



NAA Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2021
8:00 – 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

I. Call to Order:

The regular monthly meeting of the UNA National Alumni Association Executive Committee was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, via Zoom. President Mary Leigh Gillespie presided and called the business meeting to order at 8:02 am.

a. Roll Call and Quorum Report:

Present Board members: Susan Adams, Bishop Alexander, Lisa Clayton, Mary Leigh Gillespie, Will Hodges, Savannah Liles, Justin McGill, Christa Raney, Gale Satchel, Christy Waters, and Tosha-Paige Whitten

b. Approval of Minutes, January 8 and January 12: Will made a motion to pass the minutes as emailed. Susan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Campus Spotlight—First-year Experience:

Tammy D. Rhodes ('09, '15), Director, First-Year Experience Academic Affairs, thanked the Board for having her. Ms. Rhodes described the First-year Experience program, which is required of all freshmen (except for honors students). Topics covered in FYE include the following: information literacy, bystander intervention and Title IX, financial literacy, diversity and inclusion, and the business of being a college student, which culminates with the acclimation to university life and connecting students to future mentors.

Thus, Ms. Rhodes wants to create an alumni database to combat physical, mental, and social isolation that students have experienced since COVID-19. She wants to build a speaker database so that FYE instructors will have a database to invite alumni to campus to speak. The program currently serves 920 students in approximately 40 courses total, and those students want to hear from alumni who are the experts in their respective fields. Students want to hear from alumni, especially about their love of UNA.

Mary Leigh asked when Ms. Rhodes wants to implement this program, and Ms. Rhodes answered with this fall. Ms. Rhodes will coordinate with Bishop to establish the database and launch the program.

III. NAA Officer-Standing Committee Reports

- a. **Nominations**—Will updated the Board after his recent call with all the committee chairs. He is planning the rollout for nominations. Will announced that he and his wife and expecting baby number four. (Congratulations, Will!)
- b. **Finance**—Justin did not receive an updated financial report this month. He will distribute it at a later date. His assumption is that the number has changed very little other than a small interest deposit of approximately \$46.
 - i. Alumni Association Greatest Needs Fund—Balance: \$43, 261.37
 - ii. Alumni Association Distinguished Endowed Scholarship—Balance: \$29,225.21
 - iii. Alumni Association Current-Use Scholarship—Balance: 0.00

Justin listed several ideas for future fundraisers (post-COVID). Then, he explained the financial breakdown of the Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament, which contributes zero dollars to the Alumni Association though it is the AA that does the majority of the work. A contract that allocates where the funds go exists, and discussions about revising this contract ensued. Savannah added that Athletics has additional fundraisers and events to support their scholarships. Susan suggested a renegotiation with perhaps a 50/50 split of funds and workload. Mary Leigh requested that Bishop speak with the appropriate folks and report back at our next meeting.

- c. **Homecoming Alumni Awards**—Susan announced that the window for nominations is from April 1 – July 1. This opening date is slightly delayed due to a few changes to the process, including adding information about “The Year of the UNA Woman.”
- d. **Special Events & Projects**—Bishop announced that Gaye is leading volunteers for this weekend’s Homecoming Award Ceremony. She is open to spearheading additional special events and projects.
- e. **Student to Alumni Experience**—Savannah recapped her meeting with her committee. She met with Hannah Hopkins, who shared the Huntsville mentoring program with Savannah. Savannah hopes to partner with the Career Center to launch a mentoring program. The committee discussed hosting new events as the campus opens back up.
- f. **Alumni Benefits**—Bishop reported that Mike has a survey that he wants to distribute to the alumni. Bishop will meet with Mike to discuss the survey, and Bishop plans to share it with the Executive Board before it is distributed.

IV. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

V. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VI. Discussion

- a. **Homecoming Weekend, March 11-14**—

- i. **Paint the Town Purple**—Wear UNA colors and garb on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. This event was created by Savannah and Dr. Andrea Hunt.
- ii. <https://www.una.edu/alumni/homecoming/signature-events.html>—Bishop shared his screen in order to cover the 2020-2021 Homecoming Signature Events. He highlighted the following events: Alumni Lunch Break; Spirit of the Pride: “Through the Years” Pop-Up Museum; Homecoming Alumni Awards Ceremony; Nursing Alumni Tour Harrison Hall (for nursing alumni only); UNA Homecoming Court Presentation; UNA softball games on Saturday and Sunday; Step Sing 2021 Show (pre-recorded); and UNA Band Concert (\$15 tickets required). Review the link for specific dates, times, costs, social distancing guidelines, and registration information.

The Alumni Office and Executive Board will host a reception for alumni winners at Rogers Hall. Please arrive between 4:30 – 5:00. Guests will arrive around 5:00 – 5:30.

The Homecoming Alumni Awards Ceremony is Friday, March 12 from 6:30 – 7:30, registration required. Over two hundred people have already registered. There will be two sections: Purple and Gold. Purple section is up front and reserved for the winners, the Executive Board, and the special guests.

If you are available on Thursday from 4:30 – 5:30, please help with setup and a walk through. Matching masks will be distributed on Friday for award winners and Executive Board members.

Savannah added that there is a competition on campus for door decorations and that we might want to highlight this event if it is successful.

- b. **Alumni Summit**—Mary Leigh announced that the Alumni Summit has been moved to Spring 2022 (TBD). Bishop requested that we put together a task force now since the event will take a year to plan. Mary Leigh mentioned that the day-long Summit may transition to a longer, conference-style event.
- c. **Lions Under the Lights**—Mary Leigh announced that Lions Under the Lights will be held Fall 2021 (TBD). A date has not been determined since the football schedule has not been released. Bishop requested that a visionary take charge of this event. He hopes the event will focus on “The Year of the UNA Woman.” Savannah volunteered to help.
- d. **Sesquicentennial**—Mary Leigh announced that the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Admittance of Women to UNA will kick off in June 2021 and continue through May 2022. Bishop noted that there are many opportunities for the Association to host events associated with this year-long event.

VII. NAA President’s Report:

- a. **UNA Giving Day, Tuesday, March 9**—Mary Leigh asked Board to use social media to publicize this day. She encouraged Board members to highlight our two funds:
 - i. UNA National Alumni Association Distinguished Endowed Scholarship

- ii. UNA National Alumni Association Greatest Needs Fund
 - iii. <https://www.una.edu/give/give-now.html>
- b. **UNA Food Pantry Update**—Mary Leigh encouraged Board members to review the link to contribute to the Food Pantry.
- i. Ways to Give: <https://www.una.edu/students/Food-Pantry/donate-to-the-pantry.html>

VIII. Alumni Director’s Report:

- a. **Legacy Initiative Donor Event, March 29**—Bishop announced that this event is a come-and-go event on Monday, March 29 from 3:00 – 5:00 for those who donated to this initiative to see the trees, benches, and bricks.
- b. **Light the Fountain, March 30**—Bishop announced that the new date for Light the Fountain is Tuesday, March 30. Festivities kick off at 6:30.
- c. **Celebration Saturdays, March 27, 2021**—Bishop noted that this initiative has been a huge hit with alumni all over the county. Information is due by March 17 to alumni1@una.edu.
- d. **Alumni News**—Bishop highlighted recent alumni news, including the appointment of Ann Berry ('78) as the 35th Secretary of the U.S. Senate (she is the first African American woman to hold this position); Robert H. Steele ('78) as the recipient of the CEO of the Year; and Joel R. Anderson’s ('18) replacement of his father on the UNA Board of Trustees.
- e. **UNA Bookstore**—The Association is partnering with the UNA Bookstore to offer a Homecoming Coupon – 20% off one apparel or gift item.
- f. **Sportsman’s Club Name Change**—The new name for the club is North Alabama Lions Athletic Club.

IX. Alumni News and Campus Announcements:

Mary Leigh and Bishop reported on upcoming events and noted opportunities for Board members to participate:

- a. **Celebration Saturdays–Social Media Campaign**
 - i. Deadline to submit announcements are March 17th.
 - ii. Email special announcements and photos to alumni1@una.edu or cbrownell@una.edu.
- b. **Light the Fountain**—The event has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 30, 2021, from 6:30 – 9pm at Harrison Plaza. Ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Harrison Plaza. Rain date is April 4.
- c. **UNA Spring 2021 Commencement – May 7-8**
 - i. Norton Auditorium
 - ii. Graduates can bring a max of four guests (which includes infants and children)

X. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Raney, Secretary

2021 NAA Executive Board – Virtual Meetings

- May 11, 2021 - 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- July 13, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)
- September 14, 2021 – 8:00 am – 9:00 am (CST)

2021 NAA Board of Directors – Virtual Meetings

- April 9, 2021 – 10:00 am – 11:00 am (CST)
- July 20, 2021 – 11:00 am – 12:00 pm (CST)
- September 10 – 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm (CST)

2021 Alumni E-Newsletters

The alumni newsletters in 2021 will feature Campus News, Alumni Spotlights, and other can't-miss updates about your alma mater.

- March 19
- May 14
- July 23
- September 24
- November 19

