

## Congratulations!

★ On October 26-29, a site team representing the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) visited UNA's Department of Communications. ACEJMC is recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and the U.S. Department of Education as the only organization for accrediting programs in journalism and mass communication. The team found the Department of Communications' BA/BS in Mass Communication in complete compliance on all accreditation standards and learning outcomes. The site team's recommendation is that the program be accredited. The report must be approved by the ACEJMC Accrediting Committee in March, and then by the full ACEJMC Accrediting Council in May. Of the more than 700 colleges and universities nationwide offering programs in journalism and mass communication, 114 are accredited; 21 colleges or universities in Alabama offer degrees in journalism and mass communication. UNA would be the fourth ACEJMC accredited program in the state. Congratulations on a job well done!



★ The hard work of UNA's American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) student chapter (especially that of their President Jessica Rikard) is featured in the December 2014 issue of *Choral Journal*. Congratulations to Jessica and all choral members! Good job!

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## COEHS Exploring New Assessment for Teachers

Developed by Stanford University faculty at the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE), edTPA is a preservice assessment process designed by educators to answer the question: "Is a new teacher ready for the job?" edTPA includes a review of a teacher candidate's authentic teaching materials as the culmination of a process that documents and demonstrates each candidate's ability to effectively teach his/her subject matter to all students. **Drs. Lisa Clayton, Katie Kinney, and Lamont Maddox**, faculty members in the College of Education and Human Sciences, and **Christy Waters**, Director of Field and Clinical Experiences, traveled to the University of California at Los Angeles on October 24-25, 2014, to study edTPA. The COEHS will be exploring using edTPA as a tool for discussing the impact of candidates' teaching performance on P-12 student learning and determining ways to improve teaching, as well as using edTPA as a tool for analyzing evidence of candidate performance to guide decision-making about program revision.

## Faculty and Students Present Panel Discussion

Dr. Tammy Winner, Assistant Professor of English and Dr. Kathleen Richards, Assistant Director of the Center for Writing Excellence, presented a panel discussion with two UNA students, Mr. Eric Hughes and Ms. Teena Patel, at the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual South Atlantic Modern Language Association (**SAMLA**) in Atlanta, Georgia, November 7-9. The title of this interactive, lively presentation was on "Using Next Generation Methods in First Year Composition to Increase Sustainability."



## New Faculty

Dr. Mario Mighty, an Assistant Professor of Geography, received his B.Sc. in geography in May 2007 from the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus) in Kingston, Jamaica. After receiving this degree, he spent nine months working at the Mona GeoInformatics Institute, where he helped develop the first GPS navigation system for the island of Jamaica. He then pursued his MA degree in geography at the University of Florida and his Ph.D. degree in geography at the University of Florida, receiving his degrees in 2010 and 2014 respectively. Dr. Mighty's research focuses on the competitiveness of small island agriculture in the global economy and the ways in which geospatial technology can be applied in developing sustainable development policies.

Dr. Derek Malone, an Instructional Services Librarian in Collier Library, completed his undergraduate degree in psychology at Ohio University, and his M.L.I.S. from Kent State University. Previously, he worked within Ohio University Libraries, first as the Overnight Supervisor, then as an Interlibrary Loan Specialist, while also serving as an instructor within the Ohio University FYE program. Derek is interested in library instruction, library communication, customer service, and the user experience in academic libraries. He is joined by his wife and two-year old son in the move, and as a native of Ohio, he's looking forward to the Alabama winter.