



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kenneth D. Kitts

Welcome to the Fall 2015 *UNA Magazine*. This is a time of growth and change at the University of North Alabama, and there are many exciting developments to report. First, however, I would like to begin with a word of thanks for the outpouring of support my family and I have received since arriving at UNA. We are very grateful to be joining such a wonderful campus and community.

As a new president, I am keenly aware of the legacy I have inherited. My predecessors had a vision, worked hard to implement it, and in the process grew an institution of unusual vitality and beauty. The responsibility of ensuring the continuing development of the university now falls to me and my leadership team. Fortunately, we have an outstanding network to guide and assist us in the form of our trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, students, and fellow administrators.

Together, we are thinking creatively about the future of UNA and taking concrete steps that will move this university to the next level of excellence. Three major construction projects have been recently completed or are coming to fruition on campus. The new Science and Technology Building will open for classes this fall. With over 160,000 square feet of space, it stands as the largest capital construction project in the history of UNA. One new residence hall ("Mattielou") will also open this fall with a second ("Olive") set to open in the spring. These two new living facilities will



2015 fall a UNA Magazine

### **CLE COURSE** AT UNA Provides Needed SERVICE AND **PHILANTHROPY**

By Bryan Rachal, **University Communications** 

Attorneys from the surrounding area came to the University of North Alabama campus to participate in a continuing legal education course hosted by the Northwest Alabama Women's Legal Association, and UNA benefitted in the process.

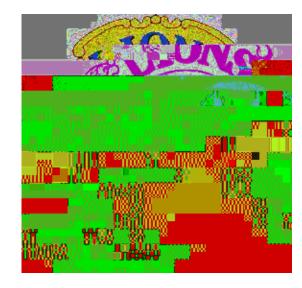
Attorneys are required to take 12 hours of CLE courses each year in order to keep up with the changes in the law. What's unique about the CLE course held at UNA is that all the proceeds went to UNA's Mock Trial program. Pa a Ba, a '88, attorney and member of Northwest Alabama Women's Legal Association, said they're glad to donate the funds to UNA's Mock Trial program because it's one of the few in the area.

Bassham along with I dge A ge a Te '94 and attorneys Laura Terry and Christy Graham are officers for the NAWLA. Bassham said the NAWLA plans on hosting a CLE course each year in order to provide support for the University's mock trial program. Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UNA, said that plan coincides with the mission of both UNA and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Law is a discipline in which continuing education is required and if UNA sees itself as a leader of education in this region, it only makes sense that we offer an event to allow attorneys to get continuing education hours. In addition, the NAWLA has graciously agreed to donate the proceeds to our mock trial program, which will further prepare students for graduate school or any aspect of life that gives them a solid foundation in critical thinking and critical questioning," Burkhalter

UNA's mock trial program has been an integral part of the Political Science and Legal Studies programs since 1998. Over the past 16 years, the UNA mock trial team has competed in more than 13 states at regional and national competitions, and won numerous awards.

The event will take place once again this year on November 6. It will cost \$100 for early registration or \$125 the day of. For more information contact Barbie Terry at bterry5@ una.edu.



### University of North Alabama LIONS CLUB SEEKS CHARTER MEMBERS

By Barbie Terry, University Advancement

Anyone who has spent time on campus as a student or employee of the University of North Alabama has fond memories. With that in mind, a new UNA Lions Club was formed to enhance and provide that collegiate experience for everyone!

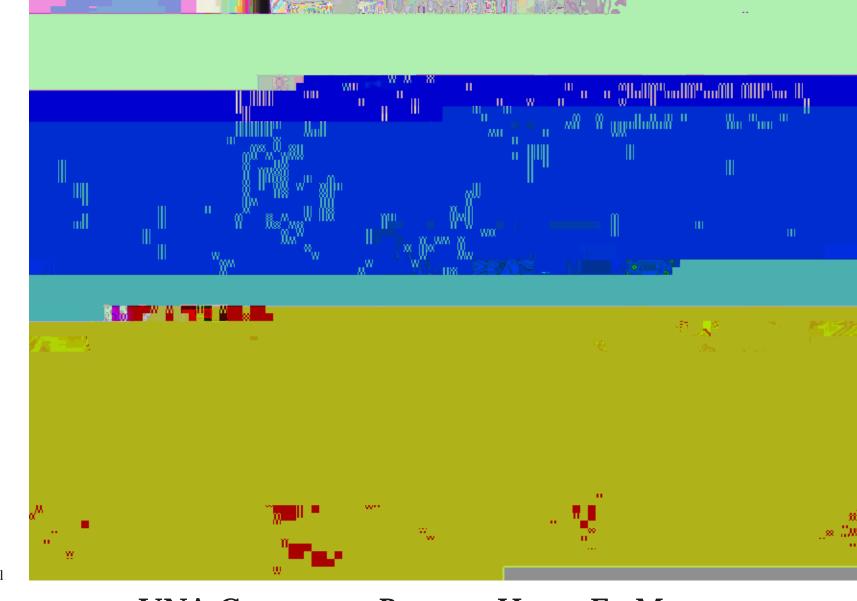
Dr. Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of the UNA College of Arts and Sciences, arrived on campus with a vision that included students, faculty, and alumni working together to improve the quality of life on campus and in the community. As she shared her mission of bringing students and faculty together outside the classroom to provide community service with alumnus Je e T , '83, a collaboration of thoughts led to the idea that the UNA campus would be enhanced by the formation of a service organization. Thus, the UNA Lions Club was formed.

Thompson currently serves as membership chair for the Lions Clubs of Alabama. Working closely, with Barbie Terry, college development officer for UNA, Thompson and Terry secured a commitment from Lions Clubs International and permission from the UNA administration to form a club on campus.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organization with 1.39 million members in 46.000 clubs in 210 countries and geographical regions. Formed in 1917, Lions Clubs International (LCI) has developed a strong reputation for community service. Although each club services its community in its own unique way, LCI encourages clubs to focus in four core areas – vision, youth, environment, and world hunger.

UNA's Lions Club membership consists of students, employees or alumni of UNA. Members have an opportunity to provide community service on campus and in the Shoals area. Service projects, which are determined by the membership, may include activities such as health fairs, vision screenings, youth leadership camps, tutoring, campus clean-up days, or food bank collections.

Students who join the UNA Lions Club will be able to include membership on their resumes, make a difference in the lives of others, and begin to network with professors and alumni. Membership in the Lions Club can also be continued beyond the university experience, by simply transferring to one of the 46.000 clubs around the world.



# UNA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS HOSTS ED MORRISON, 'STRATEGIC DOING' AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADER

By Bryan Rachal, University Communications

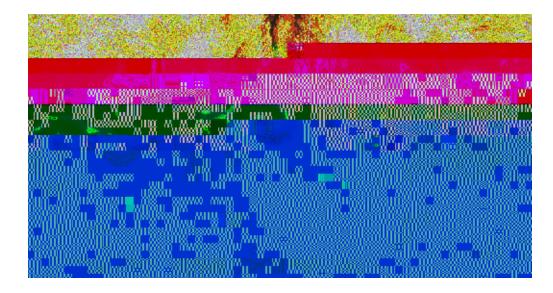
The University of North Alabama and the UNA College of Business hosted Ed Morrison, thought leader and preeminent expert on regional development and civic collaboration, in the Guillot University Center on campus. Morrison led an interactive talk on the topic of "Strategic Doing" and how it coincides with regional development.

"Strategic Doing," a process developed by Morrison, enables civic leaders to form collaborations quickly, guiding them toward measurable outcomes, and making adjustments along the way. The process is being used to

reinvent and revitalize many regions.

As the global economy continues to change at an unprecedented rate, collaboration between institutions and entities is pivotal in solving key public issues, like ensuring job security and economic success for area residents and families. The University of North Alabama is one of these institutions and spans a very broad region. The mission of the university includes being engaged in the economic well-being of the region. Therefore, UNA is committed to collaborative efforts that will result in solutions that assure the economic success of this mutually shared region of north Alabama, northeast Mississippi and south Tennessee.

"Today's economic climate is changing faster and faster so it is important for the regional leaders to find collaborative agile strategies that address their opportunities for generating prosperity. The days of going it alone are past. I believe that 'Strategic Doing' provides a simple yet multifaceted process that allows engaged leaders the ability to move quickly to successful results," said Dr. Gregory Carnes, Dean of the College of Business.



# GETTING TO KNOW

E FI E A

By Bryan Rachal, University Communications

It's a new day at UNA. There's excitement on campus as a new First Family has moved into the President's Home which adjoins Harrison Plaza.

Dr. Ken Kitts arrived on campus

Dr. Ken Kitts arrived on campus in March as UNA's 20<sup>th</sup> president and was followed shortly afterwards by his wife Dena and their two boys, Colin and Corbin. The family has already begun to establish strong ties both on and off campus, and the community, faculty, and staff are happy they're here.

You rarely see Dr. Kitts at an event without Dena and the boys, and that's the way they like it. You might call it a package deal for UNA. But



perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the Kitts family so far has been their approachability.

As we were interviewing for this story, Dena mentioned that their oldest, Colin, was involved in one of the summer camps on campus. "I had been taking him to Keller Hall every day and there was a student who was helping with registration. She recognized me and asked, 'Are you guys living in the house?' I said, 'Yes, we are.' She said, 'You know, I've never been in that house.' I invited her to come over and there was this silence and surprise among everyone listening." That night at 7 o'clock, the student and a friend knocked on the door, and they were treated to a tour of the house.

Ken Kitts was born in Waynesville, North Carolina, and lived there until he left for college at Appalachian State. His father was a dentist and his mother was a homemaker. "Waynesville is a small mountain community west of Asheville, right in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains close to Tennessee. It's a very beautiful area. My father is deceased, but my mother still lives there," he said. Kitts was the youngest of four children, including two sisters and a brother. His parents were from the Great Depression Era, and his dad was a World War II veteran, so hard work and a sense of pride in the community and country were themes in the Kitts household.

His high school years consisted of typical activities, most of which did not include playing sports. "I love sports as a spectator, but beyond Little League, I didn't play. I like to joke that I was small and deceptively slow. I love football. I grew up going to the Tennessee games because

Knoxville was close and my dad was an alumnus of UT." What Ken did do was play tuba in his high school's band. As he was just over 5 feet tall as a freshman, he said it was quite the sight to see.

After high school, Ken enrolled at Appalachian State University. He knew the school through family connections, but he also liked the fact that Boone, where ASU is located, embraced the university and took pride in its label as a college town. Even though Ken said he had always been interested in government, history and law, he started out as a business major. However, a class during his first semester changed that. "I had taken an American Government class as part of the general education program, and I just loved it. I thought, this is my passion and something I could study for a long time, so I declared political science as my major."

Ken completed his undergraduate degree and decided to stay on at Appalachian State to earn his masters. He was offered a graduate teaching assistantship, and at the ripe old age of 21 began teaching college courses. "It was a bit awkward," he said. "I was as young as some of the students I was teaching, and I was very nervous. But that was my first taste of college teaching, and I liked it."

After earning his masters, Ken was offered a full-time teaching position in South Carolina at Francis Marion University. It was supposed be a one year assignment, but it turned into a 23-year stay; it's also where he met his wife, Dena.

The older of two children, Dena Strickland Kitts was born in Columbia, South Carolina. After moving around a few times when

she was young, she and her family settled in Latta, South Carolina. In high school, Dena was on the cheerleading squad and was drum major for the marching band. She also played the flute and said she can still play a tune to this day. Her parents were career educators, and when she decided to head off to college, she chose Clemson first. "I began at Clemson, then got a little homesick, so I transferred to Francis Marion University where I earned a B.A. in English with minors in Spanish and history." While at FMU, she was also inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society.

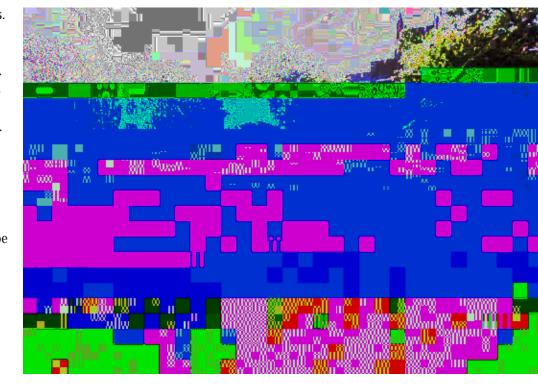
After graduating, Dena began working in the Francis Marion Human Resources Department; it's also when she and Ken began dating. Ken and Dena married in 2001, and five years later Colin was born. Corbin arrived three and a half years later.

Dena decided to stay home and focus on raising the boys while

Ken was moving upward in the administrative ranks. Dena knew that he was a fast riser. "Being in HR, you can pinpoint administratively who the stars are, and I knew. He became department chair and then was honored as FMU's Distinguished Professor that same year." Two months after his 38th birthday, Ken was promoted to associate provost.

After eight years as associate provost, Ken left FMU in 2011 to become provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a regional university just across the South Carolina border. He stayed there until UNA came calling, and as most Shoals transplants know, it is a call that's hard to resist.

"I'm grateful to have had these wonderful professional opportunities at key points in my career," he said. Dena is quick to point out that Ken is very humble. "That's one quality I love about him. In truth, he's always



stood out."

As they prepared for the move to Alabama, Ken and Dena tried to ensure a smooth transition for their children. "It's hard to leave family; there's no question about it," he said. "I think the ages of our children help. If we had two teenagers, with all the social networks that come with that, it would have been more difficult. We talked openly with them about the move, and both have adapted to their new environment very well," Ken said.

"By the time the move occurred, we had already been here two or three times, and we had a certain acclimation to the area," Dena said. "Quite honestly, I thought it would be much more difficult. Everyone has been genuinely nice and supportive, and because of that, the transition has been seamless. It already feels like home," she said.

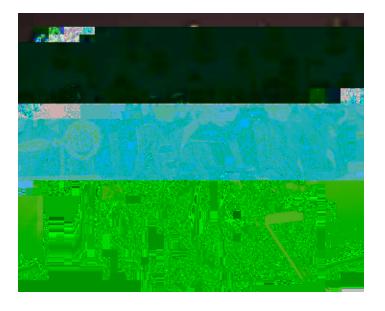
Now that the Kitts family has settled in, they are enjoying their

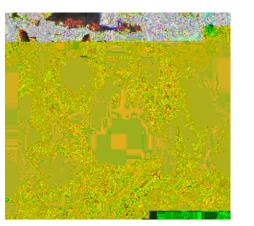
new home and being participants in campus life. The prominent location of the President's Home can present challenges when it comes to raising the children. The front lawn often becomes a playground. It's not unusual to walk through Harrison Plaza and see Ken, Dena, and the boys throwing football or playing a game of Frisbee. "You do sacrifice some privacy when you're in this public of a location. So far, it's been very manageable, though. The people that come up in the yard are just curious about this beautiful house. It's part of campus," Ken said.

As we wrapped up the interview, it was clear that the President and First Lady of UNA know how to balance their public roles with their private lives. They were extremely cordial, open, and down to earth. As if to reaffirm the observation, Dena shared a story that really brought it all

"We were hosting our first event in our new home, a luncheon for

special friends of the university. I was very nervous, trying to make sure everything looked pristine. In the final moments before our guests arrived, I walked into the foyer and happened to glance at the chandelier. Hanging from the crystals was one of the boy's socks," she said, laughing. "In that moment, it sort of made everything right again. This is who we are."







Dr. O'Neal joined UNA in 2010 upon completion of his doctoral program in Human Performance at the University of Alabama. After originally wanting to be a coach and spending four years of his undergraduate career working for the Arkansas State University football team, Dr. O'Neal's career pathway altered course when he was offered a graduate teaching assistantship. He was coaxed into completing a thesis and fell in love with academia for the first time after discovering what research really meant.

O'Neal through the years. He believes his primary mission at UNA is to provide opportunities for success to students who are willing to work hard to better their lives through the academic process. He contends these are often not the students with the best grades in high school or highest ACT scores. Working with students whose desires focus on getting an education versus a diploma is what drives Dr. O'Neal. He feels that UNA is unique in that the student's academic experience is truly the number one priority creating an environment where mentoring student researchers to success is valued as much if not more than his own achievements.

While not a traditional sport coach, Dr. O'Neal considers the research mentoring aspect the favorite part of his job and very akin to his original

Dr. Kerry Gatlin is Professor of Management and former Dean of the College of Business at the University of North Alabama. Previously he served as Chair of the Department of Management and Marketing and as Director of the University's Small Business Development Center. He has served on the UNA faculty since 1980. Prior to his career in education, he served as Treasurer and Operations Officer for a Birmingham bank.

In addition to teaching and administrative work, Kerry has maintained an active professional agenda. He has conducted managementtraining classes for organizations throughout the Southeast. His research and training interests are in the areas of customer service, strategy, decisionmaking, experiential learning, as well as organization theory and organizational behavior.

Dr. Gatlin has been a member of the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, having served a term on its Board of Directors. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Northwest Alabama and the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center, including serving a term as President of the Board for the SEC. He serves on the Alabama Technology Network's Advisory Board. He also serves on the Advisory Board of the local chapter of the Salvation

### H. C

Associate Professor of Elementary Education; B.S Ed., 2000, M.A.Ed., 2002, University of North Alabama; Ed.S., 2003, Ed.D., 2005, Samford University

L, a C a 4 '00 & '02 has been an educator for 15 years. She began her career as a first grade teacher at Webster Elementary School in Muscle Shoals, Ala. It was there that her passion for impacting student learning grew. Lisa has been recognized as a National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certified Teacher. Only 2% of teachers in the nation have currently received this honor and certification.

Lisa is an Associate Professor in the Department of Elementary Education and in her position at UNA teaches courses in early childhood reading and language arts, elementary reading assessment, and early childhood math.

Lisa also supervises field experiences, clinicals, and student interns. She enjoys collaborating with her colleagues in the College of Education and Human Sciences and the Kilby Laboratory School faculty and staff to provide exciting opportunities for preservice teachers in her courses.

Dr. Clayton's favorite aspect of teaching at the University of North Alabama is her students. She goes above and beyond to give her students opportunities to be successful. As a professor, her goal is to build a professional learning community in each of her courses. Her teaching style focuses on student engagement and providing real world experiences for students.

As a professor, Lisa continues to build partnerships with the local school systems. She developed the "PALs" (Progressing Academic Learners) program with the

principal and instructional coach at Weeden Elementary School. This program focuses on increasing reading fluency and comprehension with first grade students. She has been instrumental in providing Alabama Math, Science, and Technology (AMSTI) training and certification to preservice teachers which in turn makes them extremely marketable as they look for a position as a classroom teacher.

Lisa Clayton enjoys speaking at international, national, state, and local conferences on research-based best practices in literacy and mathematics. She was selected to serve on a Regional Planning Team for the Alabama State Department of Education. Lisa has developed the National

# message from the **ALUMNI PRESIDENT**

I bring you greetings on behalf of the UNA Alumni Association. There are a lot of exciting things going on on campus and with the Alumni Board and Clubs. For example, the new UNA Science and Technology Building

timerliJBbArAlttle((id)Ts Day campus aCith Active gesple -1jd and Ford



renown, he admits that having people appreciate his work is vital. "It's about the most important aspect of it there is. The first is creating it, the next is having an audience," he said.

The most recent exhibit of his work can be found at the Birmingham Museum of Art.

The exhibit, titled "Between Fantasy and Reality," is a tribute to Fleming's early years as an artist. The museum has 18 original Fleming sculptures on display. The pieces are from the 1970s when clay and ceramic were his media of choice. The pieces were selected from private collections and were on public display at the museum from February 27 through August 9.

Fleming also worked with young artists and led a workshop at the museum this summer. The purpose of the program is to help develop young artists' skills. He says that he hopes he is an inspiration to them. And for any student attempting to chase their dreams he has a few words of advice. "Go. Go for it," he said.

But, as for his future, Fleming is already living the dream. He says that he is now lucky enough to work only when he wants to, which is "most every day," and he doesn't try too hard to make plans. "The future will come and take care of itself," he said.

I first became acquainted with Frank Fleming's work as a child growing up in Birmingham, Ala., in the mid 80s.

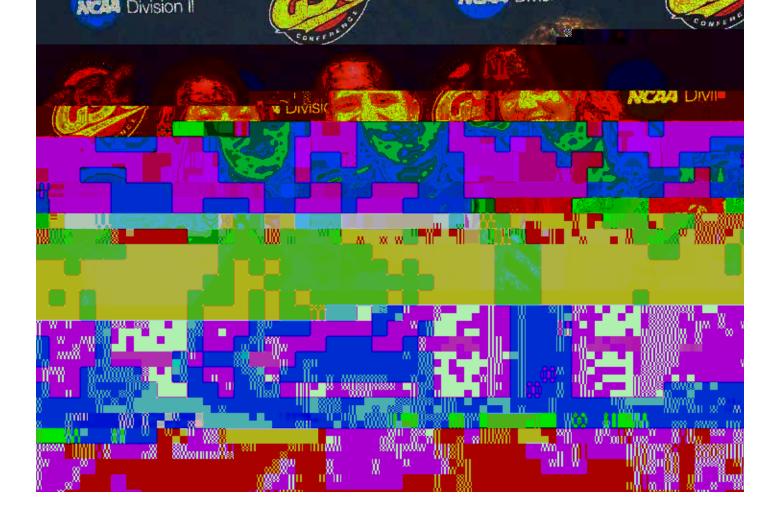
The Storyteller° at the Five Points South intersection in the heart of Southside Birmingham was the first piece of art I ever heard my family talk about the ram-man seated before a gathering of woodland animals reading a story to his eager audience. I didn't understand the significance of a ram-man as a five-year-old, but I did know his work was kin to magic and fairy tales.











Former University of North Alabama volleyball All-Americans Rachel Price Bell and Ronda Price Brinley were inducted in June into the Gulf South Conference Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2015 at a ceremony at the San Destin Golf and Beach Resort..

In just its second year of existence, the GSC Hall of Fame added its latest class of five inductees with UNA's Price sisters as the only student-athletes honored. There were 10 inductees in the initial class in 2014 that included former UNA football standout Ronald McKinnon and former UNA basketball coach and athletic director, the late Bill Jones.

The GSC Hall of Fame is just the latest honor for the Price sisters. They were inducted into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011 and were chosen for the 40th Anniversary NCAA Division II Tribute Team in 2013 as the top female student-athletes from the Gulf South Conference over the 40 years that the league has competed in Division II.

The Price sisters were four-year starters on University of North Alabama volleyball teams from 1996-99 that had a combined 156-22 record. The Lions won four straight Gulf South Conference championships, made four straight NCAA

Division II Tournament appearances and won two NCAA regional championships.

Both Rachel and Ronda earned All-Gulf South Conference, All-South Region, All-American and Academic All-America® honors during their playing careers.

Rachel also won the Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy as the premier female student-athlete in the league in 1999 and 2000. She was also named NCAA Division II Conference Commissioner's Association National Female Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2000. She received an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and earned a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Purdue University. She is currently employed as a clinical project manager in West Lafayette, Ind.

Ronda was the recipient of the Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy in 1998 and was the Alabama Sports Writers Association State Small College Athlete of the Year in 1997. She was also awarded an NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship and graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine, where she also did her residency. She is employed as an anesthesiologist in Fort Wayne, Ind. University of North Alabama football receiver Lee Mayhall of Jackson, Tenn., and women's soccer forward Chloe Richards of Cornwall, England, were among the recipients of the 2015 Gulf South Conference "Top Ten" Awards.

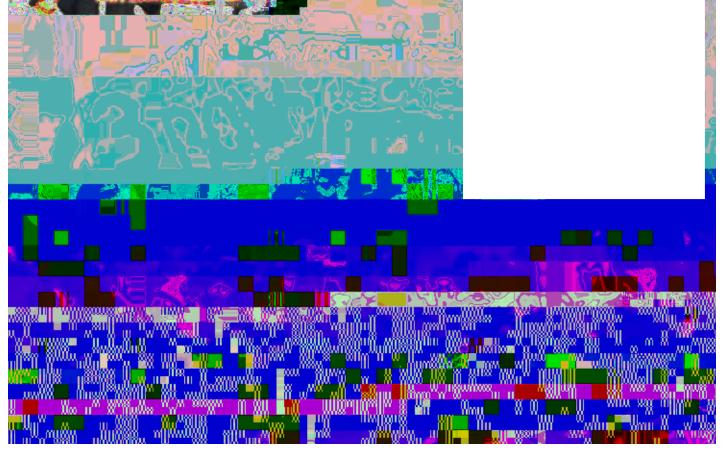
These awards, based on athletic, academic and extracurricular achievement during the 2014-15 academic year, recognize the top five male and top five female student-athletes as the cream of the GSC crop.

The "Top Ten" are selected with the assistance of an advisory committee representing the athletic directors, senior woman administrators, sports information directors, faculty athletic representatives and presidents from randomly selected GSC schools. This committee makes a recommendation to the commissioner, who makes the final decision.

Richards was the 2014 Daktronics Division II National Player of the Year and led the nation in four statistical categories while leading the Lions to a 14-4-1 record and a spot in the Division II National Tournament. She earned All-GSC and Academic All-GSC honors, was GSC Player of the Year and earned five GSC Player of the Week awards. She was also named South Region Player of the Year and was a first-team selection on two All-America teams.

Despite missing part of the 2014 season due to injury, Mayhall ranked among the Lions' leading receivers and earned All-GSC and Academic All-GSC honors. He was a first-team Academic All-America selection with a 4.00 cumulative GPA in Industrial Hygiene. Last season he helped lead UNA to a 9-2 overall record, a second straight GSC championship, and a spot in the NCAA Division II Playoffs.

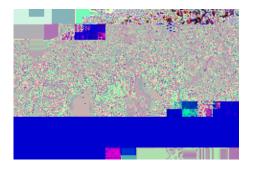


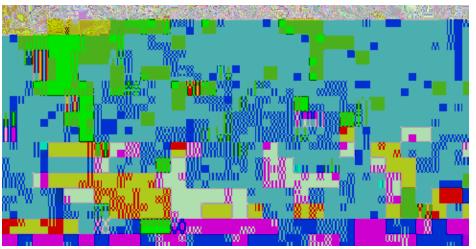


# 20-YEAR REUNION OF 1995 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM NOVEMBER 14



UNA will honor the coaches, players and staff members from its 1995 NCAA Division II Football National Championship team on November 14, 2015 at Braly Stadium at the Lions home game against West Alabama. The event will celebrate the 20-year





anniversary of UNA winning an unprecedented third consecutive NCAA Division II football title. The 1995 Lions completed a perfect 14-0 season with a 27-7 win over Pittsburg State in the national championship game at Braly Stadium.

Kicko4aTj 0 the come atiseastionship game at

# **CROSS COUNTRY**

Date	Opponent	Location
9/5/2015	Sewanee Invitational	Sewanee, Tenn.
9/12/2015	Earl Jacoby/UAH Charger Invitational	Huntsville, Ala.
9/26/2015	Rhodes College Invitational	Memphis, Tenn
10/9/2015	Watson Ford Invitational	Clinton, Miss.
10/24/2015	Gulf South Conference Championships	Danville, Ala.
11/7/2015	NCAA Division II South Regional	Tampa, Fla.

### FOOTBALL

	1		
<i>Date</i> 9/6/2015	<i>Time</i> 6:00 p.m.	Opponent Miles	Location Birmingham, Ala. (Legion Field)
9/12/2015 9/26/2015 10/3/2015 10/10/2015 10/17/2015	6:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Mississippi College Florida Tech Valdosta State Western Oregon UNC Pembroke	HOME HOME Valdosta, Ga. Monmouth, Ore. HOME Homecoming
10/24/2015 10/31/2015 11/7/2015 11/14/2015	1:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	West Georgia Delta State Shorter West Alabama	Carrollton, Ga. HOME Rome, Ga. HOME Preview Day

### SOCCER



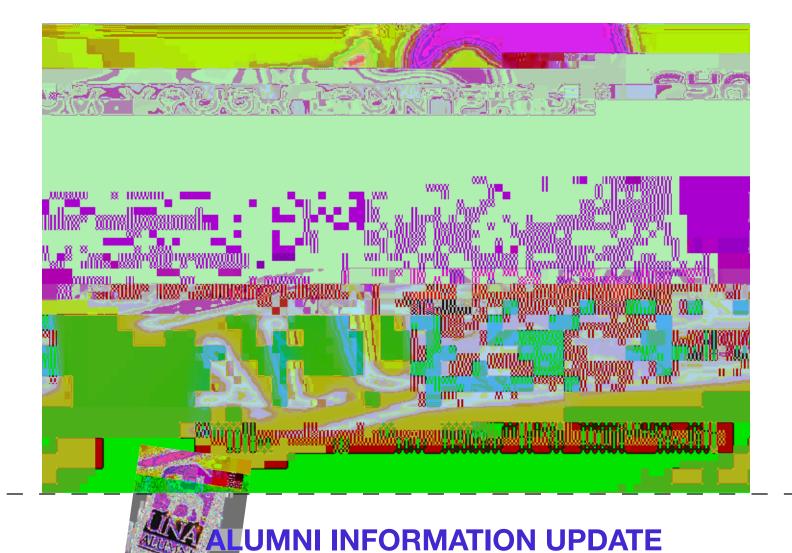


a Bachelor's degree in Education. He received advanced degrees from the University of North Alabama and Southeastern Louisiana University. Mr. Sessions was an educator for 40 years. His early years were spent coaching football at collegiate and high school levels before moving to Saint Tammany Parish in 1985 where he continued to be a teacher, coach, and administrator.

Cary Allen Findlay attended Florence State College and the University of Alabama. He served in the U.S. Army stationed with the Headquarters Division in

Ares DawasAssocioned d





# 

### I want to get involved with UNA alumni in my area...

4	_ca⁴ e_e	,e 🗖	e <sub>c</sub>	g		ee g	<u>,</u> e	□ Me	g
	e c E e		a <b>⊈</b> e	, <b>e</b>	e^	, <b>e</b>		□ <b>"</b> è	
	a <b>⊸</b> e .	a a ao a e	ag <sup>e</sup>	, ea ,e a	_	c ,e ,e	a ,e	e <sub>g</sub> ee	
	هــــــد a	a ,e	, <b>e</b>	<sup>,e</sup> a	į ,e	, e	a e		
	a e e	e f je	UNA Alun	nni Magazine.	e <sub>a</sub> ec	e e e	а	, <b>e</b>	,e
	off c'e t	<sup>,e</sup> a , U	.50	7, <u>e</u> c,e,	3.5 32-00	001 <sup>e</sup> a	а	1 a	. <sub>е</sub> .
			J O	a //a	ı . a. <sup>g</sup>	9			

