

DEPARTMENT OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

APRIL – JUNE 2016

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Coming Up

5/5 - Study Day

5/6-5/11 - Semester Exams

5/14 - Close of term Commencement

5/30 - University Closed (Memorial Day)

6/7 - Summer Session 1 begins

7/1 - Summer Session 1 Ends

7/4 - University Closed (Independence Day)

7/6 - Summer Session 2 Begins

8/1 - Summer Session 2 Ends

Important Links

[Department of Education and Human Sciences](#)

[Visit Us!](#)



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

Local Events

Have some free time? Check out these upcoming local events!

May 21, 2016 - May 22, 2016

Arts Alive Festival 30th Anniversary

Fine arts and crafts festival.

June 20, 2016- June 26, 2016

Hellen Keller Festival

Food, live music, arts & crafts, fun for all ages!

July 12, 2016- August 11, 2016

"Mostly Blues" Art Exhibit

This exhibit features paintings, drawings, sculptures, photographs, and mixed media works with a musical flair to get everyone in the mood for the W.C. Handy Music Festival.

July 4, 2016

Shoals Spirit of Freedom Celebration Featuring fireworks, live, nationally-known musicians perform all day, food vendors are onsite, and activities for the entire family will all be at the park throughout the day.

July 22, 2016-July 23, 2016

W.C. Handy Music Festival

Come and enjoy this week-long celebration honoring Florence native, W.C. Handy, "Father of the Blues," with over 200 events taking place including concerts, plays, art exhibits, picnics and more.

Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education: More than Just an Honor Cord

College can be four of the most challenging, yet rewarding years of a person's life. We start as eager, wide-eyed freshmen only to be reduced to red-eyed zombies who survive solely on coffee and carbs. However, during these incredibly challenging years, we learn that hard work pays off and that it prepares us to be the best educators that we can be so that our future students can succeed in their endeavors. Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education, exists on UNA's campus to honor those who put in the hard work that it takes to be an effective educator, to provide opportunities to get involved on campus and in the community, and to enable members to develop as professionals prior to graduation. During the 2015-2016 school year, KDP has been as active as

ever, hosting events such as a canned food drive to provide food for area school children during Spring Break, a book drive partnership with UNA's SGA to provide books for a local school's library, volunteering at events such as St. Joseph Catholic School's Fall Festival, reading to children for Read Across America Day, teaching at the annual Renaissance Faire, and volunteering for Kilby Laboratory School's annual Book Fair, and the Dragon Boat Festival. Members were also able to hone their professional skills at an interview and resume workshop where area principals came to speak about the interview process. However, in order to have an active organization, new membership is vital as each new member brings a fresh outlook and ideas to the discussion.



Dean and Speaker

From left to right: Mrs. Connie Jones, Dr. Gary Padgett, Dr. Lamont E. Maddox, Dean Donna Lefort, Emily Ownby



Kappa Delta Pi Officers

From left to right: Dr. Lamont E. Maddox, Dr. Gary Padgett, Emily Ownby, Whitney Brown, Elizabeth Kramer, Kelsey Varner, Victoria Mabury

On April 11th, KDP held its annual induction ceremony where seventeen new members were inducted. During the ceremony, Dr. Lefort, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, addressed the new initiates on the values of KDP membership and congratulated them on their initiation. In addition, KDP's Distinguished Educators, Stephanie Bolton, a first-grade teacher at Kilby Laboratory School, and Connie

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Jones, a second-grade teacher at Webster Elementary School, were recognized for their achievements in the classroom. Mrs. Jones addressed the new members as well as the veteran members about ways to survive the infamous first year of full-time teaching. Family and friends of the initiates were invited as well, and a reception followed the ceremony in honor of the new initiates' accomplishment of being inducted into KDP. Membership in KDP has many benefits, and the smallest of those benefits is being able to wear that purple and green cord at graduation. Congratulations to all of our new initiates on this honor, thank you to all of our current members for their hard work during this school



New Kappa Delta Pi Members

year, and we urge all non-members to continue to work hard to be the best educator they can be. We hope to see you at a future Kappa Delta Pi induction ceremony!

– Rachel Sweigard

UNA Enhances Field Experiences Through Partnership with Local Schools

The University of North Alabama has been actively working to improve its field experiences for pre-service teachers in an effort to better prepare them to positively impact student learning. An example of this effort is a partnership recently established with Sheffield High School that engages pre-service teachers in the secondary education program in an extended "Immersion Lab" field experience prior to their internship. Associate professor Lamont Maddox and Clinical Experiences Director Christy Waters initiated this partnership with the goal of increasing the quality of students' field experiences while also

providing an opportunity for students to learn about and experience elements of the new edTPA process (edTPA is a teacher's performance assessment being phased in by the state as a requirement for certification). This partnership builds on the success of a similar partnership with Muscle Shoals Middle School that was initiated during the Spring Semester, 2015.

The Immersion Lab partnership resembles a mini-internship and its predictable structure facilitates advanced planning and better use of the time when

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the pre-service teachers are available in the target classrooms. Pre-service teachers in the ED 480W course are assigned a cooperating teacher mentor at the host school. They visit the same classes once a week for seven weeks during a 3-hour block of time. The initial weeks of the lab are dedicated to understanding the instructional context, developing positive relationships with the students, and assisting cooperating teachers in a range of instructional tasks. As the lab progresses, the pre-service teachers plan and implement at least one lesson during an entire class period or block. Instruction is videotaped and student work is collected for analysis using guidelines based on the edTPA process. During the final visits of the lab, the pre-service teachers give feedback to the students based on their performance and continue to assist the cooperating teacher. Pre-service teachers get feedback from Dr. Maddox and the cooperating teacher during each phase of the process (planning, instruction, and assessment). Principals at both Immersion Lab sites have reacted favorably to this lab. According to Dr. Matthew Carpenter, Principal of MSMS, the pre-service teachers “were able to work with students of all ability levels across a wide variety of subject areas. Their presence in the classroom was without a doubt a positive impact on student learning.”

– Dr. Lamont Maddox

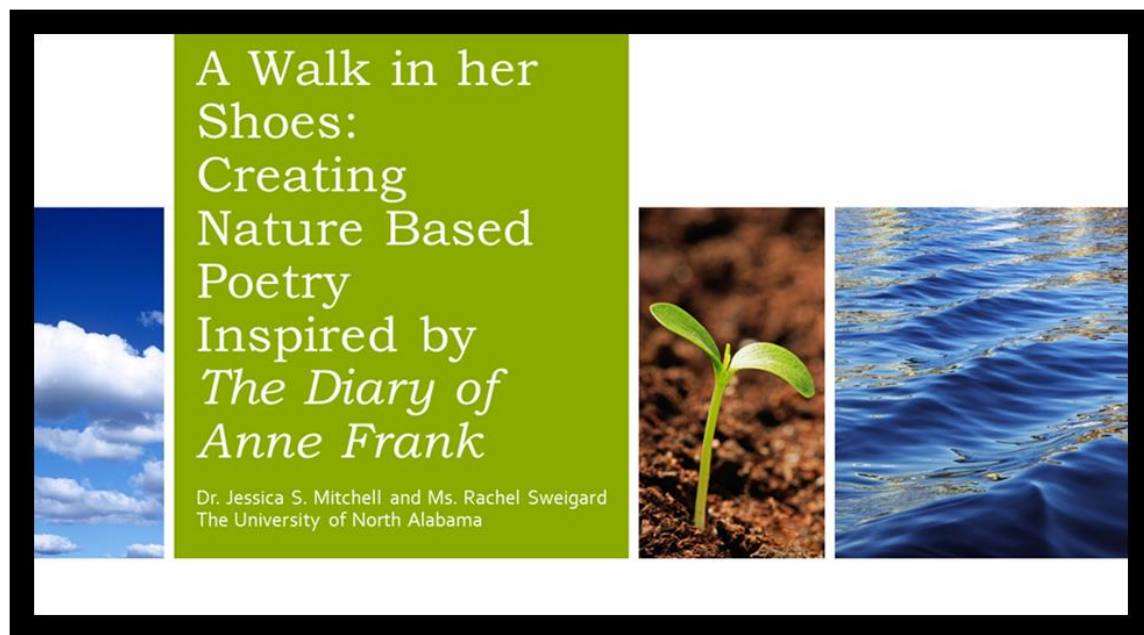
“[Pre-service teachers] were able to work with students of all ability levels across a wide variety of subject areas. Their presence in the classroom was without a doubt a positive impact on student learning.”

Research Day



Students talking about the Immersion Lab on Research Day

The Value of Collaboration and Professional Development



From the day they receive their admittance letter into the Educator Preparation Program, Education majors are taught the importance of collaboration and professional development. Throughout the program, many preservice teachers are also able to experience professional development and the collaboration process first-hand beyond a classroom discussion.

For example, this semester, the students in ED 401 have been working closely with the faculty at Maddox Middle School in Jasper, Alabama. Maddox Middle School is a city school serving 630 students in grades 6-8. The partnership began in the Fall 2015 semester when the principal of Maddox, Dr. Stephen Hall, reached out to the Secondary Education Department and expressed interest in his school shifting towards the P21 framework for 21st Century Learning. This framework was particularly interesting for the surrounding context as many members of the community had recently experienced layoffs through

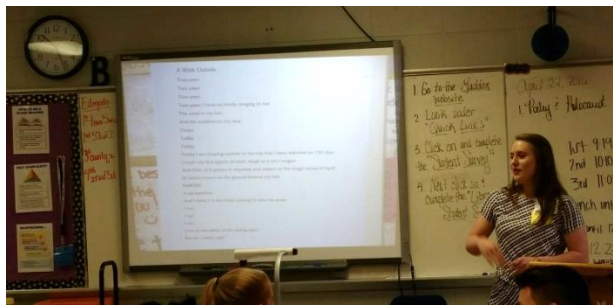
their employment in the coal mining industry. Acting as a liaison between the school and his community, Dr. Hall saw a need to help future students prepare for a shifting economy that hit close to home. Thus, through this partnership, ED 401 students from UNA were invited to help implement this framework at Maddox through an embedded approach to their field observation experiences. Throughout the semester, the students worked individually or in teams based on content area to design a lesson meeting both academic standards and a 21st Century Learning approach for authentic learning, to implement some form of assessment to evaluate the effectiveness of the lesson, and to provide feedback to students through the assessment piece within the lesson. On Friday, April 22, 2016, the preservice teachers traveled back to Maddox Middle School to teach their lessons to the students and to assess student learning as a culminating project in their ED 401 course.

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Additionally, one preservice teacher took her lesson to the next level by presenting to future colleagues at the Alabama Council of Teachers of English (ACTE) annual conference on Saturday, April 23, 2016. After learning that the ACTE conference theme for the year was focused on teaching methods and texts centered around nature, Rachel Sweigard, a Senior majoring in English/Language Arts Secondary Education, saw an opportunity to connect the P21 theme of sustainability by collaborating and submitting a conference proposal to present her lesson entitled, "A Walk in Her Shoes: Creating Nature Based Poetry Inspired by The Diary of Anne Frank." During the conference presentation, Rachel presented the lesson's background, how and why she designed it, the core of the lesson itself, how it was implemented, and the outcome of the lesson in regards to student performance.

By participating in these activities and the other opportunities available for preservice teachers, the Secondary Education department aims to prepare UNA preservice teachers for 21st Century Learning techniques, to grow as professionals before they reach their internship experience, and to understand the importance of both professional development opportunities and the collaboration process.

-Dr. Jessica S. Mitchell



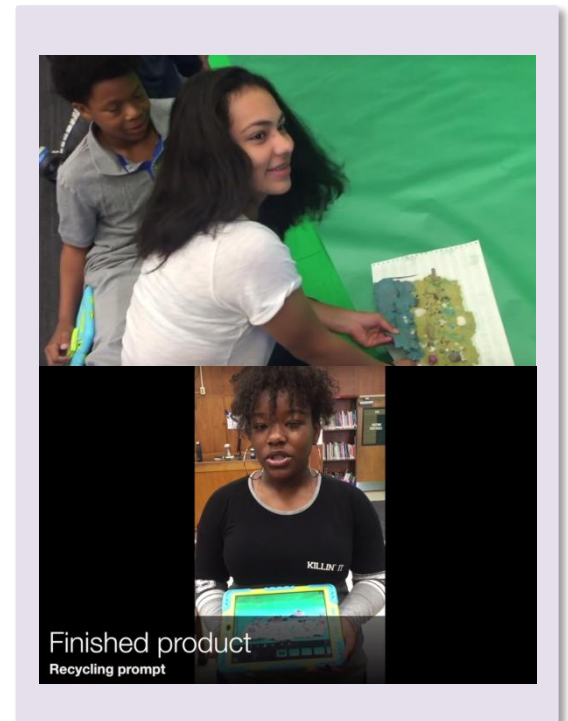
Rachel Sweigard conducts a presentation at Maddox Middle School in Jasper, Alabama.

Claymation

Art brings clay to life



[Check out this video!](#)



Actual Link: https://youtu.be/_xU97xAD-U4

Featured Alumni

Mary West



Our featured alumna for this edition is Mary West. Mary grew up in Florence, Alabama where she now teaches English Language Arts at Florence Freshman Center. Having been raised in a family that values education, she chose to attend the University of North Alabama because of its excellent education program and to pursue a degree in Secondary Education as an English teacher.

As a young girl, West always knew she wanted to teach, but was uncertain of what field to pursue. It was not until her senior year of high school that she decided to become an English teacher when she was inspired by her own AP English instructor who challenged her to read “beyond the lines” and grasp a deeper meaning of the text. She knew that she

wanted to have a classroom similar to her mentor because each day was filled with great discussion.

The students in Mary’s class were required to conduct research and detailed interviews on a human rights leader. In one instance a student selected Andrew Young, U.S. Congressman and friend of Martin Luther King, Jr. as the subject of his research. After this student’s research experience was concluded, West received a letter of thanks and encouragement as an educator from Young. It was a moment of accomplishment because her student was able to use this memorable experience to enhance his writing.

In addition to being a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Delta Tau Sigma-English honor society, West also received the Minority Student Achievement award. Her advice to students pursuing a Secondary Education degree is that they would be willing to collaborate with others from varying degrees of expertise since these relationships can have an impact on the effectiveness of their career as a Secondary Educator. West also advises that students be open to positive feedback as well as constructive criticism to ensure their students are receiving the best instruction from a qualified and genuine teacher who has a “growth” mindset.

“ I love the priceless moments when one of my students is finally able to make a connection with the material and solve a problem that has been a daily struggle. ”

Students of the Month

APRIL



Amy Carden

Amy Carden is a junior majoring in Secondary Education and English/Language Arts. She carries a 4.0 and is a student-athlete on the softball team. Amy is confident that she will be successful and enjoy teaching at the middle school level, and she intends to continue gaining experience with kids through working at summer camps and traveling during summer terms to expose herself to diverse cultures.

Once she begins teaching, her dream is to write a book during the summer between each school year. She plans to teach for a couple a years, and then return to get her Masters in either Administration or Counseling.

MAY



Mariann Jahraus

Mariann Jahraus is majoring in Secondary Education and Biology and is in the Honors Program. As a student at UNA, Mariann has served in many leadership roles including the Multicultural Education club and Department of Education Research Students, and plans to use these experiences and research opportunities to become an instructional leader. She enjoys research and her interests include educator preparation and science education. Mariann represented the Department of Secondary Education in two categories at UNA research day, and she also plans to continue research experiences throughout the summer and remaining semesters as an undergraduate. This summer she will be at the University of Georgia as a research intern for biology education. She plans to teach Biology at the high school level while pursuing a Masters and Doctorate in Science Education, hoping to one day teach at a University.

Congratulations to our students of the month!
Anticipate the next Student of the Month in August, after the conclusion of the summer term.