

UNA Celebrates Women's History Month

UNA celebrated Women's History Month with a series of events to highlight the many contributions of women to society. The Center for Women's Studies celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th with a panel discussion on reflections on the Women's March in Washington attended by UNA student Ashley Massey; other panel members included high school and community members. The Center joined forces with UNA's Planetarium to showcase women who have made significant contributions in the field of Astronomy and Space Exploration through documentary screenings and guest lectures. The Department of Communications hosted UNA alumni Swampette Judy Hood and tourism guru Debbie Wilson with *The Message Matters: Celebrating Women Who 'Tell It Like It Is.'* The career paths of these UNA graduates and former journalists illustrate the diverse jobs available for women in public relations and how the profession has evolved over the years.

Dr. John Thornell,
Vice President for
Academic Affairs & Provost
jthornell@una.edu

Dr. Joy Borah
Associate Vice President
for Academic Affairs
jsborah@una.edu

Ms. Renee' P. Vandiver,
Executive Assistant to the
Provost
rpvandiver@una.edu

Mr. David A. Johnson
Executive Assistant to the
Associate Vice President
djohnson@una.edu



Program Accomplishments

UNA's Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Hub was recognized by the Pacific Northwest (PNW) TARC Hub. The immense success of UNA's hub has sparked the PNW TARC Hub, which has used UNA's hub model to further develop and strengthen its program. The success of UNA's program is attributed to AMSTI K-5 Specialist and America Rocketry Challenge (TARC) Hub Coordinator, Mr. Lee Brownell. One of Mr. Brownell's many contributions includes drawing a record 20 new student teams into the TARC experience by cultivating relationships with aerospace industries in our region and engaging students with workshops and educational outreach.



UNA Writer's Series



Peter Balakian, the winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize in poetry for *Ozone Journal*, was this year's guest at the UNA Writer's Series, sponsored by the English Department, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Mr. Balakian read his award-winning poetry on Thursday, March 16th. The reading was followed by a book-signing and reception. The UNA Writers' Series began in 1984 as the University of North Alabama Writers' Conference and has attracted a wide variety of gifted writers. Past participants have included Al Young, Russell Banks, Vicki Covington, Ellen Gilchrist, Marilynne Robinson, Kaye Gibbons, Larry Brown, James Seay, Lewis Nordon, and Michael Lee West. The Series provides UNA students with opportunities to share their interests in writing and contemporary literature with professional writers from a variety of genres.

New Faculty Bio

Dr. Tim Loughrist, visiting assistant professor of special education, earned his BA in philosophy in 2004 at SUNY Geneseo and his PhD in philosophy in 2015 at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He is currently a visiting assistant professor of philosophy in the history department.

His dissertation, *Reasons Against Belief: A Theory of Defeat*, was advised by Dr. Albert Casullo and explores the mechanism of defeat of epistemic justification. His main research interests are in epistemology and meta-ethics, with secondary interests in ancient philosophy and normative and applied ethics.



Open Invitation

We invite your feedback and stories to make the newsletter more beneficial to campus. Please send submissions with pictures to:

djohnson@una.edu.