

*Finalist*  
**Gavin Best**



*Gavin is the Assistant to the Coordinator of Fitness in the Student Recreational Center (SRC), where he has worked for four years. In addition to his normal duties of training of student staff, assisting with monthly payroll and scheduling, event planning and execution, filing, miscellaneous paperwork and American Collegiate Intramural Sport Student Representative, Gavin also helps with student orientation, assists with events that are hosted by the SRC such as Get Rec'd during Welcome Week, and overseeing the Scale Back Alabama program. According to his supervisor, Glenda Richey, Gavin approaches every day with a professional attitude, unstopped by the obstacles, pressures and demands that often derail others. He is involved in volunteering with multiple charities with his Fraternity, all the while maintaining a 3.53 G.P.A.*

*During his years with the SRC, Gavin has learned responsibility, time management, discipline and leadership. When his supervisor asks him to complete a task, he endeavors to complete it the day he is asked, always trying to go above and beyond the requirements of what is expected of him. He is always willing to volunteer in situations as needed, and gives extra effort in making sure the SCR runs smoothly.*

*Gavin's mom and dad have shaped him into the person he is today. Glenda and the SRC staff are like family to him as well. Gavin has a desire to ensure that he leaves a legacy and raise the bar for those who come after him.*

*In addition to being very involved with his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, he is active with SGA, the LaGrange Society Captain, Once a Runner, Accounting Scholars and College of Business Ambassadors. Gavin also finds time to volunteer with Big Brother Big Sister. Upon graduation, Gavin plans to begin graduate school at the University of Alabama to obtain a Master of Accountancy and later obtain his C.P.A.*

*Finalist*  
*Amber Bodiford*



*Amber is a native of Foley, Alabama and the Student Administrative Assistant in the Office Student Conduct & Student Affairs Assessment. She is a senior pursuing a major in Computer Information System with a concentration in Enterprise Information System. Amber is extremely involved in various campus and civic organizations. She is currently a member of Circle K and volunteers her time with March of Dimes, Student Team Up and the Salvation Army. She is also a member Phi Beta Lambda. One of the things Amber is most proud of is her work as a weekly volunteer in the local Soup Kitchen. She not only helps serve food for the needy, she also sits down and spends time with the people, getting to know them individually.*

*As a student worker, Amber assists with providing general clerical, receptionist, and project based work. She deals frequently with high-stress situations and students in distress, upset parents, and even attorneys and law enforcement officials. According to her supervisors, Dr. Kim Greenway and Amy Swinford, "Amber works in the top 1% of those students in every aspect of her work. In fact, she literally may be the most reliable student employee I've ever supervised in my 24 years. When I assign Amber a task to perform, I never have to worry about following up with her. She always completes assigned work well before the deadlines and exceeds my expectations in the standards of her work. Her genuine spirit, positive attitude, and willingness to contribute above anything asked of her, is beyond anything I've seen exhibited in a student employee."*

*Amber states that she has a good experience working in Student Conduct. "One of the major lessons I have to learn is patience, such an easy word to recite but a long and grueling process to learn. We do not know a person's mental stability, and we would not want to upset anyone any one even more."*

*Upon graduation in July 2013, Amber will pursue a career as a special agent and within the next five years work for the F.B.I. in cyber security.*

*Finalist*  
**Bailey Ellis**



*Bailey is a Secondary Education major with an emphasis in English Language Arts, and has a G.P.A. of 3.91. She has been employed with the Office of Business and Financial Affairs as the Student Assistant since September of 2009. In addition to her regular duties of filing, answering phones, scanning and indexing sensitive/confidential information, preparing letters, and mail distribution, she rose to the challenge of additional duties such as assisting with research and preparation for upcoming audits and assisting other areas of the Business Office when they were short staffed.*

*She has proven herself to be well organized and highly skilled, and she works independently without supervision. She competently multi-tasks with ease, and has been given the responsibility of training other student workers. Bailey is consistently pleasant and dedicated, and handles every task given to her professionally and efficiently. She is respectful to faculty and staff, handling all issues with confidence and a smile.*

*Bailey has enjoyed her time as a student assistant, and will be taking some very pertinent working skills with her when she graduates in the Fall of 2013. One useful tool she has acquired through working in the controller's office is something the teaching profession calls "withitness," which means knowing everything that is going on in a classroom and all around a school campus. Though she will be sad to leave her position, she knows it will be a great opportunity for someone new to work in the position that, Bailey feels, is the best student worker position at the University of North Alabama.*

*Upon graduation, Bailey aspires to become an educator in an inner city school. She wants to obtain her Master in American Sign Language and continue her career in speech pathology.*

*Honorable Mention*  
*Amanda M. Abernathy*



*Amanda is a junior majoring in Communication Arts with an emphasis in journalism. She maintains a 3.4 G.P.A. As the Student Assistant in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment (OIRPA), her duties include proofreader, writer and various clerical tasks. Armed with only foundational knowledge in the InDesign computer program, Amanda designed the cover for the institution's administrators for use in strategic planning and enrollment management, managing to meet a tight deadline flawlessly and with exceptional results. "Amanda exhibits the professionalism of a seasoned employee, and it has been a pleasure to have her in the office. Her appearance, demeanor, and attitude are exemplar and welcomed," states supervisors Dr. Andrew Luna and Kathy McClellan. "My on-campus employment experience thus far has provided me with a better overall understanding of how inner workings of the University operate. I have seen how much time, planning, and effort goes in to the education of each student and that has made me appreciate my education opportunity at UNA even more."*

*During her employment with OIRPA, Amanda has proven herself to be the consummate professional, a quick learner, dependable and helpful, and has helped the office become more consistent, as well as improve office functions.*

*Amanda is a member of the National Communication Honor Society, Lambda Phi Etti. She is also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. She has an opportunity to gain valuable experience within her major as she works with Public Relations for the Handy Music Festival through the Music Preservation Society.*

*Honorable Mention*  
*J. Michael Beaver*



*Michael is a Computer Science major and Philosophy minor employed as a Writing Consultant in the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). He is a junior with a 4.0 G.P.A. In addition to his regular duties of moving supplies, maintaining the office workplace, answering consultant and client questions, responding to problems and managing the website, Michael trains other consultants for the complexities of online consultation work. He goes beyond the standard work expectations, and provides leadership and instruction in online tutoring. He completes his tasks quickly, efficiently, and in a timely manner.*

*Michael co-developed UNA 300, a three hour training course for writing consultants: "Writing Centers and Writing in the Disciplines: Theory & Practice." He not only helped develop it, but voluntarily attended on a regular basis, participated and facilitated friendly discussions. In his duties as Web Lion for the website, he is responsible for CWE's image to the public and the resources provided there. He credits Dr. Maurillo for encouraging him to step out of his natural abilities and seek the consultant position. Dr. Koch challenged him to take on various roles and responsibilities. Due to their encouragement, he has found a lot of fulfillment through his job.*

*He completed an internship at the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library in the technology support department during the summer of 2012. Michael describes his student employee position as one of the greatest experiences of his life, and he contributes much of his success as a student to his employment as a writing consultant. Upon graduation, Michael will attend graduate school and later pursue his doctorate. He plans to become an instructor at a high school or university. If he is unable to obtain a position in an academic environment, he will pursue opportunities as a software developer.*

## *Honorable Mention*

### *Cayla Buttram*



*Cayla is a graduate student who holds a degree in English education. She graduated with a 3.98 G.P.A., and as a grad student, has a 4.0 GPA. Since the Fall of 2009, she has been employed as a student worker in the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE). Her supervisor, Dr. Robert Koch, summarizes that one of Cayla's greatest contributions is that she is a teacher. Learning is the most important thing in her life, and it colors her every action. She is a reflective practitioner, highly collegial and willing to make sacrifices, but also stands her ground and expects excellence.*

*Cayla is a person who takes initiative. She guides new consultants as needed, even, at times, during her time off. She maintains the workspace, making sure resources and supplies are readily available, she is one of the first to volunteer to cover other consultants' shifts, and she goes above and beyond what is expected of her. As an example, when Cayla discovered that one of her clients was illiterate, she visited a local school, gathered outside resources, and employed them in assisting that student for the duration of her UNA enrollment.*

*Cayla states that over the past four years as a student consultant, she has grown as a writer, a teacher, and as a professional. Through the process of helping others write, she has, herself, become a strong writer, honing skills for working through each step in the writing process. She has also learned through helping students that patience and kindness go a long way, and careful attention to a student's work can inspire him/her for future success. Her plans are to pursue an opportunity with Teach for America in Mississippi or become a technical writer in Huntsville or Washington D.C.*

*Honorable Mention*  
**Madeleine Frankfort**



*Madeleine has been employed with the Human Resources Department since May of 2012. She is a sophomore major pursuing her undergraduate degree Sociology and maintains a 3.82 G.P.A. Her duties include sorting and classifying personnel documents, retrieving/distributing mail, making campus deliveries, scanning applicant and personnel documents, and serve as relief receptionist. Her supervisor, Catherine White states, "Madeleine's reliability goes well beyond simply being on time and coming to work as scheduled. If she is asked to perform a task, we are confident that she will get the job done with no mistakes, and she almost always does more than is required." She is a quick learner with a proven attention to detail, and has been entrusted with a much higher work level, which frees the office staff to do other needed duties.*

*Madeleine is a talented musician who has received both university and community related accolades. In 2011, her duo "Bluebirds" was named the Singing River Records Artist by the UNA Department of Entertainment Industry. She is often asked to perform at various University and community events.*

*Madeleine states, "Being a full-time college student and an employee has its challenges, but I have found the experience very rewarding. The convenience of being on U.N.A.'s campus has made organizing my time for classes, meeting with professors, and work relatively simple. The daily interactions I have with faculty, staff and professors of the university have made me feel as though I really am an integral part of the university; this attitude only further encourages me in my strive for academic success."*

## *Honorable Mention*

### *Noelle Ingle*



*Noelle is obtaining a Bachelor of Business Administration in Professional Marketing and hopes to become a certified event planner. She serves as the student assistant in the Office of Alumni Relations. Her duties include various projects, assisting with special projects, both on and off campus, fund raising, greeting and assisting alumni and visitors in addition to serving as a receptionist, maintaining an alumni records database, and composing alumni updates for the UNA magazine. She also eagerly and willingly helps with other activities such as Career Planning and Development's graduation expo, UNA Alumni pregame tent parties, reunions, homecoming banquet, parade and golf tournament, and various other projects.*

*In addition to her student worker position, she holds a second job, is involved with her sorority volunteerism, works in the community in the local soup kitchen, the nursing home, and with Florence High School Halloween Carnival for special needs students. She is a member of academic honor societies and the UNA Dean's list, maintaining a 3.4 G.P.A.*

*Noelle has developed personal and professional skills in the course of her deep involvement with university extracurricular activities. She is a delegate of the University Program Council, and a member of Leadership UNA and Phi Mu Fraternity. She is a true professional, and promotes the advancement of the University.*

*Honorable Mention*  
*David Auston Johnson*



*David is a freshman employed in the Office of Student Engagement. He is a native of Nauvoo, AL, and is currently pursuing a major in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Social Behavioral Science. His duties in Student Engagement include interacting with all visitors in the office, running errands, answering phones and assisting with Miss UNA Pageant, SOAR and Welcome Week. He also serves on the Alternative Break Board and offers his service to various volunteerism projects.*

*His supervisor, Juliette Butler, states, "David is a well-mannered person, articulate, professional and very customer oriented. He is very diplomatic when dealing with difficult or sticky situation. He will go the extra mile to serve the customer in a professional manner." He can be relied upon to go that one step further to serve the students, staff and faculty, and the community as well.*

*As a student assistant, David has experienced a range of tasks from planning, coordinating, and executing events for 1,200 people including UPC Programs, Purple Reign, Alternative Break Board, and Big Deal. He considers the world of student affairs his "true calling" in life. He is a tremendous asset to the office, and he takes his position not just as a part-time job, but a career, a wonderful opportunity to network, and a time to let his abilities shine.*

*Upon graduation, David will enroll in graduate school and seek opportunities to continue his career in Higher Education within Student Affairs.*