

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the 2015-16 academic year! We hope everyone enjoyed their summer and returns rested and ready for the new semester. This year promises to be an exciting and productive one with our continued focus on strong academics and student-focused education. As we begin our 185th year at UNA, we wish you a productive, challenging and successful academic year! We look forward to seeing you around campus. Let's make it a great year!

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ms. Jill Englett, Instructor in Human Environmental Sciences, on her induction into the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society at Rutgers Bio-medical and Health Sciences, Rutgers University. Ms. Englett was recognized for excellence in service to graduate and professional school students through outstanding scholarship, character, and leadership. Ms. Englett is working at Rutgers University toward a Ph.D. in Clinical Nutrition.

The International Tutor Training Program (ITTP), sponsored by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), has accepted the UNA Center for Writing Excellence (CWE) as a certified tutor training program. UNA achieved this status through the extended hard work and dedication of Dr. Kathleen Richards, Assistant Director for the Center for Writing Excellence. Great job!

Dr. Brenna Wardell, Assistant Professor of English, tied for "Best Conference Paper" at the "Joss in June" Conference, held June 27 at Middle Tennessee State University. Dr. Wardell's paper was entitled, "Actors Assemble!: The Intertextual Pleasures of the Joss Whedon Ensemble."

In July 2015, Jessica Nelson, Adjunct Instructor in Music, directed the 40th annual Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy, a nationally recognized conference for professional church musicians that draws clinicians and participants from all over the country. In October 2015, she will serve as one of 12 participants in the first symposium of the Center for Liturgy and Music at Virginia Theological Seminary, a flagship seminary of the Episcopal Church. Ms. Nelson has also been commissioned by the Chamber Choir of Butler Community College in Wichita, Kansas to compose a new choral work that will be premiered in November 2015.

Congratulations to Dr. Janet Jenkins, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Dr. James Jerkins, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Dr. Cynthia Stenger, Chair and Professor of Mathematics, and Dr. Jessica Stovall, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, for being awarded the Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) Math and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant to assist Alabama's teachers in better serving their students in the areas of mathematics, science, and technology! So far, the team has led Professional Learning Sessions for 136 teachers at regional middle and high schools including Huntsville and Birmingham city schools, and at UNA.



Study Abroad

The UNA Chamber Choir, conducted and directed by Dr. Ian Loeppky, toured Italy this spring for eight days. They enjoyed a whirlwind schedule of artistic and architectural wonders, including Michelangelo's *David*, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Vatican Museum, the Duomo in Florence, the Cathedral at Assisi, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Pantheon, to name a few. The chance to offer music inside these grand spaces was both humbling and thrilling. Highlights of the tour included impromptu performances at the Duomo and the Pantheon, Masses sung at Assisi and St. Peter's (including a premiere of *Tantum ergo* written for them for this tour), and a huge audience for their final concert at Sant' Agnese in Agone in Rome. The tour was a life-changing and unforgettable experience! It was coordinated with the UNA Study Abroad program.

New Faculty

Matthew Barlow (B.A., University of British Columbia, Vancouver; M.A., Simon Fraser University, Vancouver; Ph.D., Concordia University, Montréal) joined the History Department at UNA as Assistant Professor of History, and will teach Public History, as well as American and Irish history. His book, *The House of the Irish*, about history and memory in Griffintown, an Irish neighbourhood of Montréal, will be released in Fall 2016. He has a museum exhibit opening at the Centre d'histoire de Montréal in September in conjunction with Montréal film-maker G. Scott MacLeod, which grows out of his work on Griffintown. His next project is a collaboration with artist Sam Perkins, examining the death of Perkins' hometown, the village of Amity, Missouri. Prior to coming to UNA, Dr. Barlow taught at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Salem State University, also in Massachusetts, and John Abbott College in Montréal. He is very excited to be joining UNA and exploring the Muscle Shoals area.

Open Invitation

In 2010-2011, our office initiated a periodic newsletter for the campus that provides information items and highlights special events and accomplishments. We invite your articles and your feedback on how we can make the newsletter beneficial to the campus. Have a great year!