Welcome to the second issue of The Executive, the alumni newsletter of The University of Alabama’s Executive Ed.D. Cohort Program in Higher Education. I hope that you will enjoy reading it and learning more about new developments in our program as well as the successes of our alumni, faculty, and current students!

I must begin by thanking each of you for your support and helpfulness during my first year as the program’s Coordinator. It has been a busy year, but an enjoyable one filled with new relationships and the opportunity to see and hear about the many successes of both our alumni and our students.

Included in this newsletter, you will see some of those accomplishments. We are always happy to hear from you and we want to be able to highlight your professional advancement so please continue to keep your contact information current and let us know about ALL your efforts!

This fall we welcomed 13 new cohort members holding positions in numerous areas of higher education. Cohort VIII joins us each month from Texas, Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama and the diversity of their institutions – from Southern Methodist University and Brenau University to the University of Texas at Austin and the University of South Florida - has enriched our learning community and classroom discussions.

We are also fortunate to have welcomed Dr. Jason C. Garvey, a new faculty member to our UA family. Dr. Garvey will be teaching a number of student affairs courses and more information on his research specialties is included in the following pages of this newsletter. He is such a tremendous asset to our program!

As our most valued supporters, you have a lifelong relationship with UA’s Executive Ed.D. Program. As you reflect on your time spent with us, please consider recommending our program to any talented colleagues that may be interested in earning a doctorate without interruption to their careers.

We are now accepting applications for the 2014 cohort. Alumni referrals are an important resource for our program and this year we have six students that were recommended to us through your efforts. Our next application deadline is February 15th, 2014!

Please feel free to contact me at apbreaux@bamaed.ua.edu or Katy Galloway at kgalloway@bamaed.ua.edu, if we can ever be of any assistance to you. We always enjoy hearing from each of you!

Best regards,

Arleene
Welcome Cohort 8

Elliott Charles
Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance
University of South Florida

Rodney Lord
Director, Human Resources & Administrative Services
Alabama Southern Community College

Jasmine Buxton
Director, Office of Student Activities & Leadership Development
Alabama A&M University

Rosanne Short
Director, Gainesville East Campus
Brenau University

Monica Davis
Director, Financial Affairs
College of Continuing Studies
The University of Alabama

David Spight
Assistant Dean, Center for Strategic Advising
University of Texas at Austin

John Fincher
Associate Dean for Division Strategy & Assessment
University of Central Arkansas

Tony Tillman
Assistant Provost
Southern Methodist University

Ronald Hebert
Assistant Director, First Year Initiative
University of Southern Mississippi

Peter Tofani
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
College of Nursing
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Matthew Kerch
Director, Housing Operations
The University of Alabama

Valerie Walston
Dean of Students and Retention
Brenau University

Amanda Lammers
Associate Vice President of Student Services
Brenau University
Under the direction of Dr. Karri Holley, Cohort 7 traveled to Belgium and the Netherlands as part of a comparative international higher education class. The group began in Amsterdam June 1st.

The students visited Utrecht University, Lyceum High School, University of Kent, Ghent University, and Leiden University.

Cohort 6 celebrates the completion of coursework! Let the writing commence!

From left to right:
Back row: Philip Moss, Nathan Copeland, Sherif Barsoum, Janet Moore, Shonda Jones and Ken England
Second row: Christina White, Rebecca Coats, Shay Malone and Alvin Johnson
Front row: Daphne Carr and Ralph Clayton
Alumni News

Dr. Jeffery Burgin, Jr. (Cohort 3) was recently named Associate Provost and Dean of Students at Belmont University. Additionally, Burgin is the recipient of the University of Cincinnati Alumni Association Mosaic Award. The Mosaic Award is presented to an alumnus/alumna whose leadership enhances our shared community through cultivating collaboration, fostering inclusiveness, championing the cause of the underrepresented, and promoting equity and opportunity for all.

Dr. Anne Edmunds (Cohort 3) wrote an article detailing Belmont University’s response to Hurricane Katrina and it was recently selected for publication in the *Journal of College Admission*’s upcoming special edition entitled "When Disaster Strikes".

Dr. Paula Gill (Cohort 2) has been promoted to Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at Belmont University. In this role, Gill is responsible for evaluating the university’s progress toward its performance objectives and for seeking ways to improve services and processes that provide value for students. She also serves as a member of the President’s senior leadership cabinet, providing feedback and consultation on University decisions and strategic planning.

Dr. Christopher Holland (Cohort 1) was named Dean of Students at Purchase College. Purchase College, part of the State University of New York’s (SUNY) network of 64 universities and colleges, is located in Purchase, New York.

Dr. Cherron Hoppes (Cohort 2) presented Organizational Trust in Times of Economic Challenge at the Spring 2013 American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference in San Francisco. Her co-presenter was Dr. Karri Holley. They recently published an article with the same title in *Innovative Higher Education*.

Dr. Wahnee Sherman (Cohort 1) accepted the position of Executive Director of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program in Madison, Mississippi. The program provides academic enrichment, faculty mentoring, and physician mentoring to Mississippi students who aspire to a career in medicine and seek to work in Mississippi.

Student News

David Pugh (Cohort 5) was promoted to Associate Vice President for Admissions at Savannah College of Art and Design. Additionally, David successfully defended his dissertation in October 2013.

Shonda Jones (Cohort 6) successfully defended her dissertation proposal in September 2013.

Griena Knight Davis (Cohort 1) successfully defended her dissertation in October 2013.

Lauren Lunk (Cohort 5) successfully defended her dissertation in September 2013.

Cathy Rumble (Cohort 5) successfully defended her dissertation in October 2013.

Beth Stuart (Cohort 4) graduated in May 2013.

Tony Tillman (Cohort 8) alongside Pavielle Chriss will present *An Integrated Model: Increasing the Retention of At-Risk Students* at The National Symposium on Student Retention. The symposium will be held November 2013 in San Diego, CA.

Valerie Walston (Cohort 8) participated in the 2013 GICA Student Retention Conference: Moving the Needle Together that featured Dr. Vincent Tinto.
Art Dunning, professor and senior research fellow at the Education Policy Center, served as a panelist for the community forum series CNN Dialogues in September 2013. “Modern Marchers: Lessons From The Front Lines of Social Change” was a discussion with social activists discussing justice, inclusion and opportunity in the 21st century.

Jay Garvey was invited to be a speaker on an UA panel entitled “Queering the Classroom: Teaching, Research & Services with a Twist.” He also recently published a manuscript in the *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education* with Dr. Noah Drezner from the University of Maryland, “Advancement staff and alumni advocates: Cultivating LGBTQ alumni by promoting individual and community uplift.”

Karri Holley edited *Increasing Diversity in Doctoral Education* with Dr. Joretta Joseph from the National Physical Science Consortium. The edited volume is part of the New Directions in Higher Education series published by Jossey-Bass.

Stephen Katsinas recently spoke at the U.S. Department of Education’s Rural Community College Alliance meeting in Washington, DC. Katsinas presented the Education Policy Center’s three-state study on the impact of the new Pell Grant eligibility restrictions on community colleges.


Claire Major (with co-author Maggi Savin Baden) released *Qualitative Research: The Essential Guide to Theory and Practice*. The book provides a one-stop resource for all those approaching qualitative research for the first time as well as those revisiting core concepts and issues. It presents a comprehensive overview of this rapidly developing field of inquiry, cleverly combined with practical, hands-on advice on how to conduct a successful qualitative study. Major was also recently invited to be a speaker on a panel at the Tide Together Writing Bootcamp. Tide Together is a mentoring program sponsored by the UA Graduate School.

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**SPRING AERA FACULTY PRESENTATIONS**

| To Buy or Not to Buy in Higher Education: Decisions and Debt | Rethinking Fieldwork Genres in Qualitative Research: A Review and Synthesis of the Literature |
| Chair: David Hardy | Maggi Savin Baden (Coventry Univ) and Claire Major |

| Categorizing Interdisciplinarity: Understanding Interdisciplinary Research Funded by the NSF through the Recovery Act | Teachers Working for Peace: Historical Perspectives on Elusive Struggles—Chair: Wayne Urban |
| Karri Holley and Michael Harris (SMU) | Educational Policy and School Reform |

| Utilizing Threshold Concepts to Structure Interdisciplinary Programs | |
| Karri Holley | |

| Organizational Trust in Times of Economic Challenge | |
| Cherron Hoppes (UA alumna, Golden Gate Univ) and Karri Holley | |
The Executive Ed.D. Cohort Program launched a speaker series in an effort to enrich discussion across disciplines and fields of practice. In September 2013, we welcomed Dr. Melanie Miller and Dr. Art Dunning.

**Dr. Melanie Miller** holds three degrees, all from the University of Alabama. She has a Bachelor's in Social Welfare, a Master of Arts in Community Counseling, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration. Dr. Miller is an alumna of the Executive Ed.D. program (Cohort 1). Prior to coming to work at UA in 1995, her experience included work with several non-profit agencies in West Alabama, including serving as Executive Director of Turning Point Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services.

Dr. Miller came to UA as only the second Director of the Women’s Resource Center. During her tenure there, she generated approximately two million dollars in external funding. While at UA, she has also held positions as Associate Director of the Student Health Center, Executive Director of Crimson Care, and Associate Dean of Students. She is currently working in the Center for Community Based Partnerships, in the Division of Community Affairs, as Director of Student and Community Engagement.

**Dr. Art Dunning** is currently a Professor and Senior Research Fellow in the Education Policy Center on the campus of The University of Alabama. His work in the Policy Center includes service on state and national boards as well as teaching responsibilities in the Higher Education program.

Dr. Dunning served as advisor to The University of Alabama System Chancellor for strong linkages with emerging economies around the world, specifically India and Argentina. He was responsible for assisting the Chancellor with developing and communicating a strategy for commercialization and innovation of UA System faculty and research. He also served as chair of the UA System Committee on Strategic Initiatives.

**Recent Speakers**

**Ms. Delois Smith** is Vice President for Diversity at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). She has been with UAH since 1980 in various counseling and administrative positions, serving as Vice President for Student Affairs and currently as Vice President for Diversity.

**Stephen R. Portch, Ph.D.**, is the chancellor emeritus of the University System of Georgia, consisting of 35 universities and colleges. He served as chancellor of this system from 1994-2001, a transformative period for Georgia higher education that included a highly successful strategic plan. During this period, Change magazine selected him as one of the “21 Most Influential Voices in the Academy.”

**Diane Fennig, Ph.D.**, has more than 25 years of career development and management experience, working in association with universities and higher education systems in three states. She has done extensive work in career and student development throughout her tenure. Diane’s career has been focused on creating opportunities and seeking talent through her roles in Career Management and Student Services. She served as Director of the Career Center at Augusta State University, where she developed and implemented a comprehensive Alumni Career Services Program and authored GeorgiaHire.com, a shared resume database program, for 34 institutions within the University System of Georgia.
Dr. Art Dunning visits with students from Cohort 7 and Cohort 8 while touring the Malone-Hood Plaza.

Dr. Melanie Miller (Cohort 1) presents to students in Cohort 7 and Cohort 8.
Recruitment

We need your help identifying talented individuals as we continue to build a strong and reputable program. Cohort 8 has six members that were referred by our alumni! Please help us with our recruiting efforts and refer those you think will benefit from an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration.

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 2014 admissions deadline is February 15th, 2014.

Dr. Breaux and Kaitlin Hartley (MA student and graduate assistant) prepare to share Executive Ed.D. information with prospective students at the Grad Prep Fair held during the National Student Affairs Conference in Orlando, Florida.

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