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## Greetings from the Executive Ed.D. Cohort Program!

Greetings Executive Ed.D. in Higher Education Colleagues!

As The Executive Ed.D. Program’s 10th Anniversary year closes, it seems fitting to send warm wishes to you, members of our UA family. In this edition of *The Executive*, you will notice that 2016 has been a productive year for our faculty and staff as well as for our students, and alumni. Our cohort members have enjoyed a tremendous year of successes!

Many of you have served as an important recruiting resource for the Executive Ed.D. Program this year. I ask that you continue to encourage your colleagues interested in pursuing a doctorate to consider UA. You are an important part of our recent admissions successes. Thirteen students (Cohort XI) just completed their first semester and we are currently taking applications for Cohort XII.

**Application deadline for Cohort XII is February 15, 2017.**

As our holiday gift to you, our Office has created an updated *Alumni Directory*. You will receive a copy in a separate email. If you have any further updates for the directory, please notify Marylee Freeman. We will welcome her back from maternity leave in January and Lauren Willingham has done a tremendous job in the Program Specialist role since September. Please join me in thanking her for all she has done for our program!

In this issue you will see that Dr. Wayne Urban retired at the close of this semester. He will be missed by many, but we are thankful for his friendship and service in both the Higher Education and Executive Ed.D. Programs.

Continue to keep us posted on your professional efforts – we so enjoy hearing from you and we want to continue to brag about you in our future newsletters!

Best wishes for a tremendous 2017,

Arleene

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**Program Staff**

Arleene P. Breaux, Ed.D.  
Program Coordinator  
205.348.1169  
apbreaux@ua.edu

Marylee Freeman  
Program Specialist  
205.348.3828  
msfreeman@ua.edu
We would like to give a warm welcome to Cohort 11, the newest group to join our prestigious program! They share an enthusiasm and an excitement for the years to come. Here, you can see photos from their Christmas party. Pictured at right are the expressions everyone will wear the moment they complete the program.

Congratulations, Marylee!

On September 19th, our Program Specialist, Marylee Freeman, gave birth to her beautiful baby girl, Arya Rose Freeman. Please join us in congratulating Marylee, along with Dad, Michael, and big brother, Fox, on the latest addition to their family. Congratulations, and welcome, Arya!
In celebration of the University of Alabama Executive EdD Program in Higher Education’s 10th anniversary, we welcomed Dr. William G. Tierney to campus Thursday, October 6th and Friday, October 7th during the Exec weekend. Dr. Tierney is the Wilbur Kieffer Professor of Higher Education, Co-Director of the University of Southern California’s Pullias Center for Higher Education, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs for USC’s Rossier School of Education, and a Graduate Professor at USC.

During his two instructional days with the Exec students, Dr. Tierney gave a private lecture to Cohorts 10 and 11 entitled Change and Innovation in the University, which covered organizational change and the role that organizational culture plays in advancing or hampering policies that support the diversification of higher education. He also gave a public lecture on Best Practices in Diversification of Higher Education. Both lectures were very well received by faculty and students alike.

In addition to his aforementioned current appointments, Dr. Tierney has worked in a wide variety of positions, ranging from Academic Dean of a Native American community college in North Dakota, to teacher in the Peace Corps in Morocco. He has been a Fulbright Scholar to India, Australia, and Central America. What Dr. Tierney has drawn from these numerous experiences gives him a unique perspective on diversifying higher education. We are very fortunate to have had the opportunity to host Dr. Tierney, and are grateful to him for the research and insight he has shared with us.
Cohort 10 had a tremendous experience studying in Belgium and the Netherlands under the direction of Dr. Wayne Urban in June 2016. Here are just a few photos from their trip. The academic and cultural experiences they have gained through their studies abroad will surely help to shape their outlook, their world awareness, and their future endeavors. This week-long excursion provides our students with not only a unique educational opportunity, but also a more global perspective, and, of course, memories to cherish for years to come.
At right, Cohort 11 with Dr. Hutcheson, and below, Cohort 10 with Dr. Major, both on their last day of Fall 2016 classes.

Near right, Dr. Judy Bonner. Far right, Dr. Stuart Bell.

We were fortunate enough to welcome several guest speakers these past two semesters:

- UA President Dr. Stuart Bell
- Former UA President Dr. Judy Bonner
  - Dr. Matt Fifolt
  - Dr. William G. Tierney
Student News

John Fincher (Cohort 8) was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Services - Division Operations at University of Central Arkansas, Conway and President of the Arkansas Student Affairs Association.

Valerie Simmons-Walston (Cohort 8) was named Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Residence Life at the University of Toledo, effective 2017.

Ronnie Hebert (Cohort 8) was named Director of Academic Advising and Retention at Calhoun Community College in October 2016, Decatur, AL.

Ginger Glass (Cohort 9) is currently Associate Dean of Academic Services at Shelton State Community College, Tuscaloosa.

Tim Scoggel (Cohort 10) is now the Director of Athletics at Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA.

David Spight (Cohort 8) has taken the position of Director of Undergraduate Affairs, College of Engineering at UC Davis.

Kristalyn Lee (Cohort 10) was named Director of Executive Affairs and Liaison to the Board of Trustees at the University of Montevallo.

Kelsey Bohl (Cohort 11) was promoted to Executive Director of University Planning and Analysis at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

Alumni News

Dr. Austin Lane (Cohort 2) was appointed President of Texas Southern University, Houston in June 2016.

Dr. Edward Serna (Cohort 7) was named Chief of Staff and Associate Vice Chancellor for External Funding at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

Dr. Ben Lion (Cohort 7) is now the Dean of Students at Valencia College, Orlando.

Dr. Jeremy Baham (Cohort 3) was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at Mississippi State University, Starkville.

Dr. Robin Jones (Cohort 4) is the new Executive Director for Organizational Effectiveness in the Office of Student Affairs at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg.

Dr. Ken England (Cohort 6) has accepted the position of Vice President of Administrative Services at Corning Community College, Corning, NY, effective 2017.

Shelley Caraway (Cohort 5) has been named Executive Director for Extended Education and Continuing Professional Development at Texas A&M - Texarkana.
Dr. David Hardy is serving as President of The Council for the Study of Community Colleges.

Dr. Alan E. Webb’s new book, So You Want to Do a Qualitative Dissertation? A Step-by-Step Template That Will Guide You Through a Qualitative Dissertation is now available on Amazon.com. His book is dedicated to Dr. David Hardy.

Dr. Wayne Urban is retiring after an illustrious career, including many years at The University of Alabama. We wish him luck and congratulations.

New Graduates
August 2016: Lee Lind, Ed.D. (Cohort 7)
Christina White, Ed.D. (Cohort 6)
Sohail Agboatwala, M.A. (Cohort 4)

December 2016: Peter Tofani, Ed.D. (Cohort 8)
Shelley Carraway, M.A. (Cohort 4)
Dr. Wayne J. Urban, Professor of Higher Education and Associate Director of the Education Policy Center retired at the close of the Fall 2016 semester. His distinguished career includes numerous books related to the history of education, service to the American Association of University Professors, and recognition as an American Education Research Association Fellow. Dr. Urban served on the UA Faculty Senate and the Graduate Council and also as a Coordinator for the Higher Education Program.


Dr. Urban has published numerous chapters as well as articles and reviews in leading historical and educational journals. He has edited *Educational Studies, Journal of the American Educational Studies Association*; and co-edited *American Educational Research Journal*, a journal of the American Educational Research Association. Additionally, he served as Associate Editor of the *History of Education Quarterly* and on the editorial board of *Historical Studies in Education* (Canada), and *History of Education Review* (Australia). Dr. Urban’s presence will surely be missed in our department, and we wish him all the best in his retirement.
Please help us with our recruiting efforts and refer those you think would make good candidates for the Executive Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration Program. Cohort 11 has 13 new members and the Cohort 12 class will be announced in the coming weeks.

Help us find out next members of the Bama family! Please share your experience with those who are ready to take the next professional step and earn a doctorate in Higher Education. You are our best recruiters. The Fall 2017 admission deadline is February 15th, 2017.

The Executive Ed.D. Program has a new student testimonial video that can be seen at:
http://vimeo.com/155397476

NA$PA
Dr. Breaux will have a booth at NASPA’s Graduate Preparation Fair on Monday, March 13 from 6 pm—9 pm to promote the UA Executive Ed.D. Program. We love seeing alumni so please stop by if you are attending. Also be sure to tell interested colleagues to check us out!

The NASPA 2017 Annual Conference is March 11-15 in San Antonio, TX.

The University of Alabama
Higher Education Administration ~ Ed.D. Executive Cohort Program
Box 870302, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487
205.348.3828 or exed@bamaed.ua.edu