

Professional Achievements

Dr. William Strong, Professor Emeritus of Geography, is a 2015 recipient of the Distinguished Mentor Award (DMA) from the National Council for Geographic Education. Award recipients will be recognized at a special ceremony during the National Conference on Geography Education on Saturday, August 8, 2015 in Washington, DC. The DMA honors university faculty who have been exceptional at mentoring students of geography and geography education. Congratulations, this is a great honor!

The Division of Academic Affairs congratulates the following administrators, faculty and staff who were initiated into the UNA chapter of Phi Kappa Phi on April 14: Thomas Calhoun, Judy Jackson, Stephanie Montgomery, Kristy Oden, Christa Raney, and Christy Waters. In addition, Dr. Lisa Clayton was presented the Eleanor P. Gaunder Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Lisa Kirch, Associate Professor of Art, has received a Short-Term Research Grant from the Renaissance Society of America. This will fund her summer research in Germany, part of an ongoing, collaborative effort with scholars at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Trier. Her project, entitled "Collecting, Status, and Power: Display and the Patrician House in Early-Modern Frankfurt am Main," uses archival and other sources to investigate the art and collectible objects that wealthy citizens of Frankfurt accumulated in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

At the February Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Dr. David Ruebhausen, Associate Professor of Theatre received two Excellence in Design awards from KCACTF for *Tango* and *Dr. Faustus* and one Excellence in Directing award for *Tango*. He also exhibited award winning scene designs from UNA's productions of *Oedipus Tyrannus* and *Dr. Faustus* at the Cover the Walls exhibit at the United States Institute for Theatre Technology National Conference in Cincinnati, OH, in March.

Charlton James, Associate Professor of Theatre, was a featured actor in the film *Old Timer* which was published in The Journal of Short Film, an academic peer-reviewed publication devoted to the distribution of the underrepresented medium of short film. The journal distributes a DVD of collected short films in each volume to universities, libraries and the public, both domestic and internationally. *Old Timer* was directed by Andrew Reed and shot locally.

Student Achievements

The Department of Biology had excellent representation at the recent joint meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) and Southeastern (SE) Region of Beta Beta Beta Honor Society (TriBeta). In all, the department sent 11 current students and four faculty members to Chattanooga, TN, where they made seven research presentations. In addition to the current faculty, Dr. Paul Yokley, former department chair and Professor Emeritus of Biology, attended as the regional Vice President of SE Region of TriBeta, and Mrs. Kathleen Roush attended as the National Secretary-Treasurer of TriBeta, which has the National Office of the Society located on the UNA campus. Seniors Anna Hinson and Hailey Boeck received an **Honorable Mention Award** in the poster competition of TriBeta SE District II. Under the able leadership of Emily Cash, the Beta Zeta Chapter from UNA was awarded the **Outstanding History Award** for the District. Dr. Roush, Professor of Biology, was also recognized as an **Outstanding Chapter Advisor**.

Art students Shilo Cupples and Mollie Schaeffer were selected by the Alabama State Council on the Arts to serve as founding members of the Junior Arts Education Leadership Team. This statewide "think tank" for arts education will assist the state's Arts Education Leadership Team in the development of a statewide plan to create access and equity to arts education for all Alabama students. A student government officer and a writing tutor for the Center of Writing Excellence, Mollie is a sophomore pursuing her Bachelor of Science degree. Shilo, a key graphic designer for the Flo-Ala, will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Digital Media.

UNA's Math/Computer Science (CS) Undergraduate Research Team presented its original research at the 29th Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research, NCUR2015. The conference was hosted by Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA, April 16-18, 2015. This prestigious, three-day event featured more than 3,000 research and art presentations by students from 390 colleges and universities representing 42 states and seven countries. The mission of NCUR2015 is to promote undergraduate research scholarship and creative activity done in partnership with faculty or other mentors as a vital component of higher education. UNA math and CS majors Michael Beaver, Morgan Burcham, John Carr, and Elly Couch were accompanied by faculty research advisors Dr. James Jerkins and Dr. Cindy Stenger. John Carr presented "Groups, Quasigroups, and the Sudoku Property" (adviser Dr. Mark Greer); Michael Beaver presented "Investigating Cardano's Irreducible Case" (adviser Dr. Jessica Stovall); Morgan Burcham presented "Achieving Low-Overhead Defense against ROP Hacker Attacks" (adviser Dr. James Jerkins). Special thanks to Dr. Lisa Keys-Mathews for her support of this undergraduate research event.

University of North Alabama undergraduate math major John Carr was selected to speak at the 8th Annual Troy MathFest, a research conference focused on undergraduate mathematics. The conference was Saturday, April 11, 2015, at Troy University. Carr's talk, entitled "Groups, Quasigroups and the Sudoku Property," focused on his own original findings in non-associative structures and combinatorics. Mr. Carr is mentored by Dr. Mark Greer of the Mathematics Department. Mr. Carr applied for and received a travel grant from Mathfest to speak at the event.

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