Sources and Impact, identified sources of the conflict between software developers and testers and assessed the impact of such conflict on software quality and job satisfaction. Zhang’s research has been published in the Journal of Strategic Information Systems, Information & Management, Journal of Organizational and End User Computing, Journal of Computer Information Systems, Journal of Information Systems Education, and Journal of Information Technology Management, among others. Since he joined UNA in 2009, Zhang has published 39 peer-reviewed research papers in 22 different Information Systems (IS) related journals, 21 peer-reviewed research papers in national and international conference proceedings, and two peer-reviewed book chapters.

Zhang shares his research ideas widely, collaborating on research papers with his colleagues in the CSIS department and at a number of other universities. Zhang and his coauthors at UNA have published 10 journal papers and one conference paper. Zhang has led UNA students, both graduate and undergraduate, on several research projects. He received two Undergraduate Research Grants for Student and Faculty Teams from the Office of the Quality Enhancement Plan: one for 2015-2016, and the other for 2016-2017. Together, they have published a journal paper and a conference paper. One of their papers is currently under review at a premier IS journal, and another paper is under development.

Zhang serves as the managing editor of The Data Base for Advances in Information Systems, an A-level IS journal. He also serves on the editorial review board for several academic journals, including the Journal of Computer Information Systems, Journal of Information Systems Education, and Journal of Information Technology Management. Zhang has served as the program co-chair, session chair, and program committee member for various national and international IS conferences and workshops. Specifically, he has served on the organizing committee for the International Research Workshop on Advances and Innovations in Software Testing since its inauguration in 2007. Zhang has served as an ad-hoc reviewer for numerous IS journals and conferences. Since 2009, he has reviewed 62 journal paper submissions and 40 conference paper submissions.

Zhang enjoys doing IS-related research, and he still gets excited whenever his paper is accepted by a journal or a conference. Outside of teaching, doing research, and providing service, anyone who knows Zhang knows that his favorite pastime is playing basketball, and one of his favorite work ethic sayings comes from that quarter: basketball superstar Michael Jordan is noted for saying that, “I’m a firm believer in goal setting. Step by step. I can’t see any other way of accomplishing anything.”

“If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?”
— Albert Einstein
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Dr. J. Douglas Barrett
Chair of the Department of Economics and Finance, Professor of Quantitative Methods, Director of the Institute for Innovation and Economic Development

1988, B.B.A., Finance, University of Montevallo;

“Why are we here? Specifically, why does the University of North Alabama exist? In my view, we exist to serve our students as well as other constituencies that may benefit from our expertise. These include the community (both local and at large), existing and potential employers, and our professional groups. Any endeavors benefitting our constituencies are important for the long-term well-being of the University.

“We provide service to the campus community and beyond. The University, community, and profession each gave us great opportunities, and service offers a way to give back in each case. Serving on campus committees provides service to the University, but also offers opportunities to meet and connect with faculty across campus. The resulting relationships manifest in new curriculum initiatives, grant opportunities, team-teaching, interdisciplinary student research, etc. My university service includes serving on and chairing numerous search committees, the Faculty Senate (including the Executive Committee and Faculty Affairs Committee), the General Education Work Group (including chairing), as a certified Title IX investigator, on boards of university centers, and as the Director of the Institute for Innovation and Economic Development.

“Analogously, community service benefits the Shoals area directly, but also offers the chance to meet and interact with many people in the area. These relationships often result in increased internship opportunities for students, as well as new engagement with faculty. Our work in Shoals Shift has been especially fruitful in this area.

“Service to the profession is crucial for growth within your discipline and connecting with colleagues outside your region. In 1999, Jim Couch and I founded the Society for Business, Industry, and Economics, a multidisciplinary organization. In addition to having an annual academic meeting for faculty and students, we publish the Journal of Business, Industry, and Economics. Hundreds of university students have attended
and presented research at SOBIE, including over one hundred UNA students. We celebrated our 19th meeting in April 2017."

Barrett received his Ph.D. in Applied Statistics, with specialties in statistical process control, engineering statistics, and industrial statistics. He is a senior member of the American Society for Quality and the American Economic Association. Barrett has published numerous articles and reviews in journals such as Technometrics, Journal of the American Statistical Association, IIE Transactions, Journal of Business Ethics, Human Relations, and Public Finance Review, among many others. Barrett has also worked on a variety of funded economic impact studies. He has delivered economic impact analysis studies to numerous entities, including the City of Florence, Huntsville Housing Authority, Shoals Economic Development Authority, Regional Care Hospital Partners, and the University of North Alabama. Outside the office, Barrett’s hobbies include writing fiction, swimming, walking, college football, and traveling.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi

DR. LARRY J. NELSON
OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Dr. Sarah L. Franklin
Associate Professor of History

1999, B.A., History, Auburn University;
2003, M.A., History, Florida State University;
2006, Ph.D., History, Florida State University

In 2010, Sarah Franklin returned to her native Alabama after a decade away. Growing up in Selma, she early on discovered that the books in her local public library could take her far beyond the confines of a small Southern town. As an associate professor of history, she shares her love of books and the knowledge within them with the students she is fortunate to instruct.

At UNA, she teaches a wide variety of courses, ranging from undergraduate freshman courses in U.S. history to graduate seminars in her research area of Latin American history. She particularly enjoys her freshman-level courses for as she says, “There is something special about the first day of class for newly-arrived freshman. They are excited, no matter how ‘cool’ they try to be. And that excitement is contagious.” Additionally, she offers a wide variety of online courses, including upper division courses in Latin American history and the history of slavery. Online teaching requires a different skill set from the ones she has honed in the traditional classroom and it has allowed her to work with and learn from outstanding teachers all over campus.

Franklin believes it is a privilege to teach at UNA. “There is very little more rewarding than working with young people who have a thirst for education,” she said. “They know that UNA is their ticket to a new, better life. And we get to be part of that transformation.”

Franklin joined UNA’s faculty in 2010 and was the recipient of the University Research Award in 2014. In 2015–2016, she was honored to serve as president of UNA’s Faculty Senate. This year, she returned to the classroom as a freshman herself, enrolling in introductory German, something she calls a humbling experience, but also a fun one. She is married to Dr. Ulrich Groetsch, who is also a faculty member in the UNA Department of History.

“You cannot teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself.”

— Galileo Galilei
Dr. Scott R. Infanger

Associate Professor of Modern Foreign Languages

2001, B.A., English and Spanish, University of Idaho; 2002, M.A., Portuguese, Vanderbilt University; 2003, M.A., Spanish, Vanderbilt University; 2009, Ph.D., Spanish, Vanderbilt University

Dr. Scott Infanger began his career in teaching simultaneously with his study of the Spanish language at age 19 when he was called to serve a proselytizing mission in Chile for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He describes his volunteer service as a full-time missionary for two years as “a mix of a Peace Corps and study abroad with a teaching internship against a religious backdrop. While some of my friends of the same age were enhancing their university education with semester-long study abroad opportunities, or doing student-teaching internships, I took time off from my university experience to dedicate two years to full-time service for my church. I was wary that I would fall significantly behind in my education and career path, but the opposite happened.” Infanger credits this experience living and working among the people in Chile as the introduction to teaching as a career choice and the foundation for his professional life.

“The focus of the work I was doing was to work with people and teach them. We taught primarily in small groups or one on one, but during that time, I learned how to engage individuals and how to ask questions that would spark an interest in learning and require a deeper level of thinking to find an answer,” he said. “This laid the foundation for my career as an educator.”

After completing his missionary service in Chile, he returned to his studies and graduated from the University of Idaho with a double major in English and Spanish in 2001. He then began graduate study in Spanish at Vanderbilt University, but added Portuguese as a secondary concentration shortly thereafter.

As a graduate student at Vanderbilt University, he had the opportunity to assist with a short-term study abroad program to Cuba as a co-director, and then participate as a student in a summer-long, language-based program in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These two experiences solidified his interest in study abroad as an important element of language study and allowed him to see different styles of study abroad programs and identify the merits of each type of experience.

When he joined the faculty at UNA, like many young professors, Infanger struggled to adjust to university teaching. “I had a hard time finding my stride as a new professor. I had an idea where I wanted my classes to go and what outcomes I was hoping for with each class, but I was not confident in my ability to get them there. Through a lot of trial and error, I’ve found my voice and gained that confidence.” Throughout all of the challenges and subsequent adjustments, Infanger focuses on serving the individual students and helping them to have the best possible educational experience in each of his classes, whether it is an introductory language class or an advanced literature class. “As I adjust my teaching style and refine my classes, I always ask myself, ‘What will benefit the students the most?’ and, ‘How can I help each individual maximize his or her learning outcome?’ These questions have helped me keep focused on what is most important and to make the necessary adjustments to my classes as the needs of the students change.”

“It’s a tremendous honor to receive the Phi Kappa Phi Eleanor P. Gaunder Excellence in Teaching Award. It is humbling to be recognized in this way, especially among the outstanding faculty we have here at UNA. My greatest strength as a teacher is my students. It’s easy to be an excellent teacher when you have excellent students, and I consider myself extremely fortunate to have the excellent students I do.”

Infanger, associate professor of Spanish, joined the faculty in the Department of Foreign Languages in August 2007. His area of specialization is in Spanish and Portuguese languages and literatures with a primary focus on Latin American literature and culture.
Bostic-Brown, Tiffany – Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Vocal Studies, Co-Director, UNA Opera  
Adjudicator: ALSUP Voice Award Competition, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana, April 28, 2017.  
Recital Performance: Guest Artists Recital with Dr. Terrance D. Brown, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana, April 21 & 23, 2017.  
Stage, Costume, Make-up, Hair, Set/Props Director: La Bohème, Norton Auditorium, Florence, Alabama, April 21 & 23, 2017.  
Recital Performance: Christina Volz-Stomackin and Friends (baritone), Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence, Alabama, April 8, 2017.  
Soprano Soloist: Walk with Me Foundation’s Salés, Tupelo, Mississippi and Huntsville, Alabama, October 14, & April 1, 2017.  
Stage, Costume, Make-up, Hair, Set/Props Director: Romeo et Juliette, George Lindsey Theater, Florence, Alabama, November 4, 5, & 6, 2016.  
Recital Performance: Tertile Trio Faculty Recital, Norton Auditorium, Florence, AL, October 18, 2016.  

Brown, Terrance – Interim Chair and Associate Professor of Music, Co-Director, UNA Opera  
Adjudicator: ALSUP Voice Award Competition, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana, April 28, 2017.  
Recital Performance: Guest Artists Recital with Dr. Tiffany Bostic-Brown, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana, April 21 & 23, 2017.  
Recital Performance: Christina Volz-Stomackin and Friends (baritone), Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence, Alabama, April 8, 2017.  
Conductor. Walk with Me Foundation’s Salés, Tupelo, Mississippi, October 14, November 21, November 28, December 22, 2016, January 8, February 13, March 19, and April 1, 2017.  
Adjudicator: District IV Solo and Ensemble Vocal Festival, Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama, February 24, 2017.  
Baritone Soloist: Messiah, East End United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, December 17, 2016.  
Baritone Soloist: Messiah, Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, December 9, 2016.  
Baritone Soloist: Messiah, Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama, December 5, 2016.  
Conductor and Music Director: Romeo et Juliette, George Lindsey Theater, Florence, Alabama, November 4, 5, 6, 2016.  
Recital Performance: Tertile Trio Faculty Recital, Norton Auditorium, Florence, AL, October 18, 2016.  

Duvall-Zurinsky, Suzanne – Associate Professor of Art  

Johnson, Michael Curtis – Visiting Assistant Professor, Film and Digital Media Production  
Director/Writer/Producer: Hunky Dory, feature film.  
24 film festival screenings: Netia Off Camera Film Festival, Krakow, Poland, April 28, 2017; South Arts: Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, Multiple Locations, April 19 – April 28, 2017; SF IndieFest Film Festival, San Francisco, CA, February 15, 2017; Anchorage International Film Festival, Anchorage, AK, December 10, 2016; Rome Independent Film Festival, Rome, Italy, November 25, 2016; Napa Valley Film Festival, Napa Valley, CA, November 11 – 12, 2016; Festival Mix Brasil Film Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 9, 2016; Twin Cities Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN, October 25, 2016, NewFest, NYC LGBT Film Festival, New York, NY, October 23, 2016; Film Fest Tucson, Tucson, AZ, October 22, 2016, BendFilm Festival, Bend, OR, October 8, 2016; American Film Festival – Wroclaw, Poland, October 2016; Naples International Film Festival, Naples, FL, October 2016, Calgary International Film Festival, Calgary, Canada, September 24, 2016, SAG/AFTRA Foundation Screening, Los Angeles, CA, August 24, 2016, Woods Hole Film Festival, Woods Hole, MA, August 5, 2016, Outfest Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA, July 9, 2016, Oak Cliff Film Festival, Dallas, TX, June 18, 2016, Cinetopia Film Festival, Detroit, MI, June 11 – 12, 2016, Inside/Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival, Toronto, Canada, May 31, 2016, Slamdance Cinema Club Film Festival, Chicago, IL, May 19, 2016, Slamdance Cinema Club Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA, May 9, 2016, Nashville Film Festival, Nashville, TN, April 2016, Slamdance Film Festival, Park City, UT, January 2016.

Lopekky, Ian – Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies  
Conductor: Artistic Director, Florence Camerata 2016-2017 season.  

Merciers, Meghan – Assistant Professor of Music  
Orchestral Performance: Tenbrae Service (clarinet), First United Methodist Church, Florence, AL, April 14, 2016.  
Recital Performance: Christina Volz-Stomackin and Friends (clarinet), Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence, AL, April 8, 2017.  
Masterclass and Recital Performance: University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, March 30, 2017.  
Adjudicator: UNA Middle School Honor Band (clarinet), March 23, 2017.  

McCullough, David – Professor of Music

Recital Performance: Chamber Music Recital, ensemble performer (horn), Florence, April 8, 2017.

Recital Performance: UNA Composition Prism Recital, soloist (horn), UNA, December 3, 2016.

Recital Performance: Faculty Woodwind Quintet Recital, ensemble performer (horn), UNA, November 20, 2016.

Sulliman, Jason – Instructor in Music

Recital Performance: Alabama Universities Recital Series, soloist (bass trombone), Thurber Arts Center, Randolph School, Huntsville, AL, January 17, 2017.

Recital Performance: Spark Brass Quintet, chamber ensemble performer (bass trombone), Columbus State University, January 14, 2017.

Recital Performance: Spark Brass Quintet, chamber ensemble performer (bass trombone), University of West Georgia, January 13, 2017.

Recital Performance: Spark Brass Quintet, chamber ensemble performer (bass trombone), Rockdale County School, January 12, 2017.

Recital Performance: UNA Composition Prism Recital, soloist (bass trombone), UNA, December 3, 2016.

Wiggins, Tracy – Assistant Professor of Percussion, Assistant Director of Bands

Percussionist: 8 Performance Series, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Huntsville, Alabama, 2016-17.


Clinician: Opelika High School/Yamaha Sounds of Summer Camp, July 2016.

Online Adjudicator: Enkor International Chamber Music Competition, December 2016.
Aguado, N. Alexander – Professor of Political Science


Alvarado-Brizuela, Alejandra – Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages


Atkinson, Nancy – Professor of English


Bates, Larry – Professor of Psychology


Bergeron, Wayne P. – Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice


Leadership Team member and Committee Chair of the Res/Con NOLA 2017, National Resilience Summit – RES/Learn Student Research Exposition March 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Undergraduate and graduate student research presentations were displayed on topics related to disaster and emergency management.

Led an Intergency Cooperation study practicum group of 25 students to Washington DC to explore interagency cooperation and geopolitics. Students were able to visit and interact with officials from the following agencies – Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the US Secret Service, Department of Defense, Department of State, and the National Counter Terrorism Center, December 2016.


Blankinship, Lisa Ann – Associate Professor of Biology


Borah, Joy – Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor of Social Work


Bostic-Brown, Tiffany – Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Vocal Studies, Co-Director, UNA Opera

Presented, Walk with Me-A Lecture Recital, Central Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky, March 26, 2017.


Presented, “Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle: resources and ideas for pronunciation, comprehension, and memorization of sung texts,” with Dr. Ian Loeppky, AMEA Inservice Conference, Montgomery, AL, January 2017.


Bowie, Miranda – Assistant Professor of Mathematics


Brewton, Vince – Professor of English

Brown, Terrance – Interim Chair and Associate Professor of Music, Co-Director, UNA Opera

Burkhead, Cynthia – Chair and Associate Professor of English

Cain, Butler – Chair and Associate Professor of Communications
Co-Presented, “#WTAsia2015 Refining a Travel Writing Study Abroad Course,” 14th Annual International Conference on Communication and Mass Media, Athens, Greece, May 2016.

Clark, Timothy W. – Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Christy, T. Craig – Professor of Foreign Languages

Davison, Paul – Professor of Biology

Duvall-Zurinsky, Suzanne – Associate Professor of Art
Presentation funding provided by a University of North Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Grant.

Elmasry, Mohamad – Assistant Professor of Communications
Authored, “Fox News’s support for Turkish coup is true to form,” Middle East Eye, July 19, 2016.
Authored, “Egypt’s image crisis has grown worse,” Al-Jazeera, May 9, 2016.
Authored, “Egypt intensifies its war against political opponents,” Middle East Eye, May 7, 2016.


Presented, One hour news program regarding Sisi’s visit to Washington D.C., Al-Jazeera Mubasher, April 6, 2017.


Presented, “Twenty years on, what has been Al-Jazeera’s Impact?,” Inside Story, Al-Jazeera English, November 3, 2016.


Presented, An interview regarding the confirmation of sentences against journalists in Egypt’s “espionage case,” Al-Jazeera English, June 18, 2016.


Fleming, Jonathan – Assistant Professor of Geography


Presented, “Assessing the underwater environment with OpenROV: Mapping and measurement potential.” Mid-South Aquatic Plant Management Society 35th Annual Conference. Baton Rouge, LA.


Co-Presented, “A Canonical Correspondence Analysis of Ecological Community Structure in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.” With C. White, E. Dibble, and S. Sim. 39th Applied Geography Conference. Louisville, KY.


Supervised undergraduate student Karlie Roberson’s project, “Quantifying ecosystem services and natural resources of Franklin County, AL.” Presented at UNA Research Day 2017.

Garfreick, Robert – Chair, Professor and Eminent Scholar of Entertainment Industry

Presented, “Teaching the Entreprelennials.” College Music Society (CMS) annual conference in Sante Fe, NM in October 2016.

Garner, Anita – Professor of English


Gaston, Greg – Professor of Geography


Golenbiewski, Kyle – Assistant Professor of Mathematics


Graham, Anissa – Instructor in English


Graham, Leah M. – Associate Professor of Political Science


Greer, Mark – Assistant Professor of Mathematics


Presented, “Gamma loops (invited presentation),” Special Session on Nonassociative Algebra, AMS Western Sectional Meeting, University of Denver, Denver, CO, USA, 2016.

Presented, “Going from loops to groups through Baer,” Southern Regional Algebra Conference, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, USA, 2017.

Hodges, John – Chair and Associate Professor of Social Work


Hudiburg, Richard – Chair and Professor of Psychology


Hunt, Andrea – Assistant Professor of Sociology and Family Studies


Jackson, Jayson – Instructor in Mathematics


James, Charlton – Associate Professor of Theatre

Theatrical Performance, Journey of the Cross: Peter’s Story, lead actor, The Ramp School of Ministry, Hamilton, AL, April 2016.

Theatrical Performance, I’ll Take You There: The Music of Muscle Shoals, lead actor, Lone Tree Arts Center, Lone Tree, CO, February 2017.

10 thousand dollar grant, Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, UNA Summer Theatre, one-time grant for the world premiere of I’ll Take You There: The Music of Muscle Shoals; A Historical Music Revue.

Johnson, Ashley – Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Presented, “A flipped college geometry course,” MathFest, Columbus, Ohio, August 2016.

Kirch, Lisa – Associate Professor of Art


Koti, Francis – Chair and Professor of Geography


Presented, “Thriving in Dysfunction: Understanding the Water Market in Peri-Urban Towns in East Africa Using Participatory GIS.” 8th Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) conference, Kent State University, Kent, OH, September 2016.


Loepky, Ian – Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies


Presented, “Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle: resources and ideas for pronunciation, comprehension, and memorization of sung texts,” with Dr. Tiffany Bostic-Brown, AMEA Inservice Conference, Montgomery, AL, January 2017.


Member of Editorial Board, Anacrusis (the national publication of Choral Canada.)

Merciers, Meghan — Assistant Professor of Music


Malone, Janna — Instructor in Entertainment Industry


Marvin, Glenn — Associate Professor of Biology


Melvin, Stephen — Instructor in English


Mighty, Mario — Assistant Professor of Geography


Owens-Murphy, Katie — Assistant Professor of English


Paulk, Amber — Associate Professor of Sociology and Family Studies

Awarded, Outstanding Faculty Award, College of Arts and Sciences, April 2017.


Pretes, Michael — Professor of Geography


Prince-Lubawy, Jesse — Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Presented, “A reward system for general math courses,” MAA MathFest (2016), Columbus, OH.

Presented, “Finite group actions, orbitifolds, and equivalence of group actions,” (Invited Speaker) UAB Colloquium (2016), Birmingham, AL.

Presented, “An overview of metric distances between Cayley tables of finite groups,” (Invited Speaker) MAA Spring Sectional Meeting (2017), Macon, GA.

Purser, Christopher — Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice


Raney, Lee – Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Presented, “Permutation Groups and Sliding Disk Puzzles,” MAA MathFest, Columbus, OH, August 2016.


Ray, Jeffery – Associate Professor of Biology


Richardson, Terry – Professor of Biology


Ruebhausen, David – Associate Professor of Theatre

Exhibition, Covering the Walls 2017 theatrical design exhibition at United States Institute for Theatre Technology National Conference, St. Louis, MO, March 2017.

Theatrical performance, Scene Designer for The Miracle Worker, Ivy Green, Tuscumbia, AL, June & July 2017.

Adjudicator, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Proof at University of Alabama-Huntsville, Huntsville, AL, October 2016.

Adjudicator, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Dark of the Moon at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, April 2017.

Sanders, Pat – Associate Professor of Radio-Television-Film


Sim, Sunhui – Assistant Professor of Geography


Sulliman, Jason – Instructor in Music

Presentation, College Music Society- Great Lakes Chapter Conference, presenter, Murray, KY, April 8, 2017.


Presentation, Rowan University Brass Master Class, presenter, Glassboro, NJ, March, 30, 2017.

Presentation, Ohio Music Educators Association Conference, presenter, Cleveland, OH, February 4, 2017.

Presentation, Ohio Music Educators Association Conference, presenter, Cleveland, OH, February 3, 2017.


Stenger, Cynthia – Chair and Professor of Mathematics


Stovall, Jessica – Assistant Professor of Mathematics


Takeuchi, Alex – Professor of Sociology, University Ombudsman


Takeuchi, May – Associate Professor of Sociology


Wardell, Brenda – Assistant Professor of English


Wiggins, Tracy – Assistant Professor of Music, Assistant Director of Bands


Presented, Clinic at the Alabama Percussive Arts Society Day of Percussion at Troy University, February 2017.


Williams, Yaschica – Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology


Winner, Tammy – Associate Professor of English


Zayac, Ryan – Associate Professor of Psychology


Blankinship, Lisa Ann – Associate Professor of Biology
$1,000, University of North Alabama Undergraduate Research Program Grant with B. Littrell to support project entitled “Antibiotic Resistance: Plasmid Transfer Among Bacterial Species.”
$500, Beta Beta Beta Research grant with B. Littrell to support project entitled “Antibiotic Resistance: Plasmid Transfer Among Bacterial Species.”
$2,000, University of North Alabama Quality Enhancement Program Undergraduate Research Program Grant with B. Littrell to support project entitled “Antibiotic Resistance: Plasmid Transfer Among Bacterial Species.”
$600, Beta Beta Beta Research grant with S. Tingle to support project entitled “Forensic sample digestion: what microbes are eating human proteins.”
$2,000, University of North Alabama Quality Enhancement Program Undergraduate Research Program Grant with J. Floyd to support project entitled “Forensic Sample Digestion.”
$2,406, University of North Alabama University Research Grant with J. Jones to support project entitled “Evaluating Antimicrobial Activity of Five Species of Plantago.”

Bostic-Brown, Tiffany – Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Vocal Studies, Co-Director, UNA Opera
Grant, Bank Independent, Florence, Alabama, $5000 for UNA Opera, April 24, 2017.

Brown, Terrance – Interim Chair and Associate Professor of Music, Co-Director, UNA Opera
Grant, Bank Independent, Florence, Alabama, $5000 for UNA Opera, April 24, 2017.

Burkhead, Cynthia – Chair and Associate Professor
Awarded, Raytown Quality Schools Alumni Hall of Fame, 2016.

Duvall-Zurinsky, Suzanne – Associate Professor of Art
Accepted membership invitation, DARTS Division (Special Needs Art Education), The National Council for Exceptional Children, August, 2016.
Appointed, Auxiliary Board Member and Art Committee Director, Children’s Museum of the Shoals, July, 2016.

Graham, Leah M. – Associate Professor of Political Science

Greer, Mark – Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Awarded the Elizabeth Gaines Mann Professorship of Mathematics for the 2017-18 academic year ($2,700).

Hubler, Tina – Associate Professor of Biology
$2,598, College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant to support project entitled “Are the two chronic stress-associated genes, FKBP4 and FKBP5, controlled by microRNAs?”

Hudiburg, Richard – Chair and Professor of Psychology
$1,517, University of North Alabama Arts and Science Faculty Research and Development Committee Research Grant, Spirituality of Hiking-type Pilgrimages: Phase 1 of Camino de Santiago Spirituality Study, 2016.

Hunt, Andrea – Assistant Professor of Sociology
$400, Alpha Kappa Delta International Honor Society to support sociology research symposium, 2017.

Kingsbury, Pam – Instructor in English
$1,500 mini-grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF/NHF). UNA Writer’s Series Reading with Peter Balakian, March 16, 2017. One-year grant.
$2,200 literary programming (juried) grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA). UNA Writer’s Series Reading with Peter Balakian’s on March 16th, 2017. One-year grant.

Mighty, Mario – Assistant Professor of Geography
$2,719 Faculty Research Grant, University of North Alabama, February 2017.
$1,306 Faculty Development Grant, University of North Alabama College of Arts and Sciences, March 2017.

Owens-Murphy, Katie – Assistant Professor of English
$2,244 major grant, Alabama Humanities Foundation, for the UNA-Limestone Prison Programming Initiative, Spring 2017. This grant paid for travel, books, and writing supplies for “Crime and Punishment in American Culture,” a course co-taught by Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy, Dr. Yaschica Williams, and Dr. Chris Purser.
$2,500 major grant, Alabama State Council for the Arts, Reader Riot Book Festival, Spring 2017. This grant paid for readings by Randall Horton and Frank X. Walker which also included an outreach visit to the Tennessee Valley Juvenile Detention Center.
$2,934.57 community grant, Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, Florence African-American Heritage Project. This 2017-2018 grant is a partnership between Project Say Something and the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. It will make possible the collection, digitization, and curation of materials related to African-American life and history in Florence.
Pretes, Michael – Professor of Geography

Prince-Lubawy, Jesse – Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Awarded, COAS Research Grant (Spring 2017).

Purser, Christopher – Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
Arts and Sciences Student Advocacy Award, 2017, Department of Politics, Justice, and Law.
$2,244.00 major grant, Alabama Humanities Foundation, for the UNA-Limestone Prison Programming Initiative, Spring 2017. This one-semester grant paid for travel, books, and writing supplies for “Crime and Punishment in American Culture,” an interdisciplinary course co-taught by Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy, Dr. Yaschica Williams, and Dr. Chris Purser.

Ray, Jeffery – Associate Professor of Biology
$3,000, College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant to support project entitled “Using environmental DNA (eDNA) to aid in rare species detection in the Tennessee River drainage.”

Sim, Sunhui – Assistant Professor of Geography
$2,057 grant, College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant (Internal) “the visualization of livability.”
Awarded with Simon Bevis (student-PI), Freddie Wood Geography Research Grant – 2016, “Women Farmers and indicators of localized agriculture analysis with geographically weighted regression”, Fund awarded $300.00 for Student Conference Participation.

Stenger, Cynthia – Chair and Professor of Mathematics
$211,317 grant, Co-Principal Investigator on CPR2: Collaborative Partnership to Teach Mathematical Reasoning Through Computer Programming, Math/Science Partnership grant funded through Federal Funds via United States Department of Education administered through Alabama State Department of Education.
$3,255 grant, Co-Principal Investigator on Alabama Space Grant Consortium, UNA Summer STEM Camps grant.

Stovall, Jessica – Assistant Professor of Mathematics
$211,317 grant, Co-Principal Investigator on CPR2: Collaborative Partnership to Teach Mathematical Reasoning Through Computer Programming, Math/Science Partnership grant funded through Federal Funds via United States Department of Education administered through Alabama State Department of Education.
$1,593 grant, Principle Investigator on University of North Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant.

Stupiansky, Jillian – Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Full Travel Grant (transportation, lodging, meals), Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics, attendance at PIC Math Data Analytics Workshop, Provo, UT, May 2017.

Received Research Permit, National Park Services, conduct study titled Mathematical Modeling of the Devastation of Hemlock Trees in the Great Smoky Mountains, with J. Stovall, March 2017.

Williams, Yaschica – Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology
$2,244 major grant, Alabama Humanities Foundation, for the UNA-Limestone Prison Programming Initiative, Spring 2017. This grant paid for travel, books, and writing supplies for “Crime and Punishment in American Culture,” a course co-taught by Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy, Dr. Yaschica Williams, and Dr. Chris Purser.

Zhao, Ping – Assistant Professor of Biology
$2,575, College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant to support project entitled ‘Ileal Interposition Surgery in Melanocortin 4 Receptor (MC4R) Deficient Rats.’

Zayac, Ryan – Associate Professor of Psychology
$2,000, Psi Chi International Honor Society, Faculty Advisor Research Grant, 2016.
$2,803, University of North Alabama Research Committee Grant, German University Students’ and Professors’ Perceptions of ‘Master’ Teachers, 2016.
$500, Psi Chi International Honor Society, Faculty Advisor Travel Grant, 2016.
Armstrong, Robert W. – Professor of Marketing

Barrett, John D. – Chair and Professor of Quantitative Methods

Beaver, Jana P. – Chair and Associate Professor of Management

Blackstone, Tanya F. – Professor of Economics

Borah, Santanu – Professor of Management

Carnes, Gregory A.–Dean of College of Business and Raburn Professor of Accounting

Collin, Sean L. – Assistant Professor of Business Law

Crabtree, John D. – Professor of Computer Information Systems

Foster, Mark D. – Associate Professor of Finance

Gafford, Jerome M. – Assistant Professor of Marketing

Gatlin, Kerry P. – Professor Emeritus of Management

Gossett, Carol H. – Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems

Hallock, Daniel E. – Professor of Management

Hamm, Rebecca E. – Instructor in Accounting

Imbrogno, Jason P. – Assistant Professor of Economics

Jenkins, Janet T. – Associate Professor of Computer Science

Jenkins, James A. – Associate Professor of Computer Science
Jones, Keith T. – Professor of Accounting


King, Brett A. – Professor of Finance


Lawrence, Mark L. – Chair and Professor of Accounting


Lovett, Thomas M. – Professor of Business Law


Malone, Keith D. – Professor of Economics


Nickels, David W. – LaGrange Eminent Scholar and Professor of Computer Information Systems


Simpson, Jill M. – Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems


Stafford, Jeremy O. – Professor of Management


Van Renssalaer, Kristen N. – Professor of Finance


Williams, Peter M. – Professor of Economics


Zhang, Xihui – Associate Professor of Computer Information Systems


Armstrong, Linda – Professor of Elementary Education


Brown, Joy – Professor of Secondary Education


Choat, Madonna – Instructor of Elementary Education


Presented, “Creativity and Student Success, professional development presentation for Lauderdale County School System, May 2016.

Clayton, Lisa – Associate Professor of Elementary Education


Co-presented “Powerful Partnerships: Designing Creative, Strategic Literacy Field Experiences that Impact Students, Teachers and Teacher Candidates” Alabama Reading Association, Huntsville, AL, November, 2016.


Coates, Thomas – Chair and Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation


Green, J. Matthew – Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation


Hall, Michael D. – Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation


Helm Allen, Jean Ann – Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation


**Johnson, Lorie – Assistant Professor of Elementary Education**


Co-presented, "From Worksheets to Workshop: One Teacher's Journey to Reading and Writing Workshop," Alabama Reading Association's conference in Huntsville, AL, November 2016.


**Kang, Chanho – Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation**


**Killen, Lauren – Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation**


**Kinney, Katie – Chair and Professor of Elementary Education**


**Lee, Ye Hoon – Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation**


**Loew, Sandra – Chair and Professor of Counselor Education**


**Maddock, Lamont – Associate Professor of Secondary Education**


Mitchell, Jessica – Assistant Professor of Secondary Education


O’Neal, Eric – Associate Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation


Padgett, Gary – Assistant Professor of Secondary Education


Parries, Miranda – Assistant Professor of Counselor Education


Pearson, Quinn – Professor of Counselor Education


Renfroe, Lee – Associate Professor of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

Bergeron, Peggy – Assistant Professor of Nursing


Brewer, Will – Assistant Professor of Nursing


Coronel, Helen – Assistant Professor of Nursing


Darby, Wendy – Professor of Nursing


Kirkman, Tera – Chair and Associate Professor of Nursing

Co-Authored, 2.4 million dollar grant, Department Health and Human Services (HRSA), Opportunities for Entry into Nursing (OPEN), Financially Disadvantaged, Continuing four-year grant.


Oden, Kristy – Associate Professor of Nursing


Underwood, Lynn – Assistant Professor of Nursing


Winston, Rachel – Assistant Professor of Nursing

Co-Authored, 2.4 million dollar grant, Department Health and Human Services (HRSA), Opportunities for Entry into Nursing (OPEN), Financially Disadvantaged, Continuing four-year grant.
Lindsey, Natasha – Assistant Professor, Instructional Designer


Malone, Derek – Assistant Professor, Librarian

Co-Presented, “Frameworking CRAAP: How we’re correlating the ACRL Framework to content evaluation with the CRAAP test in our instruction practices,” authored with P. Campbell, Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy, Savannah, GA, October 2016.


McDaniel, Doris – Assistant Professor, Librarian

McGee, John – Director of Educational Technology Services; Instructor, Coordinator of Academic Technology
Co-Presented, “The Course Map on the Road to QM” co-authored with Dr. Natasha Lindsey, and Dr. Wendy Darby, QM Regional Conference: Accreditation, Regulation and Compliance – Oh My! Berkeley College, New York City, April 2017.

