

2024-2025 NEWSLETTER

STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Dedication Ceremony

In June '24, UNA's Disability Support Services was renamed the Aubrey and Annie Looney Disability Support Services, honoring the parents of alumnus Col. Milton Looney. Col. Looney, who served 30 years in the Army and 20 years at the Pentagon, made a generous gift to enhance accessibility resources for students. This endowment has enabled the department to expand its offerings, coordinating academic accommodations and ensuring access to all phases of university life. Under the leadership of Jeremy Martin and Megan Simmons, the office experienced a 15% increase in students served during the last academic year, with 382 students registered, representing 4% of UNA's student body.



In June '24, the Mitchell-West Center transitioned from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs and now reports to Dean Minnette Ellis. Privately funded and committed to fostering inclusive learning environments, MWC offers academic support services that cultivate a sense of belonging at UNA. Its mission is to facilitate knowledge exchange, promote interdisciplinary collaborations, and create transformative, equitable partnerships. Serving as an accessible resource hub for students, faculty, and staff, MWC remains dedicated to empowerment through outreach, collaboration, and research. With each initiative, MWC continues to enhance belonging on campus.



Welcome, MWC!



Stuff-A-Lion Activity

Family Weekend 2024 was a tremendous success, drawing a record-breaking attendance of approximately 1,000 participants. Families from across the region joined in the festivities, enjoying a variety of engaging activities and making lasting memories. The event's continued growth reflects the strong sense of community at UNA. Additionally, the Lion Family Connect Portal saw significant engagement, with over 10,000 participants, providing families with essential resources and updates. A special thanks to Tiffani Hill-Patterson for her dedication and leadership in making Family Weekend a memorable experience for all. Further, we would like to thank the Family Weekend planning committee for their time, effort, and dedication to a successful weekend and event.



Dean of Students, Minnette Ellis, earned her Doctorate from Western Kentucky University, a significant achievement that further enhances her leadership at UNA. Her advanced education equips her with deeper insights into student development, organizational leadership, and innovative practices in higher education. This accomplishment strengthens her ability to address the evolving needs of students, foster inclusive environments, and implement data-informed strategies. As a leader within the Division of Student Affairs, Dean Ellis's expertise will continue to inspire collaboration, support student success, and contribute to UNAs commitment to holistic development and lifelong learning.



Dr. Dean Ellis at WKU

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Dr. White & Small Group

In January '25, Dr. KC White served as a faculty member at NASPA's Alice Manicur Symposium, an esteemed professional development experience designed for student affairs professional women. As a faculty member, Dr. White contributed her expertise by leading mentor group sessions, facilitating in-depth discussions, and supporting participants in exploring their career aspirations. Her involvement in this prestigious program highlights her dedication to leadership development and her commitment to empowering the next generation of student affairs executives. Dr. Andrea Hunt (MWC) was selected from a national pool to participate in the symposium.



Anna Leigh Rossi showcased her expertise and dedication to fraternity and sorority life by presenting at multiple conferences throughout the year. She contributed her insights at the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA) Annual Meeting and the Southeastern Greek Leadership Association (SGLA) Conference, sharing best practices and innovative strategies. Her presentations reflect her commitment to advancing Greek life and fostering student leadership. Through her engagement in these professional spaces, Anna Leigh continues to elevate UNA's presence in student affairs and contribute to the growth and development of fraternity and sorority communities nationwide.



Anna Leigh Rossi at AFA



Step Sing Group Photo

This year, UNA Faculty and Staff revived the cherished tradition of performing at Step Sing for the first time in over six years. Led by Housing and Residence Life's Calviee Tandy, the performance brought together talented individuals from across campus. Representing Student Affairs were Juliette Butler, Gloria Doxie, Matthew Jones, and Jessie Lindley, who showcased their spirit and enthusiasm on stage. Adding to the event's vibrant atmosphere, decorations and props were thoughtfully handcrafted and designed by Brooklyn Beauregard-Jackson. The return of this beloved tradition highlighted the collaborative and creative spirit of the UNA community.



Calviee Tandy demonstrated exceptional leadership as the Local Arrangements Chair for the Southeastern Association of Housing Officers (SEAOH) Conference in March '25. Hosting approximately 800 attendees in Huntsville, she coordinated with local restaurants and business owners to provide a warm welcome and showcase the city's hospitality. Calviee also partnered with Visit Huntsville to engage vendors and corporate partners, ensuring a vibrant and supportive conference environment. Her efforts extended to organizing engaging after-hours events and making reservations, contributing to a memorable and successful experience for all participants.



Calviee Tandy's Intro/Tip



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A.J. Benavides Headshot

A.J. Benavides of UNA's Housing and Residence Life co-presented at SEAHO (Southeastern Association of Housing Officers) with Doug Tate, Assistant Director for Housing Administration at Western Kentucky University. Their session, "Do More with Less: Innovating Housing Processes with Existing Technology," highlighted how housing teams can maximize impact using tools they already have. Attendees explored cost-effective solutions like Qualtrics, Taplink, and SparkHire to enhance staff recruitment, streamline roommate agreements, and boost professional development. The presentation emphasized practical, actionable strategies for making the most of limited resources. Congratulations to A.J. for being selected to present at SEAHO.



Matthew Jones was elected to the Member at Large position with NASPA Alabama and will serve on the executive board for the next two years. In this leadership role, he will contribute to advancing the professional development of student affairs practitioners across the state. His dedication to fostering student success and enhancing campus life at UNA will inform his efforts in supporting NASPA Alabama's initiatives. This achievement not only highlights Matthew's commitment to leadership in higher education but also brings well-deserved attention to UNA on the state level. Matthew will also represent UNA and support planning initiatives for Professional Development within his role.



Matthew's Candidate Bio

PROMOTIONS

Becca Bush

Assistant Director, Student Activities & Leadership Development (Spring 2024)

Holly Edens

Assistant Director, Roar Access Center (Spring 2024)

Nicholas "Nick" Gordon

Assistant Dean of Students & Director of Student Conduct (Spring 2024)

Jennifer "Jenn" Sutton

Assistant Dean of Students, Housing & Residence Life (Spring 2024)

Maggie Stutts

Director, Student Counseling Services (August 2024)

Karri Box

Clinical Nurse (August 2024)

Jessie Lindley

Executive Assistant to the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (January 2025)

Calviee Tandy

Assistant Director, Residential Experience - Housing & Residence Life (January 2025)

Gloria Doxie

Assistant Director, Occupancy & Operations - Housing & Residence Life (March 2025)

Duell Aldridge

Assistant Director, University Events (March 2025)

Gigi Broadway

Coordinator, University Events (March 2025)

NEW HIRES

A.J. Benavides

Assistant Director, Conduct & Development - Housing & Residence Life (June 2024)

Matthew Jones

Director, Student Activities & Leadership Development (June 2024)

Tabatha Robertson

PT Counselor (August 2024)

Anna Bingham

Senior Administrative Assistant- Student Recreation Center (September 2024)

Mary Katherine Brewer

Registered Nurse (September 2024)

Chase Wise

Deputy Title IX Coordinator/ Assistant Director, Prevention, Education, & Response (October 2024)

Reanna Pipes

Area Coordinator - Rice, Rivers, Hawthorne (February 2025)

Jayson Jackson

Facilities Coordinator - Housing & Residence Life (March 2025)

L.J. Jefferson III

Area Coordinator - Olive, Covington (March 2025)

TBA

Coordinator, Military & Veterans Affairs (soon)

TBA

Executive Assistant for Housing & Residence Life (soon)

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GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Center for Student Engagement

Addie Johnston | M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
***Ahlaeya "Lay" Judon** | M.Ed. in Secondary Education
Daria "Dasha" Starovoitova | M.B.A. in Human Resources
Justin "Boogie" Junipher | M.S. in Sport and Recreation Mgmt.

Housing & Residence Life

Amanda Sanchez-Sandoval | M.A.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction
Anna Copham | M.A.Ed. in Elementary Education
Arantxa Vasquez Herrero | M.B.A. in Sales & New Busines Dev.
***Christian Barnes** | M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Belen Balladares | M.B.A. in Data Analytics
Briley Eliff | M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Jordan "Jo" Schwartz | M.Pr.S. in Higher Education Admin.
***Joey Howell** | M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education
Katelyn Nash | M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Mitchell-West Center

Ana Belen Bermeo Franco | M.B.A. in Data Analytics & Finance
Jillian Oliver | M.A. in Writing

Student Recreation Center

Clay Norris | M.S. in Sport and Recreation Management
Noah Bishop | Ph.D. in Exercise Science & Health Promotion
Kasley Burns | M.B.A. in Healthcare Management

University Health Services

Ashley Cook | Ph.D. in Exercise Science & Health Promotion

*Indicates the GA graduated or left the position during the year



UPCOMING

May 14, 2025 @ 11:30am @ Pierce Hospitality Suite (Flowers Hall)

You are cordially invited to the Student Affairs Awards Luncheon. We will be honoring all SAPD award winners & the division!



Luncheon RSVP



Award Nominations (close 4/21/25)

SAPD COMMITTEE

Duell Aldridge (Chair): Assistant Director, GUC Operations & Event Management
Megan Simmons (Co-Chair): Assistant Director, Disability Support Services
Sheena Burgreen (ELT Advisor): Executive Director, Heath & Wellbeing

Patty Apkarian: Sr. Administrative Assistant, Student Conduct & Title IX

Brooklyn Beauregard-Jackson: Area Coordinator, Housing & Residence Life

Alyson Bergner: Associate Director, Mitchell-West Center for Social Inclusion

Becca Bush: Assistant Director, Student Activities & Leadership Development

Zeynep Harkness: Associate Mental Health Counselor

Matthew Jones: Director, Student Activities & Leadership Development

Katelyn Nash: Graduate Assistant, Housing & Residence Life

Arantxa Vasquez Herrero: Graduate Assistant, Housing & Residence Life

Chase Wise: Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Assistant Director of Prevention, Education, & Response