



## College of Arts *and* Sciences



**IGNITE. DREAM. STEAM.**

Volume 5, Issue 1

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### *A word from our Dean*

Hello loyal readers,

If you haven't heard, I have made the decision to retire. After 27 years in higher education, I have decided to reacquaint myself with gardening, canning, sewing, visiting family, and travelling for complete and total pleasure. I wanted to let everyone know that I have loved my time at UNA. The faculty, staff, and students are wonderful. Each and every graduate should be proud of this institution and its successes. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the role each administrator and board of trustee member has played in making The College of Arts and Sciences a stronger academic unit. The future of The College is in great hands. Dr. Sara Lynn Baird (currently associate dean) will be the interim dean while a search commences. Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee will be the interim associate dean. Both are greatly skilled administrators who are committed to student success, faculty, and excellence.

When I arrived 5 years ago, I was told this is a special place. That is true! I remain very vested in the strength of the institution so if there is anything I can ever do for you, the loyal supporters of The College of Arts and Sciences, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your support and friendship have been a lifeline over the past 5 years. For the time being, my email address remains [cburkhalter@una.edu](mailto:cburkhalter@una.edu). I would love to hear from you.

In much gratitude,

Carmen Burkhalter

*COAS Welcomes New Interim Dean and Associate Dean*



*Interim Dean*

**Dr. Sara Lynn Baird**

College of Arts and Sciences



*Interim Associate Dean*

**Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee**

College of Arts and Sciences



### Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion

By Dr. Andrea Hunt, Founding Director and Associate Professor of Sociology

Under the leadership of Dean Carmen Burkhalter, the Mitchell/West Center for Social Inclusion was made possible by the generosity of Elliott Mitchell and Clark West, as well as other donors. The Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion supports education, research, and advocacy by working with diverse groups on campus, in the Shoals, and across the region and state. The Center welcomes everyone by providing an inclusive space for students and faculty to share knowledge, collaborate on interdisciplinary projects, and build sustainable partnerships with organizations that are committed to addressing some of the most pressing social problems today.

The Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion looks forward to working with existing campus offices and programs to continue to foster an environment committed to inclusion, civic engagement, empowerment, equality, and justice. In addition, the Center will assist in locating qualified students for scholarships made possible by Point Foundation. This year's events



include Safe Zone training, QPR suicide prevention training, the Right to Fail screening and panel discussion, an advocacy workshop for parents of children with disabilities, training on working with international students, several campus speakers including Mariah Parker and Gavin Grimm, service opportunities, support for research on inclusion, and much more. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @unainclusion for updates and program information and email [socialinclusion@una.edu](mailto:socialinclusion@una.edu) if you would like to get involved with the Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion.

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### *Student and Faculty Spotlight*

**Student Spotlight:**  
**Savannah Rainey**



My name is Savannah Rainey, and I am a Senior at the University of North Alabama. I grew up in Athens, Alabama, so UNA is the perfect distance from my hometown and my family. The loving and supportive environment of UNA and the local community makes it easy to call UNA my new home. As a double major in Professional Biology and Sociology with a Chemistry minor, I am especially grateful for the passion that UNA's faculty and staff have for wanting the students here to achieve greatness. The professors are always available to help during office hours, and the university provides tutoring services for almost any class you need help with.

I am currently involved in a few organizations on campus. This will be my first year serving as co-president for the College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors, and my first year serving on the LaGrange Society. This summer I was given the opportunity to complete an internship with the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Rural Medicine Program; this experience refueled my passion for medicine and the desire to become a doctor. This was an amazing opportunity that wouldn't have been possible without the support of my advisor and various professors at UNA who helped me with my application and recommendation letters. When I graduate from UNA, I hope to continue on to medical school and use the skills that UNA has given me to become the best leader I can be.

Since moving to Florence, I have had the opportunity to participate in many activities in the community. I currently volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals, and work at a local restaurant downtown.

#### Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Tammy Winner, Associate Professor of English



COAS Associate Professor of English within the Professional Writing program, Dr. Tammy Winner, completed a 10-week Faculty Fellowship this summer at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. Dr. Winner was encouraged to join the Technology Transfer Team as a technical writer. Her research this summer focused on conducting floating observations on the

occupational gap some college students face when graduating from a university and entering into the workforce. Dr. Winner's research will be published in a white paper by NASA in November 2019. When asked about this experience she said, "It was great to step out of the classroom after 22 years and 'stretch' my brain in this way. I plan to transfer much of what I learned into my pedagogy at both the undergraduate and graduate Professional Writing classes I teach at UNA." Winner added, "It was especially interesting to be at NASA during the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Apollo landing. She added, "we have so many UNA alumni working at NASA, I was excited to meet so many Lions while I was there!"

Dr. Winner's degrees in English and Professional/Technical Writing include: a Bachelor's of Science degree from West Virginia University, three Master's degrees (MBA, MEd, from Frostburg University and an MA in English from Carnegie Mellon), and a Ph.D. in Rhetoric from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation titled, "Teaching First-Year English Employing Web Based Pedagogies: A Qualitative Study" influenced the direction of her continued research in Multimodal Writing, Grant Writing and Technical Writing. She joined UNA in 2012 and is the current Program Coordinator of the MA in Writing Program, the Professional Writing internship Supervisor, and an advisory member of the HCI/UX Minor.

She is a coal miner's daughter from Frostburg, MD. When she isn't teaching at UNA or writing grants for Every Child Counts in Abaco, Bahamas, you can find her puttering in her garden or helping find a forever home for an animal in need.

## Alumni Spotlight



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### Alumni Spotlight:

#### Sabrina Balch

I was born and raised in North Alabama. After graduating from UNA, I moved to Birmingham in 2008. I've worked in nonprofit marketing and development for over 10 years. In my free time, I skate with the Tragic City Rollers, serve on the Junior Board of the Crisis Center, Inc., and try to keep up with my podcast queue.



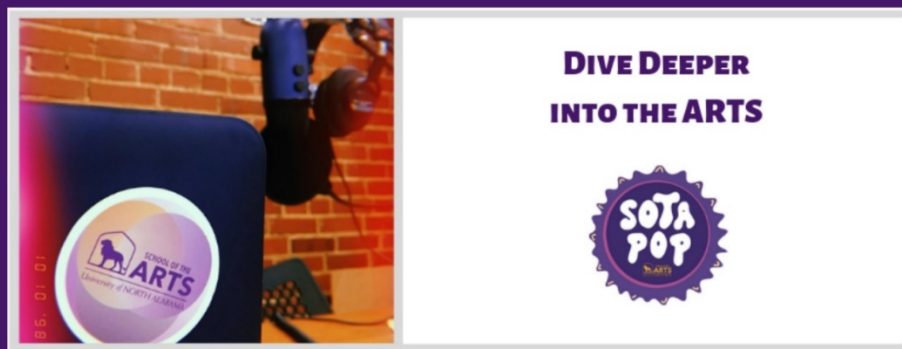
My time at UNA gave me an amazing foundation on which I've been able to build both a meaningful and rewarding life. As a UNA student, I was able to focus in on what interested me, and follow my passion both in and out of the classroom. The College of Arts and Sciences provided a place for me to find friends, discover mentors, and cultivate priceless, lifelong connections. Being involved with RSOs like the UNA Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter and the Center for Women's Studies allowed me experiences in leadership and non-profit management, skills I've been able to parlay into a decade of non-profit development.



What have you been up to? Let us know!

Click [Here](#) and fill in our alumni update form with your up-to-date information.

## THE SCHOOL OF THE ARTS HAS A PODCAST!



Join students, Laney Green and Mark Gallegos as they take you behind the scenes and keep you in the know of all the events and exciting things happening in the School of the Arts. Listen to the podcast on iTunes or Podbean!



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