

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Family Weekend Workers

The 3rd Annual UNA Family Weekend was a huge success, welcoming 1,102 attendees—an impressive 10% increase over 2024! This year, we launched upgraded platforms that made registration, payment, and check-in faster and easier than ever. With the support of 20 incredible campus partners and overwhelmingly positive feedback from our families, this weekend truly showcased the best of the UNA community. Family Weekend continues to strengthen the connection between our students, their supporters, and the UNA experience. We are grateful to everyone in the division who helped bring this event to life. Roar Lions!



Welcome to the new First Year and Retention Initiatives Office! This team is dedicated to all things retention, including Summer Orientation and Miss UNA. After recently attending NODAC in San Francisco, the team has returned with fresh ideas and innovative strategies to keep UNA on the cutting edge of retention and orientation programming. Their work will play a critical role in supporting student success from the first day on campus through graduation. We're grateful for the energy, creativity, and commitment this team brings to the UNA community. We're excited for what's ahead!



FYRI Staff in San Francisco, CA



Jimmy Waddell w/
Calviee Tandy

We recently celebrated the retirement of Jimmy Waddell, a dedicated member of the UNA community whose service has left a lasting impact on Housing & Residence Life and the university as a whole. Colleagues gathered in the Olive Hall Lobby on Wednesday, 8/27/25, for a heartfelt come-and-go celebration to honor Jimmy's years of commitment, leadership, and genuine care for others. Throughout his time at UNA, he has been known for his strong work ethic and his steadfast dedication to supporting students and colleagues alike. Housing & Residence Life extends its sincere appreciation for Jimmy's service and wishes him continued success and happiness in his well-deserved retirement.



Check out the Student Activities & Leadership Development Wall! Located just outside of Student Engagement, this dynamic space celebrates our RSOs and Student Leaders of the Month, highlights our yearly traditions, and features our rotating advertisements on the TV to keep you informed on what's happening across campus. It's a great way to recognize involvement, leadership, and the impact our students make every day. This space also serves as a central hub for sharing important updates and upcoming opportunities for students to get involved. Haven't seen it in person yet? Be sure to stop by and take a look.



New SALD Wall in GUC



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NEW HIRES/PROMOTIONS

Tyler Jacobson

Graduate Assistant, Student Recreation Center (August 2025)

Marianna Light, LICSW

Student Counseling Services (September 2025)

Noah Bishop

Health Promotion & Data Specialist - Health & Wellbeing (September 2025)

Rachel Ackerman

Graduate Assistant, Housing & Residence Life (January 2026)

Anna Parkhomenko

Graduate Assistant, Student Recreation Center (August 2025)

Dr. Jocelyn Wright

Director, Presidential Mentor Academy -> Director, First Year & Retention Initiatives (June 2025)

Becca Bush

Assistant Director, Student Activities & Leadership Development -> Associate Director, First Year & Retention Initiatives (June 2025)

Chase Wise

Deputy Title IX Officer -> Assistant Director, First Year & Retention Initiatives (June 2025)

Olivia Oliphant

Administrative Assistant, First Year & Retention Initiatives → Coordinator, Student Activities & Leadership Development (January 2026)

FALL BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

2nd: AJ Benavides (HRL)

13th: Jake Russell (Student Engagement)

13th: Mary Katherine Brewer (UHS)

14th: Jami Flippo (HRL)

23rd: Dr. Jackie Sneed (UHS)

26th: Tammy Jacques (Student Engagement)

OCTOBER

5th: Laci Lake (SCS)

7th: Maggie Stutts (SCS)

27th: Jocelyn Wright (FYRI)

NOVEMBER

6th: Noah Bishop (HWB)

8th: Alison McCaig (UHS)

9th: Bobbi Jo Craft (UHS)

11th: Kim Lowrey (UHS)



SPRING EVENTS

SAPD New Year Reflection/Reset:

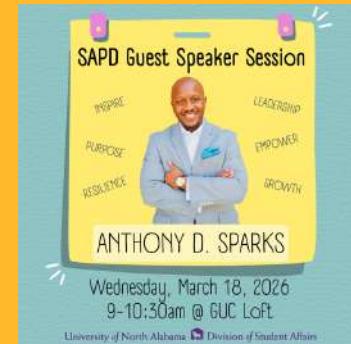
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
@ 9-10:30am - Stone Lodge

SAPD Guest Speaker Session: Anthony D. Sparks

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
@ 9-10:30am - GUC Loft

SAPD Awards 25-26

Wednesday, May 13, 2026
@ 11:30am - Pierce Hospitality Suite



SAPD New Year's Reflection & Reset



SAPD AWARDS

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

11:30am-1:00pm
@ Pierce Hospitality Suite



PHOTO GALLERY

