

## Ring in the New...

The Spring semester is off to a great start. In addition to the day-to-day schedule of classes, faculty presentations, and music and theater performances, a few special events highlight the semester. For example, January featured an inspiring program celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *"A Day On, Not Day Off,"* brought more than 200 volunteers packaging over 33,000 bags of food for local food banks, followed by the MLK March on January 18, 2016. January 27 marked the dedication and ribbon cutting of the new residence halls where our first-year students will enjoy state-of-the-art living facilities. Committed to better serving the UNA community, the President's Executive Council and Shared Governance will host two Open Forums in February to offer an opportunity to faculty, staff, and students to share observations and engage in university-related dialogue with the President and senior leadership. UNA will host award-winning prison Poet Randall Horton on Feb 3; celebrate the scholarship and pedagogy of our faculty and students during Research Day on April 20 and 21; and honor the achievements of our outstanding students and faculty at the Annual Awards gala on April 25. We wish you a wonderful, productive semester!

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## Return of a Tradition

The return of our students and welcoming of a new semester revives a UNA tradition: the Carillon Bell System. The bell rings from the top of Bibb Graves Hall, seven days a week, based on a schedule developed by an Ad Hoc Committee of faculty and staff. The schedule will maintain the dignity of the chimes and be sensitive to local neighborhoods during late evening hours. Among its features, the system can provide a variety of chime/bell music that may be added in for special occasions and holidays. You might have noticed the UNA Fight Song playing during home games, during the last semester. The system also provides audible alerts and tones that can be used to alert the campus in case of an emergency situation.

## Fulbright Recipient

Dr. Lisa Kirch, Associate Professor in the Department of Art, received the 2016-17 Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant from the Europe/Eurasia Team of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, for her studies in museum conception. She offered an example of one source, the Kunst-und Wunderkammer, "Chamber of Arts and Wonders." Dr. Kirch describes this as a collection of scientific specimens. Her team of German/European/American scholars hope to discover more about early collections such as these, and will endeavor a multidisciplinary study, translating an early inventory document from archaic German to English. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Kirch for her role as co-organizer and translator in what is certain to be groundbreaking research.



## Pathways to Innovation

UNA was selected as one of 14 universities to join the Pathways to Innovation Program, which is funded by the National Science Foundation. The Pathways program is designed with the purpose of incorporating innovation and entrepreneurship into undergraduate education for all students, regardless of their major. UNA's Director of Innovation and Engineering, Mr. Mitch Hamm, met Stanford University representatives in November, and recently traveled to Arizona State University for his second conference with Pathways. This meeting brought together teams of school administrators to analyze the needs and opportunities at each school, and develop plans for transforming the undergraduate experience. Mr. Hamm refers to Pathways as "one of the most illuminating opportunities I have experienced." UNA will join 36 institutional teams currently participating in the program.

## New Faculty



Lisa Harrington, RN, MSN, joined the UNA College of Nursing as an Instructor. Ms. Harrington graduated Magna Cum Laude from UNA's BSN program in 2012 and completed the MSN program in 2013. She also has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology & Sociology from Lafayette College (1991). She has worked primarily in Mental Health Nursing most of her twenty year nursing career, and has been teaching Mental Health Nursing Clinicals for both UNA and Wallace State Community College for several years. She remains actively involved with developing staff education programs for Decatur Morgan Hospital-West Campus, a Behavioral Medicine Center.

## Open Invitation

The Academic Affairs Newsletter provides university information and highlights special events and accomplishments. We invite your feedback and stories to make the newsletter more beneficial to campus. Please send submissions to [rpvandiver@una.edu](mailto:rpvandiver@una.edu). Have a great year!