

Transforming Education through Innovation Engineering, Science and Technology

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As a premier institution of the south, UNA is transforming education through the implementation of Innovation, Engineering, Science and Technology programs. Grounded in teaching and learning, these programs bring together a lively learning community of outstanding students, faculty mentors, and community leaders with a passion for creativity and innovative technology. Read on to find out some of the advances we are making in preparing our students for the digital age!

Innovation Engineering

UNA Innovation Engineering students Abigail Holbert, Nathan Martin, Ryan Mason, and Grace Piper were named University Innovation Fellows by the National Center for Engineering Pathways to Innovation, funded by the National Science Foundation and directed by Stanford University. Innovation Engineering is a minor at UNA open to undergraduate students from all majors who seek to create, design, and lead innovative enterprises, launch their own ventures, and become innovative leaders. Requirements consist of a combination of courses and experiential aspects built around the student's interests and area of study. The four IE Fellows will attend the Annual Meet-up in Silicon Valley in March and participate in events and training sessions at Stanford University, Google, among other sites. University of North Alabama is one of 47 higher education institutions to be selected for this prestigious program.



Engineering Technology

UNA is excited to announce the launch of a four-year undergraduate degree program in Engineering Technology. Housed in the Science and Engineering Technology building, this program includes a combination of course work and co-op opportunities. The curriculum will provide a basis for future engineering specialization, technology management, or an entrepreneurial career. This diverse education is designed to provide students with a vision of engineering's prominent role in shaping and improving society so they can participate in, and lead, the next generation of engineering accomplishments. Dr. Pete B. Rim, Director and Department Chair, is joining UNA from Virginia Tech University and has already jumped in with excitement to prepare UNA's first engineering curriculum to be offered fall 2016. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Pete Rim to the University of North Alabama. He has proven to be an excellent addition to the UNA family.



Strategic Doing

UNA hosted a Strategic Doing Practitioner Training at UNA's East Campus on February 24-26, 2016. Twelve participants attended, including faculty from the departments of Nursing, Business, Geography, and Health and Human Sciences. The training focused on building skills to guide conversations, allowing groups to select an opportunity and move into an action plan. Strategic Doing is being practiced in 40 states and 12 countries. Dr. Doug Barrett, Chair of Economics and Finance, Mary Marshall VanSant, Director of Continuing Education, and Janyce Fadden, Executive in Residence, led the training.

Faculty Accomplishment

Dr. Melvin Blake, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy, has been awarded the 2014 – 15 Outstanding Society of Physics (SPS) Student Chapter award by the SPS National Council. The award recognizes the efforts Dr. Blake and his colleagues have made to build community and propel students into their careers as prepared professionals. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Blake on this tremendous accomplishment for his students as well as his efforts to keep UNA great and moving forward!

Welcome to our Staff



The VPAA's Office welcomes our new staff member, Morgan Daniels, Executive Assistant to the Associate VPAA. Morgan is a 2012 graduate of The University of Alabama, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Human Environmental Sciences. Before joining the UNA family, Morgan worked as a Data Entry Specialist and Administrative Assistant to the Associate Vice President of Development at University of Mobile. She is excited to be joining the faculty and staff of UNA where not only her husband, Matthew Daniels, is the Director of Events and Facilities in the UNA Athletic Department, but there is a long family line of UNA alumni including her great-grandfather, great-aunt, mother, and twin sister. Morgan says she is proud to be continuing the UNA spirit and tradition on campus and in the family as she begins a rewarding career in the Academic Affairs office.

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 mdaniels@una.edu.