

Welcome to the Department of Secondary Education Newsletter

January-March 2017 Issue

Dates to Remember!

January 9

Required assembly for orientation of beginning freshmen and new transfer students

January 11

Regular classes begin

January 16

University closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday

February 17-19

University closed for Winter Break

March 3

Midterm

March 27-April 2

University closed for spring holidays

Important Links

[Department of Education and Human Sciences](#)

[Visit our webpage!](#)

[Like us on Facebook!](#)



Department of Secondary Education Our Faculty

(From Left to Right) Dr. Jeff Cornelius, Associate Professor; Dr. Felecia Harris, Associate Professor; Dr. Jessica Mitchell, Assistant Professor; Dr. Lamont Maddox, Associate Professor; Dr. Joy Brown, Professor; Dr. Leah Whitten, Associate Professor/Department Chair; Dr. Gary Padgett, Assistant Professor

In This Issue...

2—Christmas Party Recap

3—Kappa Delta Pi Celebration

4—Spotlight on School Partnerships:
Florence Middle School

5—The ALAN Conference

6-8—Alumni Spotlights

9-11—Students of the Month

12—Where Are Our Graduates Now?

13—Something to Brag About & Special Dates



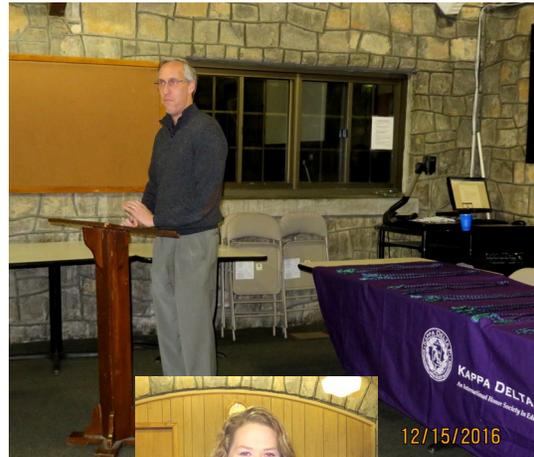
~Secondary Education Christmas Party~

The Department of Secondary Education hosted its second annual Christmas party and graduation reception to honor our Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 graduates. The event was held on December 12, 2016. Refreshments, music and a bit of holiday cheer were shared by all who attended. Thanks to Dean Lefort and the College of Education and Human Sciences for the end of another successful term and the completion of another year. We look forward to seeing all of our secondary education students in 2017!



Kappa Delta Pi Celebration for 2016 Fall Semester

GRADUATES RECEIVING THEIR HONOR CORDS



Spotlight on School Partnerships: Florence Middle School

During the Fall 2016 semester, students from ED 401 (Evaluation of Teaching and Learning) were allowed the opportunity to work with students and teachers from an authentic context at Florence Middle School. This effort was made possible through the partnership between UNA Secondary Education and the FMS Assistant Principal, Ms. Ashley Bowling. Ms. Bowling recently completed her Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) degree housed within the department of Secondary Education. Her action research project specifically addressed data analysis in a clinical session, and through this connection, she has been able to oversee Response to Intervention (RTI) efforts at Florence Middle School. Florence Middle School currently uses the Global Scholars Program to track student performance and recommend tiered instruction based on individual student needs.

UNA students who completed their field

observation experience in this setting were able to work with their cooperating teacher to analyze trends in student learning, implement an appropriate response to instruction, and give

individual feedback to help students with diverse skill levels meet individual learning goals. At the completion of this experience, ED 401 students discussed the qualities of a successful data analysis program for school improvement and recommended a teacher who they viewed as successfully meeting the objectives for quality assessment in the classroom. Based on this recommendation, 8th Grade

ELA teacher, Anna Wooten, was recognized for her outstanding efforts for helping preservice teachers understand the role of assessment in teaching and learning. She and Ms. Bowling are pictured together in recognition for their hard work in partnering with our department to promote excellence in a future generation of teachers and teacher leaders.



Anna Wooten posing with Ms. Bowling.

The ALAN Conference

Each year, the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) hosts a conference commonly known as ALAN, which stands for Assembly on Literature for Adolescence of the NCTE. This year's conference took place in Atlanta, Georgia. The overarching goal of the conference is to promote the use of young adult

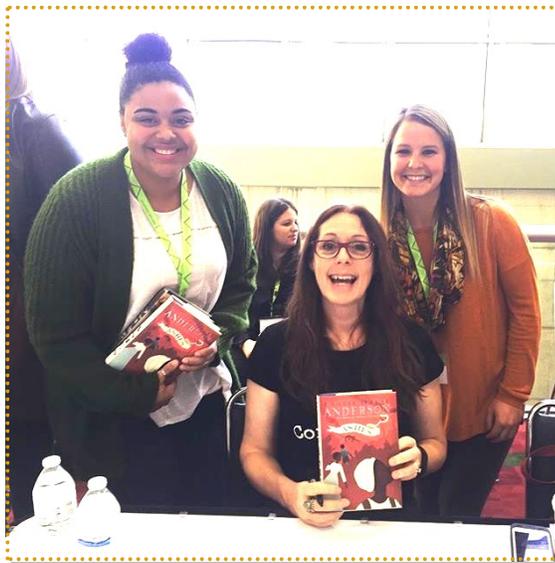
literature in the classroom, as well as the most effective ways to do so. In addition, ALAN recognizes authors who have brought to life the field of young adult literature through their risk-taking work. As pictured, there were 14 UNA students that had the honor of attending this conference alongside

Mrs. Dodson. The very first thing that every member of the conference received was 40 free novels...YES 40! YES FREE! It was like Christmas morning for every future or current teacher in the building. We listened to numerous authors discuss their novels and how we as educators could include those novels into the classroom. While the entire conference was such a joy to attend, the best experience I had was getting each author to personally

sign my novel he/she had written. In doing so, each author genuinely wanted to know about my future,



UNA ELA Secondary Ed students



Brianna Burns and Amy Carden with author, Laurie Halse Anderson

and they were all so encouraging when I told them I intended to be a middle school English teacher after college. I frequently found myself thinking how amazing these authors were, and how I wanted so many more students to be exposed

to their contagious passion for education. The authors were not afraid to be transparent, which I think was one of the main reasons why two full days of simply listening was so intriguing. ALAN was by far one of the greatest memories I have while here at UNA, and I hope that this opportunity presents itself to many more students each year.

~Submitted by ELA Secondary Education major, Amy Carden.

Alumni Spotlight

Sara Swafford

Sarah Swafford is a business teacher at Wicksburg High School in Dothan, Alabama. She is also an alumnus of the UNA College of Education's Secondary Education Department, graduating with a concentration in Business Marketing. As a teacher, Mrs. Swafford has accomplished many things in her two years at Wicksburg High School. She was

awarded the new teacher grant of \$1,000 during her first year and used this to purchase a new Mac computer for her students' use. She was awarded the Camera Grant from Wiregrass WORKS in order to have more equipment for her students to apply what they are learning to real world situations. In addition, she secured the use of a 3D printer, and has the students actively creating projects for the school. This has paid off, as demonstrated by the fact that Wicksburg is one of the smallest county schools, yet they had the second most certifications for their first year business program last year. In addition to her regular teaching duties, Mrs. Swafford cosponsors the robotics club and FBLA. Under Mrs. Swafford's sponsorship, FBLA earned the 100% class participation award, 3 members earned their membership madness award, and their chapter earned the Membership Achievement Award.



Her students, such as Ashley Little, enjoy learning real world skills and says, "Mrs. Swafford is a very outgoing teacher. She always makes sure we are on task and always helps us

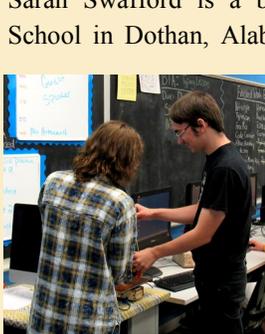
with whatever we need. She helps us get certified in Microsoft Office. She is a great teacher all around." Her approach is appreciated by her students, such as Ragan Langford, who says, "Mrs. Swafford is a very out-of-the-box teacher, not crazy or weird, but she is not a cookie-cutter teacher. She

doesn't just settle for what is given to her; she always thinks there is more she can do. She has made a huge impact on Wicksburg and an even bigger one on me." The work her students are doing can be seen at 1stchoicepublications.weebly.com and whsmg.weebly.com. The public can also request marketing and design work from the high school students. Not only are they learning, but they are applying those skills, while providing a service to the community.

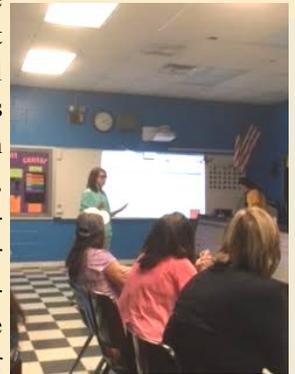
Congratulations to our alumnus Sarah Swafford on the grants she has been awarded and on a successful business program.



CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE JANUARY ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT!



awarded the new



Alumni Spotlight

Bob Bissel

Congratulations to Bob Bissel For being selected as outstanding Administrator in reading by the Alabama Reading association.

Mr. Bob Bissel is the Principle of R.E. Thompson Elementary School in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Bissel has created one of the most unique and innovative environments for literacy development. He has established a warm and inviting atmosphere that supports student creativity and innovation, encourages teachers to use authentic materials and tasks to think outside the box, and promotes student learning with school-wide initiatives that involve families and the community.

His passion for his students and teachers is contagious. From the creation of the Reading Room with multiple-copy book sets to his Curious Words program in which he personally teaches vocabulary to all of his students, to the fun and student-engaging reading parties and Read Across

America programs he hosts, his passion is evident.

His school is a warm and happy place, beloved by parents and the community. The atmosphere is one that fosters a lifelong love of reading and writing. Teachers are knowledgeable in best practices—thanks to his commitment to quality professional development. Classroom instructing reflects the freedom he allows teachers to have in deciding what works best for the particular students.

Despite being in a small system with very, very limited funding for schools, Mr. Bissel constantly brainstorms new ways to bring 21st Century learning to his students. The result is an engaging, happy, innovative environment in which teachers and students thrive.



CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE FEBRUARY ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT!

Alumni Spotlight

Sara Moore

Sara Moore is an alumnus of the UNA Department of Secondary Education with a degree in English/Language Arts. She is currently attending UNA to obtain her Masters of Education in Secondary Education, English/Language Arts. She is also affiliated with the Northwest Alabama Reading Council. She is a creative, passionate, innovative teacher of reading who has impacted many young lives through her strategic, engaging teaching and student-led book clubs. She is dedicated to pursuing



best practices and lifelong learning through her active involvement in ARA, NCTE and Northwest Alabama Reading Council. Her enthusiasm and commitment to best practices has impacted not only her 8th grade ELA students, but her colleagues as well. She has partnered with Northwest Alabama Reading Council to provide meaningful literacy experiences for students in her community.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE MARCH ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT!

January Student of the Month



Brianna Burns

Brianna Burns is our January 2017 student of the month, and is a member of special programs on campus. She participates in the Honors Program, Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Multicultural Education Club. She has been involved in several leadership roles, and was the previous vice president of Kappa Delta Pi, a mentor in the Honors Program, and a Co-founder of a free Conversational English Class in the community. She plans to teach in a local school system, preferably a county school with a low socioeconomic status because that is where my heart is, and apply to graduate schools. Then, she wants to obtain my Master's and eventually her Doctorate. She ultimately would like to teach high school English for 8-10 years, and then would like to teach college English.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE JANUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

February Student of the Month



Jen Awwad

My name is Jen Awwad and I am pursuing my Masters of Education in English to Speakers of Other Languages, hoping to graduate Spring 2018. I grew up in Alabama but moved overseas after finishing my Bachelors degree. I spent 11 years living and working in the Middle East and began teaching students English and helping them prepare to study at University in America. I quickly realized my passion for helping students realize their dreams through education and love the challenge and excitement of seeing them succeed.

I now live in Tuscumbia with my husband and three children and currently substitute teach in the public school system. I also tutor and mentor several Arabic students who live locally. As I pursue my Master's degree, my immediate desire is to gain knowledge and understanding of the best ways to teach diverse students. After graduating, I plan to teach ESL either in the United States or overseas.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE FEBRUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

March Student of the Month



Dane Glover

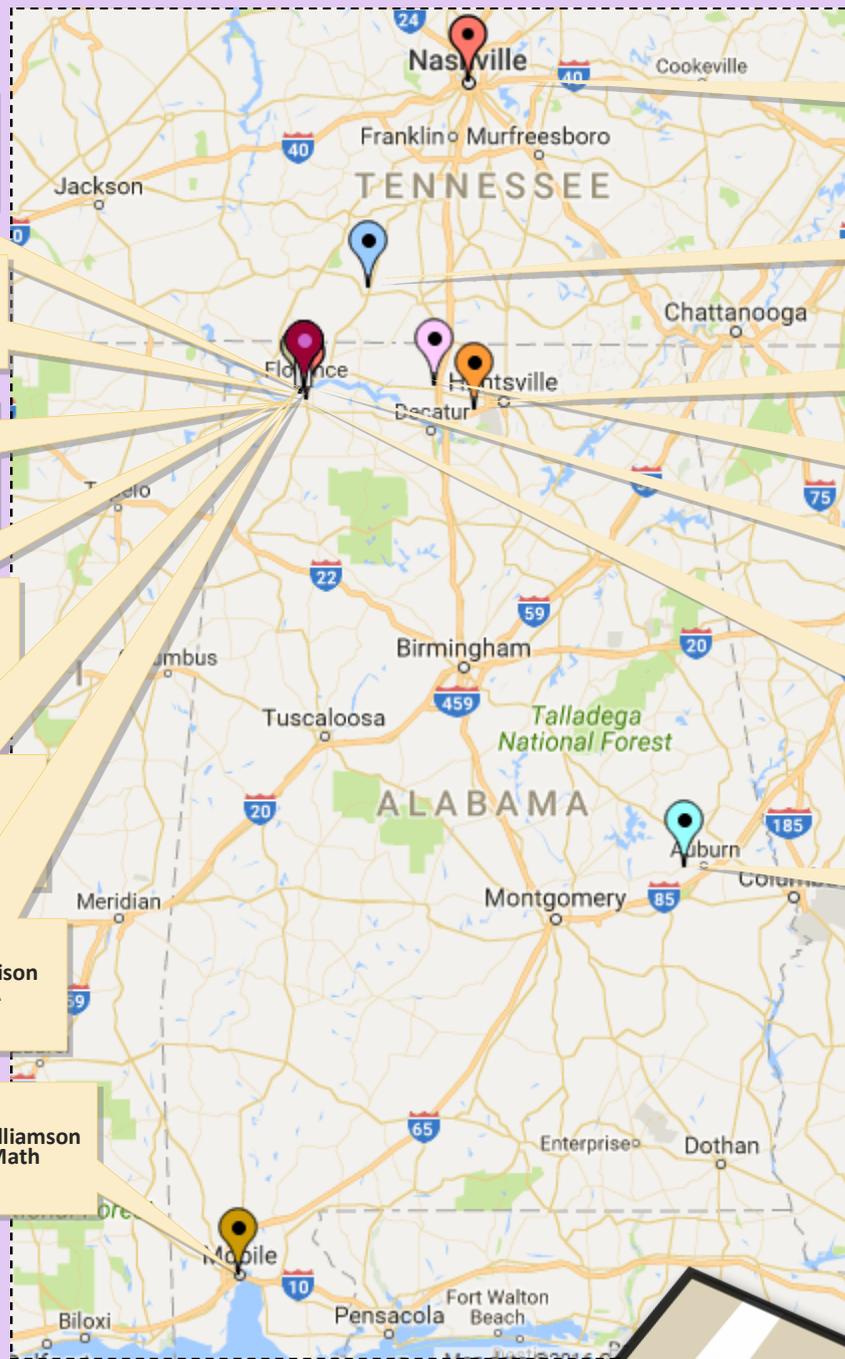
My name is Dane Glover, and I am an MAED in Instructional Leadership student, who is set to graduate in Fall 2017.

I am getting my Masters in Instructional Leadership, and I teach at Muscle Shoals Middle School. I also Coach at Muscle Shoals Middle School, and am the team leader for the 8th grade basketball team, and I am the 7th and 8th grade baseball coach as well. I love my job, and I plan to pursue a career as an administrator at some point after I graduate. I am married to my wife Andrea, and we have three kids, John and Thomas (3 years), and Ellie (9 months.)

CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE MARCH STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

Where Are They Now?

Our recent graduates are really going places,
Check out where some of them have continued their careers down below!



Jordan Ellis—Muscle Shoals Middle School, ELA

Brian Jay—Florence City Schools, Band Director

Sara Chaffin—Florence High School, Science

Katherine Albright - St. Joseph Regional Catholic School, ELA

Samantha Hammond - Florence Middle School, ELA

Aubree White - Jemison High School, ELA

Elizabeth Kee - Williamson High School, Math

Jacob Westerhouse—Davidson Academy, Social Studies

Zach McMasters - Lawrence County High School, ELA

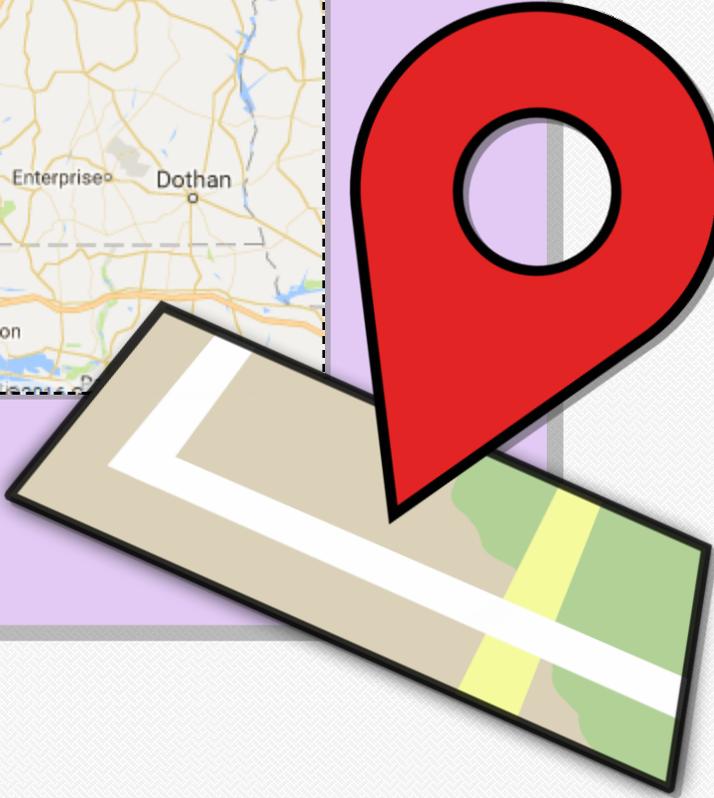
Anna Glosemeyer - St. John the Baptist Catholic School, ELA

Kyle Crabtree - Athens High School, Social Studies

Jennifer Jay - Sheffield City Schools, Band Director

Morgan Massey - Sheffield High School, Science

Rainbow Arnold Sidwell - Loachapoka High School, Math



Inspiring Quotes

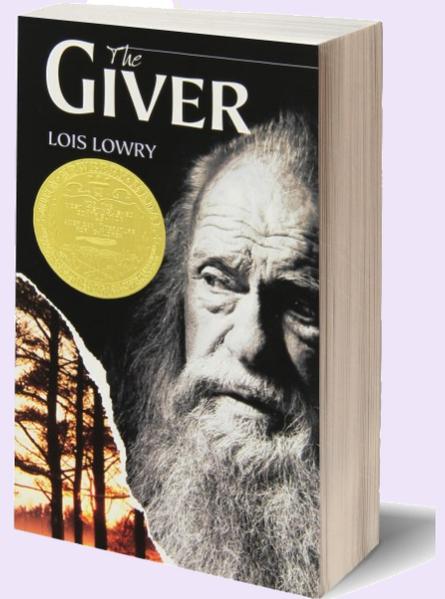
"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

"Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you."

"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the things you can think up if only you try."

"Kid, you'll move mountains! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So get on your way."

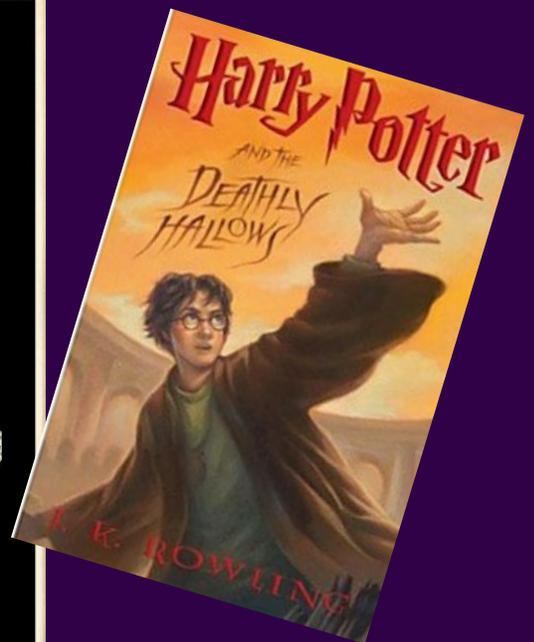
~ Dr. Seuss



"If everything's the same, then there aren't any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and decide things!"

— Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Words are
in my
not-so-humble
opinion,
our most
inexhaustible
source of magic.
Capable of both
inflicting injury,
and
remedying it.



Something to Brag About

- ♦ **UNA graduate student, Zackery Sinyard, has been awarded the Lowes Toolbox for Education grant! Zackery is an Ed. S. Instructional Leadership major. Congratulations, Zackery!**

Important Dates

January 11-18	Late Registration and Drop/Add
January 13	Payment Deadline - Payment of tuition, fees, room & board (if applicable) due
January 16	University Closed - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 17	A \$50 late fee will be added to accounts with outstanding balances
January 18	Last day for 100% refund of tuition and fees
January 19	"W" Period Begins
January 21	Miss UNA 2017
January 25	Final Payment Deadline - Payment of outstanding account balance due
January 26	Student schedule subject to cancellation for failure to pay outstanding balance in full. A \$75 rein statement fee will apply.
January 26-February 2	Reinstatement period for canceled schedules
February 3	Step Sing 2017
February 17	University Closed - Winter Break
March 3	Mid Term
March 10	Last day of 'W' Withdrawal Period
March 11	Begin 'WP/WF' Withdrawal Period
March 27-April 2	University Closed - Spring Break
April 10-12	UNA Spring Research Symposium
April 14	University Closed - Holiday
April 19	End of "WP/WF" Period - Last day to withdraw from a class or all classes
May 4	Study Day
May 5-10	Semester Exams
May 13	Commencement
May 14	Residence Halls close at 12 noon

Make sure you mark your calendar!

