

# UNA **magazine**

for alumni and friends of the University of North Alabama

## Contents

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# In this Issue . . .

*Oh, the places you'll go! There is fun to be done!  
There are points to be scored. There are games to be won.  
And the magical things you can do with that ball  
will make you the winning-est winner of all.  
Fame! You'll be famous as famous can be,  
with the whole wide world watching you win on TV.*

Often times at graduation (kindergarten, high school and college), we are gifted with a book with these words by Dr. Seuss, a book that explores our



journeys through life. This issue of the *UNA Magazine* touts professional journeys, educational experiences, and personal voyages.

Our students and alumni have been to exotic places (geographically and professionally) and they love to share their stories. You will be reading stories about our artists, actors, and athletes. Enjoy!

"Catch us in your area" was the common theme for the UNA road show this summer as the advancement office at the University hosted alumni chapter meetings in Charlottesville, Virginia; Charlotte, North Carolina; Dothan, Montgomery, Gadsden, Birmingham, Athens, and Huntsville, Alabama; Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Nashville, Tennessee; and Atlanta in Georgia.

We have been busy traveling and we appreciate all of the alumni, friends, and family who joined us for art exhibits, baseball and football games, and for after-hours receptions. We thank you for your support of the university and encourage those who were not available this year to join us in the near future when we travel to visit with you.

Fall is here and happening! Read about pregame parties for alumni at home and away football games. Come home for 2008 Homecoming. Join the fun and help us to create a welcoming atmosphere. Consider becoming a card-carrying alumnus by making your gift to the Alumni Giving Pride Program. Visit our Web site soon and often and keep us abreast of the changes in your life and to your contact information.

Contact your Alumni Office:  
**Carol Lyles ('70)**, Director  
*Office of Alumni Relations*  
*Editor, UNA Magazine*

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# A message from the *Alumni President*

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## *Dear Alumni and Friends,*

This will be my final article as your 2007-2008 NAA President. I can truly say that it has been great fun serving you and working with the Executive Board and Board-at-



Large. I want to thank board members and also, **Carol Lyles ('70)**, our Director of Alumni Relations, for all their support. Carol has made my job so easy and works tirelessly to improve every aspect of the Alumni Office.

I encourage all alumni to give President Elect **Jan Ingle ('85)** your full support in the

coming year. Jan is an energetic volunteer who loves the University and will do an outstanding job as your new President.

There is not a theme to my final article, just a hodgepodge of thoughts and comments.

First, I would like to encourage you alumni to get involved with your University. There are so many ways you can volunteer to help meet the needs of various organizations on the campus. We need to have a continuous stream of volunteers for the Board-at-Large and the Executive Board.

I encourage you to attend the many programs offered by the University and bring your friends. Come to as many sports events as your time permits; join the Sportsman's Club; buy tickets to the concerts; take part in the silent auctions; meet your friends at the Alumni Tent on Spirit Hill; attend the local Alumni Chapter in your city and even help organize one, if one is not available. There is a new definition of what qualifies people to be called alumni. Anyone who has completed 24 semester credits is now considered one. Please help us get the word out to former students, who for various reasons did not complete their degree.

We now have a large contingent of International Alumni and we are proud you chose the University of North Alabama to earn your degrees. Where numbers are sufficient, I encourage you to start an Alumni Chapter in your area. If you need assistance, contact the Alumni

Office, and we will provide you with all the information you need to begin a chapter. We would also ask that you send us information about your employment and successes for our *UNA Magazine*. We would appreciate hearing from you and will publish your stories in future magazines.

The Office of Alumni Relations is continuously striving to build and update the alumni database and we need your help. You can go online at [www.una.edu](http://www.una.edu) and link to the page to update your profile. We encourage you to take this action and to tell other graduates about this service. This will ensure that you are kept informed of all that is happening at your University.

You can also help to recruit new students by telling your friends about the University of North Alabama, and how to access our web page for additional information. You continue to be our best ambassadors and we appreciate you.

The stated purpose of the UNA National Alumni Association is to celebrate, support, and advocate on behalf of the university, its alumni, friends, and students. You alumni are the ones who give of your money, time, emotions, and encouragement to help make our association successful. As you have experienced in the past few months, you are receiving more correspondence concerning giving than in the past. This is part of the plan to increase our scholarship opportunities and support the university financially. Please take the time to read the correspondence and, to the extent that you are financially able, become a giver to the programs listed in the correspondence. You can now direct your gifts to the program of your choice.

The amount of the gift is not as important as the spirit of giving. Building up the gifts is an ongoing process, and developing the habit of giving annually will help to continue and increase the scholarships available to needy students. All of your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for what you do for your University. I hope to see many of you on Spirit Hill in the fall.

Go Lions!

**Jerry White ('60)**

*President, UNA National Alumni Association*



# president's message

## William G. Cale, Jr.

Each fall I present to the University community several key initiatives for the coming year. As we move to a publication schedule that places a UNA Magazine in your hands as the academic year begins, I thought I might recap our priorities from the year just completed, and the directions we will be heading in the months ahead. As you might guess, annual institutional initiatives overlap with many efforts already unfolding.

Two singularly important planning efforts held our attention last year. We implemented our new strategic plan, adopted by the Board of Trustees just more than one year ago. This involves all members of the UNA community and is designed to provide feedback to us to be used for continuous improvement (which, in the jargon of today, is known as "outcomes-based assessment"). The other planning effort created a strategic diversity plan to guide our progress in enhancing diversity initiatives at UNA. That plan was adopted by the Trustees at their first meeting this fall. Implementation of the diversity plan is a priority for this year.

During the past year we have been working with an external consulting group to conduct an in-depth analysis of issues related to staff members at UNA.

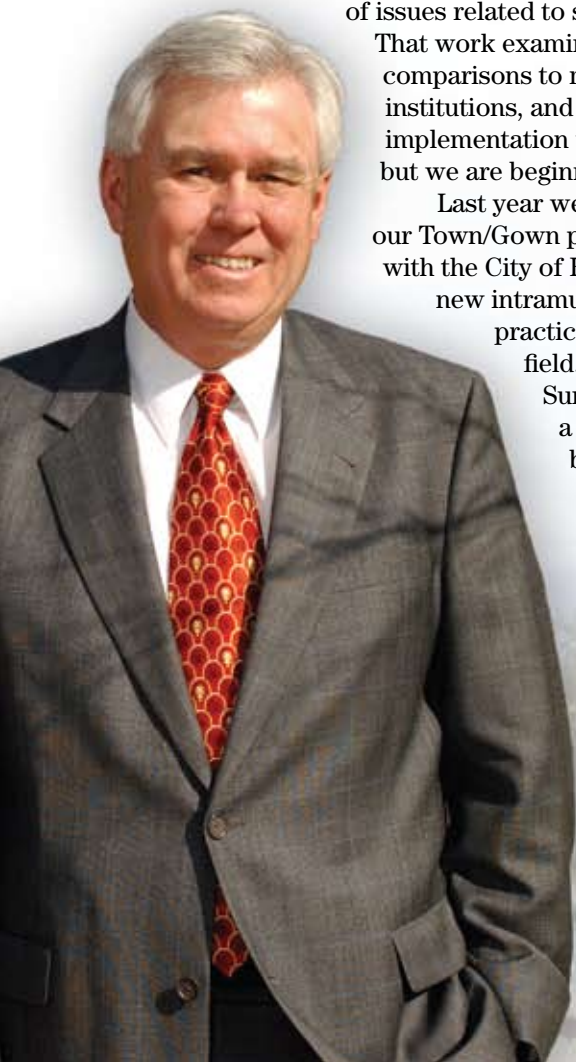
That work examined salaries, job duties, comparisons to market and to peer institutions, and career opportunities. Full implementation will take three or four years, but we are beginning this fall.

Last year we began implementation of our Town/Gown program. We have partnered with the City of Florence in the creation of a new intramural field and a new football practice field and varsity soccer field. The revival of a UNA

Summer Theatre Program after a 30-year absence, highlighted by Vicki Lawrence; and our joint benefit concert with the Riverbend Mental Health Foundation in March, featuring Judy Collins, were also part of strengthening our relationship with the Shoals community.

The coming year will be one of both opportunity and challenge. Like every other university in Alabama, our state appropriation was reduced by more than 11 percent, which translates to \$3.2 million in reduced funding. Balancing the budget requires both a tuition increase and significant reductions in spending. Because UNA has enjoyed strong enrollment growth over the past few years, we are not faced with layoffs or cuts that impact academic programs. Even with the belt-tightening, there is so much to look forward to. We rolled out our new marketing program this fall, using the theme of "History in the Making," taking advantage of our long and proud history, and the idea that every student at UNA can make a difference. We are completely rethinking our international program with a view toward greater balance among countries represented, adding new countries, and creating new opportunities for our international students. And we have been working hard to improve our already-safe campus, with new protocols for alerting everyone if an emergency exists. This too is ready for implementation this fall. As we have just completed a major renovation of Willingham Hall, we are preparing for a similar project for Keller Hall, and Wesleyan Hall awaits next year. These projects are all part of a larger Green Campus Initiative aimed at energy conservation and innovation.

zz and I have enjoyed meeting so many of you at various university and alumni events over the past year. Please make plans to visit campus soon, or attend an event in your community. Your involvement makes us a stronger university.



# from the Board of Trustees

Meet our new board members . . .



*Billy Don Anderson ('62)  
Sheffield*



*Richard H. Cater ('67)  
Montgomery*



*Lisa Greer Ceci ('89)  
Huntsville*



*John B. Cole  
Florence*



*Ronnie Flippo ('65)  
Florence*



*Rodney L. Howard ('76)  
Muscle Shoals*



*Marc McCreary ('68)  
Florence*



*Steve Pierce ('75)  
Florence*



*Harvey Robbins  
Tuscumbia*

**Richard H. Cater ('67)** currently serves as Chief Legal Counsel for the Alabama Department of Finance. His principal responsibility is to advise the Finance Director and Department Staff on legal matters arising out of the operations of the Alabama Department of Finance and management of the Legal Division of the Finance Department. Additionally, Cater is charged with oversight of that Department's Division of Risk Management and the Debt Management Division. Prior to 2004, Cater was a practicing attorney in the State of Alabama and in the State of Florida since his admission to the Bars of Justice of those States in 1972. He maintained offices in Anniston and Montgomery, Alabama.

Cater was educated in the public schools of Florence, Alabama, received a Bachelor of Science from the University of North Alabama, and his JD from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University.

Cater is married to Linda Mann Cater, a Registered Nurse, who is currently Director of Healthcare Programs in the Office of the Chancellor of Post-Secondary Education. The Caters have a son, Chad, a graduate of Auburn University, who is a Certified Public Accountant.

**Rodney Howard ('76)**, a founding Director of First Metro Bank in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, in 1988 has been President and Chief Executive Officer of First Metro Bank since 1992. Howard was appointed to the University of North Alabama Board of Trustees in 2008 by Governor Bob Riley. He is a 1972 graduate of Muscle Shoals High School and a graduate of the University of North Alabama with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Finance. Additionally, Howard is a 1983 graduate of the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. Howard is currently serving as the Chairman of the Muscle Shoals Electric Board and serves on the Colbert County Industrial Development Board. He is also a founder of the Muscle Shoals City Schools Education Foundation. He is married to **Tambra Pyle Howard ('81)** and they have a daughter, Rachel, and a son, Eric.



## UNA LAUNCHES HISTORIC MARKETING CAMPAIGN

*By Eric Hanback, UNA Student Writer*

The University of North Alabama began a new marketing campaign, marked by the launching of a new university Web site, on September 5.

As the university's new tagline, History in the Making, indicates, the campaign focuses on the university's historic past as well as history currently being made at the university by its students and faculty.

"It's a whole new face for the university," said Josh Woods, director of University Communications. "UNA is a solid, well-established university with a very historic, distinguished feel as you walk around campus. This campaign captures that essence of the university, giving us a more regal image."

Significant features of the campaign include a wide variety of print materials as well as television commercials, movie theater ads, Facebook.com ads and more.

Woods said a central goal of the campaign is to present UNA as a first-choice university.

"Many students use UNA as a default option, but once they're here, they fall in love with the place and wonder why this wasn't their first choice to start with," he said. "Students shouldn't have to wait until they're here to see UNA in that light. With the History in the Making campaign, we want to give them that true, authentic view of the university before they even step on campus for the first time."

Woods, who has overseen the project since last fall, used several focus groups of alumni, current and prospective students, faculty, and staff to evaluate elements of the new campaign. He said the feedback from the new look has been "incredibly positive."

"I think what everyone really liked about this moniker was that it shows the students two things," said Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President for University Advancement, "It shows them the historic nature of UNA and lets them know that they're here to make their own history."

Medders' advancement team focuses on UNA's off-campus image and relationships with alumni and other friends of the university.

"I think that [the new campaign] is something our alumni are going to be proud of and that our current and prospective students are going to embrace," Medders added.

According to Woods, the History in the Making campaign marks perhaps the most significant marketing endeavor in UNA's history.

"The biggest shift is that it's an integrated marketing approach," he said. "All the university's advertising, promotional and PR efforts will synchronize with this theme, which will give UNA a more solid, consistent public image."



University of  
**NORTH  
ALABAMA**

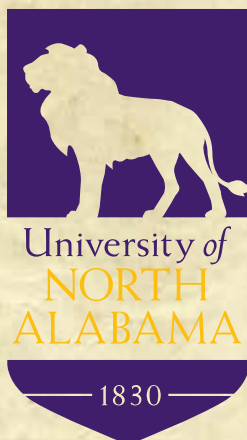






Before Jim Bowie had a knife,  
before Whistler had a mother,  
before Heisman had a trophy, there was the . . .

At the University of North Alabama,  
we've been making history for almost  
180 years. And we're not done, yet.  
You see, we can claim a long list of  
impressive achievements at UNA  
(like being the first state- chartered



institution in Alabama). But what  
we're most excited about is the  
history happening right now across  
our campus. Join our community, and  
you, too, can be a part of history in  
the making.



## ALUMNI MARKETING STORY.....

Smaller classes, high quality faculty and staff, and the quality of academic programs are the top three strengths of UNA, according to a recent survey of more than 500 Alumni. Survey respondents also cited the warm and friendly campus environment as well as the campus' location in Florence as other top strengths.

These responses were just part of the data that was gathered from the Alumni Marketing Survey that was administered this spring to all alumni with active e-mail addresses. The survey was created to gauge the feelings, opinions, and concerns of UNA's alumni, and the respondents ranged from those who graduated as late as last year to those who graduated as early as before the 1950s.

The survey project was a combined effort of the Division of University Advancement, the Offices of University Relations, Alumni Relations, Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment, as well as a specially appointed university-wide marketing committee.

"Not only was the information in this survey useful as an assessment tool of where UNA currently is," said Dr. Andrew Luna, director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment, "It also gives us baseline comparison data when we administer the survey in subsequent years." According to Luna, UNA plans to conduct the survey every other year and use the trend data to determine where the University has improved or where additional efforts should be concentrated.

In addition to pointing out the strengths of UNA, the alumni respondents also singled out the need of UNA to increase marketing outside the Shoals area, enhance scholarship opportunities, and offer greater job placement opportunities to graduates.

"The responses of our alumni have given us a good direction as we've worked in recent months to rebrand and market UNA," said Josh Woods, director of University Communications. "To effectively market and promote an institution, we need to know how our public perceives the institution right now. In that way, this survey has helped establish a real benchmark for us."

While UNA's Division of Student Affairs was in the process of appointing a new director for Career Services and making improvements to the department months before the Alumni Marketing Survey was administered, survey results reaffirm UNA's commitment to focus efforts on this department.

"Career Services is a very important service to our students, and I am committed to making it a top program," said David Shields, Vice President for Student Affairs. "Our new Director of Career Planning and

Development, Melissa Medlin, is extremely talented and comes to UNA from the University of Alabama where she worked in its Career Services Office. Her energy, innovative ideas, and contemporary philosophy will move our programs and services to new levels. The next five years should be very exciting in Career Services."

According to survey results, more than 97 percent of respondents would recommend UNA to others, about 88 percent saw that UNA prepared them for their current job, almost 80 percent said they were proud to be a graduate of UNA, and more than 70 percent believe UNA has a strong public image and is moving in a positive direction.

Alumni also said that athletic events, opportunities for professional development (continuing education), class reunions, and music/theater performances were the major events offered by UNA to get them to return or visit the University.

"We are very satisfied with the number of our alumni who took the time to complete the survey and let us know what they think of UNA," Woods said. "This information is extremely valuable as we move forward to make the University into a more progressive and more responsive institution."



At the University of North Alabama,  
we've been making history since 1830.

And we're not done.

In fact, many of our most historic events  
haven't even happened.

That's why every member of our community has the  
opportunity, the permission, and the responsibility to be  
the author of his or her own history and of the history  
of the University of North Alabama.



# LOOK<sup>3</sup>

## Festival of the Photograph 2008

By Shannon Wells ('05), UNA Staff Photographer



Nick and Reba relax at their home in Sugar Hollow, VA.

For many years the prospect of a slide show in **Michael "Nick" Nichols ('78)** and **Reba Peck's ('78)** backyard - hence the title "Backyard Slide Show" - was an exciting event; even though the anticipation of *National Geographic* photographers viewing your images was a bit unsettling. Simply named, it was a backyard arranged purposely for the random showing of (everyone's) work in slide format onto a large screen.

Originally, the backyard was small, chairs or blankets required, food spread out reminiscent of Southern Decoration Days.

Eventually, a move from downtown Charlottesville to Sugar Hollow in Virginia landed the annual slide show on a hill above the James River deemed "Holy Smokes." In the new location, blessed with wide-open spaces, the screen got bigger and bigger until at last - stretched between trees - it resembled a modern pterodactyl. Wrestled by the men who hung it and flapping in the breeze, it threatened to fly away, images parading upon its back. In this holy gathering the congregation below watched and waited in worship mode, hoping their talent would magically transform, and it always did.

Both Nick and Reba grew up in rural Northwest Alabama and graduated from UNA. Reba was an art student and Nick majored in photography. While they attended class in different rooms, they became acquainted through the arts. It was in these early years that Nick's love of creative photography nurtured the desire to express photographs as works of art. Those of us who attended classes with Nick still talk about how his images moved and inspired us. Even then he was the leader of the "gang" and an innovative photographer. While at UNA, Nick developed the technique we call flash blur. It is the mix of a slow shutter speed and flash, which both blurs and stops action of the subject. Today it is widely used by most photographers. Its world debut may have been from the *National Geographic* photographs produced by Nick.

From this fantastically raw beginning—the outdoor shows—the Festival of the Photograph evolved. Nick has founded and co-directed, if not the largest photographic event in the United States, certainly the most revered by professional photographers: three days of peace, love, and photography. To name a few of the greats, James Nachtwey, Mary Ellen Mark, and Joel-Peter Witkin, were key speakers this year.

*National Geographic* "legends," our own Nick, William Albert Allard and David Allen Harvey, have been in attendance not only at all original slide shows but also to the two festivals, and have contributed workshops as well.

The festival takes place in Charlottesville, Va. There, in the center of downtown, participants may eat at the open air cafes or enjoy strolling beneath shady trees or frequenting quaint





*Clockwise from top left:*

*This year for weeks prior and after the festival, Flip Nicklin's photographs of dolphins hang from the trees in downtown Charlottesville, VA.*

*Maggie Steber presents her project 'Madge has Dementia,' a story about her mother's last days with the illness.*  
<http://thestory.org/photo-galleries/maggie-steber-1>

*Festival attendees visit outside the Paramount Theater after Master Talks.*

*UNA Students listen to James Nachtwey's presentation.*

*James Nachtwey speaks at the Paramount Theater about his images of human suffering.*  
[http://www.faheykleingallery.com/featured\\_artists/nachtwey/nachtwey\\_frames.htm](http://www.faheykleingallery.com/featured_artists/nachtwey/nachtwey_frames.htm)

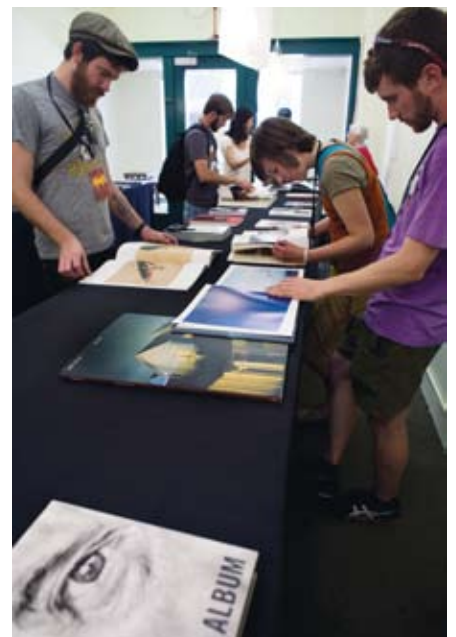




*"Shots" is located in an abandoned warehouse transformed into a wonder world of imagery from emerging and internationally recognized photographers.*



*Best friends and National Geographic "Legends" Michael "Nick" Nichols and William Albert Allard discuss festival events.*



*UNA students gravitated to "Books." A small nook loaded with the most wonderful and current books on photography, free for the public to enjoy.*





Mary Ellen Marks newest work, "Prom," is a series of photographs taken at various high schools proms in the United States.  
<http://www.maryellenmark.com/text/prom%20project/promhome.html>



Flip Nicklin, at "Master Talks." Projected on the screen is his photograph of a Beluga whale. <http://photography.nationalgeographic.com/photography/photographers/photographer-flip-nicklin.html>

shops along a wide cobblestone walkway. Dogs are welcome and well-behaved.

Organizing an event like this takes many dedicated hours and people power. I had never seen individuals work so tirelessly to make an event successful. The team was small but powerful, mostly *National Geographic* folks and volunteers. Some of the "war wounds" I saw or heard about in passing were foot blisters, red eyes, weight/sleep loss, cuts and bruises and neglected and lost pets. By the time I arrived to help, most of the hard labor and stress was behind the organizers. People like me were called the second wind, and were expected to take up the ball and roll!

The festival, sold out both years, lasts three days but is actually active a week prior with photographic workshops and gallery openings.

The UNA National Alumni Association and the UNA Foundation sponsored attendance for three UNA students to the festival this year. They also provided a scrumptious luncheon for alumni residing in Virginia as well as Nick, Reba and others attending the festival. It was hosted by Alumni Relations Director Carol Lyles, Director of Major Gifts Judy Jackson, and Vice President for University Advancement Alan Medders. Thanks to these UNA sponsors, Jake Jones and Darrell Shelton, photography majors and student workers in the Office of Publications, as well as Christopher Hughes, a former Publications photographer and current editor of the *Diorama* yearbook, received scholarship monies for workshops, expenses, and festival fees. The students resided in the dorms on the University of Virginia campus and were also provided transportation to and from the festival several times daily.

Shelton, who attended a weeklong workshop with *National Geographic* Staff Photographer Bill Allard, said, "The workshop took me out of my element since no photo editing was allowed. It pushed us all to look harder at the subject, lighting, and composition before snapping a picture."

Other new experiences at the festival included innovative exhibits such as "Pages" - window projections at street level displaying current photographic pages from leading magazines and newspapers; images projected onto the side of a multistoried building; the 'Pictures of the Year International' exhibit; and traditional art galleries, three within walking distance of the festival.

One of the most visible and fantastic exhibits because of its ingenuity was "Trees," large photographs of wildlife shot by *National Geographic* photographers. The vivid images were printed onto plastic canvas and literally incorporated into the trees. Last year, Nick's tigers, elephants and apes leapt, grazed, and charged among the leaves. This year *National Geographic* photographer Flip Nicklin's whales swam against a blue sky in the day. The blue water in which they swam actually seemed to cool the soaring temperatures. ☀



UNA student photographers, Jake Jones, Darrell Shelton, Christopher Hughes, along with new friends Katheryn Dennehey and Steven Stauffer, check out the festival schedule.

# Summer Theatre Tradition

## *is Back to Stay*

*By Cheryl N. Schmidt, contributing writer*

Hours before the opening night performance of "Stand By Your Man," 16-year-old high-school student Lacey Snider was on stage working out harmonies for a pivotal song with professional actress Michelle Nagy and several musicians.

Elsewhere in UNA's Norton Auditorium, Brittany Flory, 24, a theater major weeks away from graduation, was busy being both stage manager and technical director. While back stage, Andrew Maxwell, a 19-year-old sophomore in the theater department, was making sure all the props were in place for the last rehearsal.

It was a flurry of activity, capping an unusually short pre-production period that gave students an opportunity to rub elbows with professionals while taking a crash course in their craft. And it was exactly what **Will Stutts ('70)** had in mind when he spearheaded the movement to bring a summer program back to UNA's theatre department.

Stutts, a veteran actor, director, and playwright well-known for his one-person shows, has fond memories of the Summer Theatre Program's heyday. From 1970-78, stars like Peggy Cass, Sal Mineo, Van Johnson and Oscar-winners Mercedes McCambridge and Broderick Crawford performed in the Shoals.

The Florence native was part of the program in 1970, when UNA was still Florence State College, and it "for me was sort of a very pivotal aspect of my whole theater career," he said. Over the years he would talk with other alumni who had been in the program, and they all had the same fond memories.

"We learned so much that we applied to life, whether we ended up in theater or not," Stutts said, "I thought, 'There is something really magic about this.' And he wanted to share that magic with a new generation.

Last fall he put together a proposal for UNA President William G. Cale, Jr., who was interested in reviving the Summer Theatre Program. Stutts was named Producing Artistic Director and went to work organizing a program that would benefit the students and have star power to draw in the Shoals community.

*Vicki Lawrence as "Mama"*







*Will Stutts (70) as  
Mark Twain*



*Jason Edwards as "George Jones"*



*Michelle Nagy as "Tammy Wynette",  
Lacey Snider as "Dolly Parton",  
and Angela Green*

The results were a jam-packed July with three stage shows: "Mark Twain's America," "Stand By Your Man – The Tammy Wynette Story" and "Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A Two Woman Show." Also on campus were a series of seminars, workshops, and classes on a variety of theater subjects for students and the general public.

With an \$80,000 budget, Stutts said "what we ultimately got was about \$180,000 of market value" in the program. Part of his conservative planning included picking the Twain show, a one-man show he's performed since college and "Stand By Your Man," which he produced two years ago at a regional theater in Pennsylvania.

Additionally, he recruited Lawrence, a longtime friend, famous for her 11 years as a cast member of "The Carol Burnett Show," and starring turn in the television series "Mama's Family." Lawrence added a side trip to Florence into the current tour of her show.

The performances were enthusiastically received by the Shoals community and Lawrence's act was sold out. Before she took the stage at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center, President Cale thanked the crowd and announced the university's intention to keep the Summer Theatre Program tradition going.

Stutts will start planning next summer's program right away and said proceeds from this summer will be used to apply for grants and other outside funding.

Nagy, the professional actress who shined as Tammy Wynette in "Stand By Your Man," said she loved being part of the program and will gladly come back next year.

She feels the students learned a lot from their participation. "It was actually quite a learning experience, even for me, because we put it up in a week. They learned how to put on a show at the most intense it can be. And they learned how to handle it and they were very poised."

They even got the ultimate stamp of approval from audiences for all their hard work – standing ovations.

"They were terribly excited when everybody stood at the end," Nagy said, "And that's what you do it for. You do it for the people."

Theater-student Flory, who also designed the set for "Stand By Your Man," said she'll be able to draw in the future from the experiences she had this summer. She's starting an internship with a professional regional theater in West Palm Beach, Fla. "It has been a nice little preview," Flory said, "It's definitely been a valuable learning experience."

Stutts said the student experiences, like that of Snider, who played Dolly Parton and has sung in public but never acted before, are "exactly what the program is supposed to do. She may major in theater now.

"Her experience here was such a memorable one," Stutts said, "It has become a very powerful recruiting tool."

Summer Theatre Program students saw "what sheer hard work it is" to put on a show and that "everything that happens is calculated and planned and takes tremendous team work," Stutts said.

"When students have those experiences and take them out into life, whatever they end up doing professionally, they'll continue to glean from it as they look back on it," he said.

"I think the thing that I'm most proud about it is it really did hark back to those days" when summer theatre gave UNA a unique calling card that other Alabama institutions envied.

"Harkening back to those things that were such an inspiration is not such a bad idea," Stutts said, "I'm a very progressive person, but I think sometimes it is pretty good to go back and touch home base."

# A Personal Memory

# Summer Theatre

By Terry Pace ('85 & '04), UNA Adjunct Instructor of English

This year marked the long-awaited revival of Summer Theatre at the University of North Alabama, and from all accounts the resurrection was a resounding triumph in every respect.

UNA's original Summer Theatre program was truly trailblazing for its time, and although I was not yet old enough to participate in those star-studded productions, the program left a profound impression on my future choices in education, occupation and the performing arts.

Three years ago, during the awards show for the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, I had the pleasure of introducing my friend and fellow UNA graduate **Danny Vinson ('77)**, a screen actor whose credits include *Talladega Nights*, *Honeydripper* and two Oscar winners, *Two Soldiers* and *Walk the Line*. In the introduction, I recalled that the first time I ever saw Danny was in the summer of 1975, when he was a UNA theatre student and I was just on the verge of turning 13.

By then I was so obsessed with movies that my loving parents took me to Norton Auditorium for UNA's Summer Theatre production of a wildly witty black comedy, *My Three Angels*. I was already familiar with the play through its 1955 screen incarnation, *We're No Angels*, which starred Humphrey Bogart, Aldo Ray and Peter Ustinov as three soft-hearted cutthroats who escape from Devil's Island and rescue an innocent, down-and-out family on Christmas Eve.

UNA's stage performance of *My Three Angels* was – on the surface, at least – a traditional university theatre production, directed by a university theatre professor, featuring a cast and crew made up mostly of UNA theatre students like my future friend Danny.

Significantly, though, the three leading roles were played by actors I recognized from films and television – Academy Award winner Broderick Crawford (*All the King's Men*, *Highway Patrol*), two-time Oscar nominee Sal Mineo (*Rebel Without a Cause*, *Exodus*) and the versatile Peter Breck, whose credits ranged from Sam Fuller's *Shock Corridor* to the hit TV Western *The Big Valley*, which

happened to be one of my after-school viewing favorites at the time.

The evening I spent with *My Three Angels* proved to be an absolute awakening. For the first time in my life I was able to see some of my favorite actors, in person, performing live on stage at the peak of their craft. Without the slightest hint of hesitation, I made my way backstage after the show, where I met the stars, shook their hands, expressed my admiration and asked them to sign my playbill. I left Norton floating on a pillowy cloud of adolescent excitement.

Most importantly, that evening marked my first experience with live theatre – and it was love at first sight. *My Three Angels* was the first play I ever attended, and from then on I was instantly, hopelessly hooked. I later discovered that Summer Theatre was an annual affair that brought stellar names like Oscar winner Mercedes McCambridge, Hollywood veterans Van Johnson, Janis Paige, Lyle Talbot, Peggy Cass, Ed Nelson and Gale Storm, *Mission: Impossible* player Peter Lupus, *Mod Squad* member Michael Cole and *Maverick* star Jack Kelly to the UNA campus in order to provide a professional training experience for theatre students.

Unfortunately, my first semester of college did not arrive until the fall of 1980, some two years after Summer Theatre had been reluctantly laid to rest.

Still, I went on to work with the two theatre professors, Jim Davis and Robert Allen Holder, who had directed those celebrity guests. I also had the cherished opportunity to meet and learn from Gladys Shepard, the founder of UNA's theatre program and the guiding light behind Summer Theatre. Glad had retired by then, but she remained the majestic matriarch of the area's theatre community.

UNA Summer Theatre was a rare gem among regional universities, and credit for its creation goes to the dynamic duo of Glad and Jim. Even though they lived and taught in the Shoals, Glad had traveled and attended live theatre all over the world, while Jim had been an actor and screenwriter in Hollywood for several years. They shared







Jason Edwards as "George Jones", Michelle Nagy as "Tammy Wynette", Will Stutts ('70), Jackie Byrd Daley (Tammy Wynette's daughter), and President Bill Cale



Some of the cast of *Stand by Your Man*

an enlightened world view that helped make the impossible possible in the most unlikely locale and circumstances.

After double-majoring in theatre and English at UNA, I moved on to a 25-year career writing about films, theatre and music before I joined UNA's English faculty in 2006. Over the past three decades I have directed or performed in more than a hundred stage plays – including my own 1991 production of *My Three Angels* at the Ritz Theatre – and I have appeared in half a dozen independent films. All of my work in writing, theatre, film and teaching can somehow be traced back to my first experience with UNA Summer Theatre.

The night that I introduced Danny at the festival awards show back in 2005, I received an immediate follow-up response from Dr. Bill Cale, who was still in his first year as UNA's new president. He seemed genuinely intrigued over the tales he heard of the glorious, groundbreaking days of Summer Theatre. He even dared to ask, "Could we make that happen again?"

Through Dr. Cale's leadership and support, UNA has enlisted the expertise of one of its own distinguished alumni – my friend Will Stutts – to pull the past into the present in a fresh and innovative way. Will has enjoyed an outstanding career as an actor, director and writer on Broadway, in films and on television. Hailed as the "Master of the One-Person Play," his repertoire of true-life characters ranges from Mark Twain and Edgar Allan Poe to Walt Whitman and Noel Coward.

Will was trained under the tutelage of Glad and Jim, and he shares the crystal-clear clarity of their original vision, their intense passion for live theatre and their unswerving commitment to artistic excellence. I have had the pleasure of acting with Will and directing him on stage, and I have also had the honor of being directed by him. His professional instincts are impeccable.

Will was a student performer in UNA's early Summer Theatre productions and later returned as a professional guest. One of his student co-stars, Bessemer native Glenn Shadix, went on to become a professional actor in his own right. He is best known today as the mod architect Otho in Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice*, the Mayor of Halloweentown in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, the priest in *Heathers*

and the sly Southern senator in the HBO series *Carnivale*. Glenn credits UNA's Summer Theatre program as the beginning of his professional career.

Appropriately, Will unveiled the all-new Summer Theatre series with a 40<sup>th</sup>-anniversary performance of his first one-person portrayal, *Mark Twain's America*, a show he introduced to audiences during his undergraduate days at UNA. The Tammy Wynette musical *Stand By Your Man* recaptured the Summer Theatre tradition of introducing homegrown talent to visiting professionals, while the riotous *Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A Two-Woman Show* added plenty of show-stopping star power. I cannot imagine a more colorful or better-balanced debut.

Under Will's professional leadership, UNA Summer Theatre is entering a progressive new era of entertainment and inspiration.

# UNA Alumni News

## UNA Alumni & Friends *Cruise to Alaska*

You are invited to join Jack and Marline Sellers on a dream vacation - a seven-day Alaskan cruise departing from Seattle, Wash., on Sunday, May 17, 2009, on the Star Princess. The scenery is so beautiful, you will think you've stepped into a painting. You'll cruise the Inside Passage where you will experience breathtaking scenery as you cruise past snowcapped mountains, dazzling waterfalls, and steep granite canyon walls that disappear into deep and narrow fjords. This is not only one of the most scenic sea-lanes in the world, but also it is home to bald eagles, whales, sea lions, otters, brown bears, mountain goats,

and flocks of seabirds. The itinerary features ports of call in Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Victoria, British Columbia, plus glacier viewing in the Tracy Arm Fjord.

Limited space is available, so sign up soon. A deposit will hold your cabin, and it is fully refundable until March 3, 2009, when final payment is due. If you would like further information, contact Jack or Marline Sellers at (256) 766-5512 or (256) 710-6687. A more detailed flier can be obtained by going online to [www.cruisedirectonline.com/sellers\\_group\\_cruise.htm](http://www.cruisedirectonline.com/sellers_group_cruise.htm)



### Make your Alumni Gift to UNA and become a card-carrying Alumni Pride Member – receive the following benefits:

- 10 percent discount at the on-campus University Bookstore
- 10 percent discount on Athletic season tickets (Purchased from the UNA ticket office)
- 10 percent discount on University performances at Norton Auditorium (Purchased at the box office)
  - 10 percent discount on Student Recreation Center fees
- A brick in the Alumni Victory Garden (with a gift of \$100 or more)
  - On-site use of Collier Library • Charitable Tax Deduction
- Alumni Pride membership donor card • Alumni Pride lapel pin

**To receive your Alumni Giving membership card make a \$50 minimum gift designated to the Support for Alumni Pride Program**

*(you may use the reply envelope in the center of this magazine)*





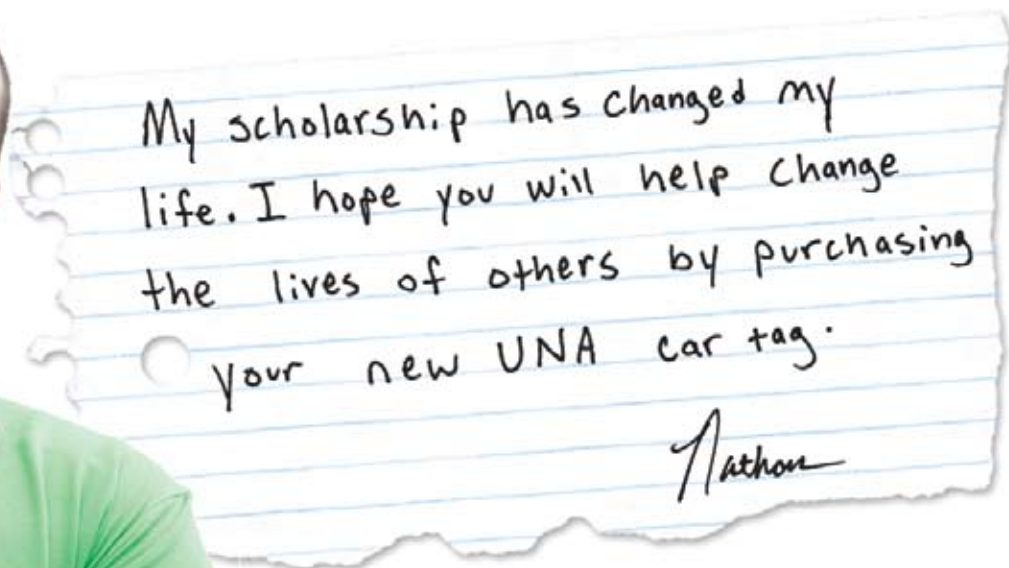
# UNA Road Trips

1. Richard ('67) and Linda Carter
2. Melody Stewart ('06), Judy Jackson ('91 & '02), Chris Horn, and Paul Westbrook ('03)
3. Tyler Carter ('98) and Amanda Carter ('99) with children
4. Steve Choat, Gaye Choat ('81), Lindsay Choat ('06), and Eddie Ronilo ('06)
5. Reeda Lee ('74) and Danny Vinson ('77)
6. President Bill Cale throws out first pitch
7. Barbara (64) and Shore Robertson
8. Charlsie and Wayne Simms ('57)
9. Jerry Mizell ('76) and Danny Kimble ('73)
10. Tom Greenhaw ('60)
11. Lacy Jackson ('58)
12. Jim Weatherbee ('63)





*Nathan is one of 44 UNA students receiving a car tag scholarship of \$1,500.*



## Have you been tagged?

Every four years, colleges and university throughout Alabama are given the opportunity to submit a new license-plate design. It has been eight years since UNA last changed our design. Therefore, we thought it was time to update the design with a current, visible, and noticeable symbol that was easily identified with UNA. Like many institutions throughout the country, we chose to use the UNA athletic logo. In order to make the logo as large and visible as possible, only five characters could be used on the new tag.

Two very important opportunities are afforded the University when you purchase a UNA license plate. First, you are able to show your Alumni Pride throughout the state and around the country as you travel for pleasure or to support the Lions on the field or court. Second, and more importantly, you help provide scholarships to deserving Alabama resident students, \$47.50 of the \$50 fee for your license plate will be directed to the UNA Car Tag Scholarship Fund. This academic year, 44 UNA students will each receive a \$1,500 Car Tag Scholarship because of the support of this program. As the number of UNA license plates increase, so will the number of scholarships that can be awarded. What a wonderful way to show your PRIDE and support your institution through scholarships to current students. Your UNA license plate is available at the Probate Office of any county courthouse throughout the state of Alabama. You may chose the five digit random numbers or even personalize your tag at no additional cost. Share your personalized license plates with us at [www.una.edu/cartag](http://www.una.edu/cartag). An award for the best personalized tag will be given at Homecoming, October 25!







# UNA Road Trips

1. Barbara Sexton ('67) and Bob Searcy ('63)
2. John Landers, Betty Landers ('59), Barbara Burney, and Jackie Burney ('59)
3. Greg Karnes, Joel Collum ('79), and son
4. Steve and Brenda Sachs ('64)
5. Phillip Williams ('61), and Ramsey Williams, with grandchildren
6. Matt Wanasek, Kimberly Wanasek ('98), Lori Harrellson ('97), and Chris Harrellson
7. John Battcher (65), Jim Abel, Linda Abel ('67), Paul Simchik, Shirley Simchik ('64), Ann Battcher ('65), front row Charles Winters ('86), and family
8. Leslie and Logan Key ('02)







# Around the Campus

## UNA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BEGINS BUILDING SOLAR HOUSE

*By Katie Hine, student president, Habitat for Humanity*

On May 17<sup>th</sup> UNA Habitat for Humanity held a groundbreaking ceremony for the second home the group has sponsored. Work on the house began the following week.

This house is different from the campus group's first project, and it is historic; it is a "green home," built with energy-efficient materials and solar power. It will be the first solar home completed in the Shoals, and the first Habitat for Humanity home in Alabama to utilize both solar electricity and solar hot water.

UNA students have been on site helping the regular Shoals Habitat construction crew. During Summer Session I there was even a class taught by UNA Adjunct English Instructor Virginia Grant dedicated to working on the project. Service Learning 101, a new course at UNA, helps students learn about their relationship to the community through service work. Students spent most of their days at the building site.

*The next issue of UNA Magazine will showcase the completed home*





## RADECKI INDUCTED TO ALMA MATER'S HALL OF FAME

University of North Alabama Head Volleyball Coach Stephanie Radecki was recently inducted into the 27th edition of the Edinboro University Athletic Hall of Fame. The four-year UNA coach graduated from Edinboro in 1998 after a standout volleyball career for the Fighting Scots. She joined nine other inductees as the Class of 2008, giving the overall Hall of Fame a total of 183 members. The awards banquet was held at the McComb Fieldhouse on the campus in Edinboro, Pa.

Radecki starred as a member of the Edinboro volleyball team from 1993-96, and was the 1997 Nancy Acker Award winner. Edinboro made two appearances in the Elite Eight in four seasons, capturing the Atlantic Region title in 1994 and again in 1996. A native of Meadville, Pa., she ranks among Edinboro's career leaders in a number of categories.

An outside hitter, Radecki led the team in kills in 1995 (458) and 1996 (498). She is fifth in career kills (1,197) and total attempts (2,710), ranks third in career service

aces (142), seventh in career block solos (42), and eighth in career digs (1,053). In 1995 she was awarded first team All-PSAC West honors and was also an All-Atlantic Region choice. In 1996 she was recognized as the PSAC West Athlete of the Year after leading the Fighting Scots to a 28-13 record. She was also an All-PSAC and All-Region honoree for the second straight year.



After serving as an assistant coach at Edinboro for a season, she moved to UNA as a graduate assistant coach in 1998. She spent one season as the head coach at St. Leo in 2003, before returning to UNA as the program's eighth head coach. During four years with the Lions, Radecki has posted a 115-30 record, with three Gulf South Conference championships. She also guided UNA to the 2006 NCAA South Central Region title and a berth in the National

Championship match. She was named the GSC East Division Coach of the Year and AVCA Regional Coach of the Year in 2005 and 2006.

## UNA STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD

*By Valerie Jones, Student*

Intercultural experience is not something that can be duplicated in a textbook or taught in a classroom. It must be experienced firsthand, and what better way than visiting a foreign country?

In my recent visit to Mexico, I gained so much more than just Spanish conversation skills.

When preparing to leave, I was cautioned to be careful since I was going to Mexico. So many people have a stereotypical picture in their head of Mexico that they are unable to open their eyes to what is truly there.

There is an amazing mixture of

old-world tradition and new world-amenities making for an incredible experience. Somewhere between climbing pyramids, swimming in caves, salsa dancing, eating amazing food, and hanging out with your new friends at cafes, you realize that you are in the middle of a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

We were in school for seven hours Monday through Friday, and many of us were working on class work for UNA at night while doing all these other activities. The month we spent contained so many new experiences there is no way to sum

them all up in just one article or one conversation.

I would definitely recommend travel abroad as more than just a way to enhance your educational portfolio, but a way to grow personally. We had a fabulous group of students and alumni from UNA, many of whom are now great friends. I would also like to give a special "thank you" to our fantastic sponsoring professors: **Dr. Claudia Vance ('90)** and Dr. Evan Ward. Without them the trip would not have been possible and not nearly as enjoyable.



## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS APPOINTS THREE NEW DIRECTORS

Vice President for Student Affairs, David Shields, is pleased to announce the appointment of three new directors within the Division.

Ms. Melissa Medlin has been appointed the Director of Career Planning and Development. Melissa comes to UNA from the University of Alabama where she served as an Assistant Director of Career Services. Melissa brings a wealth of experience and energy to the position. In conjunction with her appointment, and in line with her goals to refocus and revitalize the University's career services program, the office has been renamed the "Office of Career Planning and Development." The Office of Career Planning and

Development will move from its current location on the first floor of the Guillot University Center (GUC) to the second floor, Room 202.

Ms. Tammy Jacques has been appointed Director of Student Engagement. Tammy previously served as Associate Director of Student Life at UNA. As part of an internal reorganization of the Division of Student Affairs, the previous Office of Student Life was reorganized and named the "Office of Student Engagement" and will provide a greater focus on student leadership development, student organizations, volunteerism and service learning, and programming. The Office of Student Engagement will move to the first floor of the

GUC (Room 107), placing it in an area to allow more direct interaction with students and the programs.

**Dr. Kimberly Greenway ('91 & '93)**, formerly the Director of Student Life, has been appointed Director of Judicial Affairs and Student Affairs Assessment. In addition to continuing to provide leadership and oversight of the University's student Judicial Affairs process, Dr. Greenway will provide leadership in a new division-wide effort to expand the use of planning and assessment of both learning and process outcomes in line with the University's new institutional effectiveness planning and evaluation process. Her office will remain in the GUC, Room 202.





# GREEK

## C O L U M N

### Zeta Tau Alpha Alumnae Chapter Fundraiser

*Roarin' Favorites: A Collection of Favorite Tailgating Recipes for Lion Fans*

*By Christy Raney, General Advisor ZTA Alumni Chapter  
and Anna Wilson Burnley, Vice President of Programs*

Have you recently attended a University of North Alabama football game and watched the Lions play in the heat of an early fall Saturday evening or in the chill of a playoff Saturday morning? If your answer is "yes," then you know about the phenomenon sweeping UNA's campus. If you haven't, let us tell you more.

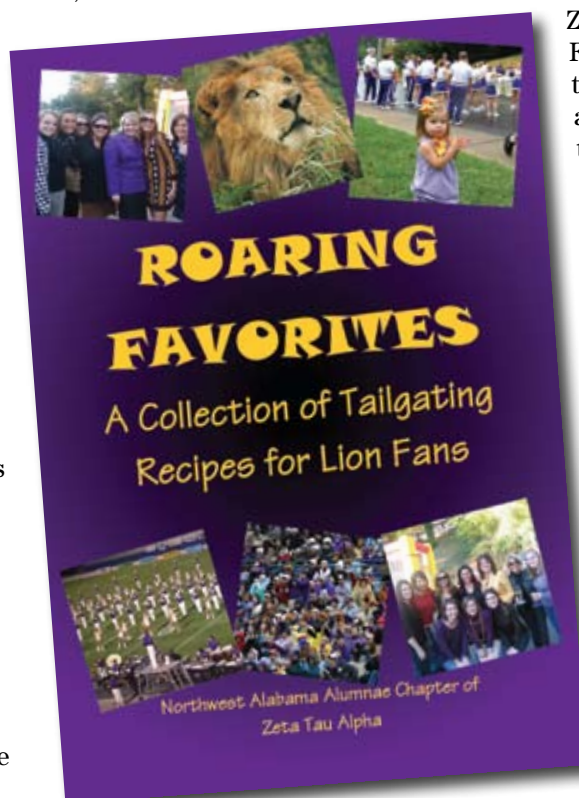
Colorful tents, homey RVs, and UNA fans of all ages dressed in purple and gold cover "Spirit Hill," as it has fondly been named. Televisions dot the hill, too, broadcasting other football games throughout the day. Grills, strong with the smells of juicy burgers and sizzling ribs, accompany each tailgate tent. Tables laden with snacks, drinks, and desserts slowly empty as the afternoon turns to evening. The Purple and White Alumni tent welcomes all former students to its celebration of all things UNA. A couple of hours before kickoff, the "Pride of Dixie Marching Band," the UNA cheerleaders, and the Lion Paws fill the street to begin the Lion Walk. The Lion players and coaches arrive and make their way through the rows of supporters, giving high-fives and footballs as they enter the stadium. The spirit-filled atmosphere readies everyone for the game's kickoff!

Although this tailgating tradition beside Braly Stadium is fairly new, the pride shown for this championship program is a long-standing tradition at UNA. If you haven't joined the fun, we hope you will take advantage this season. If you have experienced Lion Pride and the tailgating tradition, our hope is that the ZTA Alumnae Chapter's cookbook, *Roarin' Favorites: A*

*Collection of Favorite Tailgating Recipes for Lion Fans*, will give you some recipes to share this fall with your fellow Lion Fans. (Excerpted from the Introduction of *Roarin' Favorites*)

Proceeds from cookbook sales will benefit the Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation and its national philanthropy, Breast Cancer Education and Awareness. To promote and support its philanthropy, ZTA partners with the National Football League, the "Save Lids to Save Lives" Yoplait campaign, and the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Survivor Program. ZTA's Northwest Alabama Alumnae Chapter participates locally in service projects that support elementary schools and our troops overseas. This fall, ZTA's collegiate chapter at UNA has big plans to raise awareness and funds. During October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the ZTA's will "Paint the Campus Pink." This weeklong event includes pink decorations across campus, a pink-out day, and a Yoplait yogurt-eating contest to encourage students to save lids. In addition, the ZTA's will sponsor the "Pick of the Patch," a new and exciting fundraiser to support the ZTA Foundation.

Copies of *Roarin' Favorites* will be on sale at all home games this fall. Please stop by the Alumni tent on Spirit Hill for more information or e-mail **Anna Wilson Burnley ('97)** at [annawburnley@aol.com](mailto:annawburnley@aol.com). Go Lions!



## Pi Kappa Alpha Through the Years

For the last 34 years the brothers of the Theta Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha have enjoyed a strong and successful tenure on the University of North Alabama campus. The year 2008 marked a new milestone for UNA's oldest fraternity.

Pi Kappa Alpha was the first national fraternity allowed to begin rush at UNA in the fall of 1972; the year the university allowed fraternities and sororities to be a part of student life. This little-known fact occurred because the Pikes received their "national fraternity" clearance letter earlier than the other fraternities.

Paul E. Jones III, a UNA professor and Pike alumnus of the University of Alabama, was the faculty organizer of the Pike effort. He brought together a group of local Pike alumni to begin the rush process under UNA President Dr. Robert Guillot. Several other national fraternities and sororities soon followed. Jones' efforts paid off on Saturday, March 30, 1974, when the Theta Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha at UNA was awarded its charter by the national headquarters of Pi Kappa Alpha.

In April of 2007, a handful of the original charter members of Theta Alpha returned to campus to hold an alumni reunion at the Pike chapter house. During this reunion, the first-ever meeting of the Theta Alpha Alumni Association was held. This began the process of becoming a nationally recognized and chartered alumni association. A group of 12 alumni signed the petition that was sent to Pike National Headquarters. As a result, the Theta Alpha Alumni Association was chartered on July 4, 2007!

The resurgence in Pike alumni activity has drawn on 34 years of UNA Pike chapter history. 2007 brought 58 dues-paying members and the association has added 20 new members thus far in 2008. The local chapter has 160 e-mail addresses and contact information that has been updated for both the university's Alumni Affairs Office and for the Pi Kappa Alpha Memorial Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee. This number represents a little more than one-third of the living alumni members of Theta Alpha Chapter.

In addition to the updated contact information, these enthusiastic members have raised over \$26,000 in the past year for necessary repairs and upgrades to the undergraduate chapter house on campus. This included a new central heating and air unit that was graciously donated by one alumnus member! In the fall of 2007, the association put on a fantastic cookout for the new pledges of Theta Alpha chapter at the Pike house. Many thanks go to alumni Pike Dick Smith of Athens for bringing his huge

cooker, all the trimmings, and expert cooking skills.

Earlier this year, on the weekend of April 18th and 19th, the association held its second annual alumni weekend. The event kicked off on Friday night with a social event held at the fabulous Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, with 85 alumnus members and their spouses in attendance.

That Saturday the association's business meeting took place, but one particular event rightfully took center stage.

Paul E. Jones III was honored with an annual alumni leadership award created in his honor as the founder of Theta Alpha Chapter. The Paul E. Jones III Leadership award was established to honor the alumnus member who has shown an enthusiastic and zealous spirit of leadership that mirrors that of Jones. The first recipient of this coveted award was **Dr. Phillip R. Langsdon ('75)** of Germantown, Tenn., who was most deserving of this honor due to his continuous and relentless support of the Theta Alpha Chapter.

That afternoon there was an old-fashioned fish fry held at McFarland Park on the banks of

the Tennessee River, with Cajun's Restaurant of Sheffield catering to more than 40 alumni and their spouses, UNA faculty, and undergraduate brothers. It was a beautiful setting, terrific food and a great time was had by all! That night it was back to the Presidential Suite at the Marriott Shoals for more fellowship, including some old Pike "songs" performed by the older alumni to the amusement of the younger alumni.

So far in 2008, the Theta Alpha Alumni Association has helped the undergraduate chapter by providing oversight, leadership and supervision for the undergraduates, which will no doubt ensure the continued success of this proud chapter. All alumnus members are urged to join the Theta Alpha Alumni Association and reconnect with old friends. If you are a Pike alumni from Theta Alpha chapter, former "little sister," "Dream Girl," or just a "Friend of Pike," you can get more information by contacting **Ian Sanford ('76)** at [itsinala@yahoo.com](mailto:itsinala@yahoo.com) or you can send your \$50 dues to the following address:

*Theta Alpha Alumni Association  
C/O Ian Sanford  
804 River Bluff Drive  
Sheffield, Ala. 35660*

*It has been a fabulous year to reconnect!  
**Colin Pharr ('04)**, President  
Theta Alpha Alumni Association*



*Dr. Phillip Langsdon ('75) and Paul E. Jones III*



# Sigma Chi

## ALUMNI IN ACTION

*By Ken Rees ('83), House Corporation President Eta Rho Chapter*

In September of 2007, a group of Sigma Chi alumni and actives met in Florence at the Eta Rho Chapter House and reformed its House Corporation. Our goal is to assist the chapter in repairing and renovating our Chapter House. We have already begun our "Giving Back" campaign and continue to contact our alumni to seek assistance. We need as many brothers as possible to help if we are to be successful with this project.

Completed projects to date include: installation of four new fire extinguishers in cases, renovation of the women's bathroom on the main floor, a new central air and heating unit for upstairs, and a renovated upstairs bathroom. Other projects approved by the House Corporation and being planned include installing porcelain tile in the foyer and the purchase of seven fire escape ladders for the upstairs bedrooms. While

we hope the ladders never have to be used, they will provide an added measure of safety for our brothers who reside in the house. Priority is being given to future projects, including but not limited to: a new roof, foundation repair, and deck repair or replacement.

**For information on our "Giving Back" campaign and how you can help, please contact House Corporation President **Ken Rees ('83)** at [kenrees@charter.net](mailto:kenrees@charter.net).**



## BE THE AUTHOR of your own HISTORY

Think about life in the year 2019.

How old will you be?

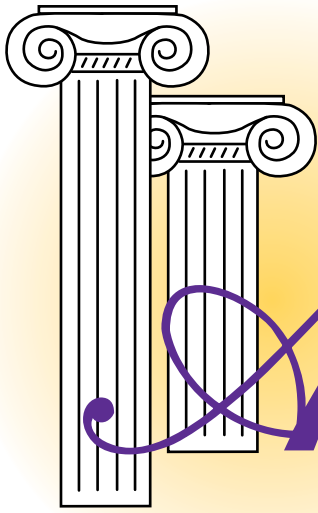
Where will you be in your life?

What milestones will you want to have accomplished?

If you can imagine it, you can make it happen.

Go on, be the author of your own history.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA  
HISTORY IN THE MAKING



Over the past year, University Advancement has made some monumental strides in increasing our communication with our alumni and friends. This is evident in the number of events we have hosted both on and off campus. The off campus chapter development events alone have allowed us contact with more than 1,000 alumni and friends. We know how difficult it can be to get back to campus as often as you would like to. So, we want to keep you as informed as possible and bring UNA to you. While this was a tremendous beginning, this coming year we will increase the number of chapter development sites and events.

In order to keep our alumni and friends as informed as possible; in January, 2009, the Alumni Office will launch the new UNA Alumni On-Lion Web Community. This new internet platform will allow several innovative features. First, each Alumni Chapter will have their own Web page for announcements of local events, meetings and personal communication. Second, you will be able to register to attend all events either on or off campus. Third, as an alumnus, you will be able to post resumes, job searches, and student intern positions. Fourth, you will be able to receive the most current UNA news and updates. And finally, you will receive an alumni e-mail for life that will forward all UNA communications to the e-mail address of your choice. On-Lion will be accessed through a password and login format. Please check the new UNA Website for the specific launch date and to register to become a member of the On-Lion community. In order to insure we have the most current information prior to the conversion to On-Lion, you can update your personal information at [una.edu/alumni](http://una.edu/alumni).

This summer, the Office of University Advancement added **Gail Sutherland ('74)** as the new Director of Grant Programming and Development. Also, this fall, after 30 years as Director of University Publications, **Mary Beth Campbell ('72)** is retiring from UNA. Her tireless commitment to insuring the design and quality of literally thousands of promotional pieces of literature both

internally and externally will be greatly missed. Mary Beth, thank you for your commitment and dedication to UNA. With Ms. Campbell's retirement, the Offices of University Publications and University Relations are being merged into the new Office of University Communications. Josh Woods who has served as Director of University Relations will direct the new office. Also, **Karen Hodges ('84)** has been promoted to Senior Graphic Designer after serving as Assistant Director of University Publications for the past 21 years. In the coming months, one of the major responsibilities of this new office will be the integration of a new marketing strategy that features the new university logo and brand. I hope you visit the new UNA website, designed by our new University Webmaster Jeremy Britten, to take a closer look at the logo and even download wallpaper, screensavers, and the fight songs for your computer and PDA's so you can show your ALUMNI PRIDE at home and work.

For all of you that helped make each of our events possible and successful this year, I say thank you for your participation. Through your support of time, talent, energy and financial resources, you will allow us the opportunity to ensure that the students of today will truly be proud alumni of the future.

Alan Medders  
Vice President for University  
Advancement  
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Florence, AL 35632-0001  
(256) 765-4670  
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# THE KILLIAN OPPORTUNITY

## *Endowed Scholarship Fund*

*By Judith T. Jackson ('91, '02), Director of Major Gifts*

For some time, the University of North Alabama's College of Nursing and Allied Health (CONAH) has

been cognizant of the lack of opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including African-Americans and other underrepresented minorities, to become Registered Nurses (RNs). In 2006, UNA's CONAH took action to remedy the situation by implementing a program called Project OPEN (Opportunities for Entry into Nursing). As stated in the Project OPEN brochure, the program "provides pre-entry collegiate preparation, retention activities, and stipend awards for students who have the potential and desire to become RNs."

The services offered through the program also include peer tutoring, counseling, study sessions, mentoring, and learning communities. The program is funded through a three-year grant that requires additional monies be raised by the University as matching funds. In addition, the grant is renewable for three additional years.

Shortly after the Project OPEN program was established, **Wilburn Killian ('51)**, contacted the UNA Foundation and shared his desire to establish an endowed scholarship that would encourage UNA's nursing students to work in the field of geriatrics. Killian

had recently experienced some negative incidents with nursing-home care and related geriatrics affairs while

trying to attend to his beloved wife, Martha (also a UNA graduate), and wanted to turn his passion for reform in those areas into tangible and measurable improvements in the education process of RNs. He accomplished his goal by establishing the Killian Opportunity Endowed Scholarship Fund. The Killian Fund was established to assure the continued feasibility of Project OPEN

upon completion of the grant period.

In March of this year, Killian traveled to the UNA campus, along with his daughter, Kathy Porteous, and his nephew, Scott Stringer, to spend the morning observing nursing classes and to share lunch with the CONAH and Project OPEN faculty (see photo). We are pleased that he has chosen to link his passion in the area of geriatrics to the Project OPEN goals. We believe his choice creates a win-win scenario for everyone.

Please share your scholarship vision with the UNA Advancement Officers. You, too, can be a leader in the specific area of education for which you have a passion. You may contact Judy Jackson, Director of Major Gifts, at (256)765-4896 or jtjackson@una.edu.



*Assistant Professor Laura Williams, Wilburn Killian ('51), and Dean Birdie Bailey*

## HARLEY T. AND RUTH KIRBY FUND

### HUNTSVILLE/MADISON COUNTY UNA ALUMNI CHAPTER

#### *Scholarship Endowment: Computer Information Services*

My parents, Harley T. and Ruth Kirby, appreciated UNA for the educational and social opportunities we all enjoyed as a family. My parents made lifelong friends with both faculty members and students at UNA. After my dad retired from the Army as a Colonel, he entered Florence State College in 1960. When my dad was in school, his younger classmates enjoyed the Colonel's 'real world experience' stories associated with some of their history lessons. All enjoyed the fine meals and gracious hospitality offered

by my mother when they visited our home in Cloverdale.

When I attended UNA (Florence State University) my parents welcomed my friends and were equally proud of everyone's accomplishments, academic and otherwise. After I graduated, my parents continued to boost the university by attending cultural, academic and sports activities.

Thanks to my parents' work ethic and resourcefulness, I am able

to support our "family" university by helping establish a Huntsville/Madison County UNA Alumni Chapter scholarship, so others can have the opportunity to learn and thrive from all that UNA has to offer. My parents taught me by example about giving back to one's community, and I believe they would be proud to be part of giving back through this scholarship endowment.

I extend my best wishes for academic and career success to the recipients of this scholarship. I hope you will be inclined to add your support to the university, both as a student and as an alumnus or alumna.

*Regards,*

**Linda (Kirby) Vaughan ('70)**



*B.J. and President Bill Cale with Linda Kirby ('70) and Bill Vaughan*

## THE LION MATCH PROGRAM

In 2004, my wife, Barbara and I decided to honor my mother, Eula Ethel White, by establishing an endowed scholarship in her name. This is something we had wanted to do since my graduating in 1960. I am pleased that the balance of that scholarship has grown substantially and is now providing undergraduate scholarships to graduates of Brilliant High School in Alabama. This year the scholarship amount awarded was \$961. At the time the endowment was established the minimum amount required to set up an endowed scholarship was \$10,000. Recently, this minimum amount has been increased to \$25,000. That sounds like it may be bad news; however, with this change comes good news. The University has created a new program called "The Lion Match Program" and will match the typical 5 percent of your endowed funds. This actually doubles the amount of the award each year. Those who endowed scholarships with a balance less than \$25,000 are now allowed to sign a pledge to bring the balance up to the new minimum over a five-year time frame. The amount that will be doubled and awarded will be a ratio of the

additional amount given each year, plus the 5 percent given from the current balance in the account.

Barbara and I have signed the pledge card to bring the balance of our endowed scholarship to the \$25,000 minimum within the next five years and hopefully, will be able to meet that goal earlier. In my articles as the NAA President for 2007-2008, I have continued to encourage the readers of the *UNA Magazine* to give back to their University. I will continue to encourage your giving and as the old saying goes, "put your money where your mouth is." We have done so. Anyone can contribute to the balance of endowed scholarships. The minimum contribution is \$50.00. I encourage you to review the various endowed scholarships at the University and add to those you may have an interest in increasing. It would be even better to establish a scholarship to honor someone special in your life. Knowing that you are helping others who you do not know is an enriching experience. It is truly better to give than receive.



**Jerry and Barbara White ('60)**

## Planned Giving

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**Dr. Barry K. Morris**  
Director of Planned Giving

**(256) 765-4861**  
**bkmorris@una.edu**







# the Courtview SOCIETY

## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

*Never Leave That Till Tomorrow Which You Can Do Today.*

-Benjamin Franklin

It is July as I write this greeting. It is hot today. It was hot yesterday. It will be hot tomorrow. But as you read this, it is September and fall is in the air, reminding us that winter is coming. The one thing we know about the weather is that it will change. Just as seasons change, so do fashions, laws, and circumstances. And so should the plans that are designed to provide a stable financial future for ourselves and our loved ones.

As you review your estate plans to ensure that your family, friends, and others will benefit in the ways that you desire, you may find that with careful planning, you can provide a special gift that will benefit future generations of University of North Alabama students as well.

Growing up in Addison, Alabama, **Delores ('58)** and **Weldon Cole ('60)** never imagined they would be in a position to create an endowment to fund college scholarships. Weldon was born in 1936 on a farm six miles from Addison and Delores two years later. As Weldon tells it, "We were both spanked by the same doctor." Except for Weldon's military service, the two years and six miles that separated them at birth are about as far apart as they have been since they first met in the Addison public school system.

After Weldon graduated from Addison High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, making him eligible for GI Bill education benefits. After Delores graduated as valedictorian, she enrolled in Florence State College, predecessor to UNA. After his three-year hitch in the Army, Weldon followed his high school sweetheart to Florence State, where they were married in 1957. According to Weldon, "I never went to college a 'single day' in my life."

The young married couple soon found themselves having to make a difficult choice faced by many of their generation. Although Delores was an outstanding student majoring in business administration, she and Weldon decided that she would give up her studies while Weldon finished his degree.

So Delores began working as secretary to Dr. Christian, head of the Business Department and later as secretary to Mr. Otis Peacock, Vice-President of Administrative Affairs. While excelling in his studies, Weldon also worked part-time at Sears, sold advertising for the local newspaper, was editor of the *Lion Gridiron*, and business manager for the *Flor-Ala*. Weldon graduated with the highest GPA in Accounting, was elected to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and to the Florence State Hall of Fame, and received the Turrus Fidelis Key. He represented the state of Alabama at the White House Conference on Children and Youth. He was awarded a scholarship to the University of Alabama where he earned an M.B.A. in 1961.

For the next 39 years, Delores and Weldon followed his professional path to New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Georgia, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Before he retired

as Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning and Business Development, at Albany International Corporation of Albany, New York, Weldon held various executive positions with Continental Can Company, Cities Service Company, and practiced public accounting with the firms of Hurdman, Cranstoun, Penney & Co. and Price, Waterhouse & Co. in New York.

After his retirement, Weldon and Delores returned to Alabama to devote themselves to public service and philanthropy. In 2006, they established the Delores and Weldon Cole Honors Endowment. This endowment fund is dedicated to benefit the UNA Honors Program. Annual earnings from the fund are used for scholarships, salary supplements, program support and enrichment. According to Dr. Vince Brewton, Director of the Honors Program, "We are deeply grateful to Delores and Weldon Cole for their generosity in support of the Honors Program. Private giving on behalf of higher education nationally is the true margin of excellence, the difference between good enough and outstanding. Our goal in the Honors Program is to offer an unsurpassed educational experience to students from the region and the nation in the inimitable atmosphere of the UNA campus community. The Coles' gift to the Honors Program is a beautiful illustration of alumni trust in the direction of the university, and donors can be certain that every penny of their gifts goes directly to scholarships and academic enrichment for our students."

In addition to their Honors Endowment, the Coles have also made a testamentary gift in their will, the income from which will be dedicated to the University Honors Program. As a true philanthropist, Weldon has said, "We've always heard 'Give till it hurts,' I say, 'Give till it feels good!'"

If you would like to feel good and would like some information on establishing and/or reviewing your will, please don't hesitate to contact me.

To view a complete version of the Courtview Society Newsletter online, go to [www.una.edu/advancement/courtview-society](http://www.una.edu/advancement/courtview-society). If you would like to receive hard copy in the mail please contact me.

*Dr. Barry Morris, Director of Planned Giving*

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[bkmorris@una.edu](mailto:bkmorris@una.edu)  
[www.una.edu/advancement/courtview-society](http://www.una.edu/advancement/courtview-society)



With the rising energy prices and growing concern for our environment, many people are looking for alternative ways to live. We at UNA are no exception. In our inaugural effort to go green, an Annual Fund E-Appeal will be sent in Fall 2008 to all e-mail addresses of record. Using this method of communication virtually eliminates the cost of envelopes, brochures, and postage. Even your gift acknowledgement will be electronic unless you want or need a hard copy. There will be no paper to be recycled or thrown away, thus making this E-Appeal environmentally friendly. Not only will it be environmentally friendly, more scholarship dollars will reach our students with the reduction of our overhead cost from the mailings. Because we do not have e-mail addresses for the entire database, I would like to encourage you to update your information and provide e-mail addresses at [www.una.edu/advancement](http://www.una.edu/advancement), then click the Update Your Record link. I look forward to your participation in PURPLE GOING GREEN!

For more information, contact:

**Melody A. Stewart ('06),**

*Director of Annual Giving*

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

University Foundation

One Harrison Plaza

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Florence, AL 35632-0001

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[mastewart@una.edu](mailto:mastewart@una.edu) • [www.una.edu/annual-giving](http://www.una.edu/annual-giving)

## PHONATHON

By: Melody A. Stewart ('06), Director of Annual Giving

The Phonathon Team continues to do an outstanding job of strengthening relationships with our alumni and friends. The student callers strive to be professional yet friendly when you answer their call. Thanks to your generosity, they raised over \$49,000 during the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 Phonathon campaign.

Beginning this fall, we will have several volunteer callers. This group will consist of scholarship recipients, student athletes, and students from various organizations. Once again, we have mailed you a pre-Phonathon card allowing you to make your Annual Fund donation before the students begin calling. That way, you may eliminate yourself from the calling list by mailing your gift or pledge in lieu of making a gift or pledge over the telephone.

You continue to set the example to all of our students as they perfect their people skills and learn from you how to treat giving as a privilege. Your patience and kindness on the phone mean a lot to the Phonathon Team callers.



**Your pride is calling!**

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of the UNA Phonathon







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*McKinnon is interviewed on stage during the induction ceremony.*



*McKinnon is working with kids at the Hall of Fame Clinic.*



*John Randall and McKinnon after flag football game.*



# UNA'S MCKINNON

## RECEIVES ULTIMATE COLLEGIATE HONOR

*By Jeff Hodges ('82) UNA Sports Information Director*

Former University of North Alabama linebacker Ronald McKinnon received the ultimate collegiate honor on July 19 when he was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

To put the honor in perspective, you have to consider that research shows that more than 4.7 million student-athletes have competed in collegiate football, and there are more than 700 institutions currently playing college football. From that group, McKinnon is one of just 1,013 to have been selected to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

While some of the names of the 2008 inductees - like Doug Flutie and Joe Paterno - may have more national recognition than that of McKinnon, none of the 20 enshrinees brought the collegiate resume to the induction that UNA's honoree did.

McKinnon was a four-time, first-team all-conference pick, a three-time consensus first-team All-American, recipient of the Harlon Hill Trophy as Division II National Player of the Year as a senior and was a driving force on three consecutive national championship teams from 1993-95. He becomes the first UNA player inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The three days of activities associated with the induction in South Bend, Ind., was an experience that McKinnon will never forget.

"This has been such a great experience, to be with legendary players and coaches and it is just overwhelming," McKinnon said. "Being here and being a part of the Hall of Fame celebration hasn't really sunk in yet. I'm still amazed that I'm a part of it.

"I feel like I was part of a real special group of players and coaches at UNA and that's what helped put me here."

The activities began for McKinnon on Thursday night with a private ceremony with family and friends at the Hall of Fame. A golf tournament followed on Friday and then there was a full slate of activities on Saturday. The day began for McKinnon with a morning parade, followed by a flag football game with the other inductees.

McKinnon was on the receiving end of two touchdown passes from fellow inductee and Heisman Trophy winner Flutie. After the first TD catch, former Indiana and Arizona Cardinal running back Anthony Thompson joined McKinnon in the end zone for a chest bump. The celebration ended when Thompson bounced off McKinnon and landed flat on his back on the turf. The local South Bend television stations captured the moment and one station replayed it as the "Play of the Day" on the

local news.

Following the game, the inductees put on a football clinic at the Hall of Fame for several hundred area youth.

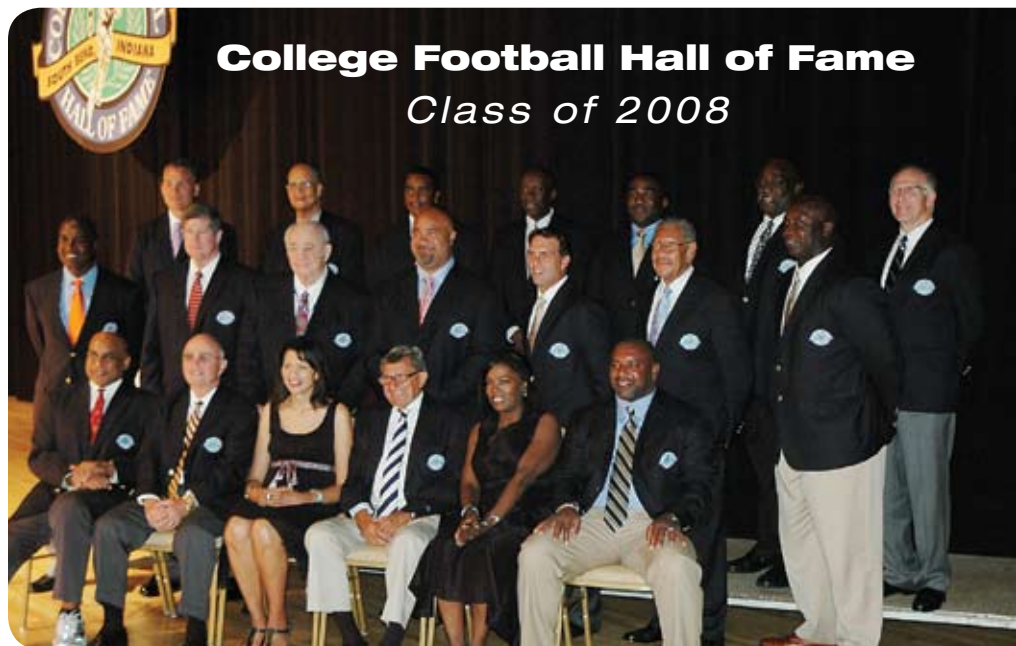
An autograph session was next with fans lined up around the facility to have a chance to meet the enshrinees.

After a press conference, the actual induction ceremony took place with McKinnon seated next to legendary Penn State Coach Paterno at dinner.

The three-hour induction show concluded with the enshrinees presented with College Football Hall of Fame rings.

Since his retirement after a 10-year career in the National Football League with the Arizona Cardinals and New Orleans Saints, McKinnon has received three Hall of Fame inductions. He entered the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame last October, the Division II Football Hall of Fame in December and the College Football Hall of Fame in July.

McKinnon and his wife LaShandra reside in Bessemer. They have two daughters and they are expecting the birth of their first son in November.



**College Football Hall of Fame**  
*Class of 2008*

### **Players:**

*Jim Ballard, Ronald McKinnon, John Randle, Brad Rowland, Tom Brahaney, Dave Brown (deceased), Jeff Davis, Doug Flutie, Johnnie Johnson, Rex Kern, Ahman Rashad, Anthony Thompson, Wilson Whitley (deceased), Reggie Williams, Richard Wood, and Chris*

### **Coaches:**

*Herb Deromedi, Joe Paterno, and Doug Porter*

# UNA STAFF MEMBERS HONORED AT COSIDA CONVENTION

**Jeff Hodges ('82)** and **Shane Herrmann ('99)** of the University of North Alabama sports information staff received honors during the College Sports Information Directors of America's annual convention in Tampa, FL, from June 28 to July 2.



*Jeff Hodges ('82)*



*Shane Herrmann ('99)*



*Cayce Cooper ('08)*

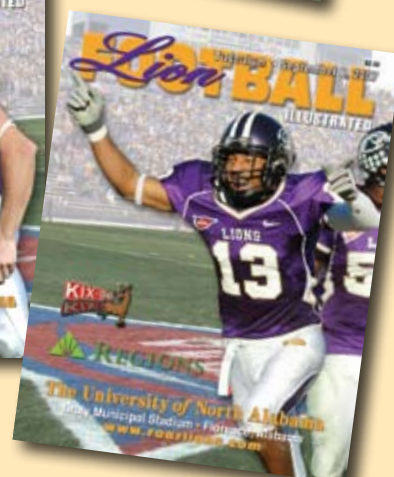
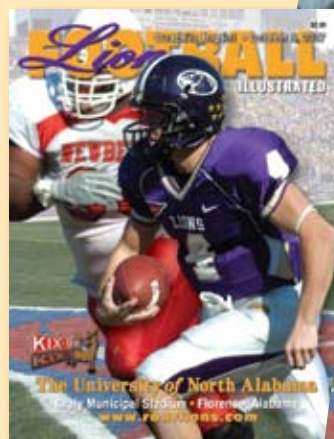
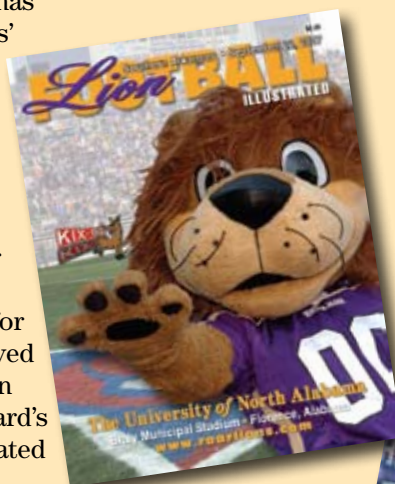
Hodges, longtime UNA sports information director, received the Scoop Hudgins Outstanding SID Award from the All-American Football Foundation. The award is presented to athletic media-relations professionals who have done outstanding work to promote collegiate football. Hodges has served as sports information director at UNA for the last 25 years and has helped promote the Lions' three NCAA Division II National Championship teams and eight Gulf South Conference championship squads. In addition, he has served as the media coordinator for the NCAA Division II Football Championship for the last 22 years; has served as chairman of the Harlon Hill Trophy since the award's creation in 1986; and created and serves as chairman of the Division II Football Hall of Fame. He serves on the selection committee for

the College Football Hall of Fame and he has also coordinated the selection of numerous decade and quarter-century teams on the university, conference and Division II level.

UNA's athletic publications also received three national awards from CoSIDA. UNA football game programs were named "Best in the Nation" and "Best Cover" in the nation for the second straight year.

**Karen Hodges ('84)** of the UNA Publications Department designed the covers of the programs and UNA student assistant **Cayce Cooper ('08)** also received a certificate of recognition for her assistance on the programs.

The UNA women's volleyball media guide, created by UNA Assistant SID **Shane Herrmann ('99)**, was named "Third in the Nation." All of the awards were in Division B, which includes all NCAA Division II and NAIA schools. UNA has received more than 75 CoSIDA publications awards in the last 25 years.





## Spotlights

## Caty Harris: A Profile of Service

By Meredith Louise Carr, Student Intern

The average Southern college graduate does not usually choose to forego job searching or career advancement to devote his or her time, intelligence, and social life to an international cause. However, **Caty Harris ('05)** did just that when she made the life-changing decision to become a Peace Corps volunteer. After graduating from the University of North Alabama with a degree in English, Caty tried to figure out a way that she could be useful to a cause, yet receive valuable references, experiences, and knowledge. After careful consideration, Caty began the year-long process to volunteer with the Peace Corps.

Through a long, complicated journey, she was chosen to travel to and work in the Philippines. Excited, but a little nervous, Caty packed her bags, said goodbye to family and friends, and began her intensive training. Due

to her experience in working with international students at UNA, her assignment was social work at a home for children in the Philippines.

In the province of Zambales, or "the Zam," as Caty calls it, the closest Peace Corps volunteer to Caty was two hours away. She describes the experience as a difficult one, especially during the first few days, for those who were not emotionally prepared for what was going on. "They're [Peace Corps] always trying to weed people out, even when you're already training in the country," she said. At first, Caty's efforts to develop the education system were met with some resistance from locals. However, the caregivers at

the children's home enthusiastically received her advice and ideas with open arms. Several of the children at the home had been severely abused, so Caty helped develop programs to teach the caregivers how to effectively help the children. When the caregivers asked for training in behavior and intervention methods, Caty responded with programs to teach them how to deal with the extreme issues they were dealing with, which included fighting and rape.

After moving into her own house, Caty was able to finally come to several realizations about her work in

Zambales. She said that she woke up one morning and was actually glad to be where she was. "It's a realization that you've evolved a lot and you've become a person who can deal with this stuff now," Caty remembered. She continued to work tirelessly, developing even more programs, such as an environment workshop and game-plan that encouraged recycling and composting, and even helped develop a library. Everything she did, she recorded on her resume, in hopes that this work would someday help her get a job back in the United States. "When you realize that you can't save the world, and what you are doing is significantly less than what you thought you'd be doing ...

well ...if you aren't in it a little for yourself, you leave," she concluded. As it turns out, Caty has been accepted to the University of Chicago Graduate School's program in Social Work. Her qualifications and work with the Peace Corps in that particular field made her an excellent candidate for the Master's degree program.

When asked why she made the decision to join the Peace Corps, Caty replied that the Peace Corps sounded interesting. She wasn't exactly sure what she wanted to do after college graduation, and felt that this was the perfect avenue to explore different options for her future. "I feel like life is really short; why waste your time on something that won't be getting you anywhere?" she said.

At first, Caty's family and friends (her grandparents in Alabama and her parents abroad) weren't too enthusiastic about her joining the Peace Corps. "A lot of people thought it [the decision] was really weird," she remembered. This is partly due to the fact that there are very few Peace Corps volunteers from the south, according to Caty. Many volunteers come from states like California and New York, rather than Alabama. Caty hinted that there were many "misconceptions" about the Peace Corps in the South, many of which she found to be quite different during her tenure in the service. The bottom line to success in the Peace Corps, according to Caty, is experience with international relations, emotional capability, and a very realistic idea of how big of a commitment the Peace Corps actually is.

*Caty Harris is everything we look for in the students we recruit to UNA. She's smart, funny, ambitious--a true world changer. I have never been prouder of a former student. The UNA family has something really special in Caty Harris.*

Vince Brewton, Ph.D.  
Director, UNA Honors Program  
Associate Professor of English



## Alumni Couple Working Hard For Virginia's Parks

*By Cheryl N. Schmidt, contributing writer*

**Johnny Finch ('66)**, UNA's 1999 Alumnus of the Year, and his wife, **Jo ('65)** spent their professional careers serving others. Johnny was with the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) for 32 years and Jo was a dedicated math teacher.



In retirement they planned to travel and enjoy their home on Lake Anna in Virginia. But the traveling has slowed down because the Finches are back in public service - this time as volunteers trying to improve Virginia's park system.

They clearly thrive on hard work. Johnny Finch made it all the way up to the No. 2 position at the

GAO, an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress and watches how the federal government spends money. He was the Assistant Comptroller General at the 5,300-member agency when he retired in 1998.

Jo Finch, meanwhile, conquered the classroom, teaching math at junior high, senior high, and community college levels, eventually retiring as the Assistant Chair of the Science and Technology Division of the Northern Virginia Community College Manassas Campus.

Their latest challenge is a tough one, but the Finches are already making a difference.

Virginia has the most frugally funded parks in the nation. It ranks dead last among the 50 states in terms of per capita funding for its state parks system. One reason for the underfunding was "the parks never had a constituency before. There was no one to speak to politicians on behalf of the parks," Johnny Finch said in a recent telephone interview.

Now the Finches speak often for the park system and its employees, and have organized other citizens to do the same. For the past six years, Johnny has been president of the Virginia Association for Parks (VAFP), a nonprofit statewide umbrella organization that supports all the parks in Virginia, whether they are funded by the national government, state or local governments. Jo serves as secretary of VAFP and is also president of Friends of Lake Anna State Park, another citizen support group the couple helped launch.

The groups have "had some successes, but there is still a lot of work to do. From 2002 to 2008 we've managed to

get the park system budget increases totaling a little over \$13 million and we've been able to add 108 new positions," Johnny said.

In 2003, the park system's total authorized staffing was 185, for 34 state parks. Currently it is 293, but "our goal is to reach 400 ... thus we remain 107 positions short of our goal."

Because of his love of public service, after he retired Johnny volunteered for - and was appointed to - several committees in Spotsylvania County, where he and Jo live.

"I'd done public service, but the national career was just so consuming, I didn't have any time to do anything locally. So, when we retired, it was payback time at some local organizations," Johnny said.

A county committee he was on had recommended that the Lake Anna State Park management develop a "friends" support group. Johnny was busy with other local issues but suggested to Jo that she might want to get involved.

In 2001, through Jo's leadership, the nonprofit Friends of Lake Anna State Park was officially formed. The group has since provided more than \$100,000 in infrastructure improvements at the park, including a 70-seat, \$45,000 "classroom in the woods."

Since 1980, the Finches have owned property on Lake Anna, one of Virginia's most popular lakes. The 2,800-acre state park has 10 miles of shoreline on the lake.

Though the home they built on the property is close to the state park, Johnny said, they had never really used it. "The year 2000 was the first time I'd been in the state park, and it is just 10 miles down the road."

Once they finally went, they were impressed with what the park had to offer and with the dedication of the park's employees, who did a great job despite being underfunded and understaffed, he said.

After adding on to their Lake Anna home when they retired, the Finches made it their full-time residence. From there they coordinate activities for the groups they belong to that promote and support parks and other outdoor resources.

In addition to his local community service, Johnny has also been active at the state level. He has served as a member of the Governor's Outdoor Resources and Tourism Advisory Panel, the Governor-Elect's Natural Resources Policy Transition Committee, the Governor's Natural Resources Partnership and the Governor's Natural Resources Summit. He is a member of the Advisory Committee for the Virginia Outdoors Plan and a founding member of the VirginiaForever Board of Directors.

He is also an active member of the Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, World



Wildlife Fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Conservation Association and the National Park Trust.

The Finches both grew up in Alabama, Johnny in Vernon and Jo in Florence. They met and married while attending UNA and still have friends and relatives in the Shoals, including Jo's parents, Joseph "Ed" and Margaret Wilbanks of Sheffield. Their daughter, Shannon, and her husband, Clay Athey, live in Wilmington, DE, with their "very precocious" 2-year-old granddaughter, Megan.

They'd like to be able to travel more, Johnny said, but first they'd like to get another \$10 million in the parks budget, another 100-plus new positions, and a "friends" group at every state park in Virginia – they're still a few parks short.

One of their proudest moments came in 2007 when the National Association of State Park Directors presented its President's Award to the Virginia Association for Parks. Founded in 1997, the VAFP was the "youngest" organization to ever receive the President's Award.

"Our work with the park system is truly a "labor of love," Johnny said, "We're thrilled with the improvements that we've been able to be a part of, but we're frustrated that we aren't able to do more because the parks, the parks personnel and the Virginia citizenry are all so deserving of more resources being dedicated to conserving and protecting the Commonwealth's natural resources."

You can read more about the VAFP and the work it is doing at its website: [www.virginiaparks.org/](http://www.virginiaparks.org/)

## WHEN I FIND THE OCEAN

Independent filmmaker and University of Alabama alumni **Tonya S. Holly ('87)** is pleased to announce the theatrical run and highly-anticipated DVD release of Cypress Moon Productions heartwarming family film *When I Find The Ocean*. The film began a theatrical run in July and is slated to be released on DVD throughout the country when it will become available at most major retail outlets and video stores including the three largest-Blockbuster, Movie Gallery/Hollywood Entertainment and Family Video-as well as on Netflix, among other outlets.

*When I Find The Ocean* was shot almost entirely in Alabama, with three days in Tennessee. The film utilized more than 300 businesses across the state, hundreds of extras, local talent and crew from the surrounding areas. The Voting Rights March in Selma, Alabama, was re-enacted, utilizing hundreds of extras from across 15 states.

*When I Find The Ocean* follows the journey of a little girl (Lily Matland Holly) who sets out to find the ocean. Escaping from a dangerous secret and leaving an otherwise loving home filled with her mother and grandparents, Lily sets out with her beloved dog and rabbit to find peace with her father, who died at sea. Set in 1965 Alabama during a time of immense prejudice and civil unrest, Lily confronts a new set of obstacles along the way after she is befriended by a tugboat captain.

Written, produced and directed by Tonya S. Holly of Cypress Moon Productions, *When I Find The Ocean* also stars Lee Majors (*The Six Million Dollar Man*, *The Fall Guy*), Diane Ladd (*Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*), Graham Greene (*Dances With Wolves*), Richard Tyson (*Kindergarten Cop*), George Lindsey (*The Andy Griffith Show*) Bernie Casey (*Another 48 Hours*), and Amy Redford (*The Guitar*). Thomas M. Rogers III executive produced with Holly.

In addition to *When I Find The Ocean*, Holly is gearing up to begin production on her new feature film that she wrote and will direct, *The Story of Bonnie and Clyde*, a new adaptation (not a remake) of the classic love story which tells the thrilling story of the notorious fugitives. Taking place during the 1930s Depression, the film follows the adventures of Bonnie and Clyde, uncovering many times in their lives that have never before been seen on the big screen. Holly is in talks with name talent to star in the film. The film is set to be shot in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Holly graduated from the University of North Alabama with a Bachelor of

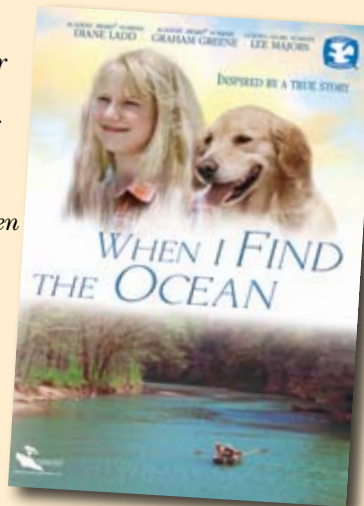
Arts in Theater. Holly also has been involved with The George Lindsey Film Festival since its inception and served as the commencement speaker at graduation 2006.

Holly is an accomplished writer, producer and director of feature films. Alabama born and raised, Holly stays true to her roots.

Committed to further positioning Alabama as a viable location for film production, Holly has not only written her screenplays and shot most of the scenes from her films in her home state; she also opened Cypress Moon Studios in the heart of the Shoals in Alabama, to produce them in.

Holly, who founded and has served as president of the Alabama Filmmakers Association since 1991, is also one of the state's most prolific

advocates of initiating tax incentives and is frequently invited to speak about the topic at various film festivals, film markets, and political gatherings throughout the country ... and now her voice is being heard worldwide. Holly recently participated in a panel with key industry executives in London.



## Riddle's Around the World

*By Meredith Louise Carr, Student Intern*

When most people go traveling, they make it to Panama City Beach or Gatlinburg. However, **Scott Riddle ('89)** and his wife **Kristal ('90)** have traveled a bit farther than that. Over three and a half months, Scott and Kristal made a 27,000-mile trek around the entire globe. What spurred the idea for the trip? In the words of Scott Riddle, it was “a love of traveling and a (lifelong) dream to circumnavigate the world.” Instead of traveling via airplane, the Riddles chose to take the “road less traveled” and spend more time in each of the regions they visited. Whenever possible, they traveled by boat, train, and car. To avoid jet lag, they smartly decided to travel to the west, rather than east, which allowed them to stay on a more normal sleep schedule.

Stopping in Japan, Scott and Kristal threw themselves headfirst into the business of the city of Tokyo. Kristal described that experience as an interesting one, and spoke of several common misconceptions that their experience proved differently. For example, Kristal completely disagreed with the untrue idea that Japanese people are rude. “As a group,” she said, “they are actually quite pushy, which can be easily interpreted as rude. But if you pluck one person out of the group, they are so polite and helpful.” Tokyo was in fact, their second favorite place to visit on a long list of cities and countries.

At the top of the “favorite places” list was Vienna, Austria, which the couple described as “such a very polite society ... very organized, with fabulous people and a beautiful country.” With Tokyo in second, Greece and Ireland tied for third place on the Riddle's list. The people in both countries were very opinionated and fun, according

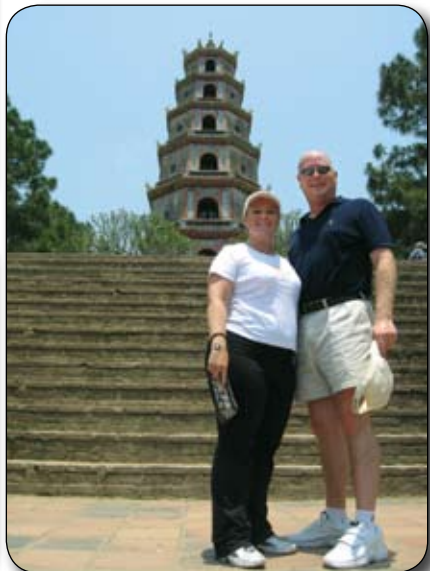
to Scott and Kristal, and they both enjoyed having conversations with the local people. Another favorite country to visit was Vietnam. Although under Communist rule, the Riddles admired the Vietnamese attitude toward life, saying there was an “I am going to get ahead, I am going to make a better life for myself” type of mentality for the majority of the people, even those who were very poor.

“We are given a perception in America that it is dangerous to travel or that Americans are unwelcome,” Scott said. “But most people not only don't hate you, they are just trying to get through life, just like you are.” This new way of looking at the world, and most importantly, the people they met along the way, helped Scott and Kristal put international relations into perspective. “It's not the places so much as the people,” Scott and Kristal both agreed.

After coming home from their long journey, Scott and Kristal returned to work and began uploading the thousands of pictures they took along the way. “My biggest regret in coming home and going to the

office,” Scott said, “was not getting to spend as much time with her (Kristal).” Their deep and loving relationship goes back to their undergraduate days at UNA, when they met in French class. Their mutual love of the TV series, *Star Trek* is, as they describe, “a deep core of their relationship.” “You hear that opposites attract, but we have so much in common, it's scary,” Kristal joked. Even their love of all things Walt Disney is a part of their bond. In fact, Scott and Kristal have visited every single Disney facility in the world!

As for future journeys, Scott and Kristal hope to travel next all the way up to the Arctic Circle. After that, Kristal is hoping to persuade Scott to go on an Amazon cruise.





## “My Journey to the Classroom” Mi viaje a la sala de clase

By Molly Mulder ('02)



I can remember when I was a little girl sitting on my Mom's lap watching the news or the weather channel. I would always ask her, "How long do you think it will be before I can be up there?" Throughout my junior year at the University of North Alabama, I had studied and prepared for a career in broadcast journalism. During the summer of 2001, that changed. I had the opportunity to study with my Spanish Professor, Dr. Robert Adler, in Salamanca, Spain. Little did I know that when I boarded the plane the trip would change my life.

After several weeks in Spain, and falling in love with the country's language and culture, I knew I wanted to take what I had learned back to Alabama and teach. I called my Mom from Madrid to give her the "news" that I had changed my mind and wanted to teach Spanish. She thought this was just a phase and that I would get over it when I returned home. I was advised to stay the course and I graduated in May 2002 with a major in Broadcast Journalism and a minor in Spanish.

After graduation, I was asked by Eddie Hill, who was Superintendent of Education for the Daleville City Board of Education, in Alabama, if I could teach Spanish at his middle school. His school district had a high population of Hispanics and he needed to find a Spanish teacher. I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming! Because of the shortage of foreign language teachers I was able to be employed on an emergency certificate and I began teaching Spanish to seventh- and eighth-graders three months after I graduated from UNA.

I know I wouldn't have made it without my mentor, Dr. Adler. I spent many nights talking to him and sending him e-mails during the day for his advice and his "Perfect Adler Rules" (Grammar Rules that must be memorized by students as a language learning game). He always encouraged me and gave me the confidence I needed. It didn't take me very long to realize I had found my passion and what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I continued my education and in 2005 received a Masters Degree in Education in English Language Arts. In 2007, through an independent study with Dr. Adler and UNA, I took the final 10 hours that I needed to become highly qualified to teach Spanish.

I applied for a Spanish teaching position at Enterprise High School just prior to the school being leveled by a catastrophic tornado that killed eight students. After the

tornado, I felt I had no hope of being hired at EHS; but just before the end of the school year, I received a call and was asked to come for an interview. It was explained to me our days would not be typical school days. We start and end our day at odd times and we conduct class in FEMA trailers that are parked on the campus of Enterprise/Ozark Community College. Without any hesitation, I signed up! It has been an amazing experience getting to know the faculty and students who have endured such tragedy but yet have been able to accept and adjust. A new Enterprise High School is currently under construction and we expect to move into the new school in fall 2010.

All in all, it has been a great journey to the classroom. Through all my endeavors, I will always pay tribute to the place I called my "home away from home," my school - the University of North Alabama.



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A donation has been made by Regions to help with the printing of the UNA Magazine.

# class notes

## 50s

**Jasper Carl Glass ('52)** and **Anne Crowe Glass ('52)**

reside in Jemison, Alabama. Together, they have three daughters, a great-granddaughter and a great-grandson. Jasper is a retired chemist and Anne is a retired teacher.

**Betty Jo Randle Thornburgh ('56)**

and her husband of 52 years, Henry, live in Marietta, Georgia. They have a daughter and two sons and six grandchildren.

**William A. "Bill" and Jerry Streater Godsey ('58)** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in March 2008 with a reception for family and friends at the Edgewater Community Clubhouse, Madison, Alabama. Bill coached high school football at Butler High School and Lee High School, both of Huntsville, for several years and then retired from State Farm Insurance as a district manager after 30 years of service. The anniversary celebration was hosted by their children **Lee ('84)** and **Ben Renfroe** and **Bubba and Carol Wesson ('86) Godsey** and the grandchildren.

**Lacy Jackson ('58)** and wife Mary attended the Virginia Alumni Chapter meeting. They make their home in Winchester where he retired from the military.

## 60s

**Tom Greenhaw ('60)** lives in Rainbow City, Alabama

with his wife, Diane. Tom works in management at Mid-South Industries in Gadsden. He has agreed to play a leadership role in developing an alumni chapter in the Gadsden/Anniston area. He attended the Art of the Competition exhibit at the Mary Hardin Center.

**James E. Weatherbee ('63)** and wife Judith live in Burke, Virginia. They attended the Virginia Alumni Chapter meeting. James retired as Corporate Vice President of Science Applications.

**Barbara Robertson ('64)** taught sixth grade in DeKalb County, Georgia for two years. She married William

Shore Robertson in 1966 and moved to Warrenton, Virginia, where they have lived ever since. She retired in 1996 from teaching fifth grade in Fauquier County, Virginia. In retirement, she continues to enjoy traveling, playing tennis, playing bridge, reading, and gardening. Their son, Stuart Alexander Robertson, lives in Richmond and will be married in September. They attended the Virginia Alumni Chapter meeting.

**James Battcher ('66)** attended the Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting in Charlotte. James and his wife, Jeannette, live in Hickory, North Carolina. James retired from Personnel Management as a consultant to a company in Dothan, Alabama.

**Carl Mathis ('66)** attended the North Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting. Carl is the President of the Carolina Alumni Chapter. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Penny. Carl is the owner and president of Power Sales Company.

**Fran Vest Rowe ('69)** was recognized as "Teacher of the Year" by Falkville VFW Post 10774 in Alabama. Rowe retired as a reading enrichment teacher after a 34-year teaching career. She served as faculty sponsor for the senior class and Student Government. Her "Teacher of the Year" recognition was a citizenship education award that resulted after the student council went to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, in the spring of 2006 and helped sponsor a prom for Bay High School that was devastated during Hurricane Katrina.

## 70s

**Mary Stone Johnson ('70)** has been promoted by

Northwest Georgia Bank to assistant vice president-branch manager of the Battlefield Financial Center. Her husband, **Dennis Johnson ('70)**, a retired educator, serves as director of the Catoosa County Recreation Department. She and her family live in Ringgold, Georgia. Their daughter, Abbey, lives in Ringgold and they have two grandchildren.

**William "Butch" Stanphill ('70 & '76)** attended the North Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting. Butch is Senior Director of Campus Life at

Clemson University. He and wife Tricia live in Seneca, South Carolina. After a rich and varied career in intramurals, Butch retired from Georgia Tech University.

**Danny Kimble ('73)** is the Athletic Director of Gadsden (Alabama) City High School. He was inducted into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. Danny attended the Art of the Competition at the Mary Hardin Center when the National Alumni Association met to establish a chapter in the Gadsden/Anniston area.

**Dr. John S. Connell ('75)** is the Senior Pastor for Calvary in Savannah, Georgia and the Superintendent of Calvary Day School.

**Lydia W. Smith ('75)** resigned from the University of Alabama in spring 2005 after almost 20 years as a staff employee in the College of Engineering. She was an editor of a newspaper in the West Jefferson County area as well as a reporter and feature story writer for the Shoals Tribune in Florence. Lydia and her husband, Eddie, have three daughters and reside in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**Jerry Mizell ('76)** is the regional manager of Alagasco in Gadsden, Alabama, where he lives with his wife, Connie. He attended the Art of the Competition at the Mary Hardin Center when the National Alumni Association met to establish a chapter in the Gadsden/Anniston area.

**Kenny D. Sawyer ('77)** was recently promoted and relocated for expatriate assignment in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Kenny is responsible for human resource operations in three U.S. states and two Canadian provinces for Abitibiwater, Inc., one of the world's largest producers of newsprint and commercial printing papers. He and his wife reside in Montreal.

**Garner Ezell ('78, '88 & '98)** and **Debbie Logan Ezell ('78, '84 & '00)** have been married for 30 years. Garner has recently been named the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Athens City Schools in Alabama. Debbie teaches AP English at Athens High School. They have two sons: Rob, 19, who plays football for the University of Alabama, and David, 17, who is a junior at Athens High School.

**Dr. Tina Thornton Smith ('79)**

recently accepted a position as Professor of Education at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. She continues her work as an educational consultant and as editor of SubJournal, a publication of Utah State University. She resides in Columbia, Tennessee.

**Dr. Michael Goodlett ('79)** is

the Auburn Sports Medicine team physician. He was named the 2008 Southeastern Conference Team Physician of the Year by the league at the SEC Sports Medicine meeting. For the past 16 years, Goodlett has served as the head team physician for all Auburn student-athletes, overseeing all of their daily sports medicine/primary care needs. Goodlett also serves as an affiliate professor in the Department of Kinesiology. He resides in Auburn, Alabama.

## 80s

**Sandra L. Byars ('80)** is the office manager for

Bernard Hodes Group in New York, New York. She resides in Huntington Station, New York.

**Kevin Riley ('80)** has been employed as a Nuclear Specialist by Southern Nuclear Operating Company since 1981 at the Farley Nuclear Power Plant. His current assignment is to the Simulator Staff where he works to ensure that the Simulator has the same look and feel as the real power plant. He and his family live in Dothan, Alabama.

**Beverly Henderson ('82)** has been in the insurance business since 1988. She joined USAgencies/Affirmative Insurance as the Branch Manager in January 2006. She resides with her daughters in Rogersville, Alabama.

**Dr. B. Kembrel Jones ('82)** is the Deputy Vice Dean for The Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. He resides in Philadelphia.

Navy Commander **Dennis P. O'Rear ('82)** recently retired after 27 years of active duty service in the Navy while



serving as director of contracts, Fleet and Industrial Supply Center, Naval Air Station, in Jacksonville, Florida. His personal awards include three Defense Meritorious Service Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

**Mary Gist ('83)** was appointed as principal at Richview Middle School in Tennessee as of August 2008. She has been involved in education for 22 years, most recently serving as assistant principal at Freedom Middle School in Franklin, Tennessee.

**Melissa Hughey ('83)** is the chair of the visual arts program at Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama. She was recently recognized as Scholastic's "Gold Apple Teacher of the Year for Visual Arts" for the second straight year. Also, the work of her students has been selected as Scholastic's "Best Body of Work in the Nation."

**Wanda Sutton ('83)** was selected as Alfa's Teacher of the Month for August 2008. She is an English teacher at Covenant Christian School in Tuscumbia, Alabama. She is also the senior class sponsor, National Honor Society sponsor and advisor to the yearbook committee. She resides in Russellville, Alabama.

**Lori Wahlstrom ('83)** was chosen as teacher of the year from Iuka Elementary School in Iuka, Mississippi.

**Marion K. Norton ('84)** is the Application Development Manager at Comdata. He is married to **Beth Norton ('85)**, who is a special education assistant in Williamson County. They reside in Franklin, Tennessee.

**Steve Richerson ('84)** works with the Sheffield, Alabama-based Concrete Dream Pictures. He has (since graduation) traveled internationally, building his career. Richerson is a professional magician and has created "Steve Trash," a character designed to educate about waste recycling and reduction. Recently, he produced "Kids Making Better Choices," a video that teaches youth about healthy eating and exercising habits.

**Tony Logan ('85)** has accepted the Tuscumbia police chief's position. He resides in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

**Adina J. Stone ('85 & '93)** is a Classical/Modern Language Teacher with Sheffield High School and ACCESS ALSDE (Alabama State Department of Education). Adina is a graduate student at the University of Florida in Gainesville and is working on her Ph.D. in Classics with concentrations in ancient medicine and the archaeology of Pompeii and surrounding areas. She resides in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

**Charles Winters ('86)** Vice

President of Marketing, Huntsville/Madison County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), has been named the 2008 Alabama Tourism Employee of the Year. The awards ceremony took place at the state Governor's Conference on Tourism at the Wynfrey Hotel in Birmingham. Following graduation, Winters was hired by the Huntsville/Madison County CVB. Winters has been in the tourism industry for 22 years. He has held several positions within the CVB: Convention Sales Representative, Convention Sales Manager, Senior Convention Sales Manager, Director of Conventions, and V. P. of Conventions. Winters currently serves as Chair of the Huntsville Sports Commission. He is immediate past President of the Huntsville-Madison County Hospitality Association, a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville, a member of the Public Relations Council of Alabama, and a Class 16 graduate of Leadership Huntsville/Madison County. Charles and his wife, Rebecca, have one son, Bradley, 10.

**Darryl Worley ('87)** sang the national anthem before the start of the March 25 Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**90s**

**John Maner ('90)** has joined Wachovia Bank in Huntsville,

Alabama as a vice president and community banker. He has more than 17 years of experience in the financial services industry.

**Joseph Putnam ('90)** attended the North Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Apex, North Carolina. He works with Wachovia Financial.

**Dwayne Morgan ('91)** and wife **Andrea ('94)** attended the Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting. They live in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he works for Wachovia.

**Anissa Palmer Webb ('93)** and husband **Jay ('93)** welcomed their fourth child in January 2008. Anissa is a former broadcaster and teacher who enjoys staying home with their children full-time and home-schooling them. On the side, Anissa does the bookkeeping for Jay's freelance voiceover business, voicesofjaywebb.com, and also runs her own successful Avon business. They reside in Madison, Alabama.

**Denise Altomari-Bonck ('95)** is a former soldier and currently works in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron to guide land use and development of the base in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is a board member of the Red River Refuge Alliance, Inc., which she co-founded and has served as a former president. Besides the Alliance, she is active in several organizations in her area.

**Beth Haddock ('95)** and husband **Heath ('98)** reside in Florence, Alabama with their two children,

Skylar and Kiah. Heath is currently serving as Safeplace's PR/Event and Volunteer Coordinator, and Beth is the Executive Director of the United Way of Northwest Alabama.

**Katerina Cole ('96)** was named the Franklin County (Alabama) Cooperative agent in July. She previously was an agent in Lauderdale County and in Colbert County.

**Tonya Conde ('97)** will start working as a school nurse this fall. She and her family live in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Jesse Glasgow ('98)** is a program manager at Photo Science Incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia. For the past decade Glasgow has been responsible for oversight of the geographic information acquisition, management, and analysis functions for Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC). He was also a team leader in developing the EPRI-GTC Siting Methodology. Additionally, Glasgow manages transmission line siting projects and consults with energy clients.

**Mark Laughlin ('98)** holds a Master of Music in Piano Pedagogy from the University of Memphis and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Pedagogy from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Laughlin is the author of numerous publications and is in high demand as a guest lecturer, performer and teacher. He is an Assistant Professor of Piano at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia.

**Jimmy Sorrell ('98)** has joined the contracts administration group at DRS Test & Energy Management LLC in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Michael G. Anthony ("Julio") ('99)** is an Adult Film Critic/Producer with Diamond R Videos. He and his family recently moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Radhika Miller ('99)** has been hired as the new girls basketball coach at Gallatin High School in Tennessee. She and her husband Andrew have two children and live in Tennessee.

**Jaime Weaver ('99)** attended the Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting in Charlotte. She lives in Greenville, South Carolina, with her husband, Ross. They have a son, Reid.

**00s**

**Matthew Carpenter ('00)** teaches fifth grade at

McBride Elementary School in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. He developed a program at the school called Personal Pals Mentoring, which matches students with a mentor within the school.

**Clinton Carter ('00)** and wife **Rebecca ('02)** attended the Carolina Alumni Chapter meeting in Charlotte

at the corporate headquarters of Wachovia.

**Jason Murray ('00)** has been hired as the new head baseball coach by the Houston County School System, in Dothan, Alabama.

**Kelly Townsend ('01)** currently works as a lifestyles editor for the Fort Payne Times Journal and has recently moved to Scottsboro, Alabama.

**Jason Warnix ('01)** has been named the new director of the Wetumpka High School band. He and his family reside in Wetumpka, Alabama.

**Christie Brumley Berry ('02)** and husband **Brad Berry ('00)** live in Memphis, Tennessee. Christie has recently joined ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Communications Division as the Outside Event Planner.

**Melissa Morgan ('02)** starred in a Lonestar music video for their hit song, "Let Me Love You."

**Zac Richardson ('02)** is now the branch manager of Regions Bank in Rogersville, Alabama. He and his family reside in Hartselle, Alabama.

**Molly J. Mathis Vaughn ('02)** is the Coordinator of Analytical Service at UNA in the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment. She currently attends the University of Alabama to pursue her doctoral degree in Higher Education Administration. She and husband Eric live in Killen, Alabama.

**Hollie Stewart ('03)** will begin her fourth year in medical school this year. She is a student at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, in Mobile, Alabama.

**Kent Taylor ('03)** and wife **Amanda ('04)** reside in Huntsville, Alabama. Kent is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. Amanda works for Booster Enterprise.

**Justin Clayton ('06)** lives in Alexander City, Alabama. He is a Producer for station WAXC, producing three shows: a two-hour live, call-in show, a 30-minute variety, music show, and a gospel-music, video show.

**Miranda Smith Simpson ('07)** is a Volunteer Coordinator/LBSW with Wiregrass Hospice. She and husband Jeremy live in Waterloo, Alabama.

**Chris Watson ('07)** owns a working horse ranch. The ranch, Southern Reins Ranch, L.L.C., buys, sells, trains, and breeds horses for the performance horse industry. Chris even has a stallion that is in training to hopefully compete for the world title! He resides in Hillsboro, Alabama with his wife, Tami.



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1. Chuck Adams ('69), Jimmy McMillan, Mac Buttram ('69), Charlie Ritch ('70), and Joe Pride ('69)
2. Clinton Carter ('00) and Rebecca Porter Carter ('02)
3. Ross Weaver, Reid Weaver, and Jaime Hargrove Weaver ('99)
4. Nancy Sanford ('78) and Dennis Balch ('71)
5. Susanne Wadsworth ('66) and Constance Evans ('72)
6. President Bill Cale, Garry Warren, Will Stutts ('70), Dennis Balch ('71), and Anthony Balch ('72)
7. President Bill Cale with Chief Glassco on Segway
8. Suzanne Yeager ('97)
9. Penny Mathis, Carl Mathis ('66), James Battcher ('66), Lisa Putnam, and Joey Putnam ('90)
10. Dwayne Morgan ('91), Alan Medders, and Andrea Morgan ('94)



8



9



10



# in memory

## 30s

**Alta Marie Castleberry Thompson ('39 & '63)**

taught first grade

at Killen Elementary School in Killen, Alabama, until her retirement.

## 40s

**Margaret L. Knight ('42)**

had a teaching career that included

employment in the city schools of Decatur, Alabama; State College, Pennsylvania; Marianna, Florida; and Starkville, Mississippi. In addition, she was employed by the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, D.C., and in Atlanta, Georgia. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Starkville, where she was a Sunday school teacher for more than 25 years.

**Ruby Hester ('43)** was a lifelong member of Belgreen United Methodist Church in Alabama. She taught at Russellville City Schools for 32 years.

## 50s

**William E. Patterson ('53)**

of Sheffield, Alabama was a

former president of the UNA National Alumni Association, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He served in World War II and as an officer in Korea.

**Betty Sue Freeman Evans ('55)** retired from Muscle Shoals Middle School after 36 years of teaching fifth grade. After retiring, she enjoyed

gardening, substitute teaching at Muscle Shoals Center for Technology, arts and crafts projects, and spending time with her family.

**Ann Cosgrove Pickens ('56)** was a member of Central Baptist Church in Decatur, Alabama. She was a member of the Huntsville Dental Auxiliary.

**John R. Burt, Jr. ('57)** of Birmingham, Alabama, worked in the welding and industrial gas business with Airco/BOC for 35 years. He was a lifelong Presbyterian, serving as an elder at Shades Valley, Pines Presbyterian and Canyon Creek Presbyterian churches. He was a devoted husband, father and brother who enjoyed sports, especially playing golf and tennis with his sons.

## 60s

**Henry Leaton Wiginton ('62)**

was an Elder of the Mississippi

United Methodist Conference. He served in the South Pacific during World War II in the Navy. He was from Gulf Port, Mississippi.

## 70s

**Terrye Sledge Terry ('71)**

was a native of Tuscumbia, Alabama, and

served as librarian of the Helen Keller Public Library for 13 years and later as assistant director of the Florence-Lauderdale Public Library. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Tuscumbia.

passed away after an extended illness. He was a star player at The University of Alabama and compiled a 109-81-8 record in 21 seasons as head coach at UNA. He served as UNA's athletic director until 1973 and was a member of the faculty until he retired in 1984. Upon retirement, Self served on a three-man committee that founded and wrote the constitution and by-laws of the Gulf South Conference. In addition to being a member of the first class of the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1990, Self was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1996 and was also inducted into the Morgan County Sports Hall of Fame.

**Dr. Samuel "Tut" Norvell** served as an ensign in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. After military service, he graduated from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He served in Florence for 45 years as a family physician. After retiring from private practice, he continued working as a physician at the UNA Bennett Infirmary.

**Joseph "Joe" John George Lacie ('79)** was a top-selling real estate agent for 25 years. From Everett, Washington, he was also a member of the Seattle Polish Home Association, Saint Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and the Republican Party.

**Marilyn Yvonne Lowery Hyde ('77)** was a CPA in Sheffield, Alabama, and also served on the finance committee for the Colbert-Lauderdale Baptist Association. She was a faithful member of Highland Baptist Church, where she served in a number of leadership capacities.

## 80s

**Lori Diane Williams Bevis ('86)**

passed away after an

extended illness. She was a native of Lauderdale County, Alabama, a registered nurse for 22 years, and a member of Forest Hills Baptist Church.

**Sharon Rue ('88)** was a member of Woodward Avenue Baptist Church. She was a teacher and administrator with the Muscle Shoals City School System in Alabama for 25 years, until her retirement in 2004.

## 00s

**Kimberly Whitlock Chambers ('00)**

was an English teacher

at Austin High School in Decatur, Alabama, who worked with struggling students to help them obtain their high school diplomas.

## Years Unidentified

**Clara Maxine Birdyshaw** taught in Jackson County in Alabama. She later worked for the Southern Railroad Company and was transferred to Tuscumbia. After leaving her railroad career in the '50s, she began an accounting and telephone service career at Helen Keller Hospital where she worked for 20 years. Maxine then worked for the Alabama Agency on Aging as the director of the Senior Center Program in Tuscumbia for 12 years.

**Mary Hanchey Crisler** was the first lady salesperson for Harley Davidson Motorcycles. She taught for a number of years at Crumley Chapel Elementary School and later was active in Real Estate in the Birmingham, Alabama, and Jefferson County area.

## Friends

**Coach Hal Self**, who started the modern-day football program at North Alabama in 1949 and served as the Lions' head coach through 1969,

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# **Sportsman's Club Golf Tournament**

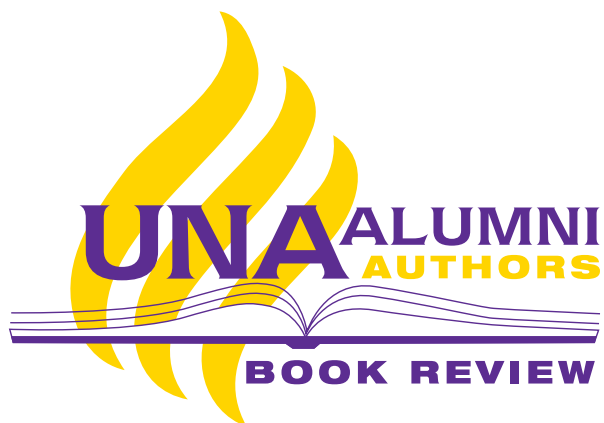
*honoring Coach Bill Jones*



1. Todd Vardaman ('90)
2. Bob Kephart ('55), Harry Smith ('64), Joan Jones ('58), Rex Jones, and Martha Barnett ('68)
3. Alan Medders and James Ingram ('78)
4. Gary Farris ('83), Dennis Wingo, and David Taylor ('83)
5. Jimmy Oliver with new license plate
6. Leo, Grady Liles, Mark Linder, and Steve Lee







## ***The Samson Effect*** by Tony Eldridge

By Meredith Louise Carr, Student Intern

As an avid reader of suspense novels, I was excited at the prospect of delving into a new title, especially one written by an alumnus of my university! I was grabbed by the title and heard right away the all-important “word of mouth” raving reviews. In fact, we might be seeing *The Samson Effect* turned into a movie script in the next couple of years! The rights were sold to a movie producer who was as enthusiastic about the book as everyone else who has read it.



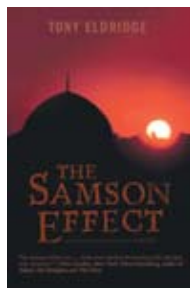
In the style of Dan Brown’s historically based thrillers, author **Tony Eldridge ('93)** has taken an age-old Bible story and put a little imagination and pizzazz to it. Although the dialogue

between characters was a little slow at times, the fast-paced action and rip-roaring adventure sequences held my attention. Disappointingly, the characters were not as well-developed as I hoped them to be. Many of them seemed a little static, or unchanging in nature.

However, there were a few dynamic characters that stood out as prime examples of talented and insightful writing. The antagonist of *The Samson Effect*, a Palestinian man named Azim, was sinister to the bone. His ruthless and cutthroat mission to discover the secret of the Samson Effect kept me on the edge of my reading chair, hoping that he wouldn’t be able to accomplish his evil plans. The Protectors of the Lord’s Strength (aka *The Samson Effect*), were also extremely well-developed in their character traits.

The detail with which Eldridge described the local geography of Israel and Palestine was indicative of an insightful, if not intimate, knowledge of the Middle East. It was fascinating to be carried away through this book to places I can only dream of! I could not help but be impressed with the quality and skill with which *The Samson Effect* was written. I would recommend this book to anyone with a desire for a good read and a thrilling adventure!

“*The Samson Effect* is a ... first class thriller brimming with intrigue and adventure” – Clive Cussler, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Sahara*, *The Navigator*, and *The Chase*. (from the cover of the book)



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Graduation Year(s) and Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Business telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Events           | <input type="checkbox"/> NAA Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit Students         | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunions           |

**Have you won an award, changed jobs, earned a promotion, or completed another degree? Your UNA classmates would like to know more about it! Send us your news and we will publish it in a subsequent issue of the UNA Alumni Magazine. Please complete the form and send it to the Office of Alumni Relations, UNA Box 5047, Florence, AL 35632-0001 or [www.una.edu/alumni](http://www.una.edu/alumni).**

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