

# Department of Secondary Education

*July-September 2016*

## **Dates to Remember!**

8/1 FINAL EXAMS and close of Session II and Regular Summer Term

8/5 Payment Deadline - Tuition and Fees Due for Preregistered Courses

8/8 Preregistration schedules subject to cancellation for failure to pay any outstanding balance

8/11 Registration and Drop/Add Opens

8/22 New Student Advising and Registration - 8:30 a.m.

8/24-31 Late Registration and Drop/Add

8/26 Payment Deadline - Payment of tuition, fees, room & board (if applicable) due

**8/31 - Deadline to apply for Spring '17 graduation**

8/31 Last Day for 100% refund for tuition and fees

9/5 University Closed - Holiday

9/7 Final Payment Deadline - Payment of outstanding account balance due

9/8 Registration schedules subject to cancellation for failure to pay outstanding balance in full.

9/8-15 Reinstate period for canceled schedules

9/21 Deadline for Spring 2017 Internship Application

## **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. Lamont Maddox, Associate Professor; Dr. Jessica Mitchell, Assistant Professor; Dr. Felecia Harris, Associate Professor; Dr. Joy Brown, Professor; Dr. Leah Whitten, Associate Professor/Department Chair; Dr. Gary Padgett, Assistant Professor; (Not Pictured) Dr. Linda Blount, Professor

## **In This Issue...**

**2—Meet Dr. Cornelius**

**2—Research Day Recap**

**3—Softball: The Champions of a Remarkable Season**

**3—UNA Secondary Education Students Partner with Deshler Middle School for Young Adult Book Club**

**4—Alumni Spotlight: Andrew Franck**

**5—August Student of the Month: Skyler Kirchner**

**7—Tips for the UNA College Student**

**8—Important Dates**

# Meet Dr. Cornelius



principal, and assistant superintendent.

Dr. Cornelius has over 12 years of administrative experience. He has completed the Alabama School Superintendent Certifications in curriculum, finance and law. He also holds a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Samford University, as well as an Educational Specialist degree in Administration.

Dr. Cornelius has many achievements and memberships as an educator, and he brings valuable knowledge to our department with all of his past experiences. We are excited to welcome him to UNA as the new Fall 2016 semester begins. Dr. Cornelius is married to a teacher and has three daughters. His oldest daughter will attend UNA in one year with

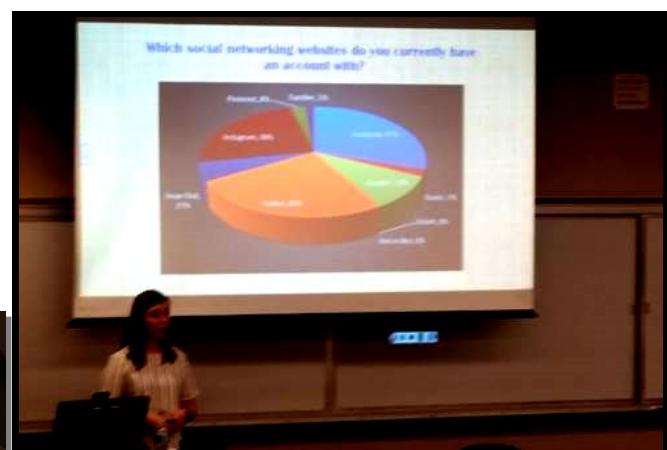
the other two daughters to follow in the near future. Please help us welcome Dr. Jeff Cornelius to our pride! Roar Lions!

*"I'm proud that my oldest daughter will attend UNA in one year with the other two daughters to follow in the near future."*

## Research Day Recap

Recently, a research team from Secondary Education comprised of Dr. Jessica Mitchell, Dr. Gary Padgett, Taylor Davis, and Mariann Jahraus was awarded a QEP grant to study the perception of social media among school administrators and pre-service teachers. This research team completed the research and presented it at the Teaching and Learning Technology Conference at Missouri University of Science and Technology. Those in attendance expressed an interest in the topic, and followed up with our two undergraduate researchers asking questions on methodology and advice on getting hired. As first time presenters, Taylor Davis (Music Education) and Mariann Jahraus (Science Education) presented themselves professionally and represented UNA very well.

- Dr. Gary Padgett



# *Softball: The Champions of a Remarkable Season*

The University of North Alabama's softball team had a record year during 2016. On May 21st they celebrated a 10-1 win over Humboldt State in order to become the NCAA Division II National Champions. This is the first national title for the University of North Alabama's softball team and something for the entire Shoals community to celebrate.



By now, everyone knows about their outstanding record this season. However, it is only the faculty lucky enough to teach them that knows their reputation as outstanding student athletes. Amy Carden, a former Secondary Education Student of the Month and a member of UNA's softball team, explains the importance of being a UNA Lion. She says, "The biggest thing I've learned in my three years as a student athlete is that not everybody has the privilege I have every day. When softball gets hard, or school work overwhelms me, I think about the people who never were given this opportunity and I work hard for them. Plus it's also a great feeling to be successful both in the classroom and on the field!" With students like this in our department, the community

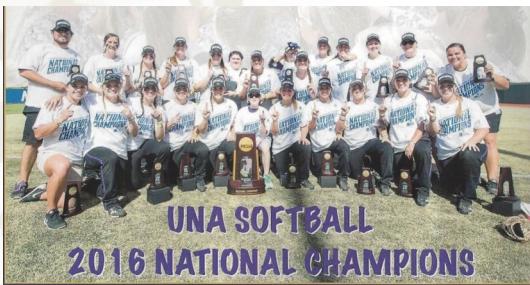
we serve can expect high quality teachers from our program.

The UNA softball team also returns the support they receive from the community. The players demonstrated to my family and those present their commitment to the community and their appreciation for our support.

**"When softball gets hard, or school work overwhelms me, I think about the people who never were given this opportunity and I work hard for them."**

We want to bring attention to Amy Carden, Hillary Carpenter, Carmen Whitfield, Anna Gayle Norris, Bailey Nelson, Tori Davis, and Mackenzie Roberts for representing the COEHS and the department of Secondary Education as successful student athletes.

- Dr. Gary Padgett



**UNA SOFTBALL  
2016 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

## *UNA Secondary Education Students Partner with Deshler Middle School for Young Adult Book Club*



Literacy is arguably one of the greatest hurdles in the world of education. Each year, teachers see more and more students whose reading and writing skills are much lower than the skills required for appropriate grade level progress. As education majors, we hear about these problems from the teachers we observe and try to begin brainstorming ways to combat them when we have classrooms of our own.

Sara Moore, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade English/Language Arts teacher at Deshler Middle School, saw the struggles that her students faced with reading and writing, two of the cornerstones of the ELA discipline, and decided to initiate a Forty Book Challenge to combat it. In this challenge, her students set a

goal to read forty chapter books during the school year, and the challenge soon turned into a school-wide competition to see who could read the most books.

To encourage the students to meet the challenge, the UNA Department of Secondary Education partnered with Mrs. Moore and her students to create a Young Adult Book Club. This semester, Dr. Jessica Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, Rachel Sweigard, a senior majoring in ELA Secondary Education, and Brianna Burns, a junior majoring in ELA Secondary Education, all worked together with Mrs. Moore to host a monthly book club to discuss a focus book. The books covered included *The Maze Runner*, *The Crossover*, and *Out of My Mind*.

The most recent book club meeting focused on *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper, a young adult novel centered around the world of a brilliant eleven-year-old girl with a fascination for words, but who also happens to suffer with basic muscle requirements needed for speech due to her struggle with cerebral palsy. During the meeting, Rachel and Brianna led the discussion, and the

students participated in group and partner discussions as well as a few writing activities that simulated some of the experiences of the young girl from the novel. The students were very involved in the discussion and seemed to love the book as much as the leaders of the discussion; for these reasons and many more, our book club enthusiastically recommends this book to all education majors!

The meeting was concluded with everyone sharing their summer reading plans, and Dr. Mitchell provided some helpful resources for the students to aid them in their search for a great summer novel. In addition to these resources, the Secondary Education Department was able to donate over forty books to Mrs. Moore's classroom library.

It is our hope that this partnership will not only increase the students' literacy levels, but also inspire them to read beyond the assigned reading from a classroom. This partnership is open to any Secondary Education major who wants to join to support literacy amongst middle school students.

# Alumni Spotlight



## Andrew Franck

Andrew Franck is a social studies teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School and an alumni of the College of Education and Human Services (MA Secondary Education History). He has also taught at Wilson High School. As a Social Studies teacher, Mr. Franck states, "I firmly believe that more attention nationwide should be placed on Social Studies as a discipline because it incorporates all other disciplines, promotes critical thinking/analysis, creativity, patriotism, and develops writing styles." This belief is easily seen in his accomplishments, as he recently submitted an original lesson plan on the Cold War as part of his application for the Excellence in Teaching Award. Mr. Franck competed in the Excellence in Teaching Social Studies (P-12), which is a category open to social studies teachers throughout the state of Alabama. Not only did Mr. Franck, a 4th year teacher, compete in this prestigious competition, he was awarded an honorable mention and is having his original lesson plan published on ALEX.

***"Teach them to be a good person and the education will follow."***

attended the Ron Clark Academy for professional development in November 2015, and feels that "it was a moving and rewarding experience that every educator should have." His students and colleagues agree that he is putting into practice what he has learned from so many influences, and he has been honored as the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year at St. Joseph Catholic School.

When asked for words of advice for other teachers and/or UNA education students, Andrew Franck had a piece of advice he would like to pass on to others. He says to "remember that you have the most important job in the world, and that these students look to you for guidance in more than just educational ways. They take to heart what you say and believe so

be a teacher who gives them the best example of morality, character, and compassion. Teach them to be a good person and the education will follow." This is aligned with UNA's conceptual framework, and something preservice teachers can take to heart.

Congratulations to our alumni Andrew Franck on his recognition of excellence as a Teacher of the Year and for his Excellence in Teaching Social Studies.

**CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE FEATURED ALUMNI!**

# .....August Student of the Month.....



## Skyler Kirchner

My name is Skyler Kirchner and I am a Secondary Education major with a focus in Social Science. I chose the Social Science degree because it broadens my job possibilities and not to mention I have always loved history. This degree allows me the opportunity to teach any history, psychology, sociology, government/economics and geography classes in my teaching career. Once I graduate, I plan to immediately start applying for jobs in the nearby area. As soon as I can, I plan to get my masters in leadership and administration to further my education career. My future plans would be to hold a teaching position as well as open up my own strength/baseball facility to help develop local athlete's skills.

**CONGRATULATIONS FOR BEING SELECTED AS THE AUGUST STUDENT OF THE MONTH!**

# *Tips for the UNA College Student...*

After coming to UNA, fresh out of high school and entering a whole new world, it can be intimidating and challenging to find a balance between adolescence and adulthood. As a student, you are responsible for coordinating a variety of tasks including scheduling appointments with your advisor, setting up your financial aid and finding your place overall. While it's a big adjustment to be made, we are here to help you be more prepared and informed. Here are some tips to consider.

- ♦ **Be mindful of deadlines that are set for submitting important documents or assignments.** The UNA website has calendars and links that are helpful to follow at <https://www.una.edu/registrar/Calendars/fall--semester-dates.html>.
- ♦ **When contacting a professor or instructor, expect at least one full business day for a response.** If an e-mail or phone call has been placed on a Friday afternoon, expect a response on Monday. If there have been 2 or more attempts of contact with more than 48 hours of no response, contact the departmental administrative assistant for help.

- ♦ **For changing a major, it is helpful that the student make that change in the department that they are changing to.** For example, if a business student is changing to secondary education, then the student should come to the secondary education department to fill out the form and be assigned a new advisor and then the form will be sent to the Registrar's office.
- ♦ **Connect with new friends to learn about the student organizations on campus.** Check the UNA website for all of the organizations that are offered. This is a good way to meet new people as well as gain experience for the future.
- ♦ **For on-campus residents, get familiar with the Department of University Residences.** Visit their website at <https://www.una.edu/liveon/>. Know what rights you have and how to handle complications when they arise.
- ♦ **Keep in mind to allow plenty of time for parking on campus.** Many times students do not allow enough time for parking and cannot find a space to park and then end up running late for class. Several times students will park in faculty parking (green lines) and be ticketed. An alternative could be the Lion's Way Express. The UNA website has the bus schedules and timelines available at: <https://www.una.edu/police/bus-routes.html>. This would be a good alternative and can also cut down on driving in circles to park.

**There are endless suggestions of everything that is available to students at UNA. Always use your resources and look for ways to succeed while attending UNA. There will always be someone on campus to help, but take it upon yourself, as the student, to seek out what resources are available to you.**

***Good Luck and ROAR Lions!***

# Important Dates

**July 29** Deadline for Graduate and Undergraduate Admissions Credentials for Regular Registration  
**August 1** FINAL EXAMS and close of Session II and Regular Summer Term  
**August 1** Residence Halls close at 6:00 p.m.  
**August 5** Payment Deadline - Tuition and Fees Due for Preregistered Courses  
**August 8** Preregistration schedules subject to cancellation for failure to pay any outstanding balance  
**August 11** Registration and Drop/Add Opens  
**August 18** Olive Hall Opens 3:00 p.m.  
**August 19** Mattielou Hall Opens 10:00 a.m.  
**August 20** All Upperclassmen Residence Halls Open 11:00 a.m.  
**August 22** New Student Advising and Registration - 8:30 a.m.  
**August 24** Classes Begin - Late Registration and Drop/Add Begins  
**August 24-31** Late Registration and Drop/Add  
**August 26** Payment Deadline - Payment of tuition, fees, room & board (if applicable) due  
**August 29** A \$50 late fee will be added to accounts with an outstanding balances  
**August 31** Late Registration and Drop/Add ends  
**August 31** Last Day for 100% refund for tuition and fees

**September 5** University Closed - Holiday  
**September 7** Final Payment Deadline - Payment of outstanding account balance due  
**September 8** Registration schedules subject to cancellation for failure to pay outstanding balance in full. Students who are reinstated will be required to pay the balance due on their account plus a \$75 reinstatement fee.  
**September 8-15** Reinstatement period for canceled schedules  
**October 7-9** University Closed - Fall Break  
**October 14** Mid Term  
**October 21** Last Day of "W" Period  
**October 22** Begin "WP/WF" Period  
**November 23** End of "WP/WF" Period, Last day to drop a class or completely withdraw  
**November 23-27** University Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday  
**December 8** Study Day  
**December 9-14** Semester Exams  
**December 17** Commencement  
**December 22-January 4, 2017** University Closed

*Be sure to look for group advising for the Spring 2017 semester!*

