

**Board of Directors 🞟 Raburn Wing, Room 110**

**Thursday, June 20, 2024🞟 1:30 p.m. (CST)**

1. **Call to Order and Invocation** *Savannah Liles, Chair*

Savannah called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and opened with an   
invocation.

**II.** **Roll Call and Quorum Report** *Gaye Choat, Secretary*

The roll was called verbally, and a quorum was met.

**Executive Committee Members Present:** Bishop Alexander, Jeremy   
Baham, Gaye Choat, Lisa Clayton, John Haeger, Will Hodges, Savannah Liles, Anna Milwee, and Barbie Terry.

**Board-at-Large Members Present:** Melissa DeFoor, Latasha Howell, Ann-  
Marie Irons, Emily Katherine McCann Garner, Christa Raney, Tina Smith, Holly Tate, and Denise Watts.

**Alumni Chapter Presidents Present:** Lawrence, Davis, Jr.,Jeff Fletcher,   
and Laci Wideman

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** Mike Byers, and Rita Harris

**Board-at-Large Members Absent:** Ryan Clayton, Mike Curtis, Ty Dennis,   
Allison Hall, Haley Newton, and Henry White

**Alumni Chapter Presidents Absent:** Heather Beckwith, Tammy Laughlin, Chris Lucas, Will Morgan, Zac Richardson, Kyser Samples, and Gale Satchel

**Non-Board Members Present:** Laura Hamner

1. **Approval of Past Minutes** *Ms. Savannah Liles*

Lisa Clayton made a motion to approve the minutes of the last   
meeting. Jeremy Baham seconded the motion, and it was approved.

1. **Approval of Agenda** *Ms. Savannah Liles*

Jeremy Baham made a motion to approve the agenda. Christa Raney   
 seconded the motion and it was approved.

1. **University and Advancement Update** *Barbie Terry,   
    Assoc. Vice President for Alumni Relations & Annual Giving*

* Barbie reported that Dr. Brien Smith, Provost and Exec. VP for Academic   
  Affairs is now on campus.
* President Kitts’ initiative Project 208 is now being called Progress 208 due to the increases in funding we have received.
* The new Computer and Mathematical Building will be completed by the fall semester.
* The groundbreaking for the Bank Independent Stadium was held last Friday. It should be noted that the stadium will be built without an increase in tuition or in student fees. UNA has the highest-level spending on instruction and the lowest administrative costs.
* Shine On, Gold campaign update; $69,762,000.00.
* The Advancement Office is now hosting Leadership Dinners for those persons in present and/or past leadership positions on the Board of Trustees, Foundation, and Alumni Association. These dinners are held six (6) to eight (8) weeks prior to alumni mixers for those leaders living in that geographic area. The purpose is to encourage involvement in the Alumni Association. Last year we had more Friends of the University give than Alumni.
* Barbie gave a Performance Summary that will go to all Alumni Chapter Presidents.
* Over $31,000 in Alumni Association scholarships will be awarded in 2024-2025.

Tina Smith feels that regarding alumni of color we are missing the mark on communication. An example of how the groundbreaking was communicated was explained by Barbie. It is very important that alumni inform the University of any changes to their personal information.

**VI. Alumni Relations Update** *Bishop Alexander, Dir., Alumni Relations*

* UNA Handy Night is Tuesday, July 23, 2024. The venue has been   
   changed to Wilson Park. Latasha Howell is coordinating the event. There   
   will be two bands along with food trucks. Digital graphics will be sent out soon   
   for the Alumni Board to share on their social media platforms.
* August 24 is Week Zero of the football season kickoff. We will host a   
   tailgating event at Cramton Field in Montgomery, AL. Kickoff is at 6 p.m.   
   and tailgate will be open three (3) hours prior to kickoff. The cost is $50   
   and that includes food, tickets to the game, and a parking pass. We   
   have a 200-person capacity and 104 tickets have been sold.
* UNA will play in Memphis on August 31 and the Alumni Association will   
   host a tailgating event. Coolers are welcome.
* September 7 is the UNA home game.
* Homecoming is October 11-13, 2024. Chick-fil-A will be our sponsor for   
   the parade and Lunch on the Lawn. The Alumni Celebration will be   
   Friday, October 11 at the Marriott Conference Center. Tickets are $25.   
   Please encourage everyone to book their hotels ASAP. Homecoming   
   weekend is also the Dragon Boat Races by Shoals Scholar Dollars and   
   the Billy Reid Shindig.

**VII. Committee Reports**

**a. Executive Committee** *Savannah Liles, Chair*

No report

**b. Nominations Committee** *Will Hodges, Chair*

* **Homecoming Awards** The committee has been working hard on the Homecoming Alumni   
  Awards. They have been setting up files for each category and setting up a voting matrix. The full Alumni Board will be able to cast a vote this year for each category. A template will be sent out soon *(see attached Alumni Awards Nominee Template)*. ***The due date for all votes to be cast and sent to Will Hodges is June 27, 2024***.
* **Membership**

Will noted there are eleven (11) members who will roll off the Board at   
the end of September. He noted that unlike Alumni Award winners who are only nominated prior to Homecoming, nominations for Board members can be accepted throughout the year. Please send in your nominations ASAP to Will for consideration for the Alumni Board.

**c. Finance Committee** *Mike Byers, Chair*

Barbie Terry gave the report in the absence of Mike Byers, Chair. The  
 three (3) funds the Alumni Association had has been combined into two   
 (2) funds. The Benefits Fund has a balance of $1,476. This is our income from   
 Working Advantage. The Greatest Needs fund has a balance of $20,726.99. The  
 net change of $8,039.60 is from the expenses of Lions Under the Lights and two   
 payments on our pledges for the stadium and the bench in Harrison Plaza. *(see   
 attached).*

**d. Marketing and Communication** *Rita Harris, Chair*

Gaye Choat the report in Rita Harris’ absence. Our committee has   
 completed the following tasks:

* + Helped publicize the Lions Under the Lights tickets sales.
  + We were highly active in the 1830 fundraising campaign and many of us posted our own videos and/or media announcements encouraging donations toward the campaign.
  + Holly Tate provided a media takeover plan for the Alumni office to use on the Alumni takeover day.
  + We encouraged nominations for alumni awards.

Our committee has discussed homecoming as well as important campus   
 anniversaries and we look forward to generating creative ways to garner   
 participation in these areas.

* + Bishop has agreed to make the necessary request through proper campus contacts to request a proclamation from Governor Kay Ivey recognizing the 75th anniversary of the UNA Band program for this fall.
  + Better communication for homecoming activities is being explored from our committee’s perspective.
  + We are exploring the idea of developing a historical film/video from an alumni perspective that could be used for informational purposes and/or recruiting purposes. We also have discussed including memorable landmarks of past students not only on campus but off campus (such as Chicago Deli, Court Street Café, Patrick’s Night Club, Biscuit Village, Southland, etc.)
  + Ideas were also discussed on how to include the important history of Lagrange College, especially for those going through SOAR. We agree that our students should understand where it all began.

Looking forward:

* January 11th- Founder’s Day – not only would our committee like to reach out to all of our alumni to post pics from across the nation, we would like to have a graphic developed of the mascot Leo for people to download, cutout, and take a pic in a location that best represents the town or region in which they live (example-San Antonio, the Alamo in the background.) This is following the same project many of your kids may have had to do called “Flat Stanley.” This would also be a wonderful time for the university media center to use information about the history of UNA, including the old Lagrange site.
  + Our committee will be welcoming alumni chapter presidents to our Zoom calls beginning in July!

We encourage each member of the board to post, text, email, call or speak to your friends about any fundraising campaign. We also encourage each member of the board to help make our upcoming homecoming the best yet as far as attendance and participation.

**e. Development Committee** *John Haeger, Chair*

* + **Sponsorship Packets**

Packets to help solicit partnerships for Alumni Celebration at   
 Homecoming will be sent to the Board. We are urging each Board   
 member to ask at least one person or company to partner with UNA   
 for this event. Barbie asked if we use the word partnership instead of  
 sponsorship. Partnerships are tax deductible. There are different levels   
 of partnership *(see attached HC Celebration Partner Letter).*

* + **Homecoming Celebration Tickets**

A link to purchase tickets for the Alumni Celebration will be coming   
 soon. Tickets will be $25 this year. The question of how many tickets to   
 comp will be addressed before the event. Alumni Award winners will   
 have first option in purchasing tickets along with probably past award   
 winners. It was mentioned the award winners would only have two (2) seats   
 comped to them. John suggested looking at other individuals such as   
 the Greek Hall of Fame inductees for the current year. Booths will be in   
 the lobby for those who purchased a partnership. Bishop announced   
 that Balfour, the company that is creating the UNA legacy ring will be  
 at the event as a partner. They will have the rings on display for   
 ordering.

**f. Campus Engagement Committee** *Anna Milwee, Co-Chair*

*Lisa Clayton, Co-Chair*

Lisa Clayton reported a tailgate was set up for one of the baseball   
 games. They partnered with the Staff Senate for an ice cream social. They   
 would like to see a faculty/staff event to get them more engaged.   
 Savannah announced that Northwest Shoals Community College and   
 UNA will be playing in a softball game at the end of October. They are   
 looking for events for the fall.

**VIII. Chapter President Reports**

* + - * 1. Lawrence Davis, Jr. from the Central Florida Area Chapter reported they are hosting an event on July 11.
        2. Laci Wideman from the Birmingham Area Chapter reported they are working on consistency and growing the chapter. They had a Christmas event in December and are looking at hosting more events.
        3. John Haeger reported for the Nashville Area Chapter. He is considering leading that Chapter.

Savannah asked if each Chapter has a Facebook page. She mentioned this to keep alumni in their area informed. She reported there are 5 UNA students competing for Miss Alabama next week at Sanford University in Birmingham. Gaye mentioned there is a huge softball game in Huntsville at Toyota Field in February. These are two events to encourage alumni to attend.

**IX. Old Business** *Savannah Liles, Chair*

**Ad-Hoc Constitution Committee**

Barbie askedSavannah to put together an Ad-Hoc Committee to review the constitution. The goal is to make it more concise and make it easier to read. The deadline for the committee to submit the revisions is September 1, 2024. At this point, Bishop and Barbie will review the revised constitution and submit it to the Board for their review. The Ad-Hoc Committee will consist of: Savannah Liles, Gaye Choat, John Haeger, and Jeremy Baham. Barbie suggested as one of the revisions to add Vice Chairs to each committee.

**X. New Business** *Savannah Liles, Chair*

Barbie proposed that the Executive Committee stay on for one more year.   
 She and Bishop will talk to each member and see who is willing to stay the   
 extra year. John Haeger made the comment that he thought when the   
 restructuring was approved last October, the Executive Committee terms   
 started over.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gaye Choat

Secretary

Click on the link below to listen to the recording of the Board meeting.

**AA Board Meeting - June 20 - 1:30 pm**

[video1517180796 1.mp4](https://unaedu-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/jmalexander_una_edu/EYpktxz-1JBJtRD8KfGtH_UBCis-5SI7sJypQUJQvrv4MA)

**The next Alumni Association Executive Committee and Board meeting will be held Friday, October 11, 2024, at the Marriott Conference Center. The times of the meetings are to be determined but should be decided soon. At the meeting, members will be able to get a firsthand look at the setup and decorations for the Alumni Celebration.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **UNA Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Mixer**
  + Date: Thursday, June 27, 2024
  + Time: 6:00 p.m.
  + Location: MartinFed - 115 Clinton Ave E, Huntsville, AL 35801
  + RSVP Link: [www.tinyurl.com/cibhunts](http://www.tinyurl.com/cibhunts)
* **UNA Central Florida Alumni Mixer**
  + Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024
  + Time: 5:30 p.m.
  + Location: Historic Dubsdread Ballroom - Florida Room, 549 W. Par Street, Orlando, FL 32804
  + RSVP Link: [www.tinyurl.com/cibcentralfl](http://www.tinyurl.com/cibcentralfl)
* **UNA Decatur/Morgan County Alumni Mixer**
  + Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024
  + Time: 6:00 p.m.
  + Location: The Magnolia Room, 215 Moulton St. E., Decatur, AL 35601
  + RSVP Link: [www.tinyurl.com/cibdecatur](http://www.tinyurl.com/cibdecatur)
* **Week Zero Tickets - UNA Alumni & Friends Zone**
  + Date: Saturday, August 24, 2024
  + Time: Access to the suite will be available 3 hours before kickoff
  + Location: Multiplex - Cramton Bowl - Montgomery, Alabama
  + Ticket Price: $50 per person
  + Purchase Tickets: [www.tinyurl.com/weekzero24](http://www.tinyurl.com/weekzero24)

**PLEASE NOTE: If you are planning to attend any of these events, please RSVP at least 1-2 weeks prior to the event so we will be able to notify the caterer of the number of people expected to attend. Thank you.**