

University of North Alabama Division of Student Affairs

Summer 2025 NEWSLETTER

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Thank you, Senators!

Jeremy Martin, Anna Leigh Rossi, and Megan Simmons have shown outstanding leadership in their roles as Staff Senate President, Vice President, and Secretary, respectively. Their collaborative efforts have led to significant achievements for the Staff Senate, one of which is the successful passage of a promotion policy for internal position advancements. With the support of Human Resources, this policy fosters career growth opportunities for all staff members, promoting professional development and recognizing internal talent. Their dedication to advocating for staff interests continues to strengthen the UNA community. **Anna Leigh** will continue to serve on the Staff Senate as President going into next year. **Jeremy** and **Megan** will continue as Staff Senators.



We are proud to celebrate and recognize the dedicated service of our incredible faculty and staff who have reached key milestones in their careers at the University of North Alabama. Their commitment, talent, and passion help shape the UNA experience for our students and community every day.

This year, we honor the following individuals for their years of service:

- **Jessie Lindley** – Executive Assistant for the Associate VPSA (5 years)
- **Sheena Burgreen** – Executive Director for Health and Well-Being (10 years)
- **Gigi Broadway** – Coordinator of University Events (10 years)
- **Zeynep Harkness** – Associate Mental Health Counselor (15 years)

Thank you for your continued dedication to excellence and for being an essential part of the UNA family. Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition!



Jessie Lindley - 5 yrs



Sheena Burgreen - 10 yrs



Gigi Broadway - 10 yrs



Zeynep Harkness - 15 yrs



Abbinney with Supervisors
Duell and Gigi

Congratulations to **Abbinney Story**, former Student Assistant for GUC Operations and Event Management, who has been named the 2024–2025 UNA Student Employee of the Year! Abbinney exemplifies leadership, professionalism, and a deep commitment to enhancing the campus experience for all who utilize the Guillot University Center.

We also extend special recognition to our outstanding finalist and honorable mentions:

- **Zoey Hobbs** (Finalist), Disability Support Services
- **Mia Batchelor, Mandy McGinnis** (Honorable Mentions), Student Engagement
- **Ana Belen Bermeo Franco, Julian Oliver** (Honorable Mentions), Mitchell-West

We are grateful to all of our student employees (and their supervisors) for the energy, talent, and enthusiasm they bring to UNA. Your impact is felt every day!



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AJ at UT Knoxville

We're excited to share that A.J. Benavides from Housing and Residence Life was selected to attend the Mid-Managers Institute (MMI), a prestigious professional development experience presented by SACSA and NASPA Region III. Designed specifically for mid-level professionals in student affairs, MMI offers a focused opportunity to build skills, expand professional networks, and deepen the leadership qualities that drive impactful work on campus. The institute occurred in Knoxville, Tennessee, in mid-June 2025. We're proud to see A.J. representing our institution and investing in continued professional growth! Please join us in congratulating him on this well-deserved opportunity.



Congratulations to Anna Leigh Rossi, who served as a Small Group Facilitator at the 2025 Phi Gamma Delta Leadership Institute! Anna Leigh co-led a cohort of 10 participants through an intensive experience focused on courageous leadership and values-based decision-making. Hosted at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, the Leadership Institute is Phi Gamma Delta's premier leadership development program. Through guided activities, attendees explore their personal leadership style, confront real chapter challenges, and craft actionable plans rooted in the Fraternity's values and Ritual. We are proud of Anna Leigh's commitment to developing strong, values-driven leaders across the fraternal community!



Anna Leigh at
Transylvania University



Matthew/AJ win Gold

We are thrilled that AJ Benavides and Matthew Jones recently brought home the championship title at the Point Mallard Pickleball Classic held in Decatur, Alabama. After a strong round robin play with a 4-1 record, the duo advanced to the day's final match (Championship) and secured a decisive 15-7 victory to claim the tournament title. While demanding academic and professional responsibilities compete for their time, both AJ and Matthew have remained intentional about making space for physical activity, personal challenge, and team development. We are proud of their continued growth, on and off the court, and look forward to seeing what's next for them as they represent our community with excellence, energy, and enthusiasm.



We're ecstatic to share a major update from University Health Services! After an incredible 38 years of dedicated service, Dr. Patricia Auxier officially retired on June 30, 2025, from her role as UNA's Medical Director. Her legacy and commitment to the well-being of our campus community will be felt for years to come. She has cared for generations of students with compassion, professionalism, and an unwavering dedication to health and wellness. With her retirement, we're proud to welcome Dr. Jackie Sneed as our new Medical Director, effective July 1, 2025. Dr. Sneed brings a wealth of experience and a passion for student health, and we're excited for this new chapter. Please join us in celebrating Dr. Auxier's remarkable career and warmly welcoming Dr. Sneed to the UNA and Division of Student Affairs family!



Thank you for your 38
years, Dr. Auxier

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SAPD AWARD RECAP

Dr. Kimberly Greenway Employee of the Year

Anna Leigh Rossi, Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life

"Her innovative approach to leadership development, programming, and recruitment has elevated the entire FSL community."

"She has strengthened collaboration across councils, encouraged unity, and fostered a culture of giving and service among chapters."



Anna Leigh Rossi



Friend of the Division

Ben Bond, General Manager of Ticket Sales and Ticket Operations (Athletics)

"Ben goes out of his way to ensure that everyone—students, faculty, and staff alike—feels valued and supported."

"As the 'Ticket Guy,' he gets us the football tickets we need for our Lion families, in the sections we need, and at a discount. And as a good human being, he helps us manually select individual tickets to ensure families' accessibility needs are met."



Sheena Burgreen & Benjamin "Ben" Bond

Graduate Assistant of the Year

Dr. Ashley Cook, GA - Health & Wellbeing

"Ashley has played a key role in organizing impactful programs like The Struggle is Real and Tame Your Mane, which support student well-being/ engagement."

"She has helped to coordinate many events that support our Health and Well-Being Initiative, such as The Struggle is Real, Send Silence Packing, and Tame Your Mane."



Dr. Ashley Cook



New Member of the Year

Matthew Jones, Director of Student Activities & Leadership Development

"Matthew's enthusiasm and tireless efforts to enhance the student experience make a lasting impact at UNA and the Shoals community."

"He is launching Camp LEO this summer, worked with UNA SGA to successfully bring back their 5K, revived the Lions Lend a Hand service initiative, and started a pickleball club sports team."



Matthew Jones

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SAPD AWARD RECAP



Title IX Office - Kate, Chase, & Patty

Pride Award

Title IX Office (Kate Hanbery, Chase Wise, Patty Apkarian)

"This team has made a strong effort to be forward-facing, visible, and accessible—helping students understand that their office is supportive and caring."

"Their proactive and student-centered approach has significantly contributed to a safer, more informed, and connected campus community, making the Title IX Office a deserving recipient of the Pride Award."



Program/Project of the Year

Black History Month (Housing & Residence Life)

"Housing & Residence Life's Black History Month programming, planned and executed under the leadership of Calviee Tandy, was an outstanding initiative that significantly impacted student engagement and cultural awareness."

"The combination of strategic planning, strong partnerships, creative marketing, & a student-centered approach made this an exceptional ex. of inclusive programming."



Jennifer "Jenn" Sutton



Counseling - Meagan, Maggie, Zeynep, & Laci

Program/Project of the Year

Send Silence Packing (Student Counseling Services)

"This was such a poignant event that brought an important mental health concept that may often be perceived as shameful to the light as the center of conversation."

"The exhibit took the breath away from the visitors and led the way for some impactful conversation about support."



Silent ROAR Award

Duell Aldridge, Assistant Director of University Events

"His warm smile, colorful attire, and joyful presence create an inviting atmosphere for both students and staff."

"His ability to bring positivity and professionalism to every interaction makes him an invaluable member of the Student Affairs team."



Duell Aldridge

