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A Newsletter
for Department of
Communication Alumni and Friends

University of Montevallo

Montevallo welcomes new Provost/Vice-President of Academic Affairs

by Ashley Rogers

The University of Montevallo welcomed a great new member to our small, but close-knit family this year: Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Suzanne Ozment. She comes from a glowing educational and professional background and is already having a positive impact at our university.

Drawn to the mission of UM, Ozment is looking forward to making a difference. She said she chose the University of Montevallo as her new home because of "the concentration on students and academics above anything else." She said that the liberal arts focus and the small college environment were additional reasons why she accepted the position at UM.

Ozment attributes much of her success to past positions that she has held. As she reflected on being offered such a prestigious job at the University of Montevallo, it became clear that there had been extensive preparation for her new office. "I held the same position at the University of South Carolina Aiken, which was very similar to our university," she said. "I decided to make one more move." This move would prove to be the best fit for Ozment and our university.

In her first semester at UM, Ozment wasted no time getting to work. She is focusing on creating a broader connection between her office and the students here at Montevallo. During her campus interview, Dr. Ozment had the opportunity to meet with SGA members to get their perceptions on where the university is headed and what paths it should take in the future.

"I welcome more opportunities to meet with students and alumni so that they can have an integral part in where our university is headed in order to create a better atmosphere for all its

members, faculty, and staff," she said. Ozment is also pushing to promote more diversity on campus among students, staff, and faculty.



Closer to home, Ozment commented on the future of the Department of Communication and the goals she has for our particular career interests. "We have taken steps to increase funding for equipment needs in this department and we are progressively pushing technological advances," she said. "Good resources and professors will keep this and every department at the university on the cutting edge."

Dr. Ozment has already made great strides on the UM campus. What advice can she leave students who are trying to pursue their dreams in hopes of achieving the successes that she has? Dr. Ozment leaves them with this: "Be active in leadership positions. Don't be afraid to interact with different people, embrace diversity, or dive into new endeavors. If you can lead a modest student organization, then you are paving the way for larger leadership positions that will open greater doors for your future."

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