



*The VPAA's Office offers a special thanks this holiday season to all faculty, staff, and students for your dedication and hard work. We wish you the best of holidays and a prosperous 2016!!*

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## Promoting Economic Growth

The *Generator*, UNA's new student Innovation Incubator, was officially inaugurated on October 17, 2015. An initiative of the College of Business, with design assistance from the Department of Art, the *Generator* provides resources and expertise to all UNA students who desire to start a business or commercialize their innovations. Congratulations to Mr. Mitch Hamm, the new Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and welcome to the UNA family!!



## Geography Faculty Honored

Dr. Michael Pretes, Professor of Geography, is the recipient of the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers (SEDAAG). The award was presented at the SEDAAG annual conference in Pensacola, Florida, on November 22-24, 2015. This award recognizes outstanding geography teaching in the Southeast region of the U.S. The Department of Geography is pleased with Mike's contribution to our department and the impact he has on our students.



## Faculty Achievement

Congratulations to Dr. Lee Renfroe, Associate Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, who was awarded "Health Educator of the Year" at the fall Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (ASAHPERD) conference held in Birmingham, Alabama, on November 16 - 17, 2015. In addition to her award, Dr. Renfroe presented "The Elephant in the Room: Addressing Mental Health on College Campuses."

The Math Department Colloquium Series welcomed Dr. Hung Nguyen to campus on Friday, November 20, 2015. Dr. Nguyen is an Assistant Professor at the University of Akron. He gave an algebra seminar at 11 a.m. titled "Characters of p'-degree and Thompson's character degree theorem" and an algebra colloquium at 2 p.m. titled "Recognizing finite quasi-simple groups by their character degrees."



Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Jesse Prince-Lubawy gave a talk at the American Mathematical Society (AMS) Western Sectional Meeting Saturday, October 24, 2015 at California State University, Fullerton. Dr. Prince-Lubawy's talk, "Equivalence of cyclic p-squared actions on handlebodies," included a discussion about his original findings in orientation preserving topological group actions. Dr. Jesse Prince-Lubawy's paper titled "*Equivalence of  $Z_4$ -actions on handlebodies of genus  $g$* " has recently been accepted for publication in the Kyungpook Mathematical Journal. This journal endeavors to publish research of broad interests in pure and applied mathematics. Congratulations!



Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean, and Janyce Fadden, Executive-in-Residence, in the College of Business presented "Economic Development using Strategic Doing" at the annual meeting of the Southern Business Administration Association on November 9, 2015, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The presentation highlighted the use of strategic doing to advance university and community ecosystems and the digital technology hub successes that UNA is achieving in the Shoals area. More information is available at [www.una.edu/strategicdoing](http://www.una.edu/strategicdoing).

## New Faculty

Dr. Chris James is the Director of Kilby Laboratory School and Assistant Professor of Instructional Leadership. Dr. James received his Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Alabama in instructional leadership with an emphasis in instructional technology. He received his master's degree in 2002 from the University of North Alabama in educational administration. In his 19th year in education, he has completed 12 years as an elementary administrator, as principal and as assistant principal and six years were spent as a secondary math teacher and administrator, Dr. James gained valuable experience working with students from a variety of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

