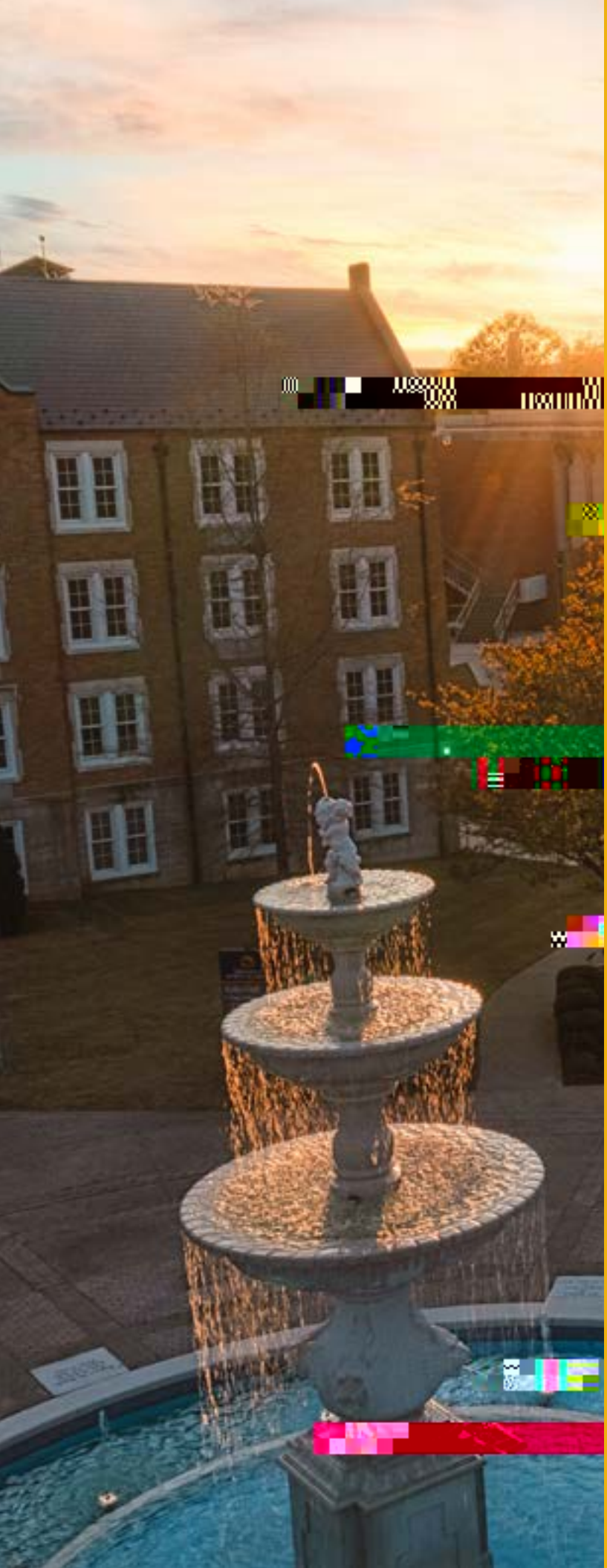




2022-2023

PROFILES in EXCELLENCE



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OUTSTANDING TEACHING

Dr. J. Doug Barrett, Department Chair and Professor in Finance, Economics and Data Analytics in the Sanders College of Business and Technology as well as the Director for the Institute for Innovation and Economic Development, is the 2023 winner of the Dr. Lawrence J. Nelson Outstanding Teaching Award.

Here he is in his own words.

Q: What, or who, inspired your love of teaching, and when did you know this would be your career calling?

A: Students are at an important period of their lives when they are in the university. Having the opportunity to have positive impacts on them is a privilege. I began to appreciate this during my undergraduate study at the University of Montevallo.

I “knew” being a professor was what I wanted to do by my second year of undergraduate classes. Several undergraduate professors were my initial inspiration. I want to give all of them mention: Dr. Angela Hernandez (Calculus II), Dr. George Hung (three Chemistry courses), Dr. Sid Vance (English Composition II), Dr. Joe Walker (Microeconomics), and Dr. Frank Ryerson (Accounting I and Cost Accounting). Additionally, Dr. Dallas Blevins was my primary undergraduate mentor. He instilled a sense of the symbiotic relationship between teaching and research, as well as the importance of appreciating students as people.

8i f|b| a m| fUX UY nYfgz 8fg" 9X:UX A UbgYXz A JMUY Conerly, Brian Gray, Subhabrata Chakraborti, and William Woodall (my dissertation advisor) were excellent models for different teaching styles. That said, you have to take the best of ch YfgUbXIfmrc UbXUk Uiric jbm| fUY h|b|rc noi f'ckb'gnY" It is challenging, but having these great role models helped immensely.

Q: Your students would not call your courses “easy,” yet you consistently receive high marks on their evaluations. What is your secret to being an approachable and highly effective teacher?

A: Understanding and respecting people is fundamental to being effective in any leadership role. In the end, leadership is a critical component of teaching. Students need to be challenged while feeling supported in their journeys. When they are aware of this support, they naturally feel free to UdfcUW noi "H |g| cYgVYncbXcZW\ci fg"5""cZhYVg| professors I have known over the years have had open doors and a welcoming atmosphere for students.

Q: Those who nominated you for the Dr. Lawrence J. Nelson Outstanding Teaching Award mention your commitment to innovation and your love of learning. With more than 25 years of your career spent at UNA, tell me how you maintain this, and what keeps you excited about teaching.

A: Our students deserve a unique experience here at UNA. We can provide that by offering knowledge and skill building that most schools do not. Being willing to experiment with different approaches without fear of failure is the key to innovation. Some things work better than others, but the process of keeping fresh is crucial. Professional development also is critical, as adding new tools/methods enhances the learning environment. It is hard to help others appreciate learning without being an example. Like most faculty, I am curious about many things that may or may not be directly part of my disciplines. Finding ways to connect seemingly XglUFUY WbWdrg#YXg |g UWU Yb| Y hUiXfj Yg a i W'cZ my investigation. Nothing is more exciting than waking up and realizing you have the gift of another day to grow and share new things with students.

Q: Tell me about your work for the Institute for Innovation and Economic Development and the Agile Strategy Lab. These are non-teaching opportunities, so how does your involvement in them inform your role in the classroom?

A: Some of the work with the Institute and ASL actually does involve teaching. Ms. Mary Marshall VanSant and I teach the GhUM JWS c|b| VhJUMhcb WifgY Zf dfUMhcbYfg h'fci [\ the Center for Learning and Professional Development. The work we do in community and economic development using Strategic Doing (through our Shoals Shift initiative) helps us continue to improve the course. In addition, I have incorporated Strategic Doing and Foresight (a tool I learned about through Shoals Shift) into our MBA and EDDBA programs.

In general, the projects with community clients/partners offer real-world applications that provide rich illustrations in class. This is both within and beyond the Institute work.

Q: Finally, you have enjoyed a long and successful career at UNA. What does it mean to you to win this award?

A: To say the least, I have been blessed at this institution in many ways. I previously received the Academic Affairs Award for Research and Scholarship in 2007 and the Academic Affairs Award for Service in 2017. Both of those were/are special. This one is especially meaningful for two reasons.

H YUghifYgcb |gh Yfc YcZHUW|b| Uhi B5 Ugci f'df|a Ufmi mission. This does not diminish the functions of scholarship or service, as they help support teaching. That said, teaching is at the center of everything we do. This recognition is humbling.

The second reason is that the award bears the name of my late friend and colleague Dr. Larry Nelson. Anyone who knew Larry instantly realized how much he cared for teaching the students at UNA. He also was the epitome of a lifelong scholar. It is an honor to join great colleagues like last year's recipient, Dr. Andrea Hunt, in sharing the legacy of Larry's shining example.

Dr. Hunter S. Waldman is an Assistant Professor in Exercise Science. He is the recipient of the 2023 Academic Affairs Outstanding Research – Faculty Award.

Here he is in his own words:

Q:

Dr. Hunter S. Waldman



Dr. Gary Padgett is a Teaching, Learning, and Leadership



Dr. Gary Padgett



