

A word from our Dean



Academic STEAM Teams

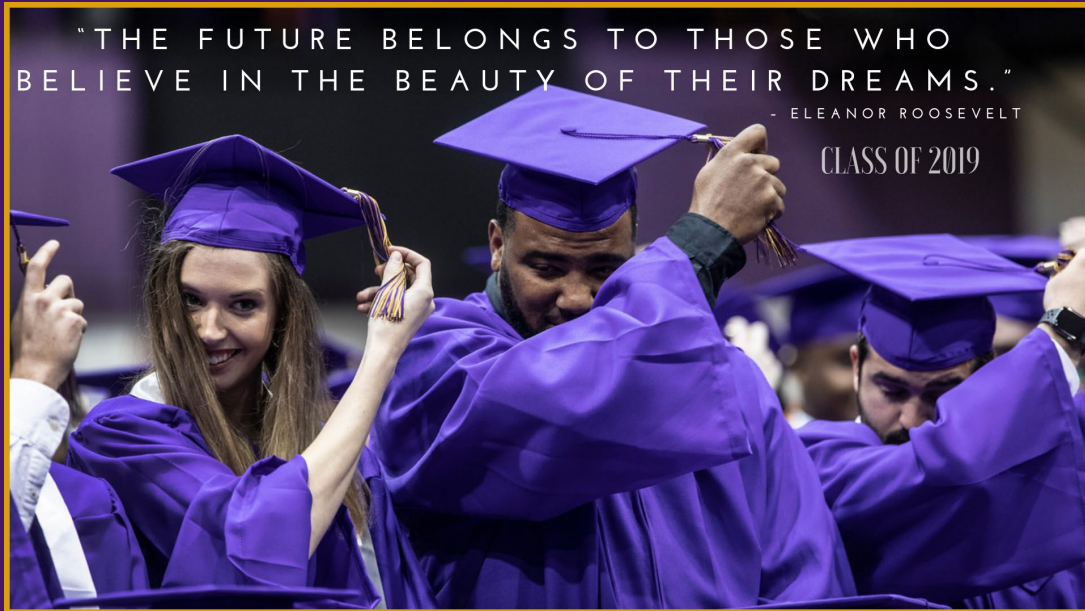
by Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean

An academic team is made up of faculty, staff, students, and administrators. As in sports, academics can be major winners on the regional, national, and international scene. Excellence in academics produces an informed, critically thinking citizenry that is also capable of representing democracy at its best through relationship building. We want free thinkers and ambassadors in all areas of our society. The quest for this level of critical thinking starts when students are freshmen. Faculty work closely with students to develop a research or scholarship agenda, a study abroad plan, and/or hands-on experiential learning activities. All of these academic experiences are essential for students to win national academic awards.

Recently, student research presentations, which were university and donor-funded, represented the departments of Psychology; Geography; Engineering Technology; Communications; Music; English; Sociology and Family Studies; Politics, Justice, and Law; Mathematics; History, just to name a few.

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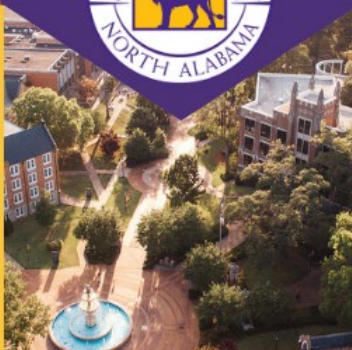
Congratulations Graduates!



COAS News



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



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Academic Partnerships

By Dr. Sara Lynn Baird, Associate Dean

The University of North Alabama is generating excitement in the state and region with a number of innovative academic projects which will broaden the influence of the institution. Recent initiatives include specific articulation agreements with area community colleges that go beyond the core course equivalencies that govern the transfer of students from community colleges into four-year institutions within the state. As these agreements are developed, careful consideration is given to course content at each institution to ensure that

students are receiving a complete education in their chosen major and to maintain the integrity of our degrees. Faculty and administrators working on these agreements believe that these efforts will result in a nearly seamless transition for students between the two institutions.

Recent initiatives include articulation agreements with Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee; Northwest Shoals Community College in Muscle Shoals; and Calhoun Community College with campuses in Decatur and Huntsville. All parties are committed to making a college degree more accessible to a greater number of students. An increase in transfer student enrollment in fall 2019 at UNA suggests that these kinds of agreements are viable strategies. Just this week we have begun to prepare a new agreement in Culinary Arts with Coastal Alabama Community College.

As an example, the recently completed agreement with Columbia State Community College includes degree programs in Painting, Ceramics, Photography, Digital Media, Sculpture, Graphic Design, Art, Theatre Arts and Music. Dr. Terrance Brown, Executive Director of UNA's School of the Arts was instrumental in the development of these articulations and will join other UNA administrators at Columbia State later in April to officially sign the agreement.

The university is also engaged in developing a variety of learning agreements with various partners to contribute to the state's workforce development initiatives and help make an education at UNA more accessible for many state, community, and regional workers. These arrangements provide our partners' employees with scholarships to cover up to 20% of tuition and/or fees when they matriculate at the University of North Alabama. Recent agreements with Manufacture Alabama, a trade association representing manufacturing businesses and their partners in the state and encompassing over 300 companies; the Huntsville Hospital; and North Mississippi Health Services (NMHS), an integrated health care delivery system serving 24 rural counties in northeast Mississippi and northwest Alabama, will offer this benefit to hundreds of employees in our region. Similar agreements have been formed for employees of all municipalities in our immediate area: Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia.

In an exciting and unique development, the Department of History has entered into a partnership with the National Trail of Tears Association, in cooperation with the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area and the National Parks Service, to develop a national school curriculum across all disciplines to teach accurately and authentically the forced removal of the indigenous peoples of the American South. Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee will lead this multi-year project which will take UNA into schools across the country but also examine our own history as a witness institution to the Trail of Tears as thousands of Native Americans passed by LaGrange College.

These initiatives are evidence of innovation and engagement by the University of North Alabama in activities that provide direct benefit to students, attract members of our immediate and surrounding communities, contribute to statewide initiatives, and foster the complete education of our populations.

Student and Faculty Spotlight



Student Spotlight:
Haley Klima

My name is Haley Klima, and I will be graduating from the University of North Alabama in Summer 2019. After moving here from Oak Harbor, Ohio, I quickly fell in love with the campus and community. As an Entertainment Industry major and vocal minor, I am especially drawn to this town's love for music. What I like most about UNA is the focus on student growth in each classroom.

Since moving to Florence, I have had the opportunity to participate in many activities. I was in the cast of UNA's first summer musical, *Hairspray*, and I will also be giving a vocal recital this semester to share my talent with my family and peers. I am also thankful that I have, and will have again, the opportunity to study abroad in Sweden and Denmark, as well as New Zealand, this May.

I am currently working three jobs, one of which is in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office as a student worker as well as finishing school as a full-time student. This summer and fall I will be completing my internship with the Walt Disney World company as a character performer. This is an amazing opportunity that wouldn't be possible without the support of my peers and professors at UNA. Next fall, I hope to continue my education and earn a degree in Intellectual Property Law.



Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Richard A. Hudiburg, Professor of Psychology

I started college as a mathematics major and later majored in Psychology. I received a B.A. in Psychology from Sonoma State University. I attended graduate school at Texas Christian University and completed a M.A. and a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology. Before finishing my Ph.D. I was an adjunct instructor at El Centro College in Dallas, Texas and a Psychologist at Mexia State School in Texas. Upon completing my Ph.D. in 1979 I worked as Quantitative Psychologist at the Institute for Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University on a varied of research grants and contracts. I also was an adjunct instructor in Psychology for that University. Later I worked at as Quantitative Researcher at the College of Health Related Professions of Wichita State University in Kansas. I received an appointment to the faculty of State University of New York, College at Geneseo in the Department of Psychology. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of North Alabama, I taught Computer Science at the University of North Texas.

I joined the faculty of the University of North Alabama in the Fall of 1983 as an Assistant Professor of Psychology. The teaching loads were 15 semester hours at that time. I taught a variety of courses for the major in Psychology in a small department of three faculty. The

University promoted me to Associate Professor and Professor. I served two terms as the Chair of the Department of Psychology.

I began a research program in 1985 studying the effects of computer technology on users' behavior. I developed a research scale, the Computer Hassles Scale that was translated into several languages by other researchers. I have maintained an active research program for the duration of my tenure at the University of North Alabama. I have many publications and numerous presentations at state, regional, national, and international conferences. I have twice been honored as an invited speaker, once for the American Library Association and once at Chapman University. I received many research grants to support my research efforts while at the University of North Alabama. One of the highlights has been the research project I conducted in Spain over three years in order to investigate pilgrims on pilgrimages to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.

I have provided service to the University, the science of Psychology, and the community. During my service to the University, I have served as a member and chaired of several committees in the department, college, and the University. I am a past president and a fellow of the Alabama Academy of Science. I have served as a past president of the Arc of the Shoals. I have been a municipal board chair in the City of Sheffield. Providing service has been a gratifying experience.

I have been a teacher for 48 years and I have spent the past 36 years on the faculty of the University of North Alabama. My career as a teacher has been extremely rewarding. I have had the honor to teach over 10,000 students combined at six higher education institution.

Each day is an opportunity to learn something new and exciting. I love learning. The University of North Alabama has given me an opportunity to do that and learn from the students.

Alumni Spotlight



Alumni Spotlight:

Jermaine Morgan

I am originally from the small town of Houston, Mississippi. I am a self-taught musician from a very musical family. After deciding to seriously consider music as a career, I began musical studies at Itawamba Community College. I later continued my musical studies and earned a Bachelor's degree at UNA. While at UNA, I made some great friends and lasting relationships. I strongly believe that the connections I made at UNA definitely played a key role in helping me to shape the trajectory of my career. While there, I participated in several musical functions such as Collegiate Singers, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Ascending Voices, and one of the performance groups from the Commercial Music Entertainment Department. The classes and professors in my field definitely made it an exciting experience. Professors such as Dave Tough, Janna Malone, and Dr. Robert Garfrerick made my stay at UNA worthwhile with their personal involvement in us as students.



What have you been up to? Let us know!

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

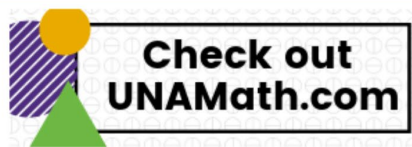
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