Mission / Purpose
The mission of the Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics is to provide a quality education in accounting, finance and economics, and to provide research and service.

I. Goals and Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

A. Goal: Address the educational issues of the region
Address the educational, social, cultural, and economic issues of the region and in doing so promote a positive image of the institution and the area

1. Outcome: Students will demonstrate understanding of fundamental business principles and functions
Students will demonstrate understanding of the fundamental business principles and functions and the relationship of business organizations to individuals, government, and society.

a. Measure: Graduating students will take the MFT
Students graduating in AFE will take the MFT to demonstrate their understanding of fundamental business principles and functions

1. Achievement Target:
75% of AFE graduates will score 138 or higher on the MFT exam.

The MFT exam is taken as part of the MG 490, Strategic Management, course requirements in the student's graduating semester. 43% of the College of Business graduating students earned a score of 138 or higher in the 2014-2015 academic year, and this percentage was below the set target of 75%. Of the 38 accounting and finance majors who took the MFT exam, 16 students or 42% scored 138 or higher. For all College of Business majors who took the MFT exam in the 2014-2015 academic year, the aggregate accounting, finance, and economics subcategory scores were in the lower 20 to 30% percentile ranges. These lower percentile scores continue to reflect lack of MFT exam preparation with reviewing the pertinent topics, particularly with non-accounting and non-finance majors. Significant progress is necessary to improve the students' MFT overall scores as well as the accounting, finance, and economics subcategory scores. The required accounting and economics courses for all College of Business majors are taken at the sophomore level, and the one required finance course is taken at the junior level. To help the seniors refresh and review with these earlier courses, study materials were offered in preparation for the MFT exam. Also, case work and GloBus in MG 490 required financial analysis that is tested on the MFT. In the sophomore level accounting and economics courses, faculty continued to utilize additional learning resources for improvement with classroom and online teaching. These initiatives included: (1) Students' use of the Cengage product in AC 211-212 (Accounting I and II), and (2) Students' use of the Aplia product in EC 201-202 (Microeconomics and Macroeconomics).

3. Action Plan:
Prepare for MFT Exam
The AFE Department and MG 490 faculty will continue concentrated efforts to improve students' MFT scores in the accounting, finance, and economics subject areas.

Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Preparation for MFT Exam
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: AFE Department Chair and Faculty; MG 490 Faculty

2. Outcome: Students will demonstrate knowledge and skill appropriate to their chosen major
Students will demonstrate knowledge and skill appropriate to their chosen major

a. Measure: Graduating students will prepare the senior accounting portfolio that serves as the AFE Exit Exam
Students will demonstrate acquired knowledge and skill by preparing the senior accounting portfolio that serves as the AFE Exit Exam.

1. Achievement Target:
80% of AFE graduates will score 70% or higher on the senior accounting portfolio that serves as the AFE Exit Exam.

For the AFE Exit Exam in 2014-2015, the Accounting, Finance, and Economics Department continued the process of requiring campus accounting and finance seniors to complete portfolios or to complete the independent study course. The independent study required of all Chinese accounting and finance seniors is the AC/FI 407 1-hour credit course for each of the fall and spring semesters. The FI 407 independent study course requires a comprehensive research paper, and the AC 407 course includes a SWOT analysis paper in addition to summaries of extracurricular activities with the Accounting Club and other campus organizations during the academic year, an updated resume, and completion of a CPA exam review process. The current senior accounting portfolio is required of all campus accounting majors and includes a combination of the SWOT analysis paper, internship and/or job shadowing and/or work experience, attendance to special campus and community events, written summaries of extracurricular activities during the academic year, and an updated resume. As of Fall 2015, all College of Business rising juniors will be required to complete during their last 4 semesters the series of BA 401, 402, 403, and 404 professional development courses that will require a portfolio upon graduation.

b. Measure: The AFE Department will determine needs for alternative methods of course delivery
By conducting focus groups and other research, the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance will determine the need for alternative methods of course delivery to meet student needs.

1. Achievement Target:
Department will continue to offer both online and campus courses to fulfill students' requirements for degree completion.

Graduate level accounting, finance, and economics courses were offered in the MBA program.
c. **Measure: Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic accounting principles**  
Students enrolled in AC 211 (Accounting I) will demonstrate an understanding of basic accounting principles.

1. **Achievement Target:**  
   Students enrolled in AC 211 will score 70% or better on each exam given during the semester.

2. **Findings (2014-2015) - Target: Met**  
   At least 80% of students in AC 211 earned a grade of 70% (C) or higher overall on the exams given during the fall and spring semesters. Students are required to earn a course grade of C or higher in AC 211 to enroll in AC 212. Accounting tutors in Student Support Services and the Athletics Department were actively used by a significant number of students. Accounting faculty provided periodic progress updates and additional assistance during each semester.

d. **Measure: Students will demonstrate a mastery of skills in their major field of study**  
Accounting majors will participate in accounting internships to demonstrate a mastery of skills prior to graduation

1. **Achievement Target:**  
   Increase the number of internships available for students and conduct a survey for those supervising the interns to determine levels of strength and weakness.

   During the 2014-2015 academic year, accounting and finance students were placed in internships (including summer), job shadowing (BA 400 course), and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Practicum--VITA (AC 333 course) during the 2014-2015 academic year. In addition, several accounting and finance students had campus and local jobs pertinent to their major.

e. **Measure: The College of Business faculty will participate in a continuous cycle of curriculum improvement**  
The College of Business faculty will participate in a continuous cycle of academic improvement with the utilization of curriculum mapping for each course in the Business Professional Component (BPC) and for each major in the COB degree program

1. **Achievement Target:**  
   100% of COB faculty will complete the course assessment forms at the end of each semester.

   100% of COB faculty completed the course assessment forms for the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 semesters. These forms detailed the resulting end of semester academic performance of students related to the student learning outcomes adopted by the COB faculty in their courses.

3. **Outcome: Students will demonstrate the ability to express ideas through oral and written communication**  
Students will demonstrate the ability to express ideas clearly, logically, and persuasively in oral and written communications.

   a. **Measure: Students will receive average or above average feedback on papers and presentations**
Students will receive average or above average feedback on papers and presentations in selected business core and major courses

1. Achievement Target:
80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher on papers and presentations in selected business core and major courses, including AC 312, Intermediate Accounting II, AC 451, Auditing, BA 420, Business Communications, and BA 450, International Business.

In BA 420, Business Communications, 67% of the College of Business campus students earned a grade of C with oral and written communications assignments in the Fall 2014 semester, and 88% of COB campus students earned a grade of C in the Spring 2015 semester. 55% of campus accounting majors earned a grade of C or higher in the written communications assignments in BA 363, Advanced Business Law. In BA 450, International Business, 77% of the College of Business campus students earned a grade of C or higher with the oral and written foreign country assignments. In AC 312, 83% of campus accounting majors earned a grade of C or higher in the research project. 78% of accounting majors earned a grade of C or higher in the audit case written assignment in AC 451, Auditing. Writing and oral communication skills were included in tests and assignments with rubric grading. All Chinese students are required for graduation to take a series of ESL (English as a Second Language) courses to improve their English skills. The Chinese seniors in AC 407, Accounting Independent Study, and in FI 407, Finance Independent Study, completed writing assignments as part of the course requirements.

3. Action Plan:
   Improve oral and written communication skills
   AFE and COB faculty will continue concentrated efforts to work with students to improve their oral and written communication skills.
   **Established in Cycle:** 2014-2015
   **Implementation Status:** In-Progress
   **Priority:** High
   **Implementation Description:** Improvement in oral and written communication skills
   **Projected Completion Date:** 08/30/2016
   **Responsible Person/Group:** AFE and COB Faculty

4. Outcome: Students will illustrate an understanding of leadership
Students will illustrate an understanding of leadership styles, traits, and behaviors

   a. Measure: Students will perform well in group/team projects
   Students will earn satisfactory grades on group/team projects in selected business core and major courses.

1. Achievement Target:
80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher with the team project assignment in selected courses including AC 411, Advanced Accounting, AC 451, Auditing, and MG 490, Strategic Management.

At least 80% of accounting majors earned a grade of C or higher with the consolidation group project in AC 411, Advanced Accounting I, and at least 80% of accounting majors earned a grade of C or higher with the audit group project in AC 451, Auditing I. Accounting and finance students enrolled in MG 490, Strategic
Management, completed the required GloBus competition as team projects, and at least 80% of the students earned a grade of C or higher. Also, accounting and finance students participated in extracurricular service projects, fundraisers, speaking opportunities, field trips, professional etiquette dinner, and related group/team projects with ENACTUS, Toastmasters Club, VITA, Delta Mu Delta, and the Accounting Club.

3. Action Plan:
   Improve critical thinking and analysis skills
   AFE and COB faculty will work with students to improve their critical thinking and analysis skills.
   Implementation Status: In-Progress
   Priority: High
   Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
   Responsible Person/Group: AFE and COB Faculty

5. Outcome: Students will analyze legal and ethical issues
   Students will analyze legal and ethical issues; synthesize appropriate proposals for practical business solutions to ethical issues.
   a. Measure: Students will perform well with legal and ethical assignments
      Students will perform well with legal and ethical assignments in selected business core and major courses.
      1. Achievement Target:
         80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher in the research writing assignments for BA 363, Advanced Business Law. 80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher in the individual writing assignments for BA 330, Ethics.

      73% of AFE campus students earned a grade of C or higher in legal assignments in BA 363, Advanced Business Law. At least 80% of College of Business students earned a grade of C or higher in individual exam writing assignments in BA 330.

   3. Action Plan:
      Continue concentrated efforts to improve students’ writing skills
      The AFE Department will continue concentrated efforts to improve students’ MFT scores in the accounting, finance, and economics sections of the MFT exam during the 2014-2015 academic year.
      Established in Cycle: 2013-2014
      Implementation Status: In-Progress
      Priority: High
      Projected Completion Date: 05/17/2015
      Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Mitzi Green, Department Chair

6. Outcome: Students will distinguish the components of business situations
   Students will distinguish the components of business situations; differentiate among alternative business solutions; critique causes and potential outcomes of selected options
   a. Measure: Students will successfully evaluate business situations
      Students will successfully evaluate real-world business cases and provide solutions.
      1. Achievement Target:
80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher in the GloBus simulated business project and the final team presentation for the business capstone course, MG 490, Strategic Management.

At least 80% of campus College of Business seniors earned a grade of C or higher with GloBus, the final presentation, and cases in MG 490, Strategic Management. At least 80% of campus accounting students earned a grade of C or higher in the comprehensive manufacturing company assignment in AC 321, Cost Accounting. At least 80% of campus accounting majors earned a grade of C or higher in completing the audit case simulation in AC 451, Auditing I.

7. Outcome: Students will analyze problems and demonstrate competency in use of information technology
Students will analyze complex, unstructured qualitative and quantitative problems, using appropriate tools and current technology and will demonstrate competency in the use of contemporary information technology in business decision making.

a. Measure: Students will perform well with quantitative techniques and current technology
Students will perform well with problem solving using quantitative techniques and current technology.

1. Achievement Target:
80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher in the required assignments and tests for BA 371, Advanced Business Statistics. 80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher in the required assignments and tests for MG 370, Management Information Systems.

BQ 371, Advanced Business Statistics, and MG 370, Management Information Systems, are required courses for all accounting and finance majors. At least 80% of campus College of Business students earned a grade of C or higher with tests and case assignments. In preparation for graduate school, several senior Chinese students completed higher level mathematics courses.

8. Outcome: Students will recognize differences in cultures
Students will recognize differences in cultures and managerial approaches related to the global nature of business; compare and contrast approaches to addressing the domestic and international environments in which business organizations operate.

a. Measure: Students will have a global awareness
Students will have a global awareness of cultures that affect how an international business operates.

1. Achievement Target:
80% of graduates will earn a grade of C or higher in the required writing assignments for the BA 450, International Business, course.

At least 80% of College of Business students earned a grade of C or higher in the foreign country project in BA 450, International Business. Notably, the fourth class of Chinese students transferred to UWA from GDUF and Dalian in Fall 2014. The third class of Chinese students graduated in May 2015. The fifth class of GDUF students will begin in August 2015.
II. Goals and Other Outcomes/Objectives, with Any Related Measures, Targets, Findings, and Action Plans

A. Goal: Address the educational issues of the region
Address the educational, social, cultural, and economic issues of the region and in doing so promote a positive image of the institution and the area

1. Objective: Faculty will participate in a continuous cycle of academic improvement
Faculty will participate in a continuous cycle of academic improvement with the utilization of curriculum mapping for each course in the Business Professional Component (BPC) and for each major in the COB degree program

a. Measure: The College of Business faculty will participate in a continuous cycle of curriculum improvement
The College of Business faculty will participate in a continuous cycle of academic improvement with the utilization of curriculum mapping for each course in the Business Professional Component (BPC) and for each major in the COB degree program.

1. Achievement Target:
100% of AFE Department courses will be evaluated each semester by the faculty with curriculum mapping and student learning outcomes adopted by the College of Business in Fall 2009.

The AFE Department courses were 100% evaluated by faculty via Course Assessment Reports during the 2014-2015 academic year. The Course Assessment Report system has been utilized in the College of Business since Spring 2010.

2. Objective: Students will be provided quality programs and services
The Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics will provide quality programs and services to meet the needs of students enrolled

a. Measure: The AFE Department will determine additional programs/services needed and/or desired by students
The Department of Accounting, Finance, and Economics will determine the need and/or desire for additional programs/services by students. The need will be determined by conducting focus groups and other research to determine any gaps in program offerings.

1. Achievement Target:
Establish new programs/services identified by research and focus groups.

The independent study, GMAT preparation course, was taught in the fall and spring semesters to prospective UWA/MBA students and Chinese students who applied to graduate school programs. At least 80% of the students earned a grade of C or higher in the course. The course was formally developed and approved by Academic Council to be offered as a GMAT preparation course.

III. Other Plans for Improvement

A. A portfolio will be required of each accounting major in AC 411, Advanced Accounting and AC 451, Auditing I.
A portfolio will be required of each accounting major in a fall/spring semester sequence in AC 451, Auditing I (fall semester) and AC 411, Advanced Accounting (spring semester). The portfolio will serve as an exit project for graduating accounting seniors. The portfolio will include an updated resume, participation in mock interviewing, attendance to campus Career Services events, attendance and participation with Accounting Club events including monthly meetings, fundraisers, field trips, and special projects.

Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

B. AC 211 students will continue to be monitored after Test 1 is given.
The students in AC 211 will continue to be monitored in upcoming semesters, particularly after Test 1 is given. Students who earned grades of D and F on Test 1 will be asked to meet with the professor to discuss how to improve their performance. Tutoring sessions will also be available through Student Support Services and the Athletics Department. Students will periodically meet with the professor during the semester.

Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

AFE Department faculty will apply for grants in their discipline areas.

AFE Department faculty will apply for campus research and teaching grants in their discipline areas. Also, the VITA grant will be submitted for the upcoming tax season. Department faculty will also participate in the campus Office of Sponsored Programs activities to pursue available funded grants in accounting, finance, and economics as well as interdisciplinary efforts with other College of Business and campus faculty.

Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: Department Chair

D. Continued group and team project activities will be reported by faculty with rubric grading.

Accounting faculty will continue to report group and team project activities in the ongoing curriculum mapping work. In addition, rubric grading will be utilized to enhance consistent grading of students' skills across courses.

Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High

E. The MFT exam and the COB exit exam will be administered in the MG 490 course.
The following proposed draft will be presented to the College of Business faculty for approval in August 2011 to implement for December 2011 and future graduating seniors: Graduating seniors will continue to take the MFT as part of graduation requirements. If the student does not earn at least a score of 138 on the MFT exam, he/she must take a College of Business exit exam that is a comprehensive coverage of the Business Professional Component (BPC) of the BBA degree requirements. Overall and sub scores with MFT will be reported for each graduating senior to determine strengths and weaknesses with assessing how to improve student learning in the BPC and in the major. The MFT exam and the COB exit exam will be administered in the MG 490 Strategic Management course in the fall semester for December graduates and in the spring semester for May and August graduates.

Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In-Progress
F. Using the results of the COB curriculum mapping with student learning outcomes, plans for curriculum improvement are ongoing.
Using the results of the COB curriculum mapping with student learning outcomes (Spring 2010–Summer 2011), AFE faculty members will continue to implement improvements in teaching courses and strengthening the requirements of the degree.
Established in Cycle: 2010-2011
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Projected Completion Date: 12/15/2011
Responsible Person/Group: Department Chair

G. The number of internships will continue to be increased.
Efforts are underway to increase internships as well as job shadowing in the local area for fall, spring, and summer semesters. Also, internship opportunities are being explored in larger metropolitan areas, particularly for summer internships. All qualified students are encouraged to complete internships, job shadowing, and community involvement prior to graduation with the possibility of internships post-graduation. Contacts are being made with healthcare organizations, city governments, county governments, nonprofit organizations, manufacturing businesses, service companies, and other entities.
Established in Cycle: 2011-2012
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Projected Completion Date: 03/11/2013
Responsible Person/Group: Department Chair

H. Continue concentrated efforts to improve students' MFT scores in accounting, finance, and economics.
The AFE Department will continue concentrated efforts to improve students' MFT scores in the accounting, finance, and economics sections of the MFT exam during the 2014-2015 academic year.
Established in Cycle: 2013-2014
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Projected Completion Date: 05/17/2015
Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Mitzi Green, Department Chair

I. Continue concentrated efforts to improve students' writing skills
Provide additional writing assignments in College of Business courses.
Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Students will perform well with legal and ethical assignments |
Outcome/Objective: Students will analyze legal and ethical issues
Implementation Description: Writing proficiency
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: College of Business Faculty

J. Hire new full-time Finance/Economics faculty
Hire a full time position to meet the need for increased faculty for the international students and the growing finance major enrollment. This person would teach finance and economics
K. Improve critical thinking and analysis skills
AFE and COB faculty will work with students to improve their critical thinking and analysis skills.

Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Students will perform well in group/team projects | Outcome/Objective: Students will illustrate an understanding of leadership
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: AFE and COB Faculty

L. Improve oral and written communication skills
AFE and COB faculty will continue concentrated efforts to work with students to improve their oral and written communication skills.

Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Students will receive average or above average feedback on papers and presentations | Outcome/Objective: Students will demonstrate the ability to express ideas through oral and written communication
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: AFE and COB Faculty

M. Prepare for MFT Exam
The AFE Department and MG 490 faculty will continue concentrated efforts to improve students' MFT scores in the accounting, finance, and economics subject areas.

Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Relationships (Measure | Outcome/Objective):
Measure: Graduating students will take the MFT | Outcome/Objective: Students will demonstrate understanding of fundamental business principles and functions
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: AFE Department Chair and Faculty; MG 490 Faculty

N. Purchase computer software for Wallace Hall finance lab
The annual recurring cost for the computer software will be necessary to maintain the needs of the finance lab for academic support of finance, economics, and accounting courses, including the MBA program and the finance major. Also, other courses in the College of Business will utilize the computer software including management, marketing, and other
related business disciplines.

Implementation Status: In-Progress
Priority: High
Implementation Description: Renew and pay for the annual costs to the vendors of the computer software
Projected Completion Date: 08/30/2016
Responsible Person/Group: Dr. Mitzi Green
Budget Amount Requested: $20,000.00 (recurring)

IV. Analysis Questions and Analysis Answers

A. What specific strengths did your assessments show? (Strengths)
The AFE Department faculty continued to participate in assessment activities including the completion of the Course Assessment Reports and curriculum mapping for each semester. The faculty completed 2014-2015 faculty service reports that included evidence of their teaching, scholarly/professional activities, and institutional service to UWA. The Accounting Club, Finance Club, Delta Mu Delta, and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Practicum (VITA) were active during the year including monthly guest speakers, service projects, field trips, fundraisers, and other related events. The Finance Club was officially recognized as a new campus organization. Continuing efforts to assist accounting and finance students with enrolling in graduate programs were successful with increased UWA/MBA enrollment together with Chinese, American, and other international students' acceptance in various graduate programs. The AFE Department faculty actively served on COB committees related to strategic planning and assessment in preparation for the 2015-2016 ACBSP self-study year.

B. What specific weaknesses or challenges did your assessments show? (Weaknesses)
AFE Department and COB students need concentrated assistance with improving their preparation for the MFT Exam. The goal was not met for at least 80% of COB students earning a score of 138 or higher. In addition, students need to improve their oral and written communication skills, critical thinking and analysis skills, and overall learning skills to increase their competencies. AFE and COB faculty are implementing additional resources and assignments in their courses to address the deficiencies.

C. What plans were implemented?
The arrival of the fourth class of Chinese accounting and finance students was accomplished in Fall 2014. Also, plans for the arrival of the fifth class of Chinese accounting and finance students in Fall 2015 were developed. The third class of Chinese accounting and finance students graduated in May 2015. The accounting and finance seniors completed portfolios or completed the independent study course as part of the graduation process. Students were provided student tutors with the Athletics Department and Student Support Services. Accounting and finance faculty also conducted extra study sessions on a regular basis. The Finance Lab continued to be funded with the annual Morningstar and Stocktrak products along with the Rise display. Faculty continued to focus on using the most effective learning resource products for the campus and online courses. Continued VITA funding was accomplished via a grant submitted by Sharon Stipe. Adam Cai continued to teach the GMAT preparation course to a growing number of students who were applying to graduate programs.

D. What plans were not implemented?
Significant progress is needed with students increasing their overall MFT scores as well as their subscores in accounting, finance, and economics. Ongoing efforts are underway to improve the students' preparation for the exam to be successful with higher scores.

E. How will assessment results be used for continuous improvement?
The assessment results are shared with all College of Business faculty at the Assessment Day meetings scheduled each October and March. Also, departmental meetings are held and email communication is used to address particular assessment issues. The AFE Department works with other College of Business departments to adhere to the SACS and ACBSP accreditation requirements. The ACBSP self-study year is 2015-2016. Each AFE faculty member participated as a committee member with the COB strategic planning process in 2014-2015.

V. Annual Report Section Responses

A. Key Achievements
   Accounting and finance students increasingly were accepted to graduate programs. Several AFE faculty taught in the UWA/MBA program. The online accounting students continued to be a significant portion of overall AFE enrollment. The Chinese students who arrived in August 2013 graduated with accounting and finance degrees in May 2015.

B. Faculty Achievements
   See Faculty Achievement Reports in Document Management section of the overall 2014-2015 College of Business Annual Report.

C. Public/Community Service
   Report from Sharon Stipe, VITA Coordinator: The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free income tax preparation and e-filing for low to median income individual taxpayers. This national program, sponsored by the IRS, is provided by the College of Business and Department of Accounting, Finance and Economics at The University of West Alabama (UWA). The VITA clinic is staffed by a faculty member and accounting students who enroll in the class as a practicum. The clinic is open 10 - 15 hours a week from January through April with students being responsible for providing free income tax preparation during clinic hours and by appointment. This program has grown in the eleven years it has been offered at UWA, starting with 22 clients in spring 2003. Every year the number of clients the clinic served has grown, and we have expanded the services offered. During the 2014 filing season (spring semester 2015), four students and one intern volunteered and provided services for approximately 350 clients, and preparation and e-filing to more than 300 clients. The VITA clinic also provides services in Demopolis (Marengo County) and hopes to expand to Eutaw (Greene County) in 2016. The students provided over 500 hours of service to the community while becoming more efficient and confident in handling client income tax issues and better prepared to enter the job market. It is a perfect example of service learning because the students receive class credit while providing a valuable service to the UWA campus, and the west Alabama and east Mississippi communities. This program is a great avenue to teach students through a practicum that also serves the community in a very tangible and profound way.