



MUSIC THERAPY PIZZA NIGHT

Music Therapy Pizza Night was held at Lakeview Elementary, Holt Elementary, and Brookwood Elementary schools during the fall semester of 2022. Families were shown different methods to incorporate music into their homes by board-certified Music Therapist Karen Collins. Collins had also provided her music therapy services during the spring semester of that year, supported by grant funding from the Caplan Foundation. Other members of the Music Therapy Pizza Night program included Andrea M. Cevasco-Trotter, Cailin Kerch, and Ellary Draper.

P3 SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

P3 systems development is an educational approach that focuses on integrating and aligning services, supports, and instruction for children from pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) through 3rd grade. The CRD 369 Foundations of Reading and Central Elementary School Partnership Proposal, sponsored by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was a collaboration between the UA course CRD 369 and the Central Elementary School reading specialist, administration, and faculty. The goal was to incorporate one-on-one or small-group early literacy interventions with kindergarten, first grade, or second grade students after assessing their reading abilities. This implementation promoted the children's early literacy development and benefited the pre-service teachers' instructional literacy development. Drs. Cailin Kerch and Lori Bruner led the classes, and the course curriculum covered foundational concepts of literacy instruction and best practices.



SOUTHVIEW FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

In March, Family Literacy Night at Southview Elementary School made its first in-person return since 2020, giving each child who attended a free, age-appropriate book chosen by The University of Alabama's Belser-Parton Literacy Center. This project featured presentations about famous authors from more than 70 pre-service teachers enrolled in a UA children's literature course. United Way Success by 6 and the Tuscaloosa Public Library shared resources that support literacy development in the community. The UA Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the Office of School Partnerships, the Belser-Parton Literacy Center, and the staff at Southview Elementary School co-sponsored the event.



BORN READY UNIVERSITY

Born Ready University was offered by the United Way of West Alabama's (UWWA) Six by 6 program, providing informative workshops to expectant mothers and families with children from birth to 5 years of age. The program was a collaboration between the United Way of West Alabama, The University of Alabama's College of Education and College of Human Environmental Science, Shelton State Community College's Early Childhood Program, The University of Alabama's Child Development Resource Center, Tuscaloosa City Schools, Tuscaloosa County School System, Tuscaloosa's One Place, Tuscaloosa Public Library, Maude Whatley Health Center, Regional Autism Network at The University of Alabama, Community Service Programs of West Alabama (Head Start, Early Head Start, Alabama's Early Intervention System), Tuscaloosa City Schools' Parents as Teachers, "Libby Listens", and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. The workshops aimed to educate families and connect them with local entities dedicated to ensuring their children are happy, healthy, confident, and ready to start school. The project received funding for two sessions, including one for Spanish-speaking families.



THE OFFICE OF SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS MINI GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

- **Melinda Walker**, Holt High School teacher, and **Dr. Cory Callahan**, associate professor of secondary social science in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, received a grant for their project “Learning Through A New Lens About the Holocaust.”
- **Dr. Carl Hancock**, professor and head of the Department of Music Education; **Brooke Mason**, Duncanville Middle teacher; and **Samuel Becker**, Hillcrest Middle teacher, received a grant for “Middle School Jazz Band Education Clinic.”
- **Felicia Smith**, Curriculum and Instruction doctoral student; **Chalandra Gooden**, Curriculum and Instruction doctoral student; and **Dr. Darren Griffin**, interim chair for the Department of Communication Studies, received a grant for “Exploring Math Teacher Practices and Job Satisfaction When Teaching Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in a Secondary Classroom.”
- **Diana Quito**, Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology, and Counseling doctoral student; **Tanner Ryan**, coordinator of student recruitment in the Dean’s Office; and **Dr. Carlton McHargh**, director of enrollment and student success in the Dean’s Office, received a grant for “Affording College Through Scholarships at Central High.”

AFFORDING COLLEGE THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS



Affording College Through Scholarships was a program that aimed to help Tuscaloosa City and County high school students apply for scholarships as paying for college continued to be a growing concern for households with children. Participating students attended a question-and-answer session where University of Alabama student Dillon Cook shared his strategic insight in paying for his undergraduate degree in Elementary Education, which he funded by raising more than \$2 million. During workshops, students honed their professional writing skills as they studied exemplars and templates and received resume and essay feedback provided by College of Education Ambassadors who attended the sessions. At the end of the program, attendees were asked to provide feedback that will be used to guide future endeavors.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING STUDY GROUPS (SELSG+)

The Social-Emotional Learning Study Group Plus (SELSG+) initiative, developed by Dr. Greg Benner, was implemented by UA Associate Research Professional and Clinical Instructor Melissa Walton, sponsored by the College of Education and its Department of Special Education and Mental Abilities. SELSG+ provides elementary educators with social-emotional learning (SEL) techniques and resources, including strategies, assessments, and specialized tiered lessons that benefit at-risk students. Teachers have access to the curriculum and professional development tools online, as well as support from other educators in study groups. Nineteen schools in the Southeast participate in the program, and Tuscaloosa County School System's Matthews Elementary was the first to complete school-wide student assessments and implement the strategies. Teachers and the principal gave positive feedback, saying the program provides valuable information and meets students' and teachers' needs.



STEM FAMILY NIGHT

Dr. Lisa Fowler worked with STEM Coordinator, Taylor Lamon, other UA faculty, faculty at Woodland Forrest, along with preservice students to organize the annual STEM Family Night event aimed to promote a strong STEM identity for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) within the local community. Dr. Fowler's students collaborated to create hands-on, inquiry-based lessons that captivated the minds of young and old alike. Family members and community members were welcomed into the school to engage in a variety of STEM challenges, fostering a sense of collaboration and togetherness. Throughout the evening, participants were treated to delicious Chic-fil-A sandwiches while they tackled the innovative STEM challenges, sparking their curiosity and igniting their passion for learning.



PROJECT PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND EQUITY (PROMISE)



The Tuscaloosa City School (TCS) system in collaboration with faculty in the College of Education has received funding to launch Project Promoting Mental Health Services and Equity (PROMISE)—a transformative initiative focused on promoting mental health services and equity within the education system. This project aims to train and place 40 master-level school counselors and social workers while prioritizing diversity and inclusivity. With a goal to address the critical need for mental health support among K-12 students in high-need schools, Project PROMISE seeks to increase representation in school-based mental health professions, ensure successful graduation of scholars, and employ graduates as mental health providers in TCS schools. By offering high-quality training, practical field experiences, and mental health training to stakeholders, this initiative is set to create a positive and inclusive educational environment for all students.

UA WHOLE CHILD YOUTH LEADERSHIP RETREAT WITH TUSCALOOSA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

In February 2023, the Tuscaloosa County School System partnered with Dr. Greg Benner and his team to host the inspiring UA Whole Child Youth Leadership Retreat. This year's retreat was centered around the theme "Making Great Things Happen in Our Schools and Community," emphasizing the importance of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and the power of relationships. Dr. Benner, a pioneer in Whole Child transformation programs, shared his expertise in creating nurturing learning environments that support the holistic development of our youth. Throughout the retreat, participants engaged in interactive workshops and discussions that explored the significance of fostering strong connections in schools and the wider community. The event showcased how the UA Whole Child program empowers students, educators, and community members to collaborate in building a brighter future for all.



STEAM FEST FOR GREEN ENERGY

This collaborative project aimed to integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) into elementary education, led by Dr. Hyun Jin Kim, Celestia Morgan, and Dr. Suh, with support from the Collaborative Art Research Initiative (CARI) program and Skyland Elementary School. In the first year, the focus was on fluid mechanics, and in the second year, it centered around green energy. Preservice elementary teachers in the Early Childhood and Elementary teacher education program collaborated with art and engineering students and Energy Alabama to design mini-STEAM units on renewable energy. These units were implemented in a 2-day STEAM Fest with K-5th grade students at Skyland, with their art and science work showcased at STEAM family night. Pre- and post-surveys were collected from the students, and their parents' perceptions about green energy were sought during the project implementation. The project team is excited to learn about the impact of this year's program on the Skyland school community.



FUTURE TEACHERS OF ALABAMA DAY



The University of Alabama College of Education hosted its 17 Annual Future Teacher's Day on April 14th, 2023. The day was planned and executed by The College of Education Ambassadors. This event hosted five different schools from Tuscaloosa County, Shelby County, and Lawrence County in Alabama. Over sixty students were given opportunities to learn more about what The University of Alabama and The College of Education have to offer. Throughout the day, students took tours throughout the education facilities, and engaged in academic sessions covering topics such as choosing a major, involvement, scholarships, and more! Lunch was provided to the students with the help of Wayne Chapman and other College of Education staff.

The Ambassador group plans to host their next Future Teacher's Day in 2024. The College of Education is excited to continue our relationship with future teachers within the various schools across our state!

2022-2023 TIDE SHOUT RECIPIENTS

The Office of School Partnerships in the College of Education, with the help of our faculty and staff, recognized school partners who made significant contributions to the local community by partnering with the College of Education. Here were the recipients of the 2022-2023 school year Tide Shouts:

- Anna Daly chose to recognize **Barbara Abrams of Hale County Middle** (Principal Eric Perry)
- Dr. Lisa Fowler chose to recognize **Lindsey Blevins of Skyland Elementary School** (Principal Selena Speight).
- Dr. Lisa Fowler chose to recognize **Taylor Lamon of Woodland Forrest Elementary** (Principal Brian Rose).
- Dr. Feiya Luo chose to recognize **Amanda Walker of Tuscaloosa City Schools Instructional Technology**.



Top left, **Barbara Abrams**. Top right, **Lindsey Blevins**, Bottom left, **Taylor Lamon**. Bottom right, **Amanda Walker**.

STEAM IT UP

The University of Alabama's Child Development Resources hosts STEAM It Up, an event intended for young children and families to experience and explore open-ended STEAM activities. UA's Curriculum & Instruction Elementary and Early Childhood Program Faculty, Drs. Alison Hooper, Jee Suh, and Cailin Kerch, provided a makerspace table with loose part materials and provocations (inspiration) for children to create STEAM creations from their imagination. Loose part tables include items such as glue, recycled materials, balls, leaves, twigs, stones, scraps of fabric, wires, etc. Makerspaces provide children the opportunity to create structures, art, collages, or engineer, which encourages creative expression, self-identify development, etc. UA Pre-Service teachers supported the children's creation process and interacted with families. Families received a pamphlet about the benefits of loose parts/STREAM activities and easily accessible extensions for home-based play..



HUNTSVILLE CITY SCHOOLS ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINE

For the past seven years, the Center for Interconnected Behavioral and Mental Health Systems (CIBMHS), Associate Professor of Special Education and CIBMHS Director Dr. Sara McDaniel, as well as CIBMHS Clinical Instructor DeAna Byrd have collaborated with Huntsville City Schools to improve the system's school climate and to work to solve the issue of disproportionate discipline. Together, these entities have successfully revised the Huntsville City Schools code of conduct, implemented two tiers of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports/Multi-tiered Systems of Support into the schools, and influenced other policies and practices in the school district. Additionally, their work is included in a Department of Justice consent decree to grant the district unitary status.

BROOKWOOD HIGH CAREER TECH SUMMIT

The Career Tech Summit was hosted by Brookwood High School at their Career Tech Annex. The event served as an opportunity for students to visit with colleges, businesses, industry partners, and more high demand programs to learn more about various careers. The College of Education was represented and provided information to students concerning major programs of study, involvement, and scholarship. Multiple high schools from Tuscaloosa County attended the event.



CHOCTAW COUNTY SCHOOL CLIMATE TRANSFORMATION

The Choctaw County School Climate Transformation aimed to improve safety and academic performance in the high-need, rural school district. Over five years, schools received PBIS training, mental health services, drug and alcohol prevention, and the PATHS Program's social-emotional learning curriculum. A district-level PBIS coordinator was also employed to guide local practitioners. In collaboration with CIBMHS, Dr. Sara McDaniel and Dr. Anneliese Bolland worked with Choctaw County Schools through this federally funded project, facilitated by Dr. Holly Morgan at the West Alabama Regional In-Service Center.

For further information or inquiries about the Office of School Partnerships, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Liza Wilson or Venus Watson at coepartnerships@ua.edu.

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