Study Abroad
The Criminal Justice Department will host its first study abroad program November 30 – December 6, 2013. Students will visit London under the direction of Instructor Wayne Bergeron, LTC (Ret.). The trip will focus on international law enforcement and emergency response. Ten students are enrolled. Congratulations to the Criminal Justice Department for its first study abroad trip.

Annual Social Work Fall Reception
The Social Work Department and the Social Work Organization hosted their annual fall reception on November 13. The theme of the conference was “Weaving Advocacy and Resiliency.” Area social workers and other licensed professionals were able to receive CEU credit for participation. Thanks to the Social Work Department for hosting this event and for extending its mission on behalf of the Shoals.

Faculty Community Service
Dr. Yaschica Williams, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department, recently joined the Board of Directors of Rape Response and the newly formed Family Justice Center. Thanks to Dr. Williams for her community efforts.

New Faculty
Aaron Tennessee Benson received his MFA in ceramics from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University and his BFA in ceramics from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He has been an intern at Anderson Ranch Art Center in Colorado, and a long term resident and MJD Fellow at the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana. Benson’s work has been published, collected, and exhibited throughout the United States. His work uses an assortment of material such as clay, steel, wood, concrete, and gold to explore his interests in time and eternity. He is married to Allison Benson who is also a ceramic artist. They have three beautiful children: Reese, Knox, and Bray. Aaron and Allison are both committed to the arts as a profession and lifestyle.

Building Champions
The UNA Pride of Dixie Band recently attended the Bands of America Grand National Championships and the Percussion Arts Society International Conference. The Band received exemplary reviews at the Bands of America competition. On Friday, November 15, the UNA Drum Line won the championship at the Percussion Arts Society defeating Indiana University, University of Michigan, and Lamar University in a head-to-head elimination competition. What a great performance! Congratulations Dr. Jones and Dr. Moyer!

Marshal Space Flight Center
A group from the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville came to campus last Friday to meet with faculty and staff about possible partnerships with UNA. Their schedule included a tour of the campus and the planetarium, discussion with faculty from different disciplines, and a luncheon. Thanks to Melissa Medlin for coordinating the effort.