

Academic Affairs Newsletter

by Office of the Provost
and Vice President for Academic Affairs



University of North Alabama

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Physics and Earth Science News

The Physics and Earth Science Department announces its affiliation with the Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) which is a consortium of over 100 U.S. universities dedicated to the operation of science facilities for the acquisition, management, and distribution of seismological data. IRIS programs contribute to scholarly research, education, earthquake hazard mitigation, and verification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

Recently, Dr. Mel Blake, Assistant Professor in the Physics and Earth Science Department and Dr. Lisa Ann Blankinship, Assistant Professor in the Biology Department, served as judges for the first stage of the 2014 Alabama Junior Academy of Science research paper competition. Ms. Doreen Blankinship, physics specialist for Alabama Science in Motion, hosted the event on the east campus. Dr. Brenda H. Webb, Associate Professor and Chair of the Physics and Earth Science Department serves as regional coordinator for the event which is now sponsored by UNA. Regional winners advance to the state level competitions held during the annual Alabama Academy of Science annual meeting. ~ Dr. Brenda Webb

Congratulations to Dr. Mel Blake, Department of Physics and Earth Science, who was awarded a \$1,090 grant from the Society of Physics Students. The grant supports student research on the impacts of meteors on the lunar surface. ~ Dr. Tanja Blackstone

Four Finalists for Dean of College of Arts & Sciences

The search committee for the Dean of the College of Arts and Science has completed its review of applicants and recommended four candidates for a campus visit. These four individuals will be scheduled for visits over the next few weeks. The campus will be notified as these arrangements are completed. The candidates are:

George Arasimowicz	Kean University	View Resume'
Carmen Burkhalter	University of Alabama	View Resume'
Chris Maynard	University of North Alabama	View Resume'
Henry Rinne	University of Arkansas/Fort Smith	View Resume'

New Faculty Member

Major (MAJ) Leslie A. Relkin currently serves as the Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of North Alabama, Army ROTC – Lion Battalion in Florence, AL. As the Assistant Professor of Military Science, Major Relkin is also assigned the duties of Lion Battalion Executive Officer. She also teaches the freshman level military science classes to Cadets and UNA students wanting to learn about Leadership. Prior to teaching the freshman Military Science classes, Major Relkin was the Recruiting Officer for the University of North Alabama, Army ROTC. She has been working on the UNA campus since August 2010.

Major Relkin started her Army career in 1991 as a soldier in the Army Reserves and transferred to the Alabama Army National Guard in 1993. She received her commission through Officer Candidate School in 2000. Major Relkin is currently going through the US Army's Command and General Staff College.

Congratulations

Two additional UNA staff members have been awarded Study Abroad Travel Grants through the UNA Staff Scholarship Program. The committee awarded staff scholarships for study abroad to Ning Wang (College of Business) and Heather Unger-Robertson (Advising) at the February 19 meeting.

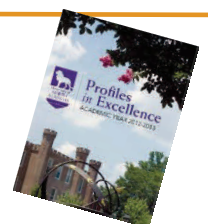
Capstone Courses

Departments continue to add courses that include senior projects and culminating experiences that reflect mastery in the major. *Peer Review* recently published an article on the topic (Fall 2013, Vol. 15, No. 4) . This article can be viewed [online](#). Keep in mind that capstone courses are an excellent departmental assessment tool.

Profiles in Excellence

Number of Entries:

2010-11	311
2011-12	309
2012-13	310
2013-14	?



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