

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

Volume V, Issue 6

New Faculty Award

A new faculty award will be given at the spring Awards Gala. In addition to awards for teaching, research, and service, outstanding advisement by a faculty member will be recognized. Nominations will occur in February. The addition of the award acknowledges the important job of advising by faculty, especially with increased emphasis on student retention. For more information, including a nomination form and the criteria, email lpcoates@una.edu.

Changes in Faculty Awards

Effective with the Spring 2014 Awards Gala, the four faculty awards in advising, research, service, and teaching will carry a faculty development grant of \$750 instead of a cash award of \$500.

Collier Library Archives

Library staff honor faculty authors, April 1977. Click [here](#) to read the article.

New Faculty

Lamont Maddox, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, joined the University of North Alabama faculty after serving as a social studies teacher for seven years, co-chair of the social studies department, and middle school cross-country coach at Hewitt-Trussville High School in Trussville, AL. Lamont earned his doctorate in 2012 from Auburn University, and his dissertation focused on the impact of authentic intellectual work on student achievement in history classrooms. He has continued this line of research as a member of the Social Studies Inquiry Research Collaborative (SSIRC), a group of college and university researchers who have joined together to study the effects of challenging, authentic social studies instruction on student learning and performance. He was also a full time graduate teaching and research assistant at Auburn University for several years under Dr. John Saye. In addition to teaching, Lamont served in the U.S. Army for nine years as an active duty and reserve officer from 1996-2005. He is originally from Dunwoody, GA and now lives in Florence with his wife Jennifer.

Searches

Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the College of Business, will chair the search for a Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs to fill the vacancy that will be created by the retirement of Dr. Steve Smith. Dr. Melvin Davis, Dean of Library Services, will chair the search for a Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to fill the vacancy that will be created by the retirement of Dr. Vagn Hansen.

New Minors in HCI/UX

Several departments at the University of North Alabama have collaborated in the creation of new minors in HCI Development and HCI Design. Human-Computer Interaction and User Experience (HCI/UX) is a rapidly growing field that focuses on the goal of making technology more accessible and easier to use. Products that are intuitive and easy to use increase user satisfaction and productivity, while those that are not are left behind. Creating products and services that are easy to use and enjoyable for the end-user is hard work that involves knowledge and skills in more than just one discipline.

Computer Science and Computer Information Systems majors may pursue an interdisciplinary minor in HCI Development by taking additional courses in some of the following areas of study: art, communication, psychology, marketing, and English. Art majors who wish to pursue a minor in HCI Design will focus on digital media in addition to taking courses in psychology and information systems. Students in HCI/UX minor program will also be required to complete a capstone course in which they can demonstrate their skills and abilities. Several other departments on campus have HCI-related minors in the planning stages as well.

A new introductory course, CIS 289 Introduction to HCI/UX, will be offered beginning in the spring of 2014 for those wishing to pursue this exciting, interdisciplinary field of study. Guest lectures and mentoring from expert employees of companies like Northrop Grumman, Intergraph, and SAIC are planned. This introductory course, CIS 289, requires instructor permission, so interested students should have their advisors recommend them to the course organizer, Dr. John Crabtree.

Faculty Member Accepted Into CUR Program

Dr. Lisa Ann Blankinship, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, was accepted into the Council for Undergraduate Research's institute on "Beginning a Research Program in the Natural Sciences at a Predominately Undergraduate Institution". Dr. Blankinship's application narrative included references to the University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) "Building Success through Discovery: Imagine, Investigate, Communicate" which seeks to provide research experiences for undergraduate students in at least three classes in their major. Dr. Blankinship serves on the QEP Leadership Team and is participating in the QEP pilot study. Upon her return, Dr. Blankinship will conduct a "lunch and learn" for faculty and staff members on what she learned at the Institute.

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