

# UNA **magazine**

for alumni and friends of the University of North Alabama

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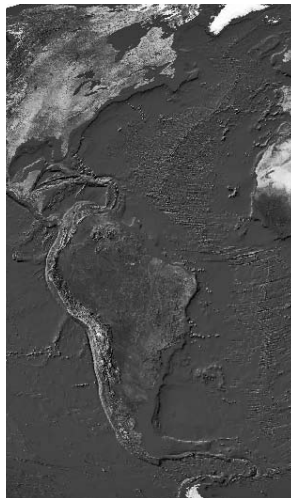
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*Information contained herein is as it currently exists but  
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# In this Issue

Notice on the front cover of *UNA Magazine* you will find the season, year, volume, and the number. For the first time in history, in the year 2008, you will receive three



copies of this publication. The first issue, in your hands for the ides of March, showcases the previous year's homecoming award winners. The National Alumni Association is privileged to search out, recognize, and present these prestigious awards and honor alumni and friends of the university. You are invited to visit the alumni Web site and make nomination for the awards. Please do not assume that

we know all the prominent, successful, competitive alumni in this global society of which we are a part. Take a moment to tell us about UNA related adventurers and significant contributors to our society. Enlighten us if you have a suggestion for a story to be featured in the June or September *UNA Magazine*.

Contained within this 48 page publication of *UNA Magazine* are features to solidify the university's town and gown relationship with our geographical family. Speaking of geography, read about the alumni association fostered by the Department of Geography, their national conference, and the strides that UNA geographers are making in our world; and relive the 1970s with the attendees of the reunion that is chronicled in these pages.

The purpose of the UNA National Alumni Association (NAA) is to celebrate, support, and advocate on behalf of the university, its alumni, friends, and students. A new and improved Rogers Hall Alumni House accommodates a spectacular alumni suite and we share a story of the grand spaces and Courtview in all her glory.

Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President of University Advancement launches an expansion with lofty goals in the UNA development office. You will hear from your university often. We are in the process of developing alumni social networking communities, a new alumni directory, permanent e-mail addresses, an alumni pride giving membership (complete with benefits and discounts), an improved Web site, and more chapter opportunities. If you would like to get involved in an association in your regional area, or work with a departmental alumni chapter, please e-mail us today.

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# A message from the *Alumni President*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am honored and proud to serve as President of our National Alumni Association (NAA) for 2007-2008. Little did I know when I received a call from one of our past presidents, **Tuffy Hudson ('61)**, asking if I would be interested in serving on the NAA board at large, that I would still be serving four years later. My wife, Barbara, and I had just moved back to Florence after being away since 1960, the year I graduated. I was looking for opportunities to volunteer, so Tuffy's call came at a very good time.

It has been a pleasure to serve with the board at large and the executive board. This group of volunteers has worked hard to support our students, alumni, and the university. They exemplify what it means to give back to the institution that contributed to their education and careers. I look forward to serving with them and the newly-elected members this year, and want to thank them in advance for their support of all the activities planned for this year. I am fortunate to be surrounded by a group of past presidents such as **Mitch Dobbins ('00)**, **Reeda Lee ('74)**, **Janie Haygood ('58)**, **William Smith ('86)**, **Heath Trousdale ('88)**, and others. These individuals continue to offer their time as volunteers to the NAA, and will be available to advise me as I serve. I also encourage you to contact me with your ideas and suggestions. Being a volunteer is very rewarding and a lot of fun, and I urge you to consider volunteering with the university in some capacity.

I am very fortunate, also, to be serving with Carol Lyles, our Director of Alumni Relations, who does such an outstanding job of directing the day-to-day operations of the NAA. Carol is truly devoted to the university and has the corporate memory of all the past activities of the NAA. She does a superb job of offering advice and guidance to each new alumni president.

I suppose I am expected to come up with some words of wisdom at this time for our readers. However, I prefer to offer you a few bullets that will reflect what your NAA hopes to accomplish this year. We want to focus on the following:

- Increasing giving percentages through our Alumni Pride Giving Program
- Increasing the number of alumni chapters and encouraging greater participation in existing chapters
- Increasing participation at our alumni tent on Spirit Hill
- Expanding and updating our database
- Continuing to recognize alumni who have excelled in their careers
- Improving and increasing communication with our alumni through correspondence, e-mails, our web page, etc.
- Encouraging the UNA faculty and administration to support our NAA activities
- Increasing our scholarship giving to the university
- Urging all alumni to help recruit new students by being good ambassadors for the university as they spread the good news about our beautiful campus and our caring and outstanding faculty and administration

As we work toward our goals, I especially ask you to reflect on your time at the university and recall some of the wonderful experiences you had while attending. Many of you met your spouses here, and have memories of both fun and hardships while working to pay tuition and fees. Some of you have established a family tradition to include several generations of graduates. We hope that continues.

We encourage you to make it a point to visit our beautiful campus, attend home and away games, homecoming events, and other special events offered by the university. I especially invite you to visit Rogers Hall Alumni House. With the recent remodeling and update, it is one of the most beautiful buildings on the campus.

You can expect to receive more correspondence this year in our effort to keep you better informed. When you receive requests to support your alumni association financially, please thoughtfully consider giving back to the alumni association and university foundation program. All contributions, large or small, are greatly appreciated. As a token of appreciation, contributors' names will be published in the President's Annual Report at the end of the year. Your giving can make a difference in someone's life. It will also encourage other alumni to follow your example. Thank you in advance for your support.

Go, Lions!!!

**Jerry White ('60)**

*President, UNA National Alumni Association*



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Florence, Ala.*



*Harvey Robbins  
Tuscumbia, Ala.*

As many of you know, there have been some administrative changes in the past several months at your university, the first being the addition of Dr. Alan Medders as Vice President of University Advancement. From all indications he is off and running. He is facilitating meetings with alumni groups, off-campus constituents, as well as community leaders to gather financial support for the advancement of the university.

Also joining the UNA family is Mark Linder. Mark is our new Athletic Director and brings many new ideas which will enhance our already outstanding Athletic Department.

A familiar face, Dr. Garry Warren (who has served in almost every position including Interim President), is now Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost. Garry's credibility and wit make him perfect for that position.

Dr. Roosevelt Newson is our new Vice President for University Programs, and Dr. Priscilla Holland is now Assistant Vice President for Academic Support Services. Congratulations and good luck to you all.

There have been so many people to influence our university through the years, leaving us a bit of themselves for prosperity. We are able to build on the legacy of success due to their contributions. We have been touched recently by one of those special people, and will forever benefit from all he has done for us. That man is Dan Howard.

For years Dan and his wife Anne worked tirelessly for our institution. Dan brought cultures together by starting an international student program, now with over 1000 students. He and Anne took baby lions into their home and raised them from babies to cubs. I can't say many of us would take on that responsibility.

I look at this university and see the beauty of the campus, knowing that Dan was there from the beginning to the end overseeing each project that has made UNA one of the most beautiful in the South.

Congratulations to Dan on his new position in Arkansas. We wish him all the best.

**Steve F. Pierce ('75)**

*President Pro-Tempore, UNA Board of Trustees*



Jerry and Charlotte Dean

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# president's message

## William G. Cale, Jr.

Thinking back over recent months, I am struck by the transitions that have occurred at UNA, not just in personnel but in all facets of the university. Transitions are normal, and they are always connected to change. At UNA we seem to be moving through an interval of accelerated change that is redefining and reshaping our university in many positive ways.

Last November we rededicated Rogers Hall as home to our alumni, and celebrated completion of a major renovation that has made the building a new source of great pride for UNA. With all three levels of the building now in full use, the entire university advancement team is housed under one roof. This restoration becomes the final entry on a long list of transforming projects that Dr. G. Daniel Howard brought to fruition at UNA. Dan became Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research at Arkansas State University at the start of this year. Wherever one looks on our gorgeous campus, Dan's legacy is visible.

At the end of December, the first annual President's Report was published. It will become a yearly publication. This spring edition of the *UNA magazine* is the first of three you will receive this year. These new initiatives (and many others) originate from the energy that Dr. Alan Medders brings to his position as Vice President for University Advancement. He also is adding new staff members in critical areas, and promoting some familiar folks into positions of greater responsibility. All in all, there is a lot of excitement in Rogers Hall. And as we enjoy these new successes, we say goodbye to H. Van Morgan as he leaves his post of Executive Director of the Foundation to assume the position of City President and Senior Vice President with Citizens Bank here in the Shoals area. Van is a great friend of UNA, who created during his years here, not just the Foundation's operating protocols, but also the tremendous good will upon which we build.

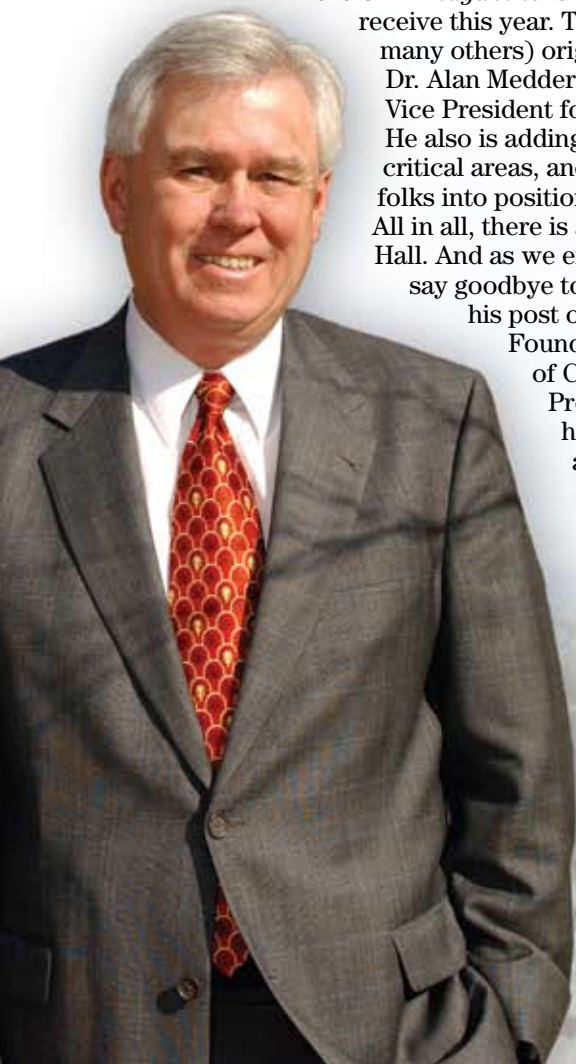
The heart of the campus remains our academic programs, and we are so fortunate to have Dr. Garry Warren serving as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Garry assumed his new position in October and is already making

great strides. For example, he is critically examining what new degree programs would best serve our students and our region; putting the necessary resources into the College of Business in order to move us toward accreditation with The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; and prioritizing disciplines where additional faculty are necessary. Dr. Warren has served UNA in many roles and enters this position with the respect and confidence of the entire campus.

There are many other new faces on campus. Dr. Andrew Luna is our new director of Institutional Research and Reporting, replacing Dr. Priscilla Holland, who was promoted to Assistant Vice President for Academic Support Services. Catherine White, an old timer as Director of Human Resources with just over a year of service, has brought us into the electronic world with all of our HR functions. This year she undertakes a major review (with the aid of an external consultant) of all issues pertinent to the well being of our staff. Dr. Greg Carnes joined us as holder of the Raburn Eminent Scholar Chair in Accounting, along with over 20 other new faculty members. Mark Linder is our new Athletics Director, replacing Joel Erdmann who moved to Southeastern Louisiana State University. Mark brings a wealth of experience and new ideas to us from Missouri Western State University, where he was also Director of Athletics.

The acquisition and renovation of UNA's East Campus (the former Powell School) is complete and our next major construction project is Willingham Hall. The entire Departments of English and History have been temporarily relocated so that the project can be completed by next summer. I have informed Dr. Warren that he gets to explain any project delays to the dozens of folks now without a home.

As I said, it is a time of transition and exciting change. I hope all of you are enjoying a fine year. Please visit campus whenever you can. You are always welcome.



# UNA 2007

## Homecoming



Homecoming 2007 celebrated to the theme of Una Fiesta. In November of 2007, the Rogers Hall Alumni House was christened with a grand opening ceremony that culminated the ten-month major construction and redesign of the grand antebellum home, formerly known as Courtview, located on North Court Street.



Homecoming weekend was picture-perfect and resulted in an athletic victory. The Jack Karnes Homecoming Golf Tournament at the Florence Golf and Country Club raised a sizable amount of funds for the fifth-year scholarship program and the Jerry Davis Memorial Tennis Tournament unveiled a signature trophy for that tournament and established a precedent for enhancing our homecoming tennis outing. New alumni



award winners were recognized during the weekend and names have been added to perpetual plaques that are archived in the Office of Alumni Relations. Homecoming 2008 is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendar now to come home, play in the golf and tennis tournament, and confirm your lion pride.



# alumni of the year . . . .

## Marty Abrams

Marty Abrams is a man of many successes, many philosophies, many loved ones, and many actions that earned him the first, taught him the second, and brought him the fortune of the third. Those actions are what won him the honor of being a UNA Alumni of the Year and almost all of those actions took place in the shadow of UNA Lion country.

Mr. Abrams, a native of the Florence area, has proven himself to be a hard worker and a selfless giver. From the time he started at UNA until his graduation in 1981, he excelled in the accounting program, and in his public service. Having the highest GPA of his graduating class earned him the Keller Key, and his dedicated service earned him the Turris Fidelis, which is the highest service honor UNA offers. Those are only two of the honors Marty earned during his time at the university.

Since his graduation, Marty has worked in several firms, including his own, as both a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Valuation Analyst. Some of his better known clients are Hibbett Sporting Goods, Inc., and Books-A-Million. He currently is the CEO of his own CPA firm, Abrams & Associates, P.C.

In addition to his work at Abrams & Associates, Marty has given much to UNA and the surrounding communities. He has worked with the UNA President's Cabinet, the Foundation Board, various UNA committees, United Way of the Shoals, the Florence High School Foundation, the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Shoals, just to name a few. He has also established two scholarships for

accounting majors.

But the deeds accomplished and honors achieved don't seem to mean nearly as much as the kind words that have been said about Mr. Abrams. Friends of Mr. Marty Abrams sent in many letters of support when he was nominated for the Alumni of the Year Award, and these letters spoke of a Marty Abrams worth being known. They said, "He exemplifies outstanding character and maintains the admiration of all who know him." The letters went on to call him a "born entrepreneur," "the epitome of a local business, charity, and alumni leader," and a man who, "maintains the highest standards of moral character, ethics, and integrity in both his personal and professional life."

Kind words were not one-sided however. During his acceptance speech for the Alumni of the Year Award, Mr. Abrams passed thanks along to his teachers, Coach Buddy Moore, Jack Martin, Charles Anderson, and to his family and close friends. Those he honored most emphatically were his parents, Adolph and Sybil Abrams, his children, Luke and Lauren, and his wife, **Donna McCormick Abrams ('79)**, also a UNA graduate.

Congratulations Mr. Abrams for all that you are, all that you have given, all you have been given, and for all the great things you have yet to do.

Written by:  
*William Undewood*, Student Intern



# UNA Homecoming

## NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS

### ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

*Homecoming provides an opportunity for the university and the National Alumni Association to recognize Alumni and friends who have excelled in their field.*

*These are the highest honors granted to graduates of this university.*

**Marty Abrams, Kevin Lamb, Rita Wray**

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

*The Lifetime Achievement Award was created in 1997 to recognize and honor alumni and non-alumni who have left large footprints on this campus (a permanent location in our Alumni Victory Garden is reserved for the LAA winners).*

**Anne and Bud Smith** married 50 years ago and began their life together as a military couple. While in the Navy, Bud was a pilot and a flight trainer - serving his country all over the United States and overseas. Anne was a homemaker - busy raising four children. Bud earned degrees from George Washington University and Harvard. Ties to UNA began in 1977. Having retired from the Navy and operating a business consulting firm, they wanted a change. As a faculty member of UNA's Department of Marketing and Management for 22 years, Bud was a caring, challenging, and devoted teacher. Three times he was voted by the students as UNA's Favorite Professor. Anne worked as an administrative assistant at the Cooperative Campus Ministry which was housed in the Wesley Foundation. They both developed life-long relationships with their students and co-workers. Anne and Bud are model parents and community leaders. Anne is a passionate volunteer in adult literacy. She also taught Sunday school. Bud has been a Rotarian, served on the YMCA board of directors, and was a Tennessee Valley Football Association official.



Their commitment to UNA, its students, athletes, and programs, grew; their wardrobe turned purple and gold; and their lives became immersed. Anne and Bud Smith may have retired from their professional lives, but UNA is still important to them. They enjoy supporting the Lions, and the activities of their eight grandchildren. Sometimes a UNA game takes precedence over a family activity. All four of their children are UNA graduates and know that purple runs through their veins.

The Smiths celebrate their 50th anniversary.

**Mrs. Hettie Butler Terry ('48)** has already won two UNA Alumni Awards. The first of those was for community service, while the other was in 1998 for Alumni-of-the-Year.

Mrs. Terry, who held the highest GPA for the graduating class of 1948, has given a large part of her life to furthering the education of others. She is a proud recipient of the Turriss Fidelis service award. She has been an elementary school teacher, a member of the UNA President's Cabinet, and has served on the board of directors for both Northwest Shoals Community College and board member of the Franklin County UNA Alumni Chapter. Mrs. Terry also helped in the organizing of the Phi Mu Sorority on campus.

Mrs. Terry has been very supportive of the Riverbend Center for Mental Health in Russellville and Florence. In fact, their day-treatment center in Russellville is named in her honor. Additionally, she has been a major supporter and active member of the First Baptist Church of Russellville. Mrs. Terry held offices in local and state organizations of the Alliance to the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

She lists her family as her main assets. She and her husband, Dr. Aubrey Terry, have been married for 59 years. They have a daughter in Florida where they have just moved in retirement.



## FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY AWARDS

*The Friend of the University Award honors non-alumni who promote the mission of the university by their donation of time, resources, and energy. Their work is a labor of love.*

**Citizens Bank** opened for business March 3, 1906. For over a century, Citizens Bank has been a vital part of Franklin County Alabama and currently in all of northwest Alabama and Tennessee. Success can be attributed to the quality with which the staff of Citizens Bank delivers products and services to customers. Citizens Bank opened its 36th location in Corinth, Mississippi in November, 2007. Citizens Bank, with **Dennis Upchurch** at the helm, and with the guidance and support of Cecil Batchelor, a member of the UNA Presidents Cabinet is a great community partner. Citizens bank has been a major supporter of UNA. The bank was a major donor to the athletic department's Mike Lane Roast. They also have been foremost in support of the International Student Services, friends of the Lions, advertisers in the UNA Magazine, the Smith Bell tower, and the Jack Karnes Endowed Scholarship.



**Ed Foust** is a Florence native who graduated from Mars Hill Bible School and attended the University of North Alabama. A product development manager with SaraLee Corporation, he has worked with the company for 34 years and was instrumental in getting Bryan Foods, a division of SaraLee, as a corporate sponsor for UNA football and basketball. Ed has sponsored the former Lionbacker Children's Organization, regularly supports UNA's Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and has served as a corporate sponsor for UNA's baseball program for the past ten years. He provides corporate sponsorship for Light the Night, the annual Leukemia/Lymphoma Society charity walk, and has served on the Florence Country Club board.



Ed married **Glenda Caver Foust ('98)**, a UNA graduate who retired after twenty-five years of service as a UNA employee. Their sons, Kevin and Todd, graduated from UNA in 1993 and 1996, respectively. The Fousts have 2 granddaughters, Hannah and Abbey.

Ed is also a deacon at Cross Point Church of Christ in Florence.

**Karen and Stanley Goldstein**, from New York City and Chattanooga, have made the Shoals their home for 34 years. They met at the University of Alabama during his first two weeks of classes. They were immediately attracted to one another and were married following undergraduate graduation in 1965.



Karen received her bachelor's degree in elementary education followed by a master's in child development. She joined the faculty at the University of North Alabama in 1974, and received her doctorate in special education in 1978. After 29 years of service to UNA, Karen retired as professor of special education.

Both Karen and Stanley are exceptionally active in the community, serving on faith-based committees, the distinguished events series, and promoting the arts and humanities.

Karen and Stanley have two adult children, also with ties to UNA, as they are graduates of Kilby School. Melissa is a professor at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Brian is the chief financial officer for an energy company in Los Angeles, California.

## MILITARY SERVICE AWARDS

*The Military Service Awards recognize the best of the best. These are the soldiers from our armed services who have chosen careers dedicated to the service of our country and to the protection of each one of us. They are our American heroes.*

**Colonel David Llewellyn ('57)** graduated from Florence State College and was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry through the ROTC in May 1957. He held various command and staff positions during his 30-year career — serving a tour in Korea, two tours in Vietnam, two tours in Germany, and two tours in Alaska.



His senior commands were the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry in Germany; the 172<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry Brigade; and Assistant Division Commander-Support, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, Alaska.

His senior staff positions include Assistant Chief of Staff-G3, 3<sup>rd</sup> armored division; and G3 V Corps in Germany; Chief of Regional Operations in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans on the U.S. Army staff, Washington, D.C.. He also served as Chief of Staff, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado.

In addition to the Army War College, he attended the U. S. Army Command and General Staff College and the

alumni of the year . . . .

# Kevin Lamb



Written by: *William Undewood*, Student Intern

If you have ever submitted a nomination for the UNA Alumni of the Year award, then you have most certainly read the line in the application that says, "Consideration will be given to 'those nominees whose careers have been of a highly credible nature or to those who have contributed significantly in service endeavors.'" It is equally certain that those who nominated Kevin Lamb for this honor were paying attention to the words of that sentence. Since Mr. Lamb's graduation from UNA, he has made sure that his life and career choices have held true to those standards.

Actually, he has held true to those standards since before graduation. While Mr. Lamb did not graduate from UNA's Commercial Music program until 1978, he had already found a place in the world of music. In 1975, Mr. Lamb began work at the Muscle Shoals based Wishbone Recording Studio. During his ten-year stay at the company, Lamb worked under many job descriptions and, by the time he left, he had risen to the position of Vice President of Publishing.

He left Wishbone in 1985 so he could move to Nashville, Tennessee, and start work as the Vice President/General Manager of Maypop Music Group. How could he resist the opportunity to work in the hometown of country music, especially since the job offer had come from the well-known music group, ALABAMA? According to a profile on Lamb that was provided for use in this article, Lamb was asked to join Maypop so he could eliminate some company policies that had been used to "exploit" ALABAMA's songs.

Since '85, Lamb has become a recognized "songwriter's advocate" and has played an important role in getting several pro-writer bills passed through Congress. One example of his work with Congress is the "Blank Tape Royalty Act of 1993."

Lamb's passion to protect the musician went with him to peermusic in 1993 when he accepted a position as the Vice President of peer's Nashville branch. Lamb has used

his time at peermusic to earn what some, including the author of the profile mentioned earlier, consider to be "a coveted reputation – one of a serious-minded businessman who's built in a relative few years a formidable staff of successful songwriters who adore their publisher."

Of course, as I mentioned earlier in this article, the "highly credible nature" of Mr. Lamb's career is not the only reason he was chosen to win the Alumni of the Year award. Of equal importance and consideration was the selfless way in which he has given himself to charitable causes.

According to his mother, Dolores, Kevin "has such a heart for St. Jude's," a hospital that has become well known for its efforts to cure pediatric cancer. In fact, as of the time this article is being written, Mr. Lamb is preparing to take 17 of peer's writers to a St. Jude's fund-raising concert in Memphis, Tennessee. The concert and Mr. Lamb's passion for St. Jude's were both started in response to a suggestion from ALABAMA group member Randy Owen.

Mr. Lamb's generosity also belongs to UNA, and to his hometown of Florence, Alabama. He has been part of UNA's President's Cabinet, and, according to Dr. Robert Garfrerick, Director of the EIC (Entertainment Industry Center) and **Janna Malone ('87 & '00)**, Associate Director, Mr. Lamb has been very willing to speak with the new generation of music business students.

Janna Malone, in fact, says that, "Kevin was so deserving of the Alumni of the Year award. He is and has always been so supportive of the Entertainment Industry Center and our programs."

This recognition would be incomplete without mentioning Mr. Lamb's biggest supporters, his family: his mother Dolores, wife Linda, and his children Margaret Ann, Rachel, and John.

Congratulations Mr. Lamb for the success which your hard work has earned you.

Infantry Officer's Basic and Career Courses.

Colonel Llewellyn and his wife, Ginger, spend their summers on the Kenai River near Soldotna, Alaska and the remainder of the year in Niceville, Florida. They have four children, Sue, Cheryl, Ricky and Ron.

**Brigadier General (Retired) Paul M. Majerick ('70)** graduated from Florence State University with a degree in business management. While at Florence State he was active in the Collegiate Civitan Club and served as its president. He was commissioned an infantry officer, and during his military career completed a number of military schools including the Air War College.

General Majerick, an army ranger, is a 36-year veteran of military service both active and National Guard, and served in key leadership positions from Platoon to Army Level. Major assignments include: chief of staff Task Force 1169, Republic of Ecuador, G-3 Eighth United States Army, Republic of Korea, Chief of Staff and Deputy Adjutant General, Alabama Army National Guard.

In addition to his active military service, he served as a full-time employee of the Alabama Army National Guard. During his military career, he received a number of awards and decorations. The highest award was the honor of serving with the brave men and women of the United States Army and Army National Guard.

Majerick retired from the military in 1999 as a Brigadier General and received a two year appointment to the position of Executive Assistant to the Adjutant General by the Governor. In this position he functioned as a legislative liaison coordinating military issues with members of the House and the Senate.

He and his wife, the former **Marie E. Keys ('65)** of Sheffield, Alabama, are retired in Montgomery where they enjoy traveling and grandchildren.



## POLITICAL SERVICE AWARDS

*The University of North Alabama Alumni Association Political Service Award winners are nominated by colleagues and peers. These recipients serve their state, regional, or local government in an elected or appointed position, and bring recognition to this university because of their influence and dedicated service.*

Eight years after graduating with an accounting major from UNA, **Kenneth Austin ('74)** began his 24 years of service as Circuit Clerk for the 11th Judicial Circuit of Alabama. During his term in that office, Mr. Austin was recognized by two Chief Justices of the Alabama Supreme Court, the National Association of Court Managers, and by the Alabama Judicial System, which used his office for multiple pilot programs. Mr. Austin served as president of the Alabama Circuit Clerks Association and was also a two-time winner of the Ambassador Award. He was a Crusade Chairman for the American Cancer Society. He has been involved with the Underwood-Petersville community center, the Underwood Dixie Youth, and the Underwood Baptist Church.

Mr. Austin and Helen, his wife of 45 years, have two sons and five grandchildren.



After a 27-year teaching career, **Sue Cox Jones ('73)** was elected to the Jacksonville City Board of Education in 2000. She is now serving her second term and still views herself as an educator, not a politician. Jones has served twice as president of the board and four times as vice-president. As a member of the Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB), she has reached the master level in school board leadership. She was elected as district VI Director of AASB in 2005 and 2007. In this position, Jones represents 18 school boards in East Central Alabama on the Governing Board of AASB. She was elected as an Alabama delegate to the 2007 National School Board Association Annual Conference in San Francisco.

Jones is the statewide director of the FOCUS Program and works with school systems across the state, promoting student-led prevention of adolescent risk behaviors. She will be presenting the FOCUS Program at the 2007 National HIV/AIDS Conference.

In her professional career she was voted Jacksonville High School Teacher of the Year, and was Alabama Teacher of the Year finalist. She developed Jacksonville City Schools' first Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator. Sue is married to former UNA head basketball coach Bill Jones. They are the parents of two children.



Join alumni and friends in the **Carolinas and Virginia** on June 13 and 14. For inquiry or to volunteer for chapter development, contact Carl Mathis at 919-846-7875 or the UNA Alumni Office at 256-765-4201.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

*For extraordinary service to their community the NAA recognizes model citizens who have given long-term involvement professionally and as a volunteer to the community in which they live.*

**David Anderson ('73 & '76)** graduated from UNA with a double major in psychology and sociology and a master's in education. After stints in banking and community health planning he worked for twenty-five years in the economic development program at the Tennessee Valley Authority. While at TVA, he was instrumental in establishing twenty business incubators around the Tennessee Valley including the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center in Florence. He served on the boards of several incubators and initiated the establishment of incubator managers' organizations in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Upon retirement, he continued his involvement in economic and community development working as a volunteer. Among his current efforts are the Film Commission of Northwest Alabama, the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, and the Roots of American Music Trail.



Anderson was instrumental in establishing the Jerry W. Davis Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence. This award is a partnership between UNA and the Appalachian Regional Commission designed to honor Davis' work in entrepreneurial development and to promote innovative approaches to entrepreneurial development by others. Each year a winner is selected from the ARC Region and awarded \$10,000 for use in entrepreneurial development in their community.

Anderson and his wife Jacque live in the Florence area. They have a son Jade, his wife Julia, and grandchildren Doss and Campbell.

**Sandra Sockwell ('79)** has been the personnel director/insurance manager for the city of Florence since 1989; prior to that she was assistant director of Human Resources at ECM Hospital from 1985 to 1989. She teaches part-time in UNA's Continuing Studies & Outreach Department on various topics, including instructor of certification program for the Society for Human Resource Management.



Sockwell has served as president of several organizations including: the board of directors of Alabama Self-Insurers Association (ASIA); Alabama Association of Public Personnel Administrators; West Way Child Development Center board; United Way of the Shoals; Florence Exchange Club; Shoals Area Committee on

Employment of People with Disabilities; Shoals Human Resource Professionals(SHRP), and teaches for Choices program (Chamber program for 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Shoals area).

She is married to a mechanical engineer and is "Mimi" to a grandson, Jackson.

**Murray Townsend ('67)** graduated with a major in mathematics and minors in physics and business administration. Murray has been a licensed Alabama real estate broker for Coussons Realty, since 2003, and a multi-million dollar producer. He is the president/owner of Computer Consultants, Inc. since 1981. They provide consulting services and software development services to a variety of businesses in North Alabama.



Townsend has served on the Shoals area Special Olympics finance and steering committee for the past 17 years. He is the president of the Shoals Area Special Athletes, and a non-profit corporation to support North Alabama Special Olympic Athletes. He is the president member of the board of directors of the Arc of the Shoals/Hope Haven. He is a recipient of volunteer of the year, and distinguished service awards from the Arc of The Shoals and a Habitat for Humanity volunteer. Townsend is past president of UNA National Alumni Association and a graduate of the Leadership Shoals Program.

He is a member of Woodmont Baptist Church and has been married to Connie Mitchell Townsend for 41 years. They have a daughter, Kelli, who attends Hope Haven School, the Arc of The Shoals. They also have a son, Jay, and a daughter-in-law, Kelly.



### The UNA Birmingham Alumni Chapter

invites alumni and fans from Birmingham and Montgomery to share a family style picnic (begins at 5:30 p.m.) and baseball game (7:05 p.m.) when the Birmingham Barons host the Montgomery Biscuits on Friday, April 25. Come to the Frank Thomas picnic area at the Hoover Met. Want to join us? RSVP to 256-765-4201 or visit our Web site at [www.una.edu/alumni/events](http://www.una.edu/alumni/events).

alumni of the year . . . .

# Rita Wray

The task of describing someone is difficult, especially in the case of Rita Wray, who has lived many different roles.

Sometimes she is a survivor, or, more precisely, a thriver. She was, after all, born in North Alabama during a time when it was not necessarily easy to be African American or female, both of which she happens to be. Yet, despite these characteristics which have been falsely named as handicaps, Mrs. Wray has gone from being a student to being a nurse to being the Founder/Chairperson of the Board of Directors of her own company and, most recently, “the highest ranking African American female in the executive branch of government in Mississippi.”

Busy is a word that describes her just as well. Her company, W.E. Inc. (Wray Enterprises), which was formed in 1987, has served as a national independent health care consulting firm for over twenty years. On top of that, she has been a Deputy Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration since 2004, when she was appointed to the position by Governor Haley Barbour. Some of Mrs. Wray’s other activities include giving to charitable organizations and causes (her current passion is with the Mississippi Children’s Museum, a project she is doing in conjunction with the Junior League of Jackson), writing timely business related articles, and presenting lectures. She also happens to be a wife to **Terrance Wray (’77)**, and a mother to their three children: Terrance Jr., Tamika, and Torrance.

Mrs. Wray is definitely worthy of the word spirited. She is a former UNA Lionette and wears our university’s colors of purple and gold each time she returns to campus. That spirit of hers is clearly reflected in her attitude about changing lives by doing it “immediately,” “flamboyantly,” and without “exception”.

The words “incredibly human” also work to describe Mrs. Wray. She is incredibly human in her faults, her triumphs, and the way she learns from each. Of equal human quality was how, during her Alumni of the Year acceptance speech, she recounted times past and issued promises for the future. In those promises she swore to, “live each day abundantly for I know who I am and whose I am,” to “continue to find joy and beauty in life,” to “laugh often and well,” and to “lend my time, talents, and treasure to endeavors that bring wellness and joy into the lives of all whom I touch.”

Of course, the most human thing about Mrs. Wray is her awareness that she is not alone in what she has accomplished. She thanks her mother, her husband, and all of her friends and family, who she values greatly. UNA congratulates you Mrs. Rita Wray on a life well lived.

Written by:  
*William Underwood*, Student Intern



## FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS

*The Faculty/Staff Service Awards are presented to successful alumni among peers on this campus.*

*These award winners possess far-reaching, long-term involvement and influence with students, organizations, and colleagues at the university.*

**Debbie Chaffin ('80 & '82)** is director of educational technology services and associate professor, and librarian at the university. Chaffin graduated from the University of Alabama in 1984 and 1988.

She is responsible for supervising all operations of the learning resources center, media services (electronic classrooms), digital media services (DVD Production), distance learning, academic technology and educational computer lab. She developed, designed, and implemented the distance learning program, the video production studio and the Shoals videoconference center.



Chaffin serves as chair and host of the new Distinguished Events Series at the university. She is a member of the George Lindsey Film Festival Committee, the Distance Learning Advisory Committee, the university commencement committee, and is advisor of Phi Theta Kappa alumni chapter. She served as president of Women in Higher Education (1996-98), intercampus interactive telecommunication system committee, and chaired and served as a member of numerous committees.

Chaffin is involved in the United Way, and is historian for the city of Guin and for the Guin First Baptist Church. She is a wonderful wife and mother to her family.

**Eddy Joe Brackin** is a 1963 graduate of Hazelwood High School, and a **1967** graduate of Florence State University with majors in mathematics and physics. He earned a Ph.D. in 1970 at the University of Alabama. Brackin has been a faculty member at UNA since 1969, making him the senior faculty member at UNA. He is married to Mary Alice McGregor Brackin and they have a son Greg. Together, they are very active in our community and are avid UNA sports fans.



**Earl Gardner ('71 & '74)** is a dedicated educator, and has shown far more than simple dedication during his three decades of academic service. Most of those years, in fact, have been spent at UNA. He holds an undergraduate degree in education, and a master's in school administration and supervision.



He began teaching in the beginning of 1972, and spent nine years teaching in the various classrooms in Lawrence County, Alabama; Florence; and Kilby Training School. In the fall of 1981, he became director of Kilby, a position he held until August, 1989. Taking the idea of multi-tasking to its extreme, Gardner used part of this time period to teach night classes at UNA and the University of Alabama, as well as earn a doctorate from the latter.

Since 1986, Gardner has put his focus on being either the full-time or part-time director of UNA's Education Research and Inservice Center, commonly known as ERIC. This department is responsible for providing professional development to some 4,000 teachers, administrators, and school board members throughout 14 school districts within the six county service areas.

Gardner has shown great support in the areas of science and nature conservation by partnering with groups such as TVA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. These groups sought to develop a Water Sourcebook, an Environmental Activities Guide, and a Tackle Box Science program. Each of these projects is targeted at elementary school students.

## PROMISING ALUMNI AWARDS

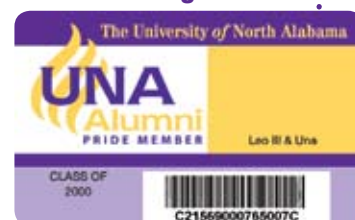
*UNA faculty and staff nominate seniors for the Promising Alumni Award who excel in leadership, scholastics, character, service, and potential. We are extremely proud of their undergraduate service to the university and believe they will be outstanding alumni leaders in the future.*

The 2007 University of North Alabama National Alumni Association Promising Alumni Award winners are **Colene Burns, Yuta Fukuda, Clayton Owen Grider, Whitney Blair Hill, Yuka Kimura, Gregory Tyler Mills, Agenda Overton, Timmy Ray, and Bethany N. Willingham.**

**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/reply envelope in the center of this magazine**



# UNA Alumni News

## Greater Birmingham Area Chapter- Upcoming Events

The Greater Birmingham Area Alumni Chapter planning group recently met to identify events for local alums to participate in over the next year. Upcoming events include a Birmingham Barons baseball game, which will be a great family event; a golf tournament that will assist the chapter in its goal of creating a Greater Birmingham area scholarship, and a celebrity chef dinner that will also benefit the scholarship funds of UNA. If you live in the Birmingham area or the five surrounding counties and are interested in helping on any of these three events, please contact the Birmingham Chapter Leaders.



*Pictured are Alan Medders, Phillip Inman ('75), Rebecca Jones ('79), Sandra Behel ('77), Carol Lyles ('70), Robbie Hillis ('96), Noel Gartman ('86).*

## Howard's Impact Hard to Overstate

*By Thomas V. Magazzu ('85) Publisher of Courier Journal  
Tom earned a B.A. in Commercial Art / Business  
Administration from the University of North Alabama*

Dr. G. Daniel Howard spent 15 years at the University of North Alabama serving in various capacities, most recently as Vice President for University Administration and International Relations. Howard resigned from UNA effective December 31<sup>st</sup> to accept the position of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research at Arkansas State University.

As the years pass, we will come to rightfully appreciate Howard's contributions at UNA.

Anyone acquainted with him, knows he does not approach opportunity in a casual manner. Howard is all business, intense, and doesn't appreciate mediocrity. I always found it interesting to watch him work at public events. He's a perfectionist, always keeping his eye on the prize, and not letting road blocks, criticism, or dissension adversely impact a project. That is what makes Howard successful in his pursuits. Improving the appearance and functionality of UNA's campus was at the top of his list.

Howard may be remembered most for his work in acquiring UNA's live lion mascots, Leo III and Una. Almost immediately after the death of Leo II in 2000, Howard knew what he wanted and knew how to get there. His plan for a new, highly-functional and visually appealing facility with two live mascots came to fruition in 2002 with the completion of the George H. Carroll Lion Habitat on campus. It was the talk of academic and animal-welfare circles nationwide, and the talk was not all positive. However, Howard's preparation, tact, and rationale rendered the naysayers clawless. What Howard envisioned came to fruition and the results cannot be questioned.

Howard and his wife, Anne, actually raised Leo III and Una for several months in their home as small, growing cubs. Many of us think we would love to raise a pair of cubs in our homes – before understanding what we were getting into. While it was a labor of love, it was a tremendous sacrifice for the Howards. The layman simply can't imagine the damage that two healthy and muscular lion cubs can inflict on a structure and furniture. The Howards are still in regular contact with the lions at the habitat, and leaving them will be extremely difficult for all.

Howard's influence will also be part of the UNA campus as a whole for generations to come. As Director of University Advancement, his work on the campus redesign, the Smith Bell Tower, the Lion Habitat, Harrison Plaza at the entrance to UNA, the Coby Hall and Rogers Hall restorations, the Raburn Wing of Keller Hall, and more are a testament to his diligence and his influence in the community. His fundraising prowess is impressive and each drive always included sizeable personal contribution

at the outset. Without his efforts and vision, most of those improvements would not have been realized.

Howard's work overseas has also produced a strong contingent of international students. That's controversial to some, but his work has helped establish new enrollment records and has injected millions of new dollars into the local economy.

It's rare for a community to come across someone with a passion, drive, and work ethic comparable to Dan Howard's. The university is losing a good one.

*Published: 01-02-2008 Courier Journal*

## Decade of the '70s Reunion

### Brings Folks Back to Sweet Home Alabama

Since reconnecting with her alma mater the past three to four years, **Deborah Rogers Ford ('74)** said she wishes she had stayed in touch all along. "I always feel at home when I go back. It's like I never left," said the owner of GRITS (Girls Raised in the South), Inc. Ford, of Birmingham, reconnected with her alma mater when she came to campus for UNA's Decade of the '70s Reunion.

The reunion included festivities throughout the September weekend, including a Friday evening lawn party, opening ceremony, and live entertainment. Former members of the Collegiate Singers performed at the opening ceremony under the talented leadership of former choral music director Joe Groom. Heart-warming and affectionate memories flooded the steps of Coby Hall and all present remembered the amazing times that were relived. The voices were strong and emotional.

"The football game is always a highlight," Ford said. But the "warmth and all the energy" is the real reason she came. "Just seeing all my friends and catching up was great," she said.

**Andy Betterton ('75)**, a 1975 UNA alumnus and controller for SBS Electric in Florence, said "It brought back people I've not seen in a long, long time – some I've not seen since I was a student," said Betterton, UNA's past alumni president.

The Decade of the '70s Reunion is the third reunion hosted by UNA, following the 1950s and 1960s reunions. During the fall of 2008, the Decade of the '80s alumni and friends will be invited back to campus to spin tales and share time and space with former classmates, faculty, and friends.

Tentative dates of September 26 - 27 have been set for the '80s reunion. If you would like to become a working member of the reunion committee, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 256-765-4201, or find more information at [www.una.edu/alumni](http://www.una.edu/alumni) by following the Alumni Events and the Decade Reunions links.

### Phi Mu Comes Home

*By Carol Covington ('78 & '80)*

The '70s reunion turned out to be a great time for all the 20-plus Phi Mu alums who attended. Everyone enjoyed catching up on the last 30 years, getting new addresses and e-mails. Many of us had not seen each other since graduation, but it didn't take long before we were back to the way we were during the old college days. Looks may

have changed, but the *girl* personalities, characters, and friendships remain the same. The weekend started off on Friday night with opening ceremonies at the Coby Hall Lawn Party followed by dancing the night away on the lawn of Coby Hall, and making plans for Saturday.

Our group met for lunch at Trowbridges to begin this fun-filled busy day. Later, we visited the sorority dorm-open house for Greeks, toured the newly renovated campus, and saw Leo and Una, the new mascots, at their habitat. No reunion would be complete without a football game. According to a recent *Southern Living* magazine article, the people at UNA know how to prepare for a pre-game celebration. Southern hospitality was at its finest when we attended the tailgating activities on Spirit Hill at Braly Municipal Stadium where we enjoyed chatting with many other '70s alumni. The rest of Saturday was spent enjoying each other's company and reliving college life at UNA. Some of the night owls attended the after game party at Swampers Bar and Grill at the Marriott Shoals. Everyone enjoyed the weekend so much that plans were made for a Phi Mu Spa Getaway at the Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham on Presidents Day weekend in February.

We missed those who were not able to attend the reunion. Were your ears burning? We want to thank UNA for arranging the '70s reunion events and all of you who made the effort to attend. The next time you get an invitation for an event at your old alma mater and you begin thinking of all the reasons you can't go, put those thoughts away. Because once you go, it's like you never were away. If you would like to be added to our Phi Mu email list, contact me at [atencar@wmconnect.com](mailto:atencar@wmconnect.com).

### Alpha Omicron Pi

*By Elaine Witt ('76)*

The decade reunion brought together the sisters of Alpha Omicron Pi. Even though we had not seen each other in many years, it seemed as if we had just been together in the AOPi room planning the next mixer. It didn't take long to catch up on 30 years of marriages, children, and careers. We even had a chance to visit with friends from other groups. Even though our sorority is no longer on campus, we still felt at home at UNA. From the Friday night lawn party, to the group reunions, to the football game (even walking the flag): we talked, danced, laughed, cried, and talked some more. We all agreed to do it again next year with our friends from the decade of the eighties.

Decade of the

# Reunion



*Sorority sisters, Collegiate Singers, favorite faculty and best-friends-forever spend time together at the UNA Decade Reunions. Alumni from the Decade of the '80s are invited to share memories during the weekend of September 26-27, 2008. Calendar the event.*



# The Third Annual UNA Geography Alumni Association Conference

*Dr. Lisa Keys-Mathews ('85), Assistant Professor of Geography*

The UNA Geography Alumni Association (UNAGAA), which was chartered on October 6th, 2005, held its third annual conference on November 1st - 2nd, 2007. There were twenty-nine original members and today the mailing list contains over 190 names. In July 2004, **Jesse Glasgow ('98)** and **Elizabeth Sutherland McCord ('98)** were attending a geography conference in San Diego, discussing how UNA geography alumni had infiltrated every aspect of the geography industry and were taking over the world...or at least mapping most of it. They realized the UNA geography department had become a valuable resource for a high quality work force, and there was a showcase of alumni to prove it. With an increasing department enrollment, there had to be a platform that would benefit alumni, students, and the university. The win/win/win idea of the UNAGAA was born. They then proposed the idea of the UNAGAA to the Department of Geography, and to Carol Lyles in Alumni Relations.

The UNAGAA was founded to facilitate and enhance networking, promote the Geography Department, and create a funding source exclusively supported by the UNAGAA. How do we go about attaining such lofty goals? The answer was to host an annual geography conference at UNA. The strength of the UNAGAA is that geography graduates, faculty, and current students have the opportunity at the annual meeting to network and share information through technical presentations. It also enables them to create new business liaisons and opportunities, renew old friendships and make new friends, and offer financial support for student research grants, all while furthering the discipline of geography and supporting UNA. The first conference had 29 attendees while the second conference had 68 attendees. The 2007 conference had 104 attendees including graduates, faculty, and current students.

The 2007 conference was held in Wesleyan Hall, which meant that everyone was able to wander through the building where they got their geography start. They could see the changes in the computer lab, the addition of new faculty and office space, and the fact that we are bursting at the seams on the first floor. The meeting started off with a welcome by **Melissa Hickman Bailey ('98)** and **Bryan Mitchell ('99)**, conference co-chairs; association President Elizabeth Sutherland McCord, and Dr. Bill Strong,

Chair of the Department of Geography and association advisor. President Bill Cale was this year's guest speaker at the Alumni

breakfast while Vice President for Advancement, Dr. Alan Medders, was a part of the welcome on the first day and discussed donor opportunities with the Department of Geography and the Alabama Geographic Alliance. The conference included over fifteen presentations of current state-of-the-art geography technologies and geography applications in private industry, the public sector, and university research. The topics ranged from urban growth modeling to mapping uneven regional development in Alabama to forest succession in hardwood stands. The entire conference agenda can be found at <http://www.unagaa.org>.

This year's conference chairs had the foresight to invite organizations to become sponsors and to participate in a vendors' showcase. The City of Florence was a gold sponsor. Silver sponsors included: 3001, Inc. (Huntsville), ESRI (Redland, California); GEO Jobe GIS Consulting (Nashville, Tennessee) and Kaya Associates, Inc. (Huntsville) were "Silver Sponsors". The bronze-level vendors included PhotoScience (Atlanta), Keet Consulting Services (Birmingham), Intergraph Services Company (Huntsville), and Alagasco/Energen (Birmingham).

We also sponsored our first map competition. Graduates were encouraged to enter a map they had created in the course of their work over the last year. The judges for this competition were Mary Jennings, Publications; **Debbie Wilson ('83)**, Director of the Florence/Lauderdale Tourism Office; and Dr. Justin Hart, Department of Geography. Jason Watson's map of Commingled Contaminant Plumes on Redstone Arsenal was selected as the top map submitted. Jason was given a gift certificate, as well as a National Geographic atlas signed by all of the meeting attendees.

Beginning at the 2006 meeting, the UNAGAA gave two awards; a student research grant and the Geographer of the Year award. To apply for the \$500 student research grant, current students must write a proposal that includes a detailed explanation of their proposed research including where they intend to present their findings. All research proposals must be mentored by a faculty member. The UNAGAA committee then selects the best proposal. Last year's winner was **Rita Strong ('07)** whose research involved a satellite image analysis of standing water in southern Louisiana in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Rita Strong presented her research findings in a poster session at the Association of American Geographers meeting in San Francisco. She also presented the findings at the 2007



UNAGAA conference. This year the committee selected two research award recipients; Matt Trousdale and Matt Kachelman. Matt Trousdale's research proposal was titled Development Problems in Alabama's Black Belt: Can Geographic Information Systems be Part of the Solution?, and is mentored by Dr. Francis Koti. Matt Kachelman's research proposal was titled Climate-Growth Relationships of Eastern Hemlock at its Southern Limit in Alabama, and is mentored by Dr. Justin Hart. Both recipients will receive \$500, which can be used to fund their travel to Boston where they will present their findings at the annual Association of American Geographers meeting. Both of these young men will present their findings at the 2008 UNAGAA conference as well.

The other new award was the "Geographer of the Year". Nominations are submitted on-line by UNA graduates with the final selection made by the awards committee. The first recipient of this award was **Neill Jobe ('97)**, founder and president of GEO-Jobe GIS Consulting in Nashville, Tennessee. Neill was an excellent selection for this award because of his outstanding work in the GIS industry including the development of his own consulting firm ([www.geo-jobe.com](http://www.geo-jobe.com)).

The 2007 Geographer of the Year selection got a little personal for me because I was selected for this award. I have a very special relationship with UNA and the Department of Geography. I am both a faculty member and a graduate of the UNA Geography program. I am the beneficiary of a great education from UNA, and I am able to help provide a great education through UNA. What makes this award even more special is that I was nominated and selected by my geography graduate peers . . . who also happened to be my students at one time or another. I could not have been more surprised or more humbled by the experience of receiving the Geographer of the Year award.

As a faculty member, I enjoy seeing our graduates come back home to this annual conference every year. I enjoy talking with each individual about what they are doing, what they hope to do, and where they want to be in the next few years. I love seeing wedding pictures and pictures of their children; I love showing them pictures of my kids and listening to the grads talk about how life changes. I snicker when they attempt the transition from calling me Dr. Mathews to calling me Lisa; but it only takes a little time for them to become accustomed to thinking of faculty not just as professors and mentors, but as colleagues, as well.

I laugh when our graduates talk about some project that I or another faculty member required of them at one time. Names that come up are the landfill project, or the

Cracker Barrel project, for example. These projects are a part of experiences that they all share, and even though the projects have changed through time, the names still ring a bell and still allow graduates and students to commiserate and relate to each other through a shared experience. I now appreciate when someone walks up and tells me that some class that I recommended they take, a class that they didn't really want to take, eventually helped them out in their job. I tell all my current students when a graduate says that they wished they had taken some class or another that I had recommended but they didn't - now they know better.

Truthfully, however, I am no different than any other member of the faculty in the Department of Geography. Within our department, faculty and students develop strong, professional relationships that benefit us all. We, the faculty, require a lot of our students, and while they sometimes complain, after they graduate and settle into a job, they soon realize that the hard work was in their best interest. The students always see the faculty working just as hard as they are so that helps -- misery loves company. We, as a department and as individuals, follow students from the time they select geography as a major until they graduate, helping them throughout the process from course selection, to internship placement, to finding a job. Someone from the department is always with them or available for a consultation. Of course, once our students move on, we may still offer advice when it is requested, but we also take advice from our graduates. What does the industry need in new graduates? What should we add or change in the curriculum? What do you need in new employees? We take all of their advice into account.

So, that is why the UNA Department of Geography graduates want to come back home. We are each a part of a team -- really a family -- but all working toward a common goal: the advancement of geography, geography graduates, and geography students into the 21st century and beyond.

**Marcelle McDaniel ('97)** is the current association president. Under her leadership and with the help of conference co-chairs **Allison Newton ('03)** and **Neill Jobe ('97)**, I am sure that the 2008 conference will have a larger attendance, more presentations, and more involvement, as well as more networking and socializing. I, for one, can't wait until the fall of 2008.





*By Dr. Garry Warren*

In August 2007 the Special Joint Task Force of the University of North Alabama and the city of Florence completed its report which reviewed and recommended enhancements for strengthening community-university relationships. The 14-member task force chaired by Garry Warren was appointed by President William Cale, Jr., and Mayor Bobby Irons in September 2006. Among the topics suggested for the committee to study were how students regard the university and the city, demographic shifts/occupational trends, and changes that the city and the university should make.

After much discussion, the task force concluded that the major areas of concern fell into four distinct categories. Those categories were: A) Communication, University/Shoals Marketing, Image, and UNA Pride; B) University Zoning, University/Downtown Master Plans, Student Life, and Student Jobs; C) University Program Development and the International Student Program; and D) Athletics.

Recommendations were made by the task force in each of the areas. In most instances, the task force decided that it was best to note the issues, and to allow the appropriate entities to seek a solution using the resources at their disposal.

Among the more notable recommendations were:

- The President of UNA and the Mayor of Florence should meet on a regular basis with the task force to discuss current issues and to discuss progress being made on the report's recommendations;
- The employment of a marketing manager/community relations director by UNA to better market the university and to serve as the "point" person with the community;
- The city should investigate the development of a university district, which would serve as a transition zone between the university and the city. The zone would allow light impact business opportunities such as limited menu restaurants, coffee shops, WI-FI centers, etc.;
- The City of Florence Comprehensive Plan and UNA's Master Plan should be studied and used together in order to find infrastructure synergies;
- Expand programmatic opportunities for nontraditional and undecided students; and
- The university should be vigilant in continually evaluating the most appropriate level of competition with the NCAA that fits the mission and status of the university and the community.

The Task Force did not intend for the document to provide an exhaustive road map for the university and the Shoals community to form a more perfect partnership. Rather, the report is a renewed start for the community and UNA to build on an already positive relationship. The Shoals and the university have a long and proud tradition. This should only grow.

# Town & Gown

*Three business leaders discuss UNA, the Shoals community, and how each strengthens the other*

For some, terms such as university pride and community spirit conjure images of game-day face paint and Lion tailgate parties. Others think of scholarship gifts to their alma mater. For a few, a little purple and gold in the wardrobe will do.

Pride and spirit take many different forms. But whatever form it may take, leaders from the University of North Alabama and the surrounding community agree: It fuels the strength and growth of both the university and the Shoals.

For one Florence business, this spirit and pride has taken the form of a 627-square-foot banner on the front of a prominent downtown building.

If you're in Florence certain times of the year, you'll find the face of the ProSouth building – formerly the Greater Alabama Building – draped with a gold UNA banner. The new garb was introduced in November, when the owners of ProSouth Commercial Realty wanted a unique way of showing their UNA pride leading into the Lion football team's semifinal game.

But it wasn't just simple UNA pride the business owners were looking to show.

"We think UNA is a big deal and wanted to help make others aware of that fact," said John Rusevlyan, co-owner of ProSouth. "By placing the banner on the ProSouth building during key times for the university, we hope that this will help inspire other businesses to make a much greater commitment to the university.

"What is good for UNA is good for everyone in the Shoals."

Carol Lyles has been one of the many UNA faculty and staff trying to capitalize on this "good for everyone" philosophy.

"The two – UNA and the Shoals community – really should operate as one in many ways," said Lyles, UNA alumni director and coordinator of several prominent UNA/community events and programs. "Each entity becomes stronger and experiences more growth as the two support one another. Town-gown relations should be an upward spiral for both the university and the local community."

Charles Inman, sales manager for the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, is seeing that first-hand. Inman, a 1971 alumnus of UNA, has helped spearhead several partnerships between UNA and the Marriott Shoals, hosting faculty and athletic recruits and other special guests and events of the university. In turn, he said, he's helping fuel a vital economic engine for the community, which boosts business.

"UNA is the intellectual and progressive hub of the entire community," he said. "It enhances the quality of life in every area. Whether it be from business growth to cultural events, the university is truly the center of it all." Rusevlyan agreed, noting that such impact would exist even "without the business community intentionally embracing the benefits of having a four-year institution in our midst. The positive impact on our community with employment, cultural events, brain power, retail sales and housing is tremendous and can be leveraged to a much higher impact with awareness."

Such impact is seen every day by Rick Elliott, whose downtown Florence restaurant, Ricatoni's, is continually covered with UNA students, faculty and staff. "They're driving the local economy. They're helping generate revenue for our businesses and local municipalities," said Elliott, who has supported several UNA athletic teams and the international studies program over the years.

Elliott said a university such as UNA is also a valuable resource for employers seeking well-trained, educated employees.

"I know that I am able to hire a much higher caliber employee here than I would in other cities because the people I hire here are associated with the university," he said. "When you have people like that work for you, things just get easier. You're able to set a higher standard and provide better service."

Inman has found a similar benefit as he has partnered with UNA to develop a new academic program in culinary arts. With a shortage of trained, qualified chefs in the restaurant and hotel industries, he said, UNA is enabling the Marriott Shoals to help "design the curriculum so that we can become a place where chefs can receive practical training to augment their academic training. This partnership will help build a quality culinary program at the university and, in turn, will give us more qualified candidates to become chefs at our hotels."

Inman said it's that type of partnership that can build a thriving university and community culture. In recent years, he said, "The university has reached out to the community to say, 'What do we need to do to meet your needs, and how can your company and the university combine its assets to ensure a continual growth in this area economically as well as academically? How can we provide the trained, educated workforce that we need to have for the future of the Tennessee Valley?'"

# comedic rants and serious thought: A Profile on Dr. Randy Cross

By William Underwood, Student Intern

In the few years that I have spent putting my thoughts onto paper, it has become clear that some stories simply refuse to cooperate with their writers. This seems to be one of those stories since I have written at least a dozen variations of these opening sentences on **Dr. Randy Cross ('73)**. I have only met him once, right after he delivered the keynote speech at UNA's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Convocation ceremony, so you wouldn't think there could be too much difficulty in writing about a few minutes worth of experience, but you'd be wrong. From a writer's standpoint, there are so many things that can complicate a story like this.

First of all, Dr. Cross happens to be a very nice man. Nice people aren't easy to talk about, especially not when you compare talking about them to the act of talking about mean people. All it takes to write about mean people is a grudge and a large vocabulary of angry adjectives. Ranting never becomes cliché because there are always new ways to complain. On the other hand, nice people get the same compliments handed to them over and over again. I bet Dr. Cross can't begin to count how many times he has heard the phrases, "You're a very funny person," "You are such a good speaker," or "I laughed so much during your speech." There is nothing wrong with these compliments. I agree with them, and I am sure he enjoys them every time they are offered, but I'm certainly not going to repeat them if I can help it. I wonder if anyone has ever used the phrase, "Dr. Cross, I loved your wondrous compilations of humanity's extravagances because they were uproariously accurate and hilarious." I'm pretty sure that means the same thing as the other compliments...maybe. Where did I put my dictionary?

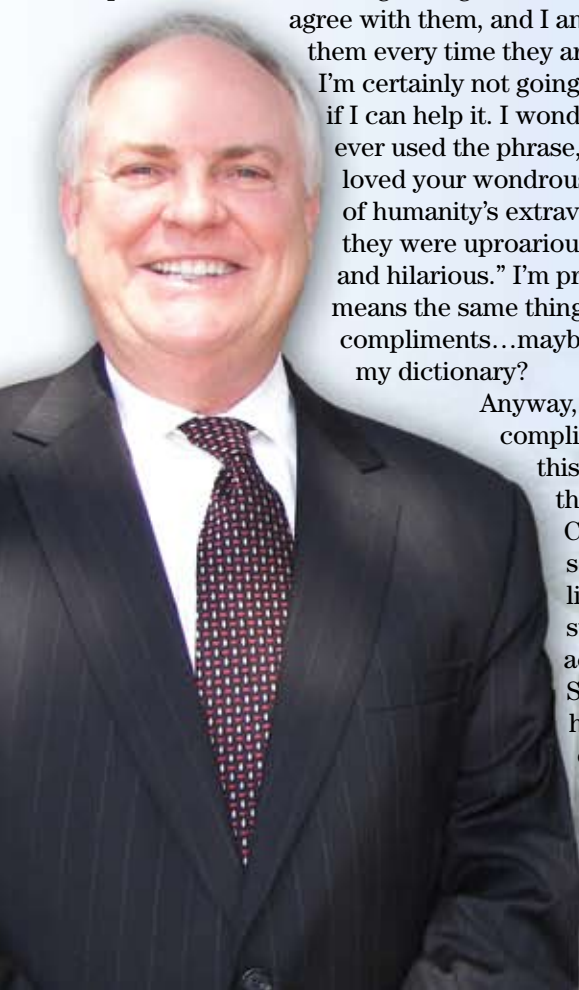
Anyway, the second complication of writing this article has been the fact that Dr. Cross has done so much in his life. Where do I start in listing his accomplishments? Should I start in his hometown of St. Joseph, Tennessee, where he learned "how to harness and

plow a mule, build fences," and to speak with a really good Southern accent? Should I start with his time at UNA, where he learned what an amphitheater was, discovered that provincial was not a compliment, and realized that an "F" "earned in Mr. Jones's Accounting class" had the ability to change his life since it "turned (him) from a major for which (he) had no aptitude and led (him) to English, for which (he) (has) some." Or, maybe I should skip all of that and simply talk about his time after college. Since his graduation from UNA, Dr. Cross has become a college professor, scholar, lecturer, and a retired lieutenant colonel from the Tennessee Army National Guard. He received his Doctorate from the University of Mississippi, and has been named as both a Fulbright Scholar and a Senior Fulbright Scholar. Because of the Fulbright Scholar Program, Dr. Cross was able to teach in Brazil and Portugal. He calls both of these adventures, "life-changing experiences."

I should probably mention some of Dr. Cross' scholarly works. Through them, Dr. Cross has worked with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Alabama Humanities Foundation, and Auburn University's Arts and Humanities Center. Some of his scholarly works have connected him with another UNA Alumni, the Pulitzer Prize winning author **T.S. Stribling (1903)**. Dr. Cross was the co-editor of Stribling's autobiography, *Laughing Stock*, which was published after Stribling's death. Dr. Cross continued his Stribling related work by writing introductions for re-issued editions of *The Forge*, *The Store*, and *Unfinished Cathedral*. Although Cross never knew Stribling, he "was privileged to spend a great deal of time with his widow, Mrs. Louella Stribling, during the last twenty years of her life."

Of course, I would be in great trouble with Dr. Cross if I didn't mention some of his current accomplishments. Dr. Cross lives in Decatur, Alabama with his wife, Kim, and their son, Alex. When not spending his hours as a traveling lecturer, Dr. Cross works at Decatur's Calhoun Community College as an English professor.

The last complication of writing this article has been the fact that Dr. Cross is a friend of mine. I said at the beginning of this paper that he and I have met only once, but we have spoken on a few occasions through e-mail. It's hard writing back and forth with Randy, as he has asked me to call him, without beginning to like him. You can try not to like a likable fellow such as Randy, but it's too difficult a task for me so I'll just go ahead and like him. And as hard as it is to avoid liking him, it is even harder to avoid trying to make him look good. I think I have succeeded in that, and if I haven't made him look good then at least I can say I tried. I guess there is nothing more to say than, "Dr. Cross is a very funny person, a good speaker, and I laughed so much during his speech."



# Around the Campus

## From the College of Nursing and Allied Health *BSN Ranks highest in the state of Alabama*

The College of Nursing and Allied Health (CONAH) Online Department's Masters of Science in nursing program received an accreditation visit by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) on November 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The preliminary report by the three visitors indicated that the program successfully met all CCNE standards with a final report expected April 2008. In the traditional department, the 2006-07 pass rate for the CONAH on the National Council of Licensing Exam for RNs (NCLEX) was the highest of BSN programs in the state of Alabama at 96.6% (N=87). This rate exceeded the state average of 87.5% and the national average of 85.7%. Additionally, the University of North Alabama National Alumni Association awarded CONAH alumna **Rita Wray ('78)** the "Alumni of the Year" Award for 2007-08. A profile on Rita Wray, from Jackson, Mississippi is located on page 16 of this publication.

## UNA Announces New University Relations Director

Josh Woods has assumed duties as Director of University Relations at the University of North Alabama. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Woods has served for the past seven years as assistant Director of Public Relations at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. His duties at UNA will include media relations as well as marketing, public relations, advertising, and promotion.

"It didn't take me long to see that many great things are happening at UNA and that its leadership has an excellent vision for the future," Woods said. "UNA could very well become one of the best public regional universities in the nation, and I want to help make that happen."

UNA's Office of University Relations falls under the



administrative supervision of Dr. Alan Medders, who was named UNA's Vice President for Advancement earlier this summer.

"Josh brings with him tremendous experience and a clear understanding of the changing expectations of a university relations office," Medders said. "He will bring to the university a collaborative spirit to market and promote all areas of the campus to our alumni, friends, and community."

"I look forward to working with the entire university and the people of the Shoals area to strategically communicate the excellent opportunities and growth that are a part of UNA," Woods said.

## UNA Hosts Veterans Day Program

*By Michele King, UNA Student Writer*

Each year the University of North Alabama hosts a Veterans Day program at the Memorial Amphitheater. The event is sponsored by the UNA Student Government Association.

The featured speaker for the 2007 program was Edwin R. Holcombe, who spoke on the history and importance of the United States flag. Holcombe attended Florence State Teachers College, now UNA, in the late 1950s. He later graduated from Alabama Polytechnic University, now Auburn University, with a bachelor's degree and teacher's certificate in agricultural education. Holcombe served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Berlin during the Berlin Crisis of 1961.

His 33-year career with the Tennessee Valley Authority included service as an agricultural aid and land appraiser. Holcombe has traveled and taught extensively on bee biology, beekeeping, and honey production. He now operates Backwood Apiaries in Shelbyville, Tennessee, with his wife, **Mildred Elaine Holcombe ('58)**.



*2007 Miss UNA  
Collene Burns  
and Edwin R.  
Holcombe*

## UNA Welcomes Arnot as Commencement Speaker

*By Rebecca Walker ('07), Student Writer*

The University of North Alabama hosted foreign correspondent, medical journalist and best-selling author Dr. Bob Arnot as guest speaker for its fall commencement in December on the UNA campus. An estimated 552 students received diplomas, according to Dr. Sue Wilson, Dean of Enrollment Services and Registrar.

Arnot spoke on giving and the importance of being involved in the community and world as a citizen and humanitarian.

"It's a very timely topic for our graduates," said David Shields, UNA's Vice-President for Student Affairs. "He discussed how to take a college degree, and do something with it beyond working. He is an international traveler and an advocate for international issues. We are very thrilled that he was our commencement speaker."

Arnot, who is fluent in Arabic, served as a special foreign correspondent for NBC from 2001 to 2004. During the past five years, he has covered the front lines of wars and conflicts in Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Kosovo, and the Sudan. He recently aired a Discovery network special, "Task Force Devil," in which he reported on military operations in Afghanistan.

## Dr. Garry Warren

Dr. Garry Warren was tapped as the University of North Alabama's new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

"As I spoke with many individuals, and received considerable input from our various governance groups, it became very clear that Garry Warren is the individual that our community supports to fill this important position," Dr. William G. Cale, UNA President, said in an announcement to the university faculty and staff.

Warren had previously served as Special Assistant to the President and Dean of Information Technologies, overseeing the operations of the university's libraries, computer services, educational technology services, continuing studies and outreach, and distance learning activities. He came to UNA in 1987 as Dean of Library Services.

As Academic Vice President and Provost, Warren will provide the leadership and support for "a very talented faculty. This faculty translates into an excellent university with excellent growth and opportunities. I've been, and continue to be, very fortunate at UNA to work with this caliber of an academic team," Warren said.

He said his new role is familiar territory, having served in the post on an interim basis in 2003. Warren was also interim president from June 2004 to January 2005, and interim athletic director in summer 2007.

Warren replaces Dr. Roosevelt Newson, who now serves as UNA's Vice President for University Programs.

## Distinguished Events Series

The University of North Alabama presented a musical installment of its Distinguished Events Series in January in Norton Auditorium. The event, Virtuoso Showcase, featured pianist Scott Holshouser of the Houston Symphony, clarinetist Dr. Jimmy Simpson, formerly of the UNA music faculty, and vocalist Dr. Soojeong Lee of the UNA music faculty.

Scott Holshouser, the son of UNA's first lady, B.J. Cale, has been the orchestra keyboardist for the Houston Symphony since 1980 and is accompanist for the Houston Symphony Chorus. His solo appearances include performances with the symphonies in Dallas, Atlanta and Stavanger, Norway. He has also played more than 25 solo performances with the Houston Symphony. Holshouser is featured on recordings with clarinetist Richard Nunemaker and violinist Pip Clarke.

Jimmy Simpson, recently retired chair of the UNA music department, came to UNA in 1973 as assistant band director and woodwind instructor. Under his leadership, the music department became an accredited member of the prestigious National Association of Schools of Music in 1986. Simpson has served as president of the Alabama Music Educators Association and the Association of Alabama Music Administrators.

Soojeong Lee joined UNA as an assistant professor of voice and opera in 2001. She has performed in concert halls throughout the United States, including Alice Tully Hall, Merkin Hall, and Carnegie Weill Recital Hall in New York; North Shore Center for the Performing Arts and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in Illinois; and Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center in Virginia.

The Distinguished Events Series began in the fall 2005 for UNA students, faculty, staff, and the community.



*Dr. Jimmy Simpson, Scott Holshouser, Dr. Yi-Min Cai, Casey Jo Ahn Robards, and Dr. Soojeong Lee*

## Hank Klibanoff Lecture Distinguished Events Series

By Rebecca Walker ('07), Student Writer

In October, the Distinguished Events Series began its third year by bringing Florence's own 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner, Hank Klibanoff, to campus to speak about the book which took the prize for distinguished book upon the history of the United States.

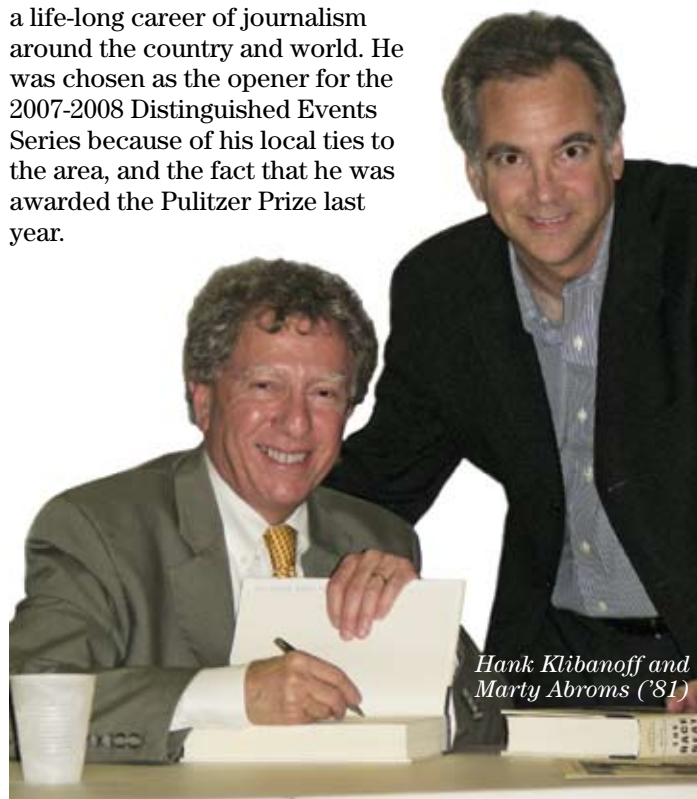
Klibanoff, who grew up in the Shoals, co-authored *The Race Beat*.

The book explores the positive and negative impacts of the media on the Civil Rights Movement, drawing upon first-hand accounts of those who were present at many of the events discussed in the book, as well as thousands of archived research documents.

While in town for his Coffee High School 40-year class reunion, Klibanoff spoke to a crowd of approximately 300 students, faculty, staff, and community members in the Guillot University Center. Earlier in the day, he had spoken to a crowd of at least that size at the local Rotary Club luncheon.

"He is one of the best speakers we've had," said **Debbie Chaffin ('80)**, who is the chair of the series' committee. "We were glad that our students and community got the opportunity to see a local son who has done so well. He was interesting and brought a wealth of material and experience with him."

Klibanoff is the current managing editor for news at *The Atlanta-Journal Constitution*. He has worked as a metro reporter, national correspondent in Chicago, business editor and deputy managing editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. He also served as a reporter at *The Boston Globe*, and in Mississippi at *The Daily Herald*, *The South Mississippi Sun* (now the Sun Herald), and the *Delta-Democrat Times*. He co-authored the book with University of Maryland, College Park journalism professor Gene Roberts, who has also lived a life-long career of journalism around the country and world. He was chosen as the opener for the 2007-2008 Distinguished Events Series because of his local ties to the area, and the fact that he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize last year.



Hank Klibanoff and  
Marty Abrams ('81)

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# Historic Rogers Hall Rededicated, Renamed

After a \$1.3 million renovation, a University of North Alabama and Florence landmark was rededicated and renamed at a November 2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony. The ceremony was in conjunction with UNA's annual homecoming festivities. Rogers Hall, now the Rogers Hall Alumni House, has been under full renovation since January 2007. The project has been funded through a \$300,000 UNA Foundation campaign as well as a \$1 million university contribution.

"This is an excellent historic facility that UNA, the alumni, and the community can be proud of for many years to come," said Dr. William G. Cale, UNA President.

Originally named Courtview, the building was renamed Rogers Hall in 1948, when it was purchased by the university from Thomas M. Rogers, Sr. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Only months ago, Rogers Hall was a structurally weak, decaying building. Post-renovation, it feels like a new facility in many ways, with new steel skeletal structuring, new floor joists and a new air-circulation system, among many other features. Its basement, once non-functional storage space, has also been fully gutted and redesigned as fully functional office space.

"It has been exciting to watch this magnificent building transform over these past few months," said

Dr. Dan Howard, former Vice President for Administration and International Relations, who oversaw the renovation. "Aesthetically and structurally, it is not the same Rogers Hall we had a year ago." While much of the main floor has been designed and equipped for receptions and entertaining, the building has also been redesigned to house the UNA advancement staff. Staff offices include the UNA Foundation, alumni relations, annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, grant writing, publications and university relations.

"It is safe to say this is one of the finest alumni houses you'll find at any university. Our alumni and staff are proud to call Rogers home," said Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President for University Advancement.

After bringing a group of retirees to visit Rogers Hall, Gary Green said, "The UNA retirees' visit to Rogers was an enjoyable and memorable one. To say the building is beautiful would be an understatement. We couldn't believe our eyes when we walked into the basement. Whoever said miracles don't happen anymore should set their sights on Rogers Hall."



# University Advancement

In coming to UNA, I expected to find the Lion Pride spirit alive and well and I have not been disappointed. The alumni and friends of UNA express a deep appreciation for the history, heritage, and traditions of UNA. You have demonstrated excitement about the current growth in enrollment, enhancements to the campus, athletic accomplishments, new faculty positions, and new academic programs. While the past and present are always a part of any discussion I have with alumni and friends, the conversation soon turns to a heightened anticipation of the future. "What is going to happen next and how can I help?" is the overwhelming sentiment. This is the kind of spirit that universities must have from alumni and friends as the challenges of the future unfold.

However, the challenges of the future require much planning and preparation. Our goal is to provide the opportunities for our alumni and friends to "help" UNA more than ever. Over the past seven months, we have made numerous adjustments in the Office of Advancement to meet personnel and programming needs. On the personnel side, I am pleased to announce that Judy Jackson has been promoted to Director of Major Gifts; Josh Woods has joined us as Director of University Relations; Dr. Barry Morris, Chair of the Economics and Finance Departments and Professor of Economics at UNA for 34 years has accepted the position of

Director of Planned Giving; and Jeremy Britten is assuming the new position of university web master. There are still other positions yet to be filled that are of critical importance to our advancement efforts.



*Judy Jackson and Alan Medders*

Several programs have been modified or developed to increase alumni and friends financial support to the university. The previous Annual Giving program, which provided general university support, now is The Scholarship Fund providing annual scholarships to help keep the cost of a UNA education affordable. There are also two new ways that alumni and friends can show support. First - the UNA Alumni Pride Program. A minimum gift of \$50 or

more will be divided equally to support the National Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund and your National Alumni Association. Awards from the Alumni Scholarship Fund are made to deserving students and the remainder of the gifts will assist your National Alumni Association with chapter development and programs.

The second is the UNA Double Endowment Program. A newly created scholarship endowment with a minimum of \$25,000, paying an annual 5 percent distribution will be matched dollar for dollar by the university. In other words, the \$25,000 fund paying \$1,250 will become \$2,500 for scholarships for the intent of your endowment. This is the case with an endowment of any size. Existing endowments which

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donors agree to double the current value will be moved into this new award formula.

In the near future, Dr. Barry Morris will be announcing several changes renaming the Legacy Society to the Courtview Society. The Courtview Society recognizes individuals who have included UNA in their estate plans through a will or bequest or have executed a charitable trust, charitable gift annuity, or made UNA the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. In addition, we have expanded our current giving levels (listed in the chart to the right). All of these new programs will assist us in meeting our 2008-2009 \$3 million goal of support for UNA through the UNA Foundation.

These are just a few of the new initiatives emerging from the Advancement Office. We look forward to keeping you informed of other opportunities of service or support that you can provide to UNA. Thank you for all you do to keep the Lion Pride spirit going strong.

*Alan Medders*

*Vice President for University Advancement*

## Bell Honored with UNA Endowed Scholarship

*By Josh Woods, Director of University Relations*

It isn't the retirement gift she was expecting, but it is one she hopes will produce more ambitious educators. After a 39-year career in education, Gail Bell, of Florence, was honored by her children with the Gail McGouirk Bell Endowed Scholarship Fund at the University of North Alabama.

"I hope it'll make it possible for someone who loves teaching to be able to complete their training and go to work helping children," said Bell, who earned her master's degree in education from UNA in 1981.

Bell's scholarship has been established through gifts from the Bell family as well as friends and colleagues in Wayne County, Tennessee, where Bell spent 30 years of her education career. She spent her final nine years as principal of Collinwood Elementary School.

The scholarship will be awarded to UNA education students from Wayne County. The first recipients will be selected in spring 2008, and the scholarship will be awarded in the fall.

"We're honored Ms. Bell's children and friends have chosen to honor her career in this way, and we want to thank those who have contributed to the fund," said Dr. Alan Medders, UNA Vice President for Advancement.

For more information on making an endowed or planned gift at UNA, contact the Office of Advancement at 256-765-4670.

## Coffee High School Alumni Endowed Scholarship

The Coffee High School alumni held a rally in October to increase funding for the Coffee High School Alumni Endowed Scholarship at UNA. The mission of the Coffee High School alumni is to permanently fund a scholarship in the name of the school that would be awarded to a deserving graduate of Florence High School planning to attend the University of North Alabama.

The scholarship was awarded to a Florence High School graduate, according to Kelly Ford, administrative assistant to the vice president for Student Affairs at UNA. Ford said that the alumni are hoping to increase funds for the scholarship to at least \$100,000.

## GIVING LEVELS

<b>Pinnacle Society</b> .....	\$ 1 million and greater
<b>Crest Society</b> .....	\$750,000 - \$999,999
<b>Fountain Society</b> .....	\$500,000 - \$749,999
<b>1830 Society</b> .....	\$250,000 - \$499,999
<b>Centennial Circle</b> .....	\$100,000 - \$249,999
<b>Founders Circle</b> .....	\$50,000 - \$99,999
<b>Magnolia Society</b> .....	\$25,000 - \$49,999
<b>O'Neal Society</b> .....	\$10,000 - \$24,999
<b>Cypress Club</b> .....	\$5,000 - \$9,999
<b>Towers Society</b> .....	\$2,500 - \$4,999
<b>Victory Circle</b> .....	\$1,000 - \$2,499
<b>Wesleyan Society</b> .....	\$500 - \$999
<b>LaGrange Circle</b> .....	\$250 - \$499
<b>Century Club</b> .....	\$100 - \$249
<b>Gold Club</b> .....	up to \$99

The rally was held in the Coffee gym on the campus of Florence Middle School, which was formerly Coffee High School. Winfrey "Wimp" Sanderson ('59), former University of Alabama head basketball coach, and a Coffee High School and UNA alumnus, served as emcee. Ronnie Flippo ('65), Coffee High alumnus and UNA trustee, was the keynote speaker for the event.

According to Ronnie Flippo, in a speech delivered at the rally, "Florence High School/Coffee High School, UNA are all institutions that exist to serve us... They are all part of the same family. What affects one affects the other. UNA is an outstanding university much deserving of our support. And she gives back, too... some may not know that the economic impact alone is around \$200 million per year, supporting over 6,000 jobs directly and indirectly. We are one community inseparable... UNA is a local, regional, national, and international asset that will continue to grow in importance. You may have heard this before, but it's worth repeating: UNA represents us. It is our identity. It is the way the Shoals presents itself to other communities and universities. It is the way we compare ourselves to others. It is the way we measure our progress or lack thereof... UNA is our pride and our joy.

If you want to help yourself and your family... support UNA.

If you want to improve your community... support UNA.

If you believe education is the key to the future... support UNA."

A donation to the Coffee High School Alumni Endowed Scholarship is tax-deductible. Telephone the UNA Foundation at 256-765-4670.

## Establishment of the Pride of Dixie Band Travel Fund

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

If you have not taken the opportunity in the past several years to attend a UNA Pride of Dixie Band concert or observe a field presentation, you have missed a delightful performance. Our own band students are the envy of other university band directors, because they provide the top-notch talent and dedication that allow our band to consistently receive accolades and respect from both high school and college programs.

Because the Pride of Dixie Marching Band is one of UNA's greatest ambassadors, we have created an

opportunity for you to acquire ownership in this magnificent organization. While the band is always willing to travel and perform, the expense to transport the over two hundred members has restricted the band's ability to travel to away athletic contests during the regular season and playoffs. As the football playoffs unfolded during the 2007 season, the band was considering several travel opportunities. Unfortunately, the season ended without the opportunity to travel to an away game. However, the circumstances brought to light the need to secure funds for future travel opportunities. Over the coming months the UNA Foundation would like to secure gifts to help cover the future travel cost of the Pride of Dixie Band. The goal is to raise \$50,000 to establish the Pride of Dixie Marching Band Travel Fund. While much of this initial \$50,000 could be expended for a single game depending on the distance they need to travel, it is the objective to create a fund that can receive annual support, and build a significant contingency for such future travel expenses.

Your gift qualifies as a tax-deductible gift under IRS guidelines. Your gift, combined with others, will ensure the Pride of Dixie Band will continue to represent the university across the state, region and nation. Please mail your donation to the UNA Foundation, UNA Box 5075, Florence, Alabama, 35632-0001, or log onto our Web site at [www.una.edu](http://www.una.edu), click on the alumni link, and then click on the Annual Giving link. Thank you for your support of this worthy cause.

## Willy Cats to Join Campaign for Willingham Hall

Dr. Ron Smith is accustomed to alumnae popping their heads into his office to see their old dorm study room. He doesn't think it odd at all. It just comes with the territory of working in a dormitory-turned-academic-building, which describes Willingham Hall.

"It's still kind of recognizable as a dorm," said Smith, who has had an office in Willingham since 1980, when he joined the University of North Alabama English faculty. Willingham, constructed in 1939 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) building, was originally a women's residence hall, although it has housed the departments of English and history and political science most of its life.

### A New Day for Willingham

While Smith and his colleagues welcome former Willingham residents - or Willy Cats, as they are commonly known - to visit any time, they have had to close their offices for the spring and summer. Willingham is currently undergoing a \$1.4 million facelift for aesthetics as well as energy efficiency, technology, and handicap accessibility. The building will also gain 16 new faculty offices in the basement level, which is currently unused space.

The Willingham renovation is coming on the heels of UNA's \$1.3 million renovation of Rogers Hall, now called the Rogers Hall Alumni House. Rogers was rededicated and renamed at a November 2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony, upon completion of its nearly yearlong renovation.

"The renovation work that is being done to these magnificent buildings is incredible," said Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President for Advancement, whose administrative team is now housed in Rogers Hall. "Rogers is now a breathtaking facility, and Willingham will no doubt be the same. Students, alumni, faculty, staff - everyone - will be proud of the new Willingham we soon will have."

## The Willingham Hall Campaign

While \$1.4 million has been budgeted for the renovation, additional costs and furnishings will be funded through gifts to the Willingham Hall Campaign, being launched this spring for former Willingham residents.

"We're excited about securing funds to make Willingham one of the premier faculty buildings on campus," Medders said. "We look forward to contacting alumnae who lived in Willingham, hearing their stories of student life in that hall, and helping them memorialize their student experiences through this campaign."

Former residents will have the opportunity to name offices and other Willingham rooms and common areas. Giving opportunities include:

- **Office**  
Named for \$5,000; furnished for an additional \$5,000
- **Conference room**  
Named for \$25,000; furnished for an additional \$25,000
- **Lounge area**  
Named for \$25,000; furnished for an additional \$25,000
- **Main entrance and lobby**  
Named for \$50,000; furnished for an additional \$50,000

Willingham will include 54 offices, one conference room, and one faculty lounge.

For more information on the Willingham Hall Campaign or other giving opportunities, contact the Office of Advancement at 256-765-4670.



**Florence Main Office**  
321 N Seminary St  
256.760.6266

**Muscle Shoals Office**  
700 E Avalon Ave  
256.386.8652

**Florence Blvd Office**  
150 Ana Dr  
256.769.6277

**Killen Office**  
152 JC Mauldin Hwy  
256.757.5652

**Rogersville Office**  
1701 Lee St  
256.247.5436

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



# OGLESBY LIVING A DREAM WITH AMERICA'S TEAM

*Excerpt from TimesDaily By Jeff McIntyre ('83)*

Being a member of America's Team would be plenty to make most people feel like a celebrity. But former North Alabama star **Evan Oglesby ('07)** says that's not the case with him. "Naw, I'm still the same old Evan," Oglesby said.

Oglesby never imagined playing for the Dallas Cowboys. But after being waived during the final week of the preseason by the Baltimore Ravens, he quickly received a call from the Cowboys and was signed to the practice squad.

"It was bittersweet leaving Baltimore," Oglesby said. "But you never know who is watching in the NFL, and fortunately, the Cowboys were interested in me. The Cowboys are America's team, so it's a thrill to be a part of it."

There have been plenty of thrills for Oglesby as part of the Cowboys. He played in their early-season game against the New England Patriots. Just practicing with the Cowboys is a thrill for Oglesby. As a defensive back, he often finds himself matched up against All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens.

"Me and T.O. have gone at each other hard all year," he said. "He's a smart athlete that really trains hard, and I'm fortunate to be his teammate. Covering one of the best receivers in the NFL in practice is going to do nothing but make me a better player."

Oglesby received a different type of thrill on December 14<sup>th</sup> when he returned to the University of North Alabama to receive his diploma with several of his

former teammates. "Getting my degree was a promise that I made to my mother and it was my main purpose after last season," said Oglesby, who majored in business administration. "My mom didn't want me to leave school before I had my degree, but I told her that the NFL was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Dallas head coach Wade Phillips didn't blink when Oglesby asked for the time off to attend the graduation ceremony, a ceremony he'll never forget. "When they called my name, my legs were so heavy," he said. "I was worried about tripping on the stage. Getting my degree took a lot of hard work, dedication, sweat, and tears, but it was worth it. That's a powerful piece of paper."

Now, Oglesby is gunning for a Super Bowl ring. "It's tough for me preparing each week and not knowing whether I'll dress or not. But I just work hard and trust that our coaches know best." "I'm just happy to be making a living playing the game I love."



## UNA ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION TAKES SHAPE

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

The athletic administration at UNA has begun to take shape with the August hiring of Athletic Director Mark Linder, and the addition in November of Associate Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator, Jana Morrison.

Linder, a native of Gadsden, Alabama, worked for the last four years as Director of Athletics at Missouri Western State University, and brings 20 years of experience in NCAA Division II athletics to UNA. He becomes the eighth athletic director at UNA since the school began its athletic program. Linder follows Joel Erdmann, who served as the Lions' athletic director from 2002-07 before leaving in May to become Director of Athletics at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Linder is a 1991 graduate of Wayne State College in Nebraska, where he received his bachelor's degree. He also earned a master's in education degree from Wayne State in 1993. He began his career in collegiate athletics as a football student-athlete at Wayne State and was later hired there as a graduate assistant coach (1991-93). He was also an adjunct professor of chemistry (1991-94) and assistant football coach at Wayne State (1994-99). From 1995-99 he added the duties of compliance and athletic academic counselor.

He moved to Missouri Western State in 1999 and served as NCAA compliance and athletic academic coordinator for four years. During that time he was also elevated to the position of Assistant Director of Athletics. In 2003 he was named Director of Athletics at Missouri Western.

During his time at Missouri Western, he helped the school improve its graduation rate for student-athletes by 62 percent and helped the Griffons top \$600,000 in their annual athletic fund-raising drive for the first time in history.

On the national level, Linder currently serves as the chair of the NCAA Division II Legislative Committee. Missouri Western has also hosted numerous NCAA regional and national tournaments during his tenure, including the 2003 and 2004 NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Elite Eight Tournament.

Morrison worked for nine years as Assistant Director of Event Management at the University of Alabama. Her duties with the UNA program will include serving as Senior Woman Administrator, and compliance and academics coordinator.

Morrison is a graduate of Stetson University in DeLand, Florida, with a bachelor's in sports administration. She also has a master's in education/athletic administration from Springfield College in Springfield, Mass. She was a member of the University of Alabama athletic staff from 1997 to 2006 and coordinated numerous Southeastern Conference and NCAA tournaments hosted on the school's Tuscaloosa campus. Since October 2006 she has worked in the Marion County Public Schools as a program specialist.

## NORTH ALABAMA'S MILWEE AMONG NINE FINALISTS FOR HARLON HILL TROPHY

University of North Alabama junior quarterback A.J. Milwee was one of nine national finalists for the 2007 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year.

Milwee, who is 21-3 as a starter at UNA, led the Lions to a 10-2 record this season and into the quarterfinal round of the Division II playoffs.

He is the sixth North Alabama player to become a finalist for the award that is named for former Lion All-American **Harlon Hill ('55)**. UNA has had two previous winners in Ronald McKinnon in 1995 and **Will Hall ('03)** in 2003.

Milwee, a Boaz, Alabama native, threw for 2,783 yards and 24 touchdowns this season, completing 236 of 360 passes. He also rushed for 165 yards and four touchdowns. He has rushed or thrown for at least one touchdown in all 24 of his starts, including throwing at least one touchdown pass in each of his last 17 straight starts and has at least one TD pass in 22 of his 24 career starts.

UNA has ranked in the Top 5 in Division II in 24 of the 28 polls since he has been starting. UNA has never ranked lower than 11th.

The finalists were selected by the NCAA Division II sports information directors in regional voting and were then voted on by all 149 of the division's SIDs.

## FOX AND WHITED NAMED DIVISION II ALL-AMERICANS

After helping lead the UNA football team to a 10-2 record and into the quarterfinals of the playoffs, Lion football seniors J.D. Whited of Oneonta, Alabama, and Craig Fox of Kentwood, Louisiana, have been selected to Division II All-American teams. Fox was named All-American by the American Football Coaches Association while Whited was selected for the Associated Press All-America team. Fox finished second on the UNA team in tackles with 74. He had three interceptions and one fumble return. Whited helped clear the way for a Lion offense that averaged 37.5 points and 408.4 total yards per game. Both Fox and Whited also received All-Gulf South Conference and All-Southeast Region honors.

## UNA FALL SCOREBOARD

Football	10-2	NCAA Division II
Playoff Quarterfinals		
Volleyball	20-15	2nd in GSC East
Division		
Men's Cross Country	16-87	9th in GSC
Women's Cross Country	58-58	5th in GSC
Women's Soccer	7-12-1	8th in GSC

# UNA'S MCKINNON INDUCTED INTO DIVISION II FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Former University of North Alabama All-American linebacker Ronald McKinnon was one of three inductees into the Division II Football Hall of Fame for 2007.

McKinnon, a native of Elba, Alabama, was a four-year starter on Lion football teams from 1992-95 and is one of the most honored athletes in college football history. He was joined in the induction class by Earl Dotson of Texas A&M University, Kingsville, and Mike Turk of Troy State University.

McKinnon is the second inductee from North Alabama, joining former Lion quarterback and teammate **Cody Gross ('96)**, who was inducted in 2006.

The Division II Football Hall of Fame is housed at Braly Municipal Stadium, which has hosted the Division II Football Championship Game since 1986.

A four-time, first-team All-GSC selection, McKinnon is one of just a handful of three-time consensus All-Americans in NCAA Division II history. He was selected the winner of the 1995 Harlon Hill Trophy as NCAA Division II National Player of the Year, becoming the first - and so far only - defensive player to win the award. He helped lead UNA to a combined 48-5-1 record that included three straight GSC championships and three straight NCAA Division II National Championships. He closed his career as the leading tackler in school, and GSC history, with 621 total stops, and 407 primary stops. He had 29 career tackles for loss, seven sacks, 11 interceptions and recovered five fumbles. As a senior he had 139 tackles, 11 tackles for loss, four interceptions and four sacks. He was named to the Gulf South Conference "Team of the Quarter Century" for 1971-95, was selected the

"GSC Defensive Player of the Quarter Century" for 1971-95 and was named to the NCAA Division II "Team of the Quarter Century" for 1973-97. He was selected for the 50th Anniversary UNA Football Team for 1949-98, the Gulf South Conference Team of the 1990s, and was named Alabama Sports Writers Association State Professional Athlete of the Year for 1998. He signed a free agent contract with the Arizona Cardinals of the National Football League following his senior season and spent the next 10 seasons in professional football. McKinnon played in 157 NFL games, spending nine seasons with the Cardinals and one with the New Orleans Saints. He finished his professional career with more than 1,000 tackles, 12 sacks and 10 pass interceptions.



# No Place Like Home

## Captain Will Boyd

I graduated and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in December 2000 with a master's in mathematics. I immediately attended Ranger School en-route to my first tour in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While in Hawaii, I served as a platoon leader for an Assault and Obstacle Platoon, and later as a Combat Engineer Platoon Leader. In 2004, I was promoted to captain and deployed to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom V, where I served as a Provincial Reconstruction Engineer in Asadabad for one year. I returned from Afghanistan, and subsequently attended graduate school at the University of Missouri, Rolla, earning a master's in engineering management. I married my wife Sarah of St. Louis, Missouri in May of 2006. Since then we have been stationed in Hawaii.

Currently I am serving a 15-month tour based out of Camp Taji, Iraq working in the north-western part of the Baghdad Province. I am assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Stryker) out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as the Essential Services Engineer. I supervise all operational and strategic level infrastructure reconstruction projects in the Stryker Brigade Combat Team's area of operation – about 530 square miles. Early this summer I will take command of the 66<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company (Stryker) where our primary mission will be clearing routes of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to ensure the safe passage for the Iraqi people, and the rest of the brigade throughout our area.

I tell you there is No Place Like Home: Before deploying to Iraq, I was able to attend UNA's 2007 Homecoming and play with the young and "more experienced" alumni in the Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament. I can't remember what our team's score was, but what I do remember is what it felt like to come home... it's a love of the campus, but more than that it's a love of the people. Of note, my sister Sherry Williams has continued her education journey this spring with her first semester at UNA – I couldn't possibly be more proud.

I won't be back in town until the spring of 2009, but Sarah and I are going to move closer to North Alabama shortly after my return... After Sarah and I got back to Hawaii following homecoming we found out that we were pregnant. So far she tells me I'm not missing out on much but she got

an ultrasound to hear the baby's heart beat, and has made a recording to send to me. Isn't that cool?

God Bless,  
*Will*



In the picture I am pointing out some of the high voltage power lines that are undergoing restoration in Taji .

ome

# UNA's ROTC

*is gearing up for real life*

Each semester the University of North Alabama ROTC in Florence takes what they've learned in the classroom and turns that learning into real-life experience. They did this on the practice field on campus.

A Chinook army helicopter landed at UNA to let the future soldiers see what real life combat is like. "Everything we learned in the classroom, and leadership laboratories, to actual test in a tactical environment," said ROTC leader Lieutenant Colonel Wayne Bergeron.

"It's very important, it teaches all the soldiers and cadets what they really need to do instead of being in a classroom setting," Amber Carruth, an ROTC cadet, said.

There are about 50 ROTC cadets at UNA. Twenty-four put their skills to the test during this combat exercise. "We generally conduct one exercise to validate what we have done over the semester," Bergeron said. The soldiers got to fly in a Chinook, and use paint guns to experience real-life situations. "Our mission in the ROTC is to recruit, to train, to retain, to ultimately get 2nd lieutenants for the army," says Bergeron.

Many of the alumni from UNA are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.



# class notes

## 50s

**Herbert L. Raburn ('54)** was honored by the 2007 National Philanthropy Day Awards. He received a baccalaureate degree in accounting from Florence State Teachers College, and an MBA in finance and accounting from the University of Alabama. In the 1960's, he became the managing partner of H.L. Raburn & Co. in Birmingham, which became the largest locally owned certified public accounting firm in Alabama. Mr. Raburn endowed the Raburn Eminent Scholar Chair, and contributed substantial funding to build the new three-story, state-of-the-art Herbert L. Raburn Wing of Keller Hall. He was named alumnus of the year in 1998, and received the honorary doctorate in 2001.

## 60s

**Kaye Berry ('63)** was promoted to Vice President of a branch of Citizens Bank.

**Ruth Anderson Horn ('63)** lives in Dothan, Alabama, and is the owner of Barclifts Antiques Interior Design.

**Marie Gray Plyler ('65)** and her husband Herbert Plyler have recently moved to Florence to enjoy their retirement. She worked as a secretary with the Army Missile Command on Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. Her husband Herbert was a safety engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers in Huntsville.

**Judy Waldrop Woodcock ('65)** taught 4 years at Priceville Alabama High School. In 1969 she moved to East Lansing, Michigan, where she received her master's degree in secondary education. In 1972, she moved to Cleveland, Mississippi, and worked in the Library at Delta State University and received a master's degree in Library Science. She moved to Mississippi Delta Community College in 1993 and retired as head librarian there in 2006. She and husband, Dearn, moved to Hartselle after they retired.

**Gerald (Skinny) Bentley ('66 & '78)** has been inducted into the Cullman County Sports Hall of Fame. Gerald and his wife, Beverly, are retired and reside in Moulton. They have two children.

**Rosylind Frederick Lawson ('66)** is retired from Sheffield City Schools, where she worked for 24 years

as the Child Nutrition Director.

**Regina S. Smith ('66)** works as a purchasing specialist for the United States Postal Service. She lives in Richmond, VA.

**Joe Hovater ('69)** is a General Music/Orchestral Strings teacher at J.E. Woody Elementary School in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Summertown, Tennessee.

**Thomas W. McNeill, III ('69)** is Vice President of Operations for TexaAla Enterprises, Inc. He and his wife, Dena, reside in Houston, Texas. They have three children and two grandchildren.

**Frances "Toni" Ivey Smith ('69)** works for the NBA basketball team, the Portland Trail Blazers, and lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

## 70s

**Donna Hudgins Fowler ('70)** is an information specialist. Her husband, Paul, is a minister at the Friendship Baptist Church. They reside in Bunnlevel, North Carolina.

**Ronnie Stapler ('70)** is a teacher at Guntersville High School. He has been teaching for 38 years, four of which have been at Guntersville. He and his wife, Nancy, have a son, Scott, and a daughter, Christy.

**Linda (Kirby) Vaughan ('70)** has been a librarian and lecturer at the University of Alabama in Huntsville since 2000. Prior to that, her family lived in Europe, South Korea and across the country. Linda and her husband Bill are active in the UNA Huntsville Alumni chapter. Their son, Kirby, is in the Army serving in the Special Forces.

**Claudia Evans Williams ('70)** retired from Muscogee County School District in 2006 after teaching art in secondary schools for 36 years in Columbus, Georgia. She has been hired as a full-time assistant professor at Columbus State University as the coordinator of the Art Education Program. Claudia has one son. He is a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. He graduated first in his class in Intelligence School in Texas. He has been deployed for six months to Balad AFB in Iraq.

**Linda Gale Knight Martin ('71)** retired in 2001; she taught seventh and

eight-grade English at Central School for nearly 31 years. Her husband Terry is the Manager of the Metro Kiwanis SportsPlex in Huntsville.

**Patricia Albright Shaw ('71)** works for LabCorp as a Division Manager in the Atlantic Division. **Michael William Shaw ('73)** has been retired for three years, but remains active in the private sector. He is president of the local Rotary Club. They live in North Carolina.

**Diane Bradford ('72, '77, & '85)** resides in Acworth, Georgia, and is the Deputy State Superintendent for the Georgia Department of Education in Atlanta.

**David Lebowski ('72)** and his wife, Barbara, live in Monroe, Georgia, where he practices law.

**Dr. Barry C Stephens ('72)** formerly at the University of Alabama at Birmingham moved to take a position as associate professor in the School of Professional Counseling at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky. He lives in Bowling Green and has one son, Chad.

**Deborah "Debbie" Hannah Cain ('73)** and her husband, Paul, live in Athens, Alabama, where she is a juvenile probation officer with the Juvenile Probation Office of Limestone County.

**Robbie Briggs Roepstorff ('73)** is president of Edison National Bank in South Fort Myers, Florida, and president of Bank of the Islands on Sanibel Island, Florida. Her husband, Geoff, is the bank's CEO. Edison National provides financial support to over 42 organizations in Fort Myers. They reside in Sanibel.

**Thomas Tabereaux ('73)** and wife **Charlotte ('73 & '76)** live in Meridian, Mississippi. Thomas is retiring as the President of Junior Achievement of Mississippi, Inc. Charlotte is the Education Director for MSU Riley Center for the Performing Arts.

**Betty Smith Whisenant ('73)** and her husband, **Troy ('76)**, live in Sheffield, where Betty is a teacher at Sheffield Junior High School.

**Arietta Joan McFall ('74)** resides in Florence, and works at Rogers High School as a Guidance Counselor.

**Michael E. Beadle ('75)** was recently promoted to Managing Director of Strategic Business Partners in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He resides in Mount Prospect, Illinois.

**Steve Harrison ('75)** resides in Florence, and has spent 32 years in the insurance industry. Steve has been the public address announcer for the past 28 years at Braly Stadium for the lions. He is the president and founder of the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame and has been the emcee of the Harlon Hill banquet for the last eight years. He is married to Brenda. He has two sons.

**Gary Hill ('75)** is retired and resides in Killen, Alabama with his wife, Nancy.

**Dr. Ann Roy Moore ('75)** was named Alabama's 2008 Superintendent of the Year, and will represent Alabama in the National Superintendent of the Year program sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators. Dr. Moore is currently the Huntsville City Schools Superintendent.

**Dennis L. Rorex ('75)** is a retired teacher who taught for 28 years at LaFayette Middle School. He is starting a part-time job with Worldstrides, meeting groups of students during the spring travel season in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, **Sharon ('76)**, a teacher, live in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

**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 Tuscumbia.

**Kay Wilhite South ('75 & '82)** is a technology coordinator with West Point Elementary and Intermediate Schools. Her husband, **Franchot ('82)**, is a history instructor at West Point High School.

**Carl E. Bulls ('76)** lives in Sheffield Lake, Ohio, where he has been with the Ford Motor Company for 31 years. He plans to retire within the next year.

**Stephen W. Whitt ('76)** is the new executive director of the Gulf Coast Business Technology Center, Harrison

County's small business incubator in Panama City Beach, Florida.

**Robert M. (Bob) Grice ('77 & '80)** is currently serving as Co-Principal of Harlan Elementary School and Weeden Elementary School. His wife Diane is a Victim's Service Officer for the Lauderdale County District Attorney's Office. They reside in Florence.

**Debbie Kerby ('77 & '86)** lives in Town Creek, Alabama with her husband Wayne, and is a third-grade teacher at East Lawrence Elementary School.

**Cherie D. Tolley ('77 & '80)** was recently promoted to CEO of Palmetto Behavioral Health System. She is an adjunct faculty member of the Institute of Psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina and at Limestone College. She resides in Prosperity, South Carolina.

**Denise Watts ('77)** works as the senior program manager-Economic Development for TVA. She lives in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Grady Kevin Abbott ('78)** was recently promoted to executive director with Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama, Inc., and serves as president of CAA Development, Inc. He and his wife, Marcy, reside in Bridgeport, Alabama.

**Judy Brown ('78)** competed to win the 2008 ACTE National Teacher of the Year award. The purpose of the award is to recognize dedicated educators who are providing students with real opportunities to have successful futures. Recipients of this award must have made significant contributions toward innovative programs that promote academic achievement. She also won the Alabama Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year award, which made her eligible to compete in the ACTE competition. Brown is an Education Specialist with the Alabama Department of Education. She is a graduate of Vina High School, UNA, and Webster University. She is married to Retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Brown. They have two children, Joseph and Ashley.

**Sandra Ledgewood Bruce ('78 & '79)** works in accounts payable at Printers & Stationers. She and her husband, Bill, have one daughter, Kelly, who is a student at UNA. Kelly is majoring in Geography. They reside in Florence, Alabama.

**Jeff Hittinger ('78)** currently lives in Tallahassee, Florida, where he worked for Calgon Corporation from 1978-1990. He started Osceola Supply Company in 1990.

**Dr. Tina Thornton Smith ('78, '80, & '88)** received a doctorate degree in education from the University of Tennessee in 2005. Her dissertation was nominated for the Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation Award at the MidSouth Educational Research Association. In addition to writing and publishing educational research articles, Dr. Smith was recently named editor of the SubJournal, a

research-based national education journal designed for school administrators who hire, train, and evaluate substitute teachers.

**Marty B. Hanson ('79)** works for NASA Marshall Space Flight Center as Chief of Operations & Business Support. He and his wife, **Cynthia McArthur Hanson ('79)**, reside in Madison, Alabama. Cynthia is assistant principal at Madison County High School.

**Anita Lang ('79)** and her husband, Charles, live in Bremen, Alabama. She is an Accounting Specialist with Leeds City Schools.

**Kim McCaleb Rowell ('79)** is the Chief Financial Officer for the Cumming-Forsyth County Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband Greg live in Alpharetta, Georgia with two of their three children.

**Kathy Wheeler Bishop ('79)** worked for Tennessee Valley Authority as an occupational nurse for 21 years. She is now the plant nurse at Johnsonville Steam Plant in New Johnsonville, Tennessee.

**80s**

**H. Clay Bennett ('80)** is the editorial cartoonist for the Chattanooga Times

Free Press. This Pulitzer Prize-winner will also be joining The Washington Post Writers Group, a great honor.

**Jan Llewellyn ('80)** and her husband Rick currently reside in Huntsville, where Rick is the Chief of the Air and Missile Defense Branch at the U.S. Army Redstone Technical Test Center. Jan is employed by WestWind as a Senior Buyer.

**Michael Timberlake ('80)** is a Colonel in the U.S. Army. He is stationed in Iraq.

**Susie Beale Martin ('81)** lives in Florence, and has been a Customer Service Agent with Rogers Parker Insurance Agency for the past 18 years. She is married to **Jay Martin ('82)**, manager of Herald Printing and Technology. They have a son, **Tyler Martin ('07)** and a daughter who attends UNA.

**Robert F. Smith ('81)** of Florence was recently honored for his leadership by the Alabama State Bar (ABS) for his service as chair of the Family Law Section of the ASB. Under Smith's leadership, the Family Law Section raised over \$15,000 for children's charities, and conducted state-wide continuing education programs. The section also met with the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals to discuss mutual concerns in the area of family law, and worked with the Administrative Office of Courts to train Guardian Ad Litem for the courts. The Family Law Section is the largest and most involved section of the ASB. Its members include lawyers who practice in the divorce and family law area, and judges who preside over divorce and family law cases.

**Robin Hunt Cregreen ('82)** is an elementary teacher at New Hope

Elementary in Columbus, Mississippi. She has three daughters.

**Sam Parks ('82)** was recently named president of First National Bank of Central Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Parks has also been appointed to the board of the bank's holding company; First National Bancshares of Central Alabama. He also serves on the board of directors of First National Bank. He and his wife, Virginia, have two daughters.

**Susan Methvin ('83)** works as a CRNA for Southern Tennessee Anesthesia Associates in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Susan and her husband, Kenneth, live in Loretto, Tennessee.

**David Ross ('83)** is employed by MTV Networks as a Media Management Coordinator.

**Debbie Wilson ('83)** was elected as president of the Alabama Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus and appointed to the executive committee of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association. She received the Southeast Tourism Society's Shining Example Award for the Tourism Bureau of the Year for the 12 Southeastern states.

**Angelia Byers ('84)** is the program manager for a grant project at the University of West Florida, called Hometown Heroes Teach. The project recruits combat wounded and disabled veterans with any bachelor's degree, helps to get them certified to teach, and to find a job in K-12 classrooms in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties of northwest Florida. She hopes that the project will expand into the rest of Florida within the near future, and eventually serve as a national model. Her husband, Joe, is a Producer/Director for Cox Media. They live in Pensacola, Florida.

**Ann Arthur Graham ('84)** is a scientist with Lakeshore Biomaterials. She and her husband, Rick, live in Hoover, Alabama. They have two daughters and a son.

**Sandy Osborn ('84)** lives in Florence, where she has been administrative secretary at UNA to the Director of Facilities for the last 13 years.

**Rebecca Rodgers ('84)** is the band director at Fort Payne High School, in Fort Payne, Alabama. She is serving as immediate past president of the Alabama Music Educators Association, and is President-elect of the Alabama Bandmasters Association. She lives in Fort Payne.

**William Dee Smith ('84)** is a police officer in Corinth, Mississippi. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Walnut, Mississippi.

**Pete Wesson ('84)** owns and operates Wesson's Sign De-Signs in Florence. He is married to Diane Wesson, an administrative assistant for Florence City Schools. They have two children, both serving in the military.

**Angela Pugh Craig ('85)** lives in Hartselle, Alabama, and is working as the special services secretary for

Hartselle City Schools. She is married to Brent M. Craig, the Assistant District Attorney in Morgan County.

**Ricky D. Quick ('85)** is Director of Operations at National Viatical, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Lura "Kay" Hall Smith ('85)** lives in Pinson, Alabama, and is a certified pediatric nurse clinician at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham.

**Paul Campbell ('86)** lives in San Jose, California with his wife, Donna. He is the operating room clinical resource nurse at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Palo Alto.

**Michelle Farris ('86 & '88)** lives in Stockbridge, Georgia, and is the national account manager for Fabri-Kal Cup Corporation.

**Tanglyla R. Smith McAfee ('86 & '96)** is a GED instructor with the Morgan County Juvenile Court System with youths between the ages of 14-18. She and her husband, Arthur, live in Florence with three children.

**William E. Smith, Jr. ('86 & '89)** was appointed County Commissioner for District I of Lauderdale County by Alabama Governor Bob Riley. He resides in Florence, where he owns a law firm.

**Beverly M. Atkins ('87)** and husband, **Grant Atkins ('84)**, own Atkins Marble & Granite Works, Inc., and live in Russellville, Alabama.

**Bill Austin ('87)** is an executive account specialist for American Fidelity Assurance company and is in his 16<sup>th</sup> year serving the insurance and financial needs of Shoals area education employees. His wife, **Carol Ann Pennington Austin ('95)**, is the lead school nurse for Sheffield City Schools, and serves on the board of directors for both the Alabama and National Associations of School Nurses. Bill's daughter, Brittany, graduated from the Mississippi University for Women. They live in Tusculumbia.

**Christopher Evans ('87)** works as a credit analyst at the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his wife, Sharon, live in Lithonia, Georgia. Christopher's daughter finished medical school last year.

**Jeff Gilbreath ('87)** and wife, **Laurie ('90)** live in Auburn, Alabama with their two children. Jeff is a graduate teaching assistant at Auburn University, and is finishing his Ph.D. in music education. Laurie is a music teacher for Auburn City Schools.

**Paul K. Sparks ('87)** and his wife, Connie (Copeland) Sparks, live in Florence. She is a media specialist at Brooks Elementary School. Paul is enrolled at UNA.

**Cindy Davis ('88)** is a counselor at Columbia and Rainbow elementary schools, and was selected among the top 10 counselors in the nation. Cindy was previously honored as a Counselor of the Year by the Alabama School Counselor Association.

# FLORENCE

*Alabama's Renaissance City*



## Welcome to Florence!

We are sure you will enjoy our natural beauty along the banks of the Tennessee River. Please visit our historic residential neighborhoods, the beautifully landscaped central business district and our commercial areas which offer anything from charming shops and antiques to modern malls. Savor our southern hospitality with a wide range of choices from southern comfort food to international cuisine.

From a business perspective, our residents enjoy the stability of a vigorous retail trade center, regional health center, banking center, seat of government, and a thriving industrial park. We are also the proud home of the University of North Alabama as well as other opportunities for higher learning. Our community offers activities which include arts, athletics, concerts, annual festivals, theater performing arts, athletic activities and water recreational events. You only have to visit for a short while to appreciate the beauty and quality of everyday life in Florence. We welcome your visit!

## THE CITY OF FLORENCE

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

**Lanetta Real Phillips ('88)** is the director of Tusculumbia Project Educational Talent Search with Northwest-Shoals Community College. She and her husband, Ron, reside in Russellville, Alabama.

**Timothy Ferguson ('89)** lives in Athens, Alabama, and works in the service and sales section of Nautavac Cleaning Systems. He began teaching college courses to Alabama National Guard members at Liberty University. He and his wife, Brandie, had their second child in 2007.

**Belinda Haddock Juergens ('89 & '94)** is teaching advanced placement English at Siegel High School in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She is also an adjunct instructor at Middle Tennessee State University. Her husband, **Glen Otto Juergens ('90)**, works as a controller for Venture Express in LaVergne, Tennessee. They have two children.

**Phillip Marks ('89)** lives in Florence, and works at UNA as the Associate Director of Training and Procurement in the Small Business Development Center.

**Bradley Montgomery ('89)** is head athletic trainer/instructor at the University of West Alabama. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Livingston, Alabama.

**Rick Watson ('89)** lives in Carlsbad, California, and is the Deputy District Attorney for the San Diego County District Attorney's Office in California.

**90s Sherry Kennemer ('90 & '92)** lives in Hammond, Louisiana, and is the assistant athletic director for Compliance/Student Services for Southeastern Louisiana University.

**Barry Moore ('90)** is the Probate Judge in Franklin County, Alabama. He and his wife, Deedra, have one daughter, Ashton.

**Nivada Spurlock ('90)** completed a master's in physical education at the University of Montevallo, graduating with honors. She passed the National Board Certification process in 2007, and will complete certification in Teacher Leadership program at Samford University. Nivada is teaching physical education at Homewood High School, and is a system-wide adapted physical education coordinator/teacher for Homewood City Schools. Nivada resides in Alabaster, Alabama.

**Joy Carmel Sizemore Tipps ('90)** is a paralegal for James Tassin & Associates, LLC in Tusculumbia. Carmel and her husband, David, reside in Tusculumbia.

**Jeff Odom ('91)** is manager of the Valley View Mall in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Jeff is married to Jennifer, a Milwaukee native. They have three children.

**Mary Beth Tutwiler ('91)** works for the American Cancer Society as an

income development representative. She lives in Decatur and is a board member of the UNA National Alumni Association.

**Angel Wiginton ('91)** has been promoted to assistant vice president and auditor at Bancorp South. She has more than nine years of experience with the bank.

**Heather Dodson Wood ('91)** has been promoted to operations officer in the quality assurance department at BancorpSouth. She has more than 15 years of experience with the bank.

**Tabitha Adcock Bowers ('92)** lives with her husband, Bart, in Orange Beach, Alabama. She is the president of Tab Builders and Land Developers. She has been a freelance designer along the Gulf Coast for 14 years.

**Robynn Whitfield Bragwell ('92 & '05)** is the assistant principal at Belgreen High School. She and husband, Roger, live in Russellville. Their daughter, Kaitlyn, is enrolled at UNA.

**Mark David Vance ('92)** and wife, Kristin, both live in Nashville, Tennessee with their daughter, Madelyn. They both teach at Christ the King School.

**Tara Deline Cook ('93 & '04)** and her husband, **Chris Cook ('01)**, and three sons live in Winfield, Alabama. Tara teaches English at Winfield City High School. Chris is the Middle School Principal of Winfield Middle School.

**Jamie Medley ('93)** lives in Russellville, Alabama, and is the environmental supervisor for Winston and Walker Counties for the Alabama Department of Public Health. He was recently lauded in the Eagle Reporter in Jasper, Alabama for his dedication to his job.

**Robert Shirley ('93)** is the music minister of First Baptist Church. He recently sang the national anthem for an annual Memorial Day program in Colbert County. He resides in Sheffield.

**Misty L. Flurry ('94)** and husband, **Billy ('94)** live in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Misty is the owner of MLF Consulting Associates, and Billy is the director of procurement for Cardone Industries. They have two daughters.

**Sibylle Kipp ('94 & '06)** lives in Florence, and is a vocational counselor for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services in Decatur, Alabama. Her job involves working with high school youth who have disabilities and helping them choose a vocation.

**Steve Knight ('94)** works as the advertising account supervisor for Serino Coyne Inc. (SCI) in New York City. SCI is the largest theatrical advertising agency in the United States. In addition to Broadway clients, he also is supervising the advertising campaigns for the tour and Las Vegas productions of Spamalat as well as the advertising for The Metropolitan Opera in NYC.

**Roger D. Taylor ('94)** and his wife, Christie, live in Cartersville, Georgia, where he is the transportation manager for Linde.

**James Scott Rawlinson ('95)** is an operations officer in the American Forces Network. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Veneto, Italy, and have three children.

**Terry Allen Taylor ('95 & '05)** is an instructor of criminal justice at Somerset Community College in London, Kentucky. His courses include criminal justice, corrections, juvenile delinquency, criminal investigations, criminalistics, police patrol, criminal law, business law and several on-line courses. Terry taught business law at UNA in an adjunct capacity from 2001 to 2003.

**Ashley Ingram ('96)** recently joined the Naval Academy football coaching staff as an offensive line coach, and will be responsible for coaching the center and guards. Ashley and his wife, Jennifer, were married in 2007.

**Jennifer Lee Danylo ('97 & '00)** is an academic advisor with Middle Tennessee State University. She resides in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Duane R. Eliff ('97)** teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade literature at Hardin County Middle School in Savannah, Tennessee. He also is an adjunct faculty member at Jackson State Community College.

**Amanda Howard Evans ('97)** was honored as elementary Teacher of the Year for Madison City Schools. She has taught in Madison schools for 15 years. She is currently a third-grade teacher at Columbia Elementary School. She is married to Wayne Evans, and they have one daughter.

**Barclay Key ('97)** was awarded a Ph.D. in history during spring commencement at the University of Florida. He is on the faculty at Western Illinois University.

**Amy Brazelton ('98)** works as an ESL Teaching Specialist for Nashville State Community College. She is preparing to move to Shingu, Japan, and will be teaching English there for one year.

**Klaryssa Huston ('98)** lives in Fayetteville, North Carolina with her husband Ryan Huston ('00), who is an officer in the U.S. Army. She is a stay-at-home mom with four children.

**Chris Jones ('98)** and his wife, Suzanne, live in Nolensville, Tennessee, where he is the senior sales consultant for Novartis.

**Mark Keeton ('98)** and wife, Jane, both work for the Social Security Administration. Mark is a manager and Jane is an automation instructor.

**Jeanette Watson ('98)** is the owner of Huntsville Defense News, a new website that provides the latest information on defense and aerospace news, contracts, and awards in the Huntsville community, as well as BRAC information for the subscribers.

**Geoff Wilson ('98)** lives in Chicago, Illinois, where he is a Regional Sales Representative for DWS Scudder.

**Laquetta Atkins ('99)** is a contract specialist with the U.S. Army Aviation & Missile Command. She resides in Athens, Alabama.

**Carly J. Carman ('99)** is a Realtor/Appraiser/Abstractor. She and her husband, Shane, have three children. They reside in Iuka, Mississippi.

**William "Toby" Eveland ('99)** was named one of Chicago's 30 Under 30 by the Windy City Times for his professional and personal achievements within the community. A graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Toby is an attorney with the law firm of Arnstein & Lehr, LLP. His practice area focuses on complex insurance coverage and contractual disputes, products liability defense, and commercial litigation. Toby also counsels a number of not-for-profit organizations in the city. He serves as chair of the Chicago Bar Association's Committee on Legal Rights for Lesbians and Gay Men. He was recently appointed to the Illinois State Bar Association's Committee on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Toby is also the founding president of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Junior Board, a group of forty young professionals committed to increasing awareness and advocacy for HIV/AIDS related issues. He serves on the gala committee for Equality Illinois, and is also an instructor for Loyola University's Moot Court program. In his spare time, Toby enjoys running; he participated in the 2003 AIDS marathon training program, and ran the 2005 Chicago Marathon for Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation. Toby is also an avid college football fan and self-described NASCAR fanatic (he raced stock cars professionally through 2000). Prior to moving to Chicago, Toby was also a test driver and sports marketing director for a NASCAR team, and then served as press and policy advisor to former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman. Toby and his partner, Cory, live in Chicago, and were married in 2007.

**Jeromy M. Guthrie ('99)** lives in Jasper, Georgia, and works as a social services case manager for the Pickens County Division of Family and Children Services.

**Stephen Mark Guthrie ('99)** lives in Florence, Alabama, and works as the director of rehabilitation for the Bone and Joint Rehabilitation Center. He is married to Jaime Guthrie.

**Brandon H. Johnson ('99)** lives in Helena, Alabama, and works as a senior account executive for Alabama Directory Company.

**Kenneth D. Lambert ('99)** and his wife, **Carrie Lambert ('97)** returned to Iuka, Mississippi from inner-city Houston, Texas.

**Lesley Fulmer Price ('99)** is a French teacher for Tuscaloosa Academy in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She and her husband, Russell, live in Northport, Alabama.

**00s**

**Anita Ambrose ('00)** recently received the Excellence in Community Service Award from the North Mississippi Medical Center. Anita works with the Home Health Agency. She and her husband, Melvin, have three children: Rasheda, Octavia, and Melvin, Jr. They also have one grandchild, Christian, and are foster parents.

**Shana Nicole Yerbey Balch ('00 & '03)** works as a CPA for Parkhurst & Norvell. She and her husband, Brian, live in Killen, Alabama.

**Brant Butler ('00)** is an associate pastor with Huntsville First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. His wife, Robin Grace, works as a Speech Therapist. They reside in Huntsville.

**Clinton P. Carter ('00)** and his wife, **Rebecca ('02)** live in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is an Investment Banking Associate with Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC. Rebecca teaches kindergarten at a day-school.

**Rhonda Garth-Stewart ('00)** lives in Toney, Alabama, and works as an IT Support Analyst for Dynectics, Inc. in Huntsville.

**Rebecca Green ('00)** teaches mathematics at Sulligent High School in Lamar County. She will be starting her 7<sup>th</sup> year this fall, and is the head of the math department. She lives in Winfield, Alabama.

**Angie Grisham ('00)** taught at Alcorn Central High School for seven years. She was named a STAR teacher, and is currently pursuing a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification. She was also named to Who's Who Among High School Teachers and received an award for Excellence in Education.

**Christina Watson Hicks ('00)** is an officer in the US Navy. She earned a master's of engineering management from Old Dominion University, and is pursuing a second master's in Space Systems Operations at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Christina and her husband, Ian, welcomed their first child, Parker in 2007.

**Sinem Hurst ('00)** works as a Business Analyst for Lowes Foods, Inc., in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Her husband, Michael D. Hurst, is the store manager of the same company. They live in Advance, North Carolina.

**Ryan Moore ('00)** was promoted to branch manager at the Shoal Creek Branch of SunTrust Bank. He and his wife, **Melissa Moore ('05)**, and

their three children: Jackson, Emma, and Lyla reside in Killen, Alabama.

**Maria Winter Warren ('00 & '03)** works as a professional pharmaceutical sales representative for Innovex. Her husband, **Brad Warren ('00)** is a Procurement Analyst for HON Company in Florence. They live in Killen, Alabama with their son, Clark.

**Jeffrey Todd Wiginton ('00)** was awarded the master's degree of nursing anesthesia from Villanova University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2007. Todd is a 1996 graduate of Sheffield High School and was a member of UNA's LaGrange Society. He finished first in his class as most outstanding graduate, and was selected for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He has already accepted a position with the Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pennsylvania. Prior to this academic achievement, he worked more than five years at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Amanda Elaine Martin Darty ('01)** is a registered nurse at Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. She and her husband, James, reside in Nauvoo, Alabama, and have one child.

**Steven D. Gross ('01)** married **Anna R. Brooks ('02)** in June 2002. Steven graduated from the University of South Carolina in May 2007 with an MFA in scene design. He moved to Vermont in August 2007 to work at Castleton State College as associate professor of theatre, teaching theatre technology and design classes. Anna graduated from University of South Carolina in May 2007 with a master's degree in theater history. Anna and Steven had their first child, David Gross. They reside in Killington, Vermont.

**Jim M. Page ('01)** works for the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce as the Vice President of Public Policy and Business Development. His wife, **Sara Owen Page ('01)** is the Media and Public Relations Coordinator for McWhorter Communications, Inc. They live in Decatur, Alabama. Jim is a member the UNA National Alumni Association board at large.

**Walt Vandiver ('01)** moved to Florida to become a Walt Disney World cast member. He is on the show artist team, which is responsible for creating the merchandise sold in Disney stores. He has also worked on some limited edition pieces for Disney merchandise creating character watches where he reduces the image and places it on the dial of a watch to make a personalized character watch for the guest buying it. He also created some "limited edition" watches. One of the limited editions that Walt created that he was very excited and pleased with was for the 2006 Star Wars Weekends an annual event at the Disney-MGM Studios.

**Lisa Holley Clayton ('02)** and **Ryan Clayton ('01)** married in 2007.

Lisa works for UNA as a professor in elementary and early childhood development. Ryan works for Sanofi-Pasteur as a biological products specialist.

**Shawn Dalrymple ('02)** is a Captain in the U.S. Army, and took command of Bravo Company with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne DSTB while serving in Afghanistan. Shawn will be serving a 15-month deployment. Shawn's wife, **Sherry Nance Dalrymple ('03)**, gave birth to their first child, James Patrick, in 2006. Sherry resigned as a foster care social worker to stay home with James while Shawn is deployed. They reside in Hope Mille, North Carolina.

**Sandra Hulsey ('02)** is a care coordinator for Best Start in Hamilton, Alabama. She and her husband, **William Jeremy Hulsey ('07)** live in Winfield, Alabama.

**Brian Scott Mitchell ('02 & '04)** lives in Kenner, Louisiana, and works as the Director of Operations/Event Management at Tulane University.

**Michael Pfarrer ('02)** and wife, Melissa, have moved to Denver, Colorado, where Michael is an assistant professor with the University of Denver, Daniels College of Business.

**Kelly Simmons ('02 & '07)** is a Regional IPC Coordinator for Harrah's Entertainment in Tunica, Mississippi. She resides in Cordova, Tennessee.

**Casey Tate ('02 & '04)** is a teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School. She completed her education administration certification in 2007.

**Seth Wright ('02)** lives in Trinity, Alabama with his wife, **Krysee Waldrep Wright ('03)**, a music therapist. He works as a contractor for the Space and Missile Defense Command at Redstone Arsenal. He was deployed to Iraq in 2004 and served as the Platoon Leader of Bravo Company of the 115<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion.

**Heather Goodwin Balentine ('03)** is a nurse practitioner at Express Clinic in Huntsville, Alabama. Heather and her husband, B.J., reside in Huntsville.

**Marshall Bee ('03)** has been promoted to the area manager within the West Alabama Sales Center of Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. He has purchased a new home in Jasper, Alabama, and is getting married to Patrese Davenport.

**Brandon David Bradley ('03)** and wife **Jessica Bradley ('03)** live in Missouri. Brandon is a Company Commander for the 509<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, and will be going to Iraq for his second tour this May. Jessica is a library media specialist at Partridge Elementary School. They are expecting their first child this May.

**Rachel Usery Carter ('03)** and husband, **Justin Carter ('03)** live in Arab, Alabama. Rachel is the owner and president of Carter & Associates, L.L.C., and Justin is a managing partner with the same company.

**Laura Holt Dlouhy ('03)** completed her master's of science in psychology at the University of Memphis in May 2007. She is working as a pediatric neuropsychological examiner for The Center for Pediatric Neurology in Memphis, and applying to Ph.D. programs. Laura is also working part-time as a stand-up and improvisational comedian. This year she took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the funniest person in Memphis contest. She recently married Stephen Dlouhy.

**Brandon Gilbert ('03)** and wife, **Jamie Leanne Gilbert ('05 & '06)** live in Madison, Tennessee. Brandon is an Artist Manager with Vertical Ministries in Nashville.

**Will Hewlett ('03)** lives with his wife, **Kelly Woodley Hewlett ('04)**, in Decatur, Alabama. He is an attorney.

**Mehmet Icagasioglu ('03 & '04)** lives in Turkey, and works as a Sales Executive for Fox International Channels.

**Rikki Jackson ('03)** was named Teacher of Year for 2007-2008 at Creekside Elementary School. Rikki was chosen from about 60 Creekside faculty members. Rikki and her husband, Ande, have one son.

**Amanda McWilliams Parker ('03 & '06)** married **Matt Parker ('99 & '01)** in 2007. Amanda teaches 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> grade gifted students at Colbert County Schools. Matt is a Production Accountant at Pilgrim's Pride. They reside in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

**Jessa J. Phillips ('03)** lives in Huntsville, Alabama, with her husband, Luke. Jessa works at SportsMed Orthopedics, and Luke is a professional athlete with Huntsville Havoc Hockey.

**Laura Dale Lee Priest ('03)** joined the Business Management Directorate of the Close Combat Weapon System as a Department of the Army Intern in February, 2007. She helps support soldiers that are fighting all over the world. This is the most rewarding job she can imagine and is looking forward to many years with this organization. Laura married her best friend, Roy Priest, in 2007. They reside in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Adam Terry ('03)** is in the U.S. Army and is deployed to Iraq with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

**Tiffany L. Acklin ('04)** lives in Decatur, Alabama with her husband, Travis, and works as a Family Intervention Specialist for Youth Villages in Madison, Alabama.

**Laura Galloway ('04)** is working as a GIS Analyst/Developer for CH2M HILL. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Rebecca James ('04)** is circulation manager for the Franklin County Times and Classifieds Plus. She will be managing the newspaper's carriers, assuring the timely delivery of the newspaper and shopper, as well as building a strong customer service relationship with the Times' readers.

**Stephen Lovejoy ('04 & '06)** and wife, **Jahnitta Lovejoy ('05)** live in Madison, Alabama. Stephen is a logistics specialist at Redstone Arsenal, and Jahnitta is a criminal justice instructor with Virginia College in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Tammy Hayes Nelms ('04)** is employed by Johnson Contractors in accounts receivable. She and her husband, Steven, reside in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

**Jason Parks ('04)** is married to **Jessica O'Neal Parks ('03)**. They reside in Hazel Green, Alabama.

**Jason N. Watson ('04)** is a GIS Analyst for The Shaw Group and lives in Madison, Alabama.

**Justin Weeks ('04)** and wife, Katie live in Empire, where he is an Underwriter for Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jason L. Clotfelter ('05)** is an outside claims representative with Travelers Insurance and resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Michael Flanery ('05)** works as a CPS Assessment case manager for the Department of Children's Services in Columbia, Tennessee. He works with families to implement services in their homes to help eliminate problems the family and children are facing.

**Michelle Forsythe ('05)** has been traveling and working in Mexico managing the international business for Mitsui Steel for two years. She started working for Union Corrugating in outside sales as the Tennessee/North Alabama Sales Rep. Michelle was the 2006 Miss Green Hills and participated in the Miss Tennessee pageant. She was chosen as the class of 2007 Nashville Emerging Leader. Michelle served as Junior League of Nashville 'Tis the Season' Corporate Chair, Founding President of the Tennessee Association of Women in the Metals Industry and International Board Member, and Race for a Cure Committee Chair.

**Jeremiah Morgan ('05)** ran in the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. in 2007. He had to earn a goal of \$3,300 through pledges and donations before he could attend. The money went to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Jeremiah currently works for Alabama Gas Corporation in the Birmingham

**Abroms & Associates, P.C.**  
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2005 - Melinda Kibler  
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engineering department. He and his wife have lived in Moody for two years. They have two grandchildren.

**Genee K. Blowe ('06)** is a case manager for the Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority, and is living in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Thomas (Tommy) E. Coblentz, Jr. ('06)** lives in Athens, Alabama and is the City President of Regions Bank.

**Emily Godwin ('06)** works with Abrams & Associates, P.C. as an accountant. Emily has been the recipient of several college scholarship awards and honors. Most recently she was the recipient of an Outstanding Accounting Senior award at UNA's 2006 Alpha Chi Banquet. Emily received her masters of accountancy, taxation in 2007 from the University of Mississippi.

**Christy P. Johnson ('06)** works as the news director/announcer/public affairs job with Moody Radio South (Moody Bible Institute) in Northport, Alabama. She and her husband, Brian, live in Northport.

**Andrea Lavender ('06)** is a partner with Innovative Imaging, L.L.C., in Ardmore, Alabama where she and her husband, Steven reside.

**Mary Elizabeth McMeans ('06)** lives in Hoover, Alabama, and works as the senior products marketing representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

**James M. Mock, III ('06)** is the assistant front desk manager at Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

**Nicole Nix ('06)** competed in the Miss Alabama pageant in the summer of 2007. She won \$3,000, including several awards/scholarships.

**Jenny Ozcan ('06)** is the marketing director for Good Samaritan Hospice, USA and lives in Florence with her husband, **Ozan Ozcan ('05)**, who is the general manager of Chick-Fil-A.

**Michelle Youngblood Partain ('06)** married **Gaylon Partain ('06)** in 2007. They reside in Decatur, Alabama. Michelle is an English teacher at Austin High School, and Gaylon is a software developer for Jacobs Technology.

**Erin Tyler Smith ('06)** is a case manager with Three Springs School of Madison. She resides in Florence, Alabama.

**Manuela Tomas ('06)** works as a family law paralegal specialist, and resides in West Palm Beach, Florida.

**Spec. Bradley Townsend ('06)** completed Ranger training, and is stationed with C Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Infantry Battalion at Fort Benning, Georgia.

**Amber Hope Arthur ('07)** and her husband, Tyrus, live in Franklin, Tennessee. Amber and Tyrus were married in 2007. Amber works as a technical editor for Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

**Emily Lauren Brackin ('07)** is employed at Helen Keller Hospital in Tusculumbia, Alabama as a registered nurse.

**Rachel Pansa ('07)** is a receptionist with Word Entertainment, and resides in Franklin, Tennessee.

**Erin Sprinkle ('07)** passed the state board exams, and is a registered nurse. She works in the emergency department of Decatur General Hospital, and lives in Town Creek, Alabama.

**David Williamson ('07)** and his wife, Karen, live in Northport, Alabama, where David is in graduate school.



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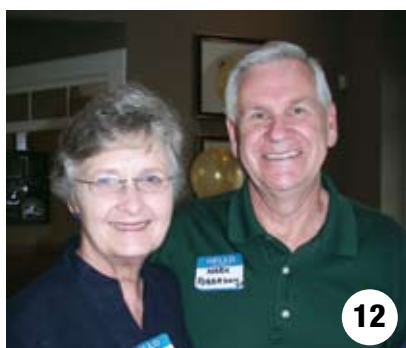
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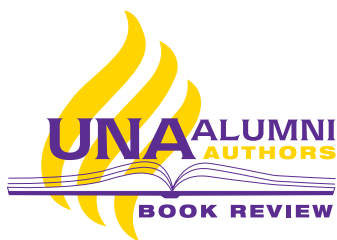
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1. Luckey Crocker, Leigh ('77) and Ric Haley ('78), Larry Crocker
2. Mason ('99) and Bill Matthews
3. Brad Warren ('00), Clark, Kay Davis ('73), Kathy Wallace, and Maria Warren ('00),
4. Patsy Killen, Shelia and Steve Pierce ('75)
5. Julie and Billy Jarrett ('76)
6. Tommy "Chigger" Parrish ('56), Dillon Hodges and Edsel Holden ('57)
7. Jack Weaver ('55) and Steve Harrison ('75)
8. Rod Sheppard ('98)
9. Robert Smith ('81)
10. Margaret (76) and Jimmy Austin ('73)
11. Mike Shaw ('73) and Danny Hendrix ('77)
12. Beth ('63) and Mark Roberson ('64)
13. Dr. Ann Roy Moore ('75)
14. Judy Woodcock ('65)





## Stoney Creek, Alabama

Sandra grew up in a small community in northeast Alabama called Alder Springs. She developed a deep love for literature in a two-classroom country school when she was in the third through the sixth grades. Every afternoon her teachers would bring their classes together and read such classics as *Rip Van Winkle*, *Moby Dick*, *The Headless Horsemen* and *The Taming of the Shrew* while all their students sat on the floor. It was her favorite time.

When she was very young, Sandra enjoyed listening to her mother and grandmother talk about the "good ol' days" while they canned vegetables, quilted, and sewed. After she became an adult, she cherished those memories so much that she began to write them down. Sandra and her daughter Jennifer's journey of writing together began when Jennifer found those notes. Their first novel, *Living in High Cotton*, is loosely based on her grandmother's life and some of those memories.

Sandra says Jennifer has always loved to read. When Jennifer was a teenager, it wasn't unusual for her to stay up all night and read a book. She remembers one time when a boy asked Jennifer for a date and she told him she couldn't go because she had started a book she wanted to finish.

Just like her mother, Jennifer grew up in a rural town in Alabama. She describes it as a place where "everybody knows your life story and your brother's life story, your sister's life story and so on." Growing up in such a small, close-knit community might seem confining to some, but not to Jennifer. She'll tell you that some of her best writing has come from those experiences.

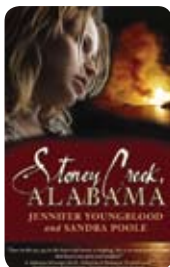
Sandra and Jennifer's second novel, *Stoney Creek, Alabama*, was released in December. Even though it is totally fiction, the idea for this novel came from Sandra's work experience as a Human Resource Manager when she had a hardwood sawmill under her supervision. She couldn't think of a better setting for a romantic murder mystery.

She and her daughter, Jennifer, are currently working on their third novel, *Trailers, Pines and Power Lines*. The idea for this novel was born when Jennifer and her husband, Patrick, were traveling across Sand Mountain and Jennifer commented to Patrick on how beautiful the scenery was. He responded, "All I see are trailers, pines and power lines."

Sandra and Jennifer share the love for writing and good literary fiction. Both women will tell you that only their families and religion superseded their love for writing. Sandra says that stories about the South and southern culture are some of the "undiscovered jewels of the nation" and is always on the lookout for a story or event that will spark an idea for a new book. Jennifer will tell you that she is proud of her southern heritage, believing that the oddities that make up the southern culture give it distinction.

*Stoney Creek, Alabama* is a religious fiction thriller written by **Sandra Poole ('00)**, Assistant to the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs at the University of North Alabama. Sandra and her husband John have seven children and thirteen grandchildren. Sandra started to work in the office of Business and Financial Affairs a few months after the family moved to Florence in the fall of 1996.

For more information on the authors, visit their website at [www.sandrapoole.com](http://www.sandrapoole.com)  
*Stoney Creek, Alabama* is now available at all bookstores.



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# in memory

**Ludwig Lesch** was a ROTC instructor at FSC. He later was appointed the Civil Defense Director for Lauderdale County.

**Zollie Coffeer Reed, Jr. ('40)** was a teacher, elementary school principal, and Assistant Superintendent for Mountain Brook City Schools for 25 years. He received his master's at George Peabody College, and his doctorate from Columbia University. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a member of Forest Lake United Methodist Church in Tuscaloosa. He was a past president of the UNA National Alumni Association.

**Lorene Bradford ('49)** was a veteran school teacher who was named Retired Teacher of the Year by the Marshall County Retired Teachers Association. After receiving her bachelor's from Florence State Teachers College, she earned her master's from the University of Alabama. She also served as state president for Delta Kappa Gamma, a teacher honorary.

**William Charles Clem, Sr. ('50)** of Athens was owner of Clem Tire and Appliance for 50 years. He was a lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church, and a dedicated member of the American Legion. He also served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

**William Guy Mitchell ('50)** was a resident of Gulfport, Mississippi for 50 years. Mr. Mitchell was a retired chemist with the EPA and worked for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

**John Lewis Citrano, Sr. ('57)**, an avid hunter and fisherman, was a career civil service employee with the U.S. Army until his retirement. He was a graduate of Huntsville High School, and Florence State Teacher's College. Many older Huntsville residents will remember his football endeavors at Huntsville High School, UNA, and then with the professional football team, the Rockets. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a member of the Eagles Lodge, and a member of St. Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church.

**Jack Huddleston** was an Alabama state legislator from 1955-1958, and a Sheffield attorney for 35 years. A World War II veteran, he served with the Army Corps of Engineers in the Pacific Islands. After attaining his accounting degree from Florence State Teachers College, Huddleston received his Juris Doctorate of Law from the University of Alabama. Dedicated to public service, he also served on the Muscle Shoals City School Board, Sheffield Utilities Board, Sheffield City School Board, and Colbert County/Helen Keller Hospital Board.

**Mae Rose Stutts Hayes ('59)** was a retired chemist from the State

of Alabama. She also worked with Aerojet in California making rocket fuel.

**Col. Morris Steenson ('60)** had a 27-year career with the U.S. Army, serving two tours of duty in Vietnam. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Air Medal for Valor. In addition, he served as the officer for Veterans Affairs in Colbert County for more than ten years.

**Dorian Dean Irby** was a librarian for Decatur High School. She graduated from Brooks High School in 1978. While attending UNA, Irby was a charter member of the Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, and a majorette for the Pride of Dixie Band. She later graduated with an Ed.S. in library science from the University of Alabama.

**Bob Goldston** was a member of the UNA Foundation Board. He grew up in Sheffield and was an entrepreneur.

**Harry Woodis ('82)** was a 1978 graduate of Florence Christian Academy. He held a degree in physical education from UNA. He was employed by Thompson Tractor Company. He attended First United Methodist Church in Tuscumbia. His hobbies included hunting, wood carving, and gardening. Memorials may be sent to the University of North Alabama, UNA Box 5059, Florence, AL 35632.

**Randolph Ashe Sanford ('85)** of Sheffield developed an entrepreneurial spirit which included his establishment of Drafting Unlimited, a draft company in Huntsville. Additionally, he created "Willford's Ol' English Cheese Crisps" which operated out of the Shoals Culinary Center in Florence.

**Wilma J. Johnston ('86)** was a legislative auditor with the State of Tennessee for 19 years where she was a well-respected auditor.

**Tiffany C. Miles ('00)** was a flight nurse for Air Evac. She died December 30 from injuries sustained in a helicopter crash in Colbert County. She graduated from Double Springs High School before receiving her nursing degree at UNA. During college, she served as a dispatcher for AMR, and later became an EMT. Tiffany also worked in the Helen Keller Hospital emergency room. She attended Faith Church.

**John Kingsbury** began teaching at UNA in the fall of 1961. He developed the first creative writing, contemporary American, and world novels courses in the English Department. He was the founding chairperson of the UNA Writers Conference.

## Alumni Information Update

Name (include maiden name if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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**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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