



### A Win for UNA Graduate!

Ryan Mason, a Fall 2016 graduate of the College of Business, was one of five local finalists who received a portion of the \$100,000 prize money for his start-up company *LUXE Brand* at the Shoals Alabama Launchpad finale held on February 21, 2017. *LUXE Brand* is a luxury leather, hand-crafted shoelace brand created by Mason, targeted toward teens and young adults who are driving the growing sneaker market. Shoals Alabama Launchpad is the first, and only, regional competition for the Alabama Launchpad initiative that has spent 10 years investing in Alabama-based business startups. The Shoals Alabama Launchpad is a collaborative effort of the University of North Alabama, the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center and the Shoals Chamber of Commerce.

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### UNA Celebrates Black History

The University of North Alabama celebrates Black History Month by honoring the history and heritage of African Americans. The award-winning documentary *Ida B. Wells: Passion for Justice* will be screened by The Department of Communications on February 23rd, followed by a panel discussion. Wells was a journalist, activist, and founding member of the NAACP. Panelists include Joseph D. Bryant, Media/Marketing Analyst for the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District, Dr. Andrea Hunt, Assistant Professor of Sociology, and Dr. Pat Sanders, Associate Professor of Radio-Television-Film. Sponsored by SGA and ODIE, anti-racism activist and educator, Ms. Jane Elliot, considered to be the frontrunner of diversity training, will speak to the campus community on February 28th. Guest speaker Mr. Lawrence Reed will speak on "Black Entrepreneurs: Models often Forgotten" on March 1st.


UNA Department of Communications  
*celebrates*

## Black History Month


with

### Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice


Screening and panel discussion of  
the award-winning documentary  
by William Greaves.




**Joseph Bryant**  
Media/Marketing Analyst  
Housing Authority,  
Birmingham District



**Andrea Hunt**  
Assistant Professor of  
Sociology



**Pat Sanders**  
Associate Professor of  
Radio-Television-Film



**Butler Cain**  
Moderator, Chair and  
Associate Professor of  
Communications

6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 23,  
Communications Building 131

### Fulbright Update

#### 2018-19 Fulbright Scholar Competition is LIVE: Deadline August 1, 2017

The Fulbright Scholar Program offers teaching, research or a combination of teaching/research awards in over 125 countries for the 2018-2019 academic year. Interested faculty and professionals are encouraged to learn more about these opportunities, and hundreds of others, by visiting the Catalog of Awards' [website](#).



### New Faculty Bio

Dr. Emily Cooney is excited to be joining UNA as Visiting Assistant Professor of English. She and her family have moved to Florence from Toronto, Canada where she taught developmental writing and global citizenship at Centennial College. Dr. Cooney received her BA in English from the College of Charleston in 2005, her MA in English Literature from The University of Charleston (in South Carolina) in 2009, and her PhD in Rhetoric, Composition, and Linguistics from Arizona State University in 2015. She is really enjoying the beautiful campus and getting to know her colleagues.



### Open Invitation

We invite your feedback and stories to make the newsletter more beneficial to campus. Please send submissions with pictures to:

[djohnson@una.edu](mailto:djohnson@una.edu).