



FALL 2011 • VOL. 20

ISSUE 3

Magazine

For the Alumni and Friends of the University of North Alabama



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William G. Cale, Jr.

president's message William G. Cale, Jr.

The annual Handy festival is drawing large crowds to the many venues where music is being played. At this time of year it is impossible to go anywhere

in town and not hear music. The festival is also a reminder that we are less than a month away from the start of another academic year. Freshmen have been coming to campus all summer to participate in SOAR and begin their matriculation. It is something to ponder what it feels like to be 18 at this moment in history. I hope that most of these college freshmen will feel a sense of urgency to do well in their studies so that they can become a part of the positive change that we need in our country.

Many of you know by now that our Board of Trustees voted in June to take the University to the Division I level in athletic competition provided that three key benchmarks are realized during the next academic year. One is that we secure an invitation to membership from an NCAA Division I conference and comply with all other NCAA Division I membership requirements. Another is that we raise through gifts and pledges commitments of \$3 million over the five year period beginning in June, 2012. The third is that we have an indication of support for this undertaking from the Shoals community through its government, business, and civic leadership. The Board also adopted measures to insulate the university budget from increased athletic expenditures, and to cap a phased-in student fee at \$8 per enrolled hour. Competition at the D-I level has been a topic of conversation in our community for two decades. The Board has adopted an approach to this question that gives the community the opportunity over the next nine months to come forward and support this transition. We are conducting a wide-ranging series of meeting to provide details and answer questions. I encourage

everyone to attend one of these. You may contact Dr. Alan Medders (Vice President for Advancement, agmedders@una.edu) or Mr. Mark Linder (Director of Athletics, mdlinder@una.edu) for information or to arrange a meeting for your group.

Sometimes we measure success by the things we can see, like a new building. More often, though, success happens one student at a time as we provide more and better educational opportunities. Allowing our students the chance to study abroad has been a long standing ambition of mine, and certainly one for UNA. This year about 100 UNA students visited eight foreign countries as part of their academic programs, each trip under the careful guidance of one or more faculty members. Cayla Buttram, one of 26 UNA students who spent the month of June in China, wrote these words as she summarized her trip:

Ultimately, as Mark Twain once said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." What better way to be globally prepared than to find out just what is beyond our borders? We have not only shattered many misconceptions about China and America through our travel, but we have also been given the distinction of study abroad students as we further our own careers and hope to make a positive impact on our world. But, we walk away from the experience with more than just that distinction: we have, tucked away in our minds, a deeper understanding of a country that influences our daily lives in the U.S. now and will increasingly do so in the future.

Cayla will never be quite the same person. That's what education does, and that is what we all want for every student. We do that one by one, and it's all but invisible.

Hope you all had a great summer and that we will see you at homecoming September 23-24.

All my best,
Bill Cale

THE TRANSITION TO

D

BUILDING VISION.

BUILDING COMMUNITY.

BUILDING CHAMPIONS.



BUILDING THE PRIDE



The UNA Board of Trustees, on June 13, approved a resolution stating the university's intent to move to NCAA Division I status upon completion of a series of benchmark goals. UNA currently competes in the Gulf South Conference of the NCAA Division II.

The Board's approval of the resolution came on the heels of several major advancement initiatives, including construction plans for a new science and technology center and a new academic center and student commons, as well as the groundbreaking for a new black-box theatre.

"This is an exciting time in the history of UNA – a time of growth and momentum, for academics, for student life and for athletics," said Dr. William G. Cale, Jr., UNA president. "As we move forward with the Board's decision today, I am excited about our future. We have a plan to move ahead strategically and to build upon our very successful athletics program. University concerns were heard from our faculty, staff, and students, and the resolution that was passed today includes benchmarks to address those

concerns. I encourage everyone among our university family, alumni, the Shoals community and throughout the region to support this transition as we launch into a new era."

UNA president pro tempore **Steve Pierce ('75)** said the board's decision is a "visionary move for the university, coming at a time when UNA is building and growing in so many exciting ways. This decision was not made for its immediate impact.

"The full benefits of actions like these are rarely seen for many years. This move, I am confident, will bring to this university and this area a level of strength, of competition and of growth that will be felt generations from now, long after each of us is gone."

BENCHMARKS

Benchmarks UNA must meet for a transition include meeting the new requirements for Division I membership, capping institutional spending for athletics operations, increasing athletics funding from outside sources, and capping a phased-in student athletics fee.

The decision to move forward with Division I plans was made following several months of discussion, careful research, and planning to ensure the financial feasibility of such a transition. In addition to seeking an invitation from an NCAA Division I conference, UNA will have to pay a \$1.42 million application fee to the NCAA for a move to Division I.

UNA plans for a six-year transition period to Division I, beginning with

changing landscape of Division II, especially in the Southeast.

PLAYING OUR PEERS

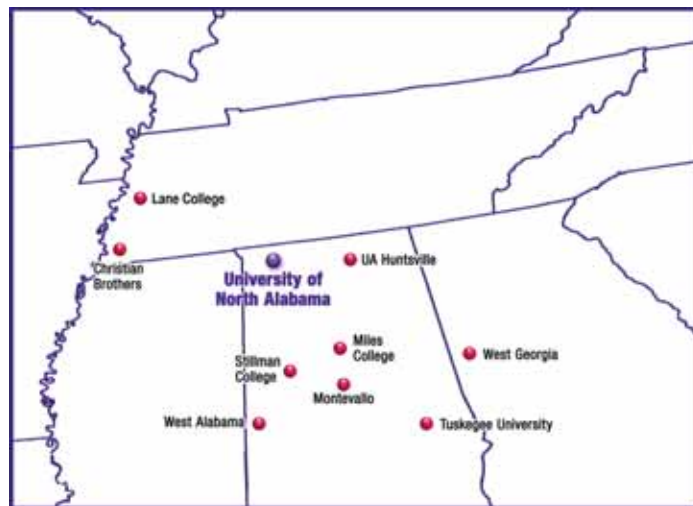
Pierce said a leading factor in the Board's decision was to better align UNA with its peer institutions. "The public," he said, "generally perceives a university as being similar to the universities it keeps company with on the athletic fields and the athletic

Division II universities within a 3.5-hour radius, as opposed to 21 Division I universities.

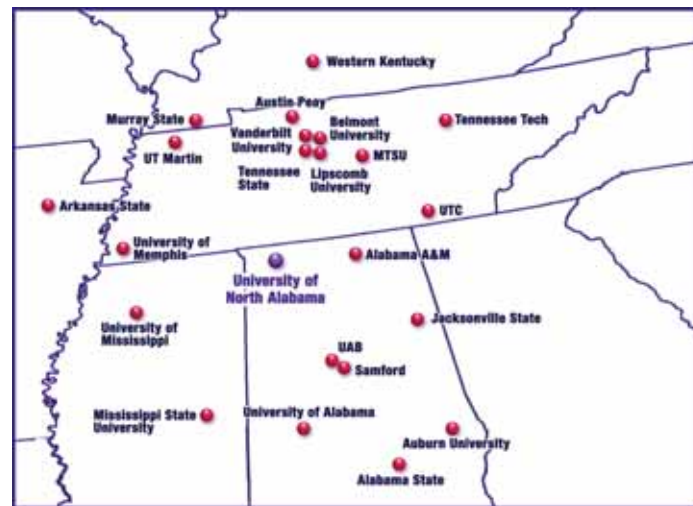
Linder added that, from a financial standpoint, even to remain at the Division II level would become increasingly expensive due to increased travel. Increased travel, he said, can also impact the academic performance of student-athletes by "requiring our student-athletes to spend more time on the road and

during their transitions from Division II to Division I. Eleven percent growth would also add \$4.8 million to UNA's annual budget to help offset cuts to state funding.

"UNA's growth these past six years has been phenomenal – for the university and for the Shoals community. Each of us in the Shoals community is benefiting from what has happened on this campus," Pierce said. "If this university can grow in similar ways over the next six years, just imagine where we'll be."



DIVISION II • WITHIN 230 MILES



DIVISION I • WITHIN 230 MILES

the 2011-12 academic year. The transition will include a sequence for increases in funding for new athletics scholarships and operational expenses. Six primary funding sources will be utilized: new private donations of \$500,000 each year as well as gradual increases in new corporate donations, game guarantees, ticket sales, NCAA academic and enhancement funds, and a student athletics fee.

As the transition period begins, the university will cap institutional funding for the athletics program to protect funds for academic programming. It will also begin a phase-in of a student athletics fee, to be implemented throughout the six-year transition period.

The discussions and plans leading to today's board decision for a move to Division I have been fueled by the

courts. Especially as the Division II landscape is so quickly changing, particularly in this region, it's important that we act now to better align ourselves with our real peer institutions."

Linder said that, in the months leading up to the vote, "only one thing has been absolutely certain: We cannot keep things the way they are or the way they were, in whatever division we are competing. That option simply has not been in the cards, because we have fewer and fewer peer schools in Division II, and Division II schools, especially in the Southeast, are becoming more and more spread out."

A year ago, six Arkansas universities, all with football teams, announced plans to leave the Gulf South Conference this year. Currently, UNA has only five

more time outside of the classroom. In recent years, we have started paying significant guarantees to secure Division II opponents to meet NCAA scheduling requirements."

COMMUNITY

Another leading decision, according to Pierce, was the economic benefits a Division I university will bring to the community. According to a 2008 study by the Center of Public Policy and Economic Research (COPPER), UNA employee and student spending accounted for a \$161 million annual impact on the Lauderdale and Colbert county economies. An additional economic impact of \$17.6 million is expected if UNA experiences the average 11 percent enrollment growth experienced by other universities

Benchmark Goals for a Successful Transition

NCAA Requirements
Fulfill all requirements of the NCAA for membership in Division I.

Cap Spending

Cap the university's total operational expenditures in athletics to an amount not to exceed 4 percent of the total University Education and General (E&G) budget.

Financial Pledges

Secure \$500,000 in new annual financial pledges, to total at least \$3 million by 2017.

Phased-in Student Fee

Develop a phased plan for student fee increases not to exceed a maximum of \$8 per enrolled hour.

Community Involvement

Engage the support of the Shoals community through its government, business and civic leadership.

YOU'LL NEED ONE OF THESE AROUND HERE

Construction zones are commonplace at UNA. But they're not all about bricks and mortar. (Although, many of them are.) You see, every department, every team, every individual on this campus has one thing in common: They're always building. Building success. Building character. Building champions. So, if you're the type of person who embraces progress and refuses status quo, you'll fit right in here. Just grab your hard hat and join us.

University of NORTH ALABAMA

BUILDING CHAMPIONS

How You Can Stay Informed and Get Involved

Support the DI transition as a Circle of Champions member by donating \$6,000 or more.
Check out our Web site at una.edu/division1.

"Like" our Division I Facebook page at facebook.com/unadivision1.

Buy season tickets. – Call 256-765-LION

Join the Sportsman's Club. – Call 256-765-4185

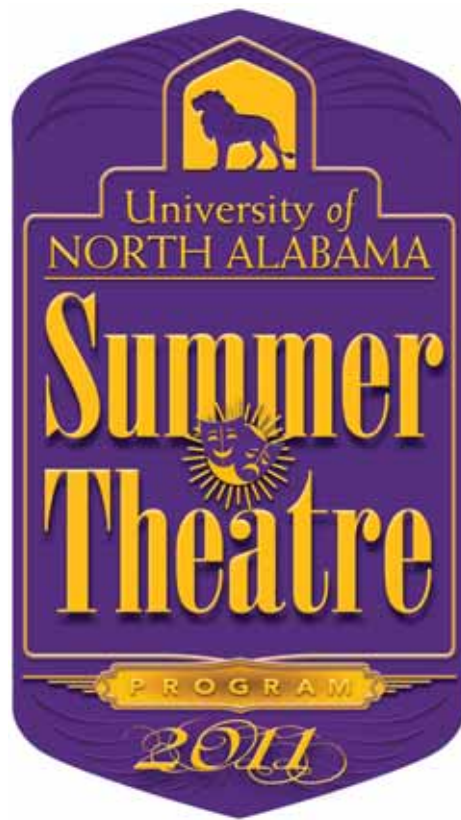
Check out and support our sponsors at www.roarlions.com.

GET INVOLVED
If UNA athletics is not your passion, consider getting involved in other ways on campus. Visit www.una.edu.

Back to the Classics

By Jason Lankford ('11), Student intern

The Summer Theatre program took a new form this year to focus on the canon of American theatre classics. Chosen for the summer 2011 production was Arthur Miller's 1949 Pulitzer Prize-winning classic, "Death of a Salesman." The production took stage in Norton Auditorium June 23-26.



Myk Watford



Paul Hebron



Constance Cooper



Charlton James

The cast and crew included several theatre industry professionals, such as actor/director Myk Watford, known for his roles in "No Country for Old Men," "Spiderman," "CSI: Miami" and "Law & Order," among other movies and television programs.

Other cast members included Paul Hebron, a veteran of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival; Constance Cooper, from the film "Friday Night Lights;" Brian Sloan, independent film and Off-Broadway veteran; and Charlton James, stage and screen actor and UNA faculty member.

UNA Summer Theatre is sponsored by the Department of Music and

Theatre. Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" has already been selected as next year's production.



THE CIRCLE CONTINUES

Circle K International, a branch of the Kiwanis family, is the largest collegiate service organization in the world. Circle K International (CKI) at the University of North Alabama has plans and goals including international service partners: Better World Books, Students Teaming Up to Fight Hunger (STUFH), UNICEF, and March of Dimes.

This past year CKI worked with Better World Books, collecting unwanted books from across campus and from the community. Collection boxes are set up in front of the University Bookstore, Collier Library, and the Learning Resource Center in Stevens Hall, and book donations are gratefully accepted.

For 2011 Homecoming CKI is working with STUFH to have campus organizations participate in a campus "food fight." These organizations will compete in three divisions: fraternity, sorority, and non-Greeks, with each group competing to collect the most canned food items. The winner in each division will earn two Lion Cup points for helping with a community service project. The collected canned food items will be donated to local food banks including the Salvation Army.

CKI also works with the EliMiNaTe project. UNICEF has partnered with the Kiwanis to raise a minimum of \$110 million by 2015 for the EliMiNaTe project which was started to cure Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus.

The Alabama District of Circle K International set a goal to raise \$50,000 over the next five years for Jean Dean: Reading is Fundamental (RIF). The mission is to put quality, age-appropriate books into the hands and homes of at-risk children before they start kindergarten. Jean Dean RIF is a literacy program sponsored by the Alabama District of Kiwanis International. The District's goal was set as a result of recent funding cuts from the federal government to non-profit organizations. CKI is also planning a dance in October ("One Spark. One Night.") with all proceeds from ticket sales and t-shirts going to benefit Jean Dean RIF.

If you would like to donate to either the Kiwanis EliMiNaTe project or the Circle K International Alabama District Project Jean Dean: RIF, please contact Club President Genesee Fernandez at una@alabama.circlek.org. Donations can also be sent to UNA Box 5309, Florence, AL 35632.

Towers Dorms get a Redo

By Jason Lankford ('11), Student intern

Gone are the dimly lit lobbies, stained carpets, malfunctioning shower stalls and outdated fixtures. Gone are the immovable furniture pieces and the drab color schemes. All these things that characterized the rooms and hallways of Rivers Hall vanished after the dorm building underwent the most extensive renovation in its 44-year history.

"I'm really happy with what's been done," Housing Coordinator Jimmy Waddell said. "It's amazing. It doesn't look like a prison to me anymore."

Housing Director Audrey Mitchell said many of the renovations, such as the installation of energy-efficient lighting and automatic hand dryers are part of a green campus initiative that will make the dorms more environmentally friendly and reduce the electricity costs the university has to bear as well.

The furniture items in the rooms were either bolted to the floor or built into the walls, impossible to move. They have been ripped out in exchange for moveable furniture. One major complaint that UNA students and Rivers Hall residents JR Tidwell and Evan Underwood had was that the previous set-up didn't allow for space conservation and prevented residents from customizing their rooms in order to suit their individual needs. Both of them lived in LaGrange Hall during the summer, providing them with a standard for comparison.

"Being able to move things around to maximize the space is the most important thing," Tidwell said. "It feels like there's more room [in LaGrange]."

Mitchell hopes the remodeled facilities will look more appealing to incoming students who tour the residence halls.

"One of the reasons the decision [to renovate] was made was so that we could attract more first-time freshmen," Mitchell said.

The housing office has been relocated to the ground floor of the building and a campus police substation was installed as well.



"It's the best of both worlds," Mitchell said. "They'll be able to see both departments at a moment's notice."

Some renovations have been done to neighboring Rice Hall as well. The odd floor lobbies were renovated and the beds were changed. In addition to the renovations in both facilities there are some programmatic changes beginning this semester. Rice and Rivers are now coed by floor and Rivers is exclusively a freshman dorm.

"The advantage to having a freshman dorm is that everyone is experiencing the same level of developmental growth," said Residence Life Director Kevin Jacques. "If they're all coming in at the same level

it's easier for us to help students grow. In order to get the most benefits out of this, we need to have a coed building."

Four First Year Resident Educators have been appointed to the building to help orient students to college life. To qualify, a FYRE must be an upper class resident with a good GPA, and must also be involved in several activities on campus.

Rice and Rivers halls and Towers Cafeteria (which connects the two)



were completed in June 1967 as part of a \$3 million campus construction plan that involved multiple building projects, including a student union building and a fine arts complex (Norton Auditorium and the music and art buildings).

The dorm towers housed a total of 740 students, with men in Rivers Hall and women in Rice Hall. Construction of new housing facilities was a priority for the university both because of large increases in enrollment and because there was already a housing shortage for unmarried students.

The only major renovation period the two dorms have undergone since opening was in 1989, when the light fixtures and tiles were replaced in the lobbies and hallways.





Group picture with Ol Donyo Lengai volcanic dome at the background.

AN EPIC ADVENTURE

By Francis Koti

During the May inter-session in 2011, faculty at the Department of Geography created the first ever opportunity for UNA students to experience Africa. Directed by Dr. Francis Koti and Dr. Greg Gaston, fifteen UNA students travelled to Tanzania where they learned about the East African human and physical environment through travel and personal experiences.

The two-week Geography study abroad program was based in three regions of Tanzania – Arusha, Dar es Salaam, and the Island of Zanzibar. While Dr. Koti offered “Geography of Africa” course with a focus on Tanzania, Dr. Gaston offered “East African landforms and Landscapes.” Notable experiences in the Arusha area included a visit to Olduvai Gorge, the site of the earliest known hominid discovered by Mary and Louis Leakey, which has come to be known as the cradle of mankind. The Ngorongoro crater and escarpment, Engare Sero River Gorge, and the Oldonyo Lengai volcanic dome were also significant study sites in this region.

After a week in Arusha area, the group traveled 400 miles by road to Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital of Tanzania on the east coast. Based

at the University of Dar es Salaam's Department of Geography, the group visited various sites where they learned about many urban, historical and cultural aspects of the east African coast. The two days spent in the Island of Zanzibar were a true adventure into the cultural history of the Island.

The group returned to the U.S. on June 1, after an adventure into a territory previously uncharted by UNA study abroad programs. Based on their testimonies, this trip became the most memorable college experience for a majority of the students. One participant said in a memoir of the trip, “In just two weeks, I learned more about Geography and culture from personal experiences than I ever would have in

a classroom. I absolutely enjoyed every moment, no matter how challenging, on this trip more than any other expedition I have taken.”

Dr. Koti and Dr. Gaston are already planning for another trip to Tanzania during the May inter-session in 2012. Details will be announced early in the fall 2011.



Students hike the Engare Sero River gorge and waterfall.



Students have fun with giraffes at background in the Ngorongoro conservation area.



Jessica Pendergrass corners a student at Ng'iresi High School at a soccer game during a local community event in Arusha, Tanzania.

SHOOTING for the STARS

STUDENT AND PROFESSOR AWARDED RESEARCH GRANT TO STUDY STAR CLUSTERS

For math and physics major Daniel Johnson, the love of astronomy has governed his life for many years. This summer, he came one step closer to achieving his dreams after being awarded a national grant to conduct research in Cerro Tololo, Chile.

Johnson submitted a research proposal in October 2010 to the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society. The society, which includes 60,000 scientists from more than 100 countries around the world, awarded him a \$2,800 grant to study star clusters in Chile for 10 days in July with Dr. Mel Blake of the UNA Department of Physics and Earth Science.

The society awards grants to less than 20 percent of applicants, and the fact that Johnson is an undergraduate made his award even more rare. Blake said that, in order to conduct their research, they also had to apply to the National Optical Astronomy Observatory in use the 3.25-foot telescope in Chile.

Johnson said that “any research experience you have when you're applying to graduate school helps, but the fact that I've gotten this national grant will hopefully make me competitive for future jobs.”

During their research trip, Johnson and Blake studied two star clusters to determine which had more variable stars and to see if there is any correlation between the populations of large blue and variable stars.

“The key thing to me is that this is a grant that was written by Daniel, and it's a national competition with grants that students from all over the United States were competing for,” Blake said. “This certainly says something about him in that he went for it. There were students from big schools applying for that money, and for him to beat out the competition like that is pretty good.”





Thanks a Million, Harvey Robbins

Harvey and Joyce Ann Robbins make \$1 million scholarship investment. SWEET!

It's easy to know when something is close to the heart of Harvey Robbins, because he lives by the principle of letting actions speak louder than words. That's why his fingerprints are all over his hometown of Tuscumbia.

When he decided the city should have one of the best parks in the region, he donated the land and resources to build it.

When he envisioned a restored and revitalized downtown Tuscumbia, he again reached into his pockets and made it happen. When he started reminiscing about the old soda shop he used to frequent in high school, he bought up the old street corner shop and rebuilt his favorite landmark, The Palace.

That's where Harvey and his wife,

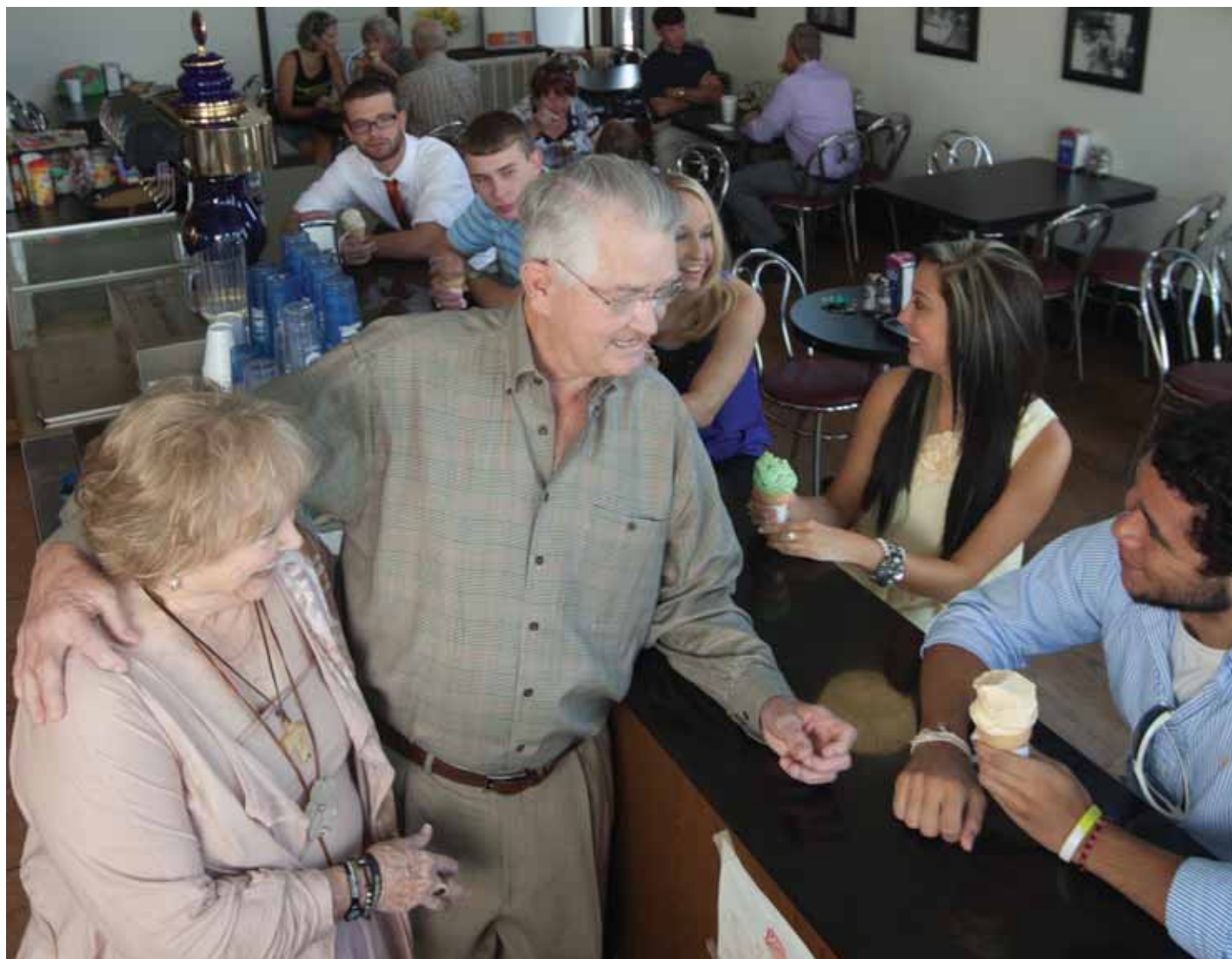


Joyce Ann, were one hot afternoon this past July when they met five recent graduates of their alma mater, Deshler High School.

The students were among the first recipients of Harvey's latest project, the Harvey and Joyce Ann Robbins Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship, which he created through a \$1 million gift to UNA this year, is to provide a UNA education for students graduating from Deshler.

"It does take you back," Harvey said of seeing The Palace full of teenagers about the age he was





when it was his regular hangout. The only difference was that these were kids who had grown up playing at a park he had built and eating ice cream at a soda shop he had restored. Now they were going to college through a scholarship he had funded.

He served them all ice cream and reminisced.

"I spent a lot of time here with my high school friends and a lot of time here with my wife," he said.

Harvey and Joyce Anne were married in 1952, the year after they graduated from Deshler. Harvey would later enroll at UNA and then go on to a career with National Floor Products, which he sold in the mid 1990s. In the years since, he has owned and operated Robbins Property Development Inc., which

has given him the leverage for many of his charitable projects for Tuscumbia and surrounding areas.

"I get a kick out of helping," he said, "but I also get a kick out of giving back to the community in whatever way I can. I believe this scholarship donation will give more in the long term than anything else I could have done with the money."

Harvey said he also loves the idea that the new Robbins scholarship is "ongoing – it never quits, and that makes me feel good."

He was referring to how it is an endowed scholarship, which means his \$1 million gift is a long-term investment issuing scholarship awards every year to students through investment growth. And the award amounts are double what they would have been through

an average endowed scholarship program. While most endowed scholarships award about 5 percent of the total asset – in Harvey's case, about \$50,000 – UNA is matching the 5 percent for an annual award total of \$100,000 each year to students from Deshler.

An endowed scholarship at UNA qualifies for the Lion Match Program when it reaches \$25,000 or more in total contributions. For more information on the Lion Match Program, contact Melissa Pettus, endowed scholarships coordinator, at 256-765-4757 or rmpettus@una.edu.



Joshua Smith

Cassie Hudson

Brandon Watkins

Taylor Williamson

David Sides

With the help of this scholarship, my goal of obtaining a college education will be so much simpler to accomplish. I could never express the amount of gratitude I have for Mr. Robbins and the Robbins family. With the help of this scholarship Mr. Robbins may have unknowingly helped send the future finder of a cure for cancer or the future President of the United States or a future military leader through college. I know that this scholarship will not only have an impact on my life, but on the lives of those I come in contact with after college. Thank you so much for this amazing blessing. I look forward to what God has in store for me in the future. Once more, thank you, Mr. Robbins. This blessing has made a world of difference in my life.

Joshua M. Smith

I was very grateful to receive this scholarship, and it means a great deal to me. This award has helped take the pressure off of trying to pay for college, and one day, I hope to be able to return the favor to Mr. and Mrs. Robbins for their generous donation.

Cassie Hudson

This scholarship is more than a gift; it is a second chance for me. Before I knew about the scholarship, I had no idea where my life was headed. I had applied to UNA before but I was still on the fence about attending. When my counselor told me about the scholarship, everything changed. Once again I felt direction and purpose.

Brandon Watkins

Being chosen as a recipient of the Robbins Scholarship is truly an honor and a blessing. Receiving this scholarship has helped reduce the burden of cost on my parents in furthering my education at UNA. It makes me proud to know that my hard work and efforts throughout high school were recognized. Thank you again to Mr. and Mrs. Robbins for being supportive of the students at Deshler High School, as well as the City of Tuscumbia.

Taylor Williamson

To me this scholarship means an opportunity to go to school and learn about something that interests me, and to one day use the knowledge that I learned to make a living doing something I love.

David Sides



FROM ZERO TO INFINITY

*John and Rosie Cole Create a
Minority Scholarship Through the
Investment of Land*

Rosie Cole said she and her husband, John, a UNA trustee, "started out with zero." John said it was "minus zero." Even so, they made it a priority to send their four children to college.

"I always wanted my children to have an education," Rosie said, "and we worked hard for that. There were some things we could have enjoyed ourselves, but we put it back for those four kids, and we were blessed that we were able to send all four of them college."

Now that all four of the Coles' children are through college and leading successful lives, the Coles have turned their attention to other future college graduates. This summer, they created the John and Rosie Cole Endowed Scholarship for minority students. The scholarship is funded through a gift of land valued at \$60,000.

John, retired from Ford Motor Company, manages several rental, commercial, and residential properties. He also owns and operates Bunyan's Bar-B-Que in Florence and Sheffield.

When asked if a factor in making their gift was the idea that an endowed scholarship is lasting –an investment that

keeps giving to students every year – he said yes, but not the leading factor.

"The leading factor," he said, "was that I could take what I had and help somebody. You can have education and know-how, but if you haven't helped somebody in this world, what have you done?"


The Lion Match Program

The average endowed scholarship awards about 5 percent of the fund's assets. For the Coles, who created a scholarship of \$60,000, that means \$3,000 in scholarship awards to students each year. But UNA, through the Lion Match Program, matches the annual awards to students for every endowed scholarship that has received \$25,000 or more in financial contributions. So, what would have been a \$3,000 award from the Coles' scholarship is now a \$6,000 annual award.



For More Information

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University of NORTH ALABAMA

CARING FOR THE PRIDE

UNA TORNADO RELIEF EFFORT

*As Clean-up ends
Healing Begins*

**Make your
contribution
and receive
a t-shirt!**



Your contribution to the Caring For The Pride Fund will provide such types of support for our current & future students impacted by the April 27, 2011 tornadoes as scholarships assistance, book scholarships, room & board aid & supplies. Receive a complimentary t-shirt (S-XXL) with any \$25 minimum donation.

Make check payable to UNA Foundation – Caring for the Pride™
Mail Donation to: UNA Foundation, UNA Box 5075, Florence, AL 35632
For more information or to donate with credit or debit card visit:
<http://www.una.edu/disaster-relief>



2011 KILBY SCHOOL "Building the Future" Reunion

ATTENTION KILBY SCHOOL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

Please join us for our "Building the Future" Reunion Weekend! The reunion festivities will be held in conjunction with UNA's Homecoming. You and your family are invited to return to campus for the special events that have been planned. While you are here, you will be able to meet the current generation of Cubs who are thriving at Kilby.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the changes at Kilby and UNA, visit with old friends and to share your memorable experience at Kilby with your family!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Kids' Movie Night

The Kilby teachers will watch your children while you enjoy a night out. The kids will watch a movie and have popcorn and drinks. Just drop off your kids at the Kilby gymnasium. You may also preview the items for Saturday's silent auction.

9:00 p.m. - UNA Pep Rally

Feel free to park your car in the Kilby parking lot and walk over to the UNA practice field for the pep rally. This is an event your whole family will enjoy. Don't forget to wear your Purple and Gold to show your LION PRIDE!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

10:00 a.m. - UNA Homecoming Parade

Join us in the Kilby parking lot at 10:00 a.m. to place the finishing touches on the Kilby School Alumni float. Visit with old friends and prepare to be a part of the UNA Homecoming Parade.

11:00 a.m. - UNA Homecoming Parade

If you are unable to join us in the parade, then go downtown to watch the parade.

12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m. - Kilby Reunion Picnic

RSVP by September 15 at

<http://alumni.una.edu/kilbyalumni>

The cost will be \$5.00 per person (\$7.00 day of the event). There will be a tour of the school, live entertainment, silent auction, kids' fun zone and lunch will be served.

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Tailgating on Spirit Hill

Spirit Hill is located just outside of Braly Stadium. Come out and get fired up to support your UNA Lions! Don't miss the Lion Walk at 4:00 p.m. UNA fans gather on the street to cheer as the UNA Lions Football Team walks into the stadium. (Kids really LOVE this event!)

6:00 p.m. - UNA Lions vs. Harding Bison

Please reserve your tickets by September 15 at

<http://alumni.una.edu/kilbyalumni>

SOMETHING SPECIAL

WENDELL WILKIE GUNN



It was Honors Day, near the end of the Spring 1964 semester, and was attending as part of the school choir. As awards were being handed out, it turned out that Gunn was not only there to sing. When it was announced that he was the top physics student and recipient of the Physics Achievement Award, he was in a state of shock.

Applause began, slowly at first, gaining momentum, spreading, until finally the whole auditorium seemed to erupt in an ovation that lasted for two to three minutes, bringing tears to the eyes of Florence State College's first African-American student.

This show of acceptance and support from his fellow students had come after months of cold shoulders, suspicion and silence, integrated schools still being a social taboo in much of the state.

"For me it was a transitional moment," Gunn said. "I realized then that the reason why the other students weren't talking to me was that they were worried about what others might think."

During the remainder of Gunn's time at FSC those barriers evaporated and he ceased to be lonely, finding acceptance and a positive social climate in which to further pursue his academic goals.

But things hadn't started off so smoothly. When the Tusculumbia native first walked into the registrar's

office at FSC in the summer of 1963, hoping to transfer from Tennessee State, he didn't anticipate being rejected.

The University of Alabama had already been integrated, and Gunn thought the doors would be wide open from that point forward. He was escorted to President Norton's office and told that he could not be admitted without obtaining a court order.

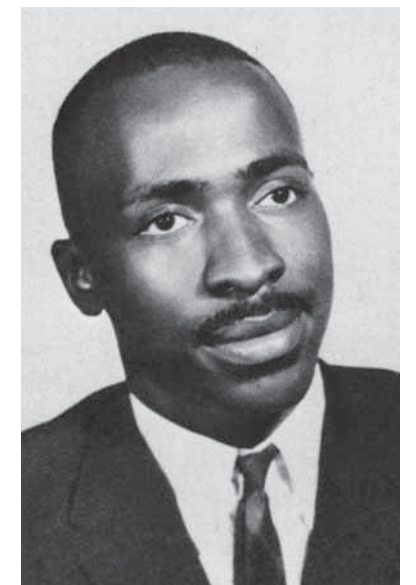
Gunn said he never considered himself to be a revolutionary, but under the circumstances he felt he had to ask "Why?" Though he had confronted social barriers his whole life he couldn't think of a rational reason why he would be prevented from attending.

"That was the only way we knew," Gunn said. "We knew there were barriers, and for the most part we respected them until they became oppressive."

Gunn said the court's decision was handed down in less than 30 minutes. The school's officials complied with the order, and he registered for classes without incident.

"They didn't seem to be resisting it," Gunn said. "They knew it was going to happen at some point."

Due to the turmoil that had erupted when the University of Alabama was integrated, Gunn was cautious; having received threatening phone calls and heard rumors that some people





were planning to prevent him from attending classes.

His story created a media buzz when word of his matriculation was sent out over the wires of the Associated Press. He received phone calls from numbers in foreign countries like Peru, and requests for interviews and photographs.

"I was a shy, young man," Gunn said. "I wasn't looking for all that publicity."

On his first day of classes he was driven to the campus in a cab and escorted from class to class by Dean Turner Allen. None of the threats he had heard over the phone materialized. Gunn's fellow students remained aloof, but were never hostile, he said.

"The fact that it happened between '63 and '65, a time with a lot of turmoil, and the fact that my matriculation happened without incident is a testament to something," Gunn said. "Looking back on it, it makes me think there was something special about the area."

After graduation Gunn worked as a chemist at Tennessee River Pulp for five years, and then shed

his lab coat to attend graduate school at the University of Chicago's school of finance.

"Chemistry labs are not for the gregarious," Gunn said. "I decided I wanted to see what the marketing side was like. When you study science you learn to be analytical, and you use those skills everywhere."

Coming from a small town like Tuscumbia and a small school like FSC Gunn was apprehensive at first about how he would compare to his fellow students, many of whom were graduates of Harvard, MIT and Wharton.

His self-consciousness soon faded when he ended up conducting calculus tutorials attended by those same students, many of whom were engineers. After hearing success stories from other high achievers from FSC Gunn began to believe that he had been part of something special, that there was "something in the water" back home.

After obtaining his master's degree in 1971 Gunn worked at Chase Manhattan Bank and PepsiCo, Inc. In 1982 he was recruited into the world of politics when President Reagan's chief financial officer asked Gunn if he would be interested in coming to the White House.

"I told him I would like to tour the White House, but had no interest in working there," Gunn said. "But at the end of the day he walked me into the Oval Office and introduced me to the President. The leader of the free world reached across the desk and said 'Welcome aboard.' I stammered for a minute, then said 'Thank you, sir.'"

Gunn said he would stay on as the President's advisor on international trade for two years. He ended up staying for exactly two years and one day, utilizing his analytical skills and inquisitive nature to take on the kind of tasks he had never envisioned having to confront.

"It was one of the most interesting jobs I ever had," Gunn said. "I learned an awful lot about politics I didn't want to learn, how government works and how it doesn't."

Gunn had been on the job for 10 days when Braniff International Airways filed for bankruptcy. He got a call from the West Wing saying that President Reagan would soon have to give a press conference, and any preparation the President had regarding aviation policy would have to come from Gunn.

Gunn had already put in 12 hours of work that day, but ended up staying for a total of 24 hours, scrambling to learn everything he possibly could about the aviation industry in that brief time span.

"If you cause the President to embarrass himself you can't raise your head anymore," Gunn said. "You've got to be a quick learner and always take up subjects you don't know much about."


Gunn breathed a sigh of relief after the press conference was over, and reached for a cigarette. Though he was ordinarily a frequent smoker, he had not smoked at all during the previous 24 hours.

"I was under such pressure to do that right that I forgot to smoke," Gunn said. "I took it, put it back in the pack and I haven't had a cigarette since."

After leaving his post at the White House Gunn worked in the mergers and acquisitions department of Met Life, and then founded his own software company, Gunn Solutions.

His job is mostly conducted at a distance, and Gunn said part of him desires to leave his home in Stamford, Conn., but he and his wife have grandchildren in New York they couldn't bear to leave. Gunn still considers North Alabama to be his true home.





RONALD REAGAN
XL President of the United States: 1981-1989
Appointment of Wendell Wilkie Gunn as a Special Assistant to the President
April 19, 1982

The President today announced his intention to appoint Wendell Wilkie Gunn to be Special Assistant to the President. Mr. Gunn will serve as Assistant Director for Commerce and Trade within the Office of Policy Development. He will also serve as Executive Secretary of the Cabinet Council on Commerce and Trade.

Mr. Gunn has been assistant treasurer and director of investor relations for PepsiCo, Inc., Purchase, N.Y., since January 1979. He was a vice president of the Chase Manhattan Bank in 1974-1979. He served as assistant professor of finance at Texas Southern University.

He was a member of the Republican National Committee's Advisory Council on Economic Affairs and Subcommittee on Tax Policy and Monetary Affairs. He is a member of the board of directors of the New Coalition for Economic and Social Change and a member of the advisory board of the Lincoln Institute for Research and Education.

Mr. Gunn graduated from Florence State University (A.B., 1962) and the University of Chicago (M.B.A., 1971). He is married, has three children, and resides in Stamford, Conn.

Citation: John T. Woolley and Gerhard Peters, *The American Presidency Project* [online]. Santa Barbara, CA. Available from World Wide Web: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=42415>.



THE SOUNDS OF THE PRIDE

It isn't just any community where you can walk into a random restaurant and meet writers and producers for the Stones, Dylan, Skynard, Alabama, Aretha and other superstars. But in the Shoals, you can. Our music heritage runs deep, and that's why up-and-coming musicians flock to the entertainment industry management program at UNA. Here are a few of their stories — and how they're keeping the Shoals music heritage alive.

By Timmy Ray ('08)

A musical "blind date" was all it took to radically change John Paul White's musical career. In 2008, White received a call to participate in a writer's camp in Nashville, a gathering of approximately 20 songwriters in an effort to pen several songs for a popular country band. It was at that writer's camp that White met Joy Williams.

"[The writers] drew straws, and Joy and I ended up in a room together," White said. "It was evident from the beginning that there was something strange in the air; I knew where she was going melodically and vice versa. It was as if we had been singing together all our lives."

Following that chance encounter, White and Williams got together for another songwriting session and a recording session before deciding to take their collaboration further than simply writing songs together for other people. And just like that, the Civil Wars were born.

In the short time they've been together, the Civil Wars have

enjoyed the kind of success most musicians only dream of. Their second public performance, at Eddie's Attic in Decatur, Georgia, was recorded and then released as a free download. That recording was downloaded by over 170,000 people.

Following the success of their free live recording, the Civil Wars caught the attention of pop star Taylor Swift, who paid them a compliment from her Twitter account and included one of their songs in her official iTunes playlist. They

also caught the attention of the producers of the hit television show *Grey's Anatomy*, who elected to use their song "Poison and Wine" in an episode. As a result, the YouTube video for that particular song was viewed over 400,000 times.

Through the strength of their songs and the use of social media, the Civil Wars were suddenly one of the most talked about bands among fans of a wide variety of genres, all before even releasing a studio recording.

In February of 2011, the Civil



Wars finally released their first full-length studio recording, *Barton Hollow*, to much critical acclaim and to even more commercial success than even they expected. *Barton Hollow* debuted at #12 on the Billboard 200 and #1 on the iTunes album chart. As if this were not enough, the duo sold out almost every date on their spring tour, and the demand for tickets was so great in some markets that extra shows had to be added.

The group continues to tour and continues to sell out shows, and will

be spending the month of September touring in the United Kingdom with British singer Adele. Each of those dates sold out several months in advance.

Despite all the success, **John Paul White '02** still remembers his roots. White was born in the Shoals, grew up in Loretto, Tennessee, and then returned to the Shoals after high school to attend UNA, where he earned a degree in Entertainment Industry Management.

"I'm very proud of the musical

heritage of the Shoals, and believe it shouldn't ever be forgotten, but my concerns are more with the present and future of the community," White said. "It is inspiring to walk the same streets of those who have been there and done that, and to know that it can be done from our little town. But outside of that, we have to make our own hay, and not expect



the community to lift us up to the heights we want to reach."

It's safe to say that John Paul White is doing his part to further the musical legacy of the Shoals.





From a very young age, **Rusty Sherrill '09** knew he wanted to work in the music industry. "I've always wanted to do this," Sherrill said. "I used to listen to the Bob Kingsley Country Top 40 countdown every Sunday and I kept a notebook for where the songs were on the chart." Since graduating from the University of North Alabama with a degree in Entertainment Industry Management and Public

Communications, Sherrill has been able to fulfill his dream of working in music.

Sherrill serves as the Arista Nashville National Promotions Coordinator, handling such artists as Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood, Ronnie Dunn, Kix Brooks, Jerrod Niemann, Adam Brand, and Brent Anderson, and working with these artists has proved to be every bit as rewarding as he envisioned as a child.

ARISTA
NASHVILLE

Now Sherrill's love for the charts is more than just a hobby. Instead of just keeping up with where songs fall on the charts from week to week, Sherrill plays an active role in influencing the placement of those songs by promoting the songs his artists have out to radio stations across the country.

"The most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing a song that the team has worked on go to No. 1," Sherrill said.



What Sherrill loves about country music is that, in his words, "It's always been about the song and it always will be."

And it's with those songs he loves so much that Sherrill sees his future. "I love country radio, so I'd like to continue in the area of promotion," Sherrill said, but he also could see himself working more closely with the artists themselves, possibly even getting into artist management.

But for now, Sherrill is still keeping his eye on the charts, only now, with a say in the way they turn out.



THE MAN BEHIND THE SOUND

Chris Bethea '07 discovered his calling early.

"In high school I was playing in bands and was always interested in the PA system and set up," Bethea said. "That triggered my interest in the technical side of music and I realized that it was something I wanted to pursue."

So he traded in his spot playing guitar on stage for a career behind a mixing console.

Shortly after graduating from UNA with a Bachelor of Science in Commercial Music, Bethea was hired by songwriter Gary Baker to serve as the House Engineer at his studio, Noiseblock.

While working at Noiseblock,

Bethea has had the opportunity to work with such prominent artists as Richie McDonald, Collin Raye, Ethan Bortnick, LaVive (winner of Popstars, a German television program similar to American Idol), Saving Jane, and most recently, a band he has followed and admired for years: Sleeping At Last.

Sleeping At Last hired Bethea to mix the May installation of their year-long project known as Yearbook, which features a new, 3-song EP released digitally every month.

"I love their writing and sense of melody," Bethea said. "The Yearbook project is a very cool idea. I can't imagine the stress they go through every month!"

While Bethea's focus might have shifted from playing music to its technical side, he still has an appreciation for a good song.

"[The best part of my job is] being able to work with a really good band on a really good song," Bethea said. "That doesn't happen all the time but when it does it's a great feeling."

Bethea plans to continue to work on the production end of the industry, but hopes to focus more on mixing recordings.

"With mixing I can work at my own pace usually," Bethea said. "I hope that in 10 years I'm still doing this. I love it."

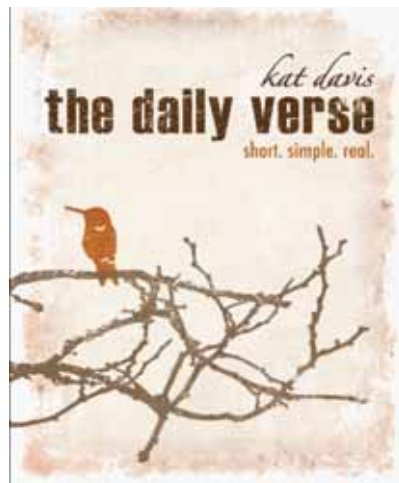


TO BECKON ARTISTS' DREAMS INTO EXISTENCE

Kat Davis '99 knew she wanted to work in the music industry long before she arrived on the campus of UNA. "For Christmas the year I turned 15, the present I asked my parents for was a subscription to Billboard Magazine. And they got it for me," Davis says. "I was and still am a total music business nerd."

Davis graduated from the University of North Alabama with a joint degree in Music Business and Public Relations, and secured a job with ForeFront Records in their national promotions department.

From there, Kat moved into a couple of different jobs with the same parent company before beginning to work with Greg Hill Management. It was here that Davis first gained experience in her current field: artist management.



Shortly after Greg Hill Management was acquired by Red Light Management, Davis decided to found her own artist management firm, The Brown Book Agency.

In only three years, The Brown Book Agency has grown from a one-employee company managing two

clients to a full-fledged force within the music industry. Davis now manages four artists, two of whom are nominated for Gospel Music Awards this year. Brown Book has also recently launched a touring division, and now employs four people.

"My personal mission statement and the mission statement of my company is simply: "To Beckon Artists' Dreams Into Existence," Davis said.

Somehow in the midst of managing a growing business, Davis has also found time to author a book. Based on daily devotional e-mails she began sending out when she was an intern, The Daily Verse: Volume 1, is a 365-day devotional book featuring a Scripture passage and a brief meditation on it. To purchase a copy of her book, or to subscribe to her daily e-mail, visit <http://www.thedailyverse.com>.



Brad ('02) and Sara Holmes ('02)

message from the Alumni President

Fellow Alumni and Friends of our University,

As I write to you and reflect on the last year, I am humbled by the strength of our University. April 27, 2011, is a day that forever changed the lives of our University family. So many of our current and former students, faculty, and staff were affected by the devastation that came with multiple tornadoes touching down and destroying the things so many worked hard to build. At that moment our UNA family made the choice to not stand idly by and let others deal with the situation. Instead, we mobilized. From our current students, to our staff, to our alumni, we answered the call and lent the much needed hand that so many needed in their moment of despair. I could not be prouder to call myself a member of our Pride. On behalf of all alumni, please accept my sincere thanks to all who stepped out of their comfort zone and were there when you were needed most.

Even as we continue to recover from the devastating storms there is still much to be done. Please continue to pray for rebuilding in those areas destroyed and healing for those directly and indirectly affected. Much like the growth occurring on our campus I am sure that those whose lives were touched will grow stronger through these events.

I am doubly proud to also inform you that your efforts over the last year have brought our Alumni Association to new heights. Over the last year we have increased Alumni giving from 2% to 8%. Your investment means that more students will have more opportunities to "Make History" at UNA. Please continue to encourage your friends, families, and associates to make a commitment to invest in a young person's future. As I have said all year, "It's not the quantity, but the quality of your gift that counts." Every dollar invested helps our Office of Alumni Relations and University Foundation get our story out and help grow our University.

For me, this letter to you is bittersweet. Although it marks the end of my tenure as your Alumni Association President, I know that the foundation has been laid to insure future growth and prosperity. Over the last year the face of your Alumni Association has changed. Thanks to a partnership with our University Foundation we have established a stable source of results-based funding for our Clubs. Additionally, we have changed our local groups from "Chapters" to "Clubs." In speaking with local groups we were amazed at how many people wanted to be involved who did not graduate from UNA, but simply love the welcoming environment our local groups create. We couldn't be prouder to have each and every one of those individuals as part of the UNA Family, and let me be the first to welcome each of those new members to the Pride!

None of these accomplishments could have been made without the support of our board, volunteers, and Office of Alumni Relations staff. Let me begin by thanking our Alumni Board for their tireless work over the last year. I would put our board up against those at any university in the country and am sure that they would rise to the top.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who lead groups at the club level. It been said that working with volunteers is difficult; however, the club leadership in our network is second to none. I am always amazed at the zeal shown by those who love UNA. These men and women put in full time hours with no pay simply because of their love for our Alma Mater. You are each to be commended for your efforts. I sincerely appreciate your dedication. Each of you has the heart of a servant and your Alumni thank you.

Lastly, let me thank the University staff. I will be the first to tell you that the Office of Alumni Relations does the work of 20 people. They have a fire for UNA that I only wish I had the energy to emulate and they are true examples of what we as alumni should strive for each and every day.

As we enter into a new era for our association, the stakes couldn't be higher. With new academic facilities being built, new academic programs being molded, and new opportunities on the horizon for our athletic program, we as alumni must be willing to step up to the plate. No matter what your passion, UNA has a fit for you. Please continue to be engaged in the happenings at the University and stand ready to support it when your time comes.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for the trust you placed in me over this past year. It is an experience I will cherish for a lifetime.

ROAR LIONS!

Brad Holmes '02, President, UNA Alumni Association

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Sarah Beth Alexander ('04), *President Elect*
Pat Burney ('88), *Vice President*
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Bucky Beaver ('64), *Florence*
Sandra Behel ('77), *Birmingham*
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Linda Vaughan ('70), *Madison*
Maria ('00) and Brad ('00) Warren, *Killen*
Pete Wesson ('84), *Florence*
Charles Winters ('86), *Huntsville*
Don York ('60), *Muscle Shoals*

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Elaine Witt ('76), *Colbert County*
Eve Rhea ('02), *Greater Birmingham Area*
Jim Page ('01), *Decatur*
Ryan Clayton ('01), *Florence*
Tom Greenhaw ('60), *Gadsden*
Tommy Whitten ('77) *Huntsville*
Nicky Ray ('96), *Marion County*
Josh McFall ('07) *Greater Montgomery Area*
Clayton Grider ('08), *Mountain Lakes*

Florida

Maury Shipper ('78), *Jacksonville*

Georgia

David Taylor ('83), *Marietta*
Toby Davis ('80), *South Georgia*

Mississippi

Amanda Everett ('74), *Jackson*

Tennessee

Logan Key ('02) *Greater Nashville*
John Haeger ('99), *Southern Middle Tennessee*
Bobby Clemons ('70), *Knoxville/East Tennessee*

Texas

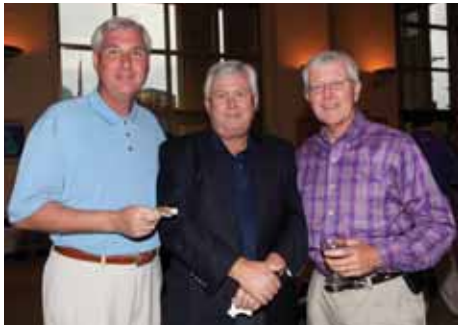
Charles Inman ('71), *West Texas*
Paul Smith ('66), *Dallas Metroplex*
Tom McNeill ('69), *Houston*

International

Ge Pengyan ('09), *China*
Aygul Ozer ('00), *Turkey*

Departmental

Jeff McCrary ('83), *UNA Band*
Laura Suber ('04), *Geography*
Stacy Dison ('01), *Social Work*



James Ingram ('78), Bill Cale, Barry Morris



Jeff Bowden & Ronald Kennedy



Kirby Allen



Bama Clines



Stewart Moore



Mike Keehn & Dennis Wingo

About 85 golfers convened at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals the morning of Aug. 8 for a round of golf. The event, the UNA Sportsman's Club Celebrity Golf Classic, was to support UNA athletics. The tournament is in its second year. To be a part of next year's Celebrity Golf Classic, contact the Office of University Advancement at 256-765-5083.



Marvin Whisenant ('61), Chuck Lindsey



Billy Don Anderson ('62)



Fred Formichella & Alan Kincaid



Steve Pierce ('75)



Melody Stewart ('06), Krystal Hand Smith ('06) and Chris Smith



Laura ('95) & William Smith ('86)



Clint Garrett, Chris Hammond, Mike McCrary ('90) & Carie McCrary, Andy Davis



Greg DeWalt ('81)



Danny Simpson



Jake Pollard & Terry Bagwell ('83)



Al Ford, Whitney Ford ('92) & Barry Morris



Jimmy Oliver & David Bronner



Carl Bailey ('70), Whitney Ford ('92), Jim Belew ('70)



Johnny Simpson ('90)



Robert Steele ('78) & Bill Cale



Steve Lee ('86)



Phillip Bridgmon ('96)



Chris Hammond



Jeff Frederick ('92)



Bruce Hodges



Southern Laughs

HIS SENSE OF HUMOR LANDS DR. RANDY CROSS '73
ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

By Jason Lankford ('11), Student intern

"The world will have been enhanced because you were here," **Dr. Randy Cross '73** said, addressing graduates at the Spring 2011 Commencement Ceremony. "You will be better neighbors, coworkers and citizens because of all that you have studied. On top of that, the truths contained in the poetry you have read should keep you from robbing convenience stores. Now isn't that a nice fringe benefit?"

Cross, an English professor at Calhoun Community College and a UNA alumnus, believes it's very important to maintain a sense of humor in life, and his own sense of humor recently landed him a prominent role on last month's History Channel special, "You Don't Know Dixie," a program that explored all things Southern, from deep-fried comfort food, to Alabama football, religion and NASCAR.

But when Cross was unexpectedly invited via e-mail to be a part of the program, he asked, "Why would the bouncing ball stop on me?"

"I think it's interesting that you can be sitting here in an office, and then, like a message in a bottle you get a message from a TV show in New York and you don't even know why," he said.

The producers of the show said they were looking for a Southerner who had academic credentials, and could also tell stories in interesting ways. They discovered Cross after reading an article he had written about George Washington Harris that appeared in Southern Register.

When Cross asked why anyone at the History Channel would be reading Southern Register, the response was, "Randy, we're the History Channel. We read things. That's what we do."

Producers from the History Channel found Cross's online biography, which led them to his YouTube channel, where he had posted three videos of himself telling humorous stories. And the rest was, well, history.

Cross earned his bachelor's degree from UNA and a master's degree in 1976. He later earned a Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi. He has taught at Calhoun since 1986. Cross said going to graduate school was one of the best decisions he ever made, but his experiences at UNA and the influence of his instructors are what inspired him to go into the education field.

"They instilled in me a respect for learning," Cross said. "It was so obvious



that they loved what they were doing, and they were able to transfer that to some of us. It made me realize that I wanted to be a teacher. The seeds were planted back at UNA."

Cross's love of English and his teaching aspirations blossomed after a trial period as a business major, a course of study he said he originally chose because a friend told him that's what boys majored in.

"It's so bizarre to me today," Cross said. "[Business was] so unfitting. After two semesters of classes I learned enough to know that wasn't for me."

Cross wanted to be a high school teacher. His goal was to teach in the Florence City Schools system, so when he landed a position at Forest Hills School straight out of college he thought he had his foot in the door. But after one year he decided to go back to school.

The Spring commencement was not Cross's first time speaking at UNA. He had given a convocation address to incoming freshman four years earlier. President Cale thought it would be great if Cross was able to speak to many of the same students he had addressed when they were freshmen.

Cross said if anyone had told him in 1973 that he would be returning as the commencement speaker he would have "laughed like a hyena on nitrous oxide."

"I count those [invitations] as two of the greatest honors I've ever been given," he said.

Cross made two year-long sojourns as a Fulbright Scholar in Rio De Janeiro,



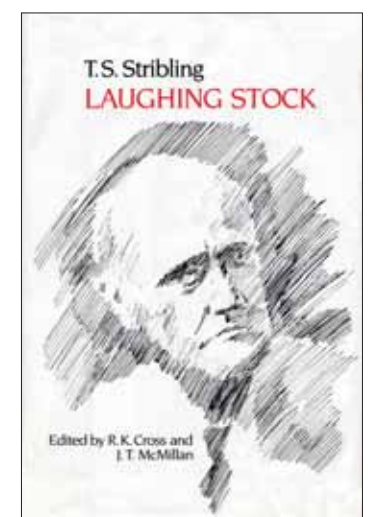
Brazil and Lisbon, Portugal, where he taught English classes to college seniors. He said his experiences illustrate Mark Twain's adage, "Travel is fatal to prejudice." He said he learned a lot about the local cultures and learned to speak a fair amount of the Portuguese language.

"When I arrived in Rio I didn't speak a word of Portuguese," he said. "I felt fairly proficient by the time I moved to Lisbon, but knowing Portuguese in Rio and Portuguese in Lisbon is like knowing English in Moulton and English in London."

Cross co-edited *Laughing Stock*, the autobiography of UNA alumnus and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **T.S. Stribling 1903**. He came upon the opportunity after a UNA instructor introduced him to a relative of Stribling who lived in Clifton, Tenn. During one visit Ms. Stribling presented Cross and a friend with a box full of manuscripts and asked the two to edit the author's autobiography and find a publisher.

Cross currently lives in Decatur with his wife Kimberly, who shares his adventurous spirit, but hers manifests itself in a penchant for bungee-jumping, an activity she insists everyone needs to try at least once.

"I've done that, I tell her," Cross said. "And that was at birth."



Cross was co-editor of *Laughing Stock*, an autobiography of UNA alumnus and Pulitzer Prize winner T.S. Stribling.



Cross recently landed a role on the History Channel special, "You Don't Know Dixie."

University of NORTH ALABAMA

RECIPIENT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH

“Research: Opportunities to Engage Students and Enhance Teaching.”

Dr. Matt Green, Associate Professor of Exercise Physiology

Dr. Matt Green is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at the University of North Alabama. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa in 1999.

That fall, Green joined the faculty of Western Kentucky University, where he served as director of the Human Performance Lab. Highlights of his five years at Western Kentucky included early promotion, receipt of the Award for Outstanding Research/Creativity at the College and University level, and recognition as the University Physical Educator of the Year for the state of Kentucky.

While having established roots in Kentucky, Green followed the urge to work with graduate students and accepted the opportunity to return to the University of Alabama. At the University of Alabama, Green entered as associate professor, directed the Human Performance Lab and was granted early tenure. While very happy at Alabama, he accepted a position at UNA in 2008 to move closer to his family and his wife's family. Spring 2011 concluded Green's third year at UNA.

Green's research has involved applied aspects of exercise physiology and human performance, including studies on exercise prescription, thermoregulation, perceived exertion, blood and sweat lactate responses, interval training and ergogenic aids. In the past 12 years, he has authored and co-authored more than 60 research publications in various nationally and internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals. He has been an invited speaker at numerous professional conferences, including the Mid-Atlantic and Central States regional American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) Conferences and the Shanghai University of Sport in China. He is also on the editorial board for the ACSM's Health/Fitness Journal and has served as a reviewer for numerous scientific journals. Green is certified as a Health/Fitness Specialist and is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Green's approach to research and scholarship has two principle goals: One, to engage students in ongoing projects so they can gain an appreciation for the rigor involved in the scientific process. Second, to make research a component of the professor's job, which should be integrated with teaching rather than viewing the two as mutually exclusive.

Some of his proudest academic accomplishments are the multiple student authorships and co-authorships, as well as students who have moved on to success in graduate school and professionally.

Green firmly believes that excellence in his job is consistent with his Christian beliefs. While research is a major component of his profession, Green's proudest accomplishments in life are marrying his wife, Staci, and becoming a father to his little girl, Summer.



University of NORTH ALABAMA

RECIPIENT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

“Example isn't another way to teach, it is the only way to teach.” – Albert Einstein

Linda S. Lewis, Professor of Secondary Education

Dr. Linda Lewis is a professor of secondary education and program coordinator for the Alternative A Graduate Program. An Alabama native, she earned a B.S.Ed. in mathematics and general science from Athens College, an M.A.Ed. in general science from the University of North Alabama, and an Ed.S. in educational leadership and Ed.D. in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama. Before joining UNA in 2005, Lewis taught high school mathematics, science and computer courses in Limestone County and undergraduate educational technology and methods courses at Athens State University.

A teacher-educator, Lewis strives to ensure that preservice teachers will enter the professional arena with a repertoire of skills to motivate, educate and inspire the next generation of students. She believes it is essential that future teachers do not just hear about effective, engaging instruction; they must see that instruction modeled. In her classes, students are encouraged to create activities with inexpensive, available materials and to focus on mastery of content. They are engaged in activities that are both fun and relevant. She encourages her students to “teach out of the box,” not only using different strategies and materials but by teaming with those from others areas of expertise. Students have opportunities to blend their content areas with others and to work with fellow educators to create integrated lessons. Presentations at state and national conferences enable Lewis to model this collaboration with educators across the country and to bring new ideas back to her students.

Lewis is a teacher and a learner, both by profession and desire. For thirty-three years, she has been a teacher: a teacher of children, adolescents, preservice teachers, and practicing educators. She identifies both traditional and non-traditional educational settings for her own learning, with her most beneficial learning coming from time spent in high school classrooms. Renewal comes from working one-on-one with former students in their classrooms, designing activities, setting up materials, aligning standards, managing technology, and simply working with day-to-day instruction. Lewis eagerly awaits the beginning of the next semester at the University of North Alabama.



University of NORTH ALABAMA

RECIPIENT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

“For me the most important work that I can do is to encourage and help others to reach their full potential; it is my passion; it is what I feel is my most significant service. Although it has taken me down many paths, side streets, and even a few rabbit trails, I believe that following this passion brings worth to my life.”

Dr. Marilyn B. Lee, Associate Professor of Nursing – Traditional and Chair

Dr. Marilyn Lee has taught in the traditional BSN nursing department in the College of Nursing and Allied Health since January 2007. Before joining the University of North Alabama, she taught nursing in a variety of settings and countries. Lee is a nursing diploma graduate of the Barnes Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis. As a new graduate nurse, she worked in acute care hospital nursing and, following completion of her BSN at St. Louis University, taught in the education department at Barnes Hospital.

Following completion of her master's degree in nursing from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, Lee moved to Canada, where she taught nursing at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. During her tenure at McMaster, she participated in a Canadian International Development Funded Project in partnership with the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan. Lee spent nine years in Pakistan, in both Karachi and Islamabad, working with the Aga Khan University, the government Colleges of Nursing and the Pakistan Nursing Council. She assisted in the development of the first-ever BSN program in Pakistan.

Lee earned a Ph.D. in nursing from Wayne State University in Detroit in 1996 and, in 1999, with the completion of the project in Pakistan, accepted a position at the University of Botswana in Gaborone, where she worked with Colleges of Nursing and Health Sciences in meeting standards for affiliation with the University of Botswana. After six years in Botswana, working with colleges and departments for continuous quality improvement, Lee returned to teaching nursing at the University of Kwa Zulu Natal in Durban, South Africa.

Lee has served on the College of Nursing and Allied Health faculty at the University of North Alabama since 2007. In August 2009, she accepted the interim chair position for the traditional BSN department and, in August 2010, accepted the chair position. Lee co-chaired the accreditation documentation committee for the successful CCNE re-accreditation. She organized professional development sessions monthly for the College of Nursing full-time faculty and clinical supervisors. She is incoming vice president of the UNA chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Omicron Upsilon, the largest nursing honor society.

Lee serves on dissertation committees for two faculty members. She has served on the faculty senate for the past three years and the faculty senate executive for two of those years. Her research and publication interests include health professional education and social issues that impact health.



University of NORTH ALABAMA

RECIPIENT: ELEANOR P. GAUNDER PHI KAPPA PHI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

“Since I believe that all knowledge is socially constructed, helping students view themselves as unique individuals within a community of learners is the starting point in my teaching. How we collaborate with others defines who we are as individuals.”

Dr. Nicholas Mauriello, Associate Professor of English

Little did Dr. Nick Mauriello know that a college work-study job as a writing center tutor would change his life. “I was looking for a job to make a few dollars to spend on textbooks, not looking to spend my life mentoring student writers. The more I worked with students, though, the more the teaching bug bit, and it became clear that I would spend my life as a teacher of writing,” recalled the UNA associate professor of English. Three decades later, the skills learned as a peer tutor are still evident in his teaching style.

“The best writing tutorials are collaborative, give-and-take sessions where the student uncovers and questions the critical thinking process,” Mauriello said. He added, “Curiosity should lead to research, and research should lead to understanding. I try to remember this every time I step into the classroom or design a new course. Since I believe that all knowledge is socially constructed, helping students view themselves as unique individuals within a community of learners is the starting point in my teaching. How we collaborate with others defines who we are as individuals.”

A native of New Jersey, Mauriello came to UNA in 2005 after serving four years as a writing program administrator in Atlanta. He credits his UNA students with restoring his passion for teaching: “I came to UNA to get back into the writing classroom, and this decision has been the best one of my career. By listening to students, we have been able to create new writing courses for the professional writing concentration. New Media Writing, where students write for the Web and social media, and the Professional Writing Portfolio Workshop, where students professionally publish their writing, are two examples of our department's collaboration with students in curriculum development. Several of our recent graduates have been accepted to top-tier graduate schools, so we see the reward of our work.”

The social constructionist framework is also easy to identify in Mauriello's career as a scholar. Since arriving at UNA, he has collaboratively written and edited three books on the teaching of writing and has two more books in progress. “Marginal Words, Marginal Work? Tutoring the Academy in the Work of Writing Centers” won the International Writing Centers Association's Outstanding Scholarship Award for Best Book 2007. His collaboration with Robert T. Koch, UNA's director of the Center for Writing Excellence, led to the 2011 publication of “Before and After the Tutorial: Writing Centers and Institutional Relationships.” This collection also includes a chapter by UNA English department colleague Kelly L. Latchaw.

Mauriello also mentors students in the professional publication process. Two former students have accepted internships with him in manuscript preparation, helping to guide two books to publication. Another current professional writing student, Deborah Bailey, is co-authoring a book chapter with Mauriello. The chapter chronicles how an undergraduate's reaction to her New Media Writing course became a starting point for curriculum reform.

“The credit for this idea belongs to the student,” Mauriello said. “She approached me and asked about the theory behind our writing assignments. We created an independent study where she could examine and compare competing ideas, and the book chapter took form. This is a prime example of social constructionist theory and what can happen in the classroom when students get curious.”



Around the World in 30 Days

My Study Abroad in China (2011)

Trip Reflections of Cayla Buttram



I was frustrated. The lady behind the counter at the Tianjin campus post office didn't seem to understand that I needed to mail 10 postcards, and quite honestly, I had tapped out my entire Chinese vocabulary after about 28 words. After a pause, I pointed and nodded and said, "To America. Mei guo." Finally, she nodded, too. A few yuan later, I thanked her (in Chinese) and found myself ready to send my hellos home. But I learned something even more imperative this past June: if we work hard enough, we can see a glimmer of familiarity even worlds away.

In April 2011, Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, UNA Vice Provost for International Affairs, stood before students and parents at Study Abroad Orientation and said, "Study abroad is what will put students ahead in the 21st century. They must be globally prepared." At that time, my June study in China felt far away. Now, only after I have returned home, I have finally begun to realize the impact of this life-changing global preparation.

The China Study Abroad Program, largely funded by scholarship donations from various sources, sent 26 students from assorted disciplines and two UNA professors to China for four weeks in order to study International Business and the Geography of China at Tianjin Foreign Studies University. Classes were held at the university campus

during the week, and the weekends were scheduled as excursions to other cities and many of China's famous sites—including but not limited to the Terracotta Warriors near Xi'an, Mt. Tai in Tai'an, Confucius's hometown of Qufu, Tian'anmen Square, the Forbidden City, and most notably, a section of the Great Wall nearest Beijing.

Aside from the class study, our purpose was two-fold: (1) allow UNA students to learn experientially about China and the Chinese way of life while (2) developing relationships and connections with Chinese students and our Chinese UNA alumni. This trip was undoubtedly instrumental in aiding us in the quest to understand many of the

subtleties of Chinese life (everything from knowing how to respond to a compliment to understanding how traffic rules do or do not apply). Our everyday experiences in China with varied events and individuals—



restaurant dining, post offices, other students, maintenance crews, taxi drivers—taught us more about Chinese way of life in a short time than any class work in the U.S. could have done.

Moreover, as we experienced China's historical sites for ourselves, we found ourselves reflecting and connecting the new to the known. For instance, we had a basic understanding of the origins of the Great Wall when we visited, but as I sat on the Wall the day before we returned home, something within me changed. I watched the people mill around me, but I did not think "this was built during the Ming Dynasty," and list off historical facts from my studies. I did, however, sit and reflect about how many feet had traveled along the Wall, how many years and hopes and fears had been placed on the rocks, and how this World Wonder was now under my feet, not just in the pages of a book. That moment made me, as well as many of my classmates, feel like I understand at least one snippet of both Chinese historical and modern life.

Even further still, this trip provided an opportunity for creating personal connections between UNA students and Chinese students as well as building relationships between UNA and Tianjin Foreign Studies University. Weekly, we visited the Binhai School of Tianjin Foreign





Studies University to interact with other students; on our first visit, we joined forces to plant trees in the Sino-American Youth Friendship Forest. As we shoveled the dirt into the holes around the trees and heard the firecrackers that symbolized good luck at the start of something new, we met individuals that became our guides, our translators, and most importantly, some of our closest friends.

Slowly, many of us began to realize that it truly is a small world, after all. As we grew closer to our Chinese peers, we began to recognize the fundamental fact that we may live "worlds apart," but there is something that unites us: we are all essentially the same.



As 20-somethings in today's world, my friend Jocent and I listen to the same music, laugh at the same jokes, share similar sentiments toward the world at large, and understand how to appreciate our differences.

More connections developed when we were introduced to many Chinese UNA alumni at a reception on our last night in Beijing. We shared stories of our experiences, learned about their degree programs at UNA, and discussed their businesses and futures. Indeed, the impacts of many of our new relationships are yet to be fully realized, but I know that we will continue to feel the influences for years to come.

Ultimately, as Mark Twain once said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness." What better way to be globally prepared than to find out just what is beyond our borders? We have not only shattered many misconceptions about



China and America through our travel, but we have also been given the distinction of study abroad students as we further our own careers and hope to make a positive impact on our world. But, we walk away from the experience with more than just that distinction: we have, tucked away in our minds, a deeper understanding of a country that influences our daily lives in the U.S. now and will increasingly do so in the future.



I have heard before that nothing is a better teacher than experience, and being able to see and experience China for ourselves molded our understanding of China and revolutionized the way we think about the globe. As more students from UNA venture to China in the future, I am sure that they will find the opportunity and the friendships as beneficial as I have.



NOT YOUR FATHER'S CHINA

*Engagement is key
to understanding
and future success*

By Dr. Dennis Balch '70

Something happened this summer. We took your sons and daughters to China—and they didn't come back. While the passports are unchanged, the people carrying them will never be quite the same again. Some changes will be visible immediately; others may emerge months or years later.

A few students have already declared radical changes in career plans; others have an expanded sense of international opportunities; several see the need for acquiring a new language; all have a more concrete sense of why China is consequential for the rest of the world. What did they learn?



CHINA IS A STUDY IN CONTRASTS.

China has an ancient culture, but the breakneck pace of economic development over the past thirty years is changing Chinese society. The children of the One-Child policy (sometimes called the Little Emperors) have a stronger sense of individuality, a more Western outlook than previous generations. They listen to the same music as their Western counterparts. They want the same good life. And they are willing to work hard to get it. Our students have stiff competition and need to elevate their game.

China has a Communist government but the people have a strong capitalistic streak. One party rule does not mean homogeneity. The party has competing factions; pragmatists and ideologues vie for influence. China has found a way (one country, two systems) to accommodate the return of Macao and Hong Kong to Chinese rule without destroying their thriving economies. Economic development zones experiment with new rules to provide incentive for foreign direct investment; e.g., in the Binhai New Area, it will be possible to trade land use rights, something previously not permitted.

With development comes incremental liberalization. While this is not Mao's China any more, dissent is still suppressed and information is still censored or restricted, to the detriment of economic interests.

We need to clarify the link between freedom (of speech, of inquiry, of information flow) and economic prosperity. It is easier for us to do that

when we are engaged with the Chinese in business and education ventures.

China has problems and promise. Air quality is poor. The current rate of growth is unsustainable, which means there will be significant adjustments when growth slows. The financial system is weak by world standards; protections for intellectual property are weak. Corruption in both business and government is a threat. The problems are legion. But there are plenty of opportunities for those who grasp how to solve these problems. Those who choose to engage with China in business and education will seize not only economic opportunity, but also influence opportunity. Without engagement, we will not influence the Chinese. We need to show, not tell.

Whether we engage or not, China will affect our future. The scale of what is happening in China is unprecedented in human history. Unless Chinese development is handled well, there will be tremendous degradation of the global environment and potential political instability as national economies compete for scarce resources.

China needs Western know-how in order to succeed. We need China to succeed, for the sake of our own future and for the future of our world. Our fledgling program to send UNA students to study in China is an investment in this future. Join us to send the next wave of students to China in 2012 and invest in making that future more secure.



Words on the breeze:

INAUGURAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

By Rebecca Walker ('07)



Bright, verdant ferns swung in the breeze between the Memorial Amphitheatre's columns while rocking chairs sat empty beneath them, turned in attention to the yarns spun for two days on that 77-year-old stage.

For one weekend in May, this historic fixture at the center of UNA's campus transformed into a shared front porch for hundreds of festival goers.

Those in attendance listened for hours as storytellers from around the country took turns weaving tales from their lifetimes of memories. The amphitheatre and surrounding sloped hillside served as a perfect venue for members of the community, students, faculty, staff, and visitors from afar

as they dragged up lawn chairs and blankets for the festival. Some knitted, some brought their canine friends, and others picnicked while listening to the tales woven over the course of two days.

One undeniable fact about the South—folks down here know how to tell stories. It's in their blood. Before the days of the 12-screen cinema and umpteen-hundred television channels, it's what Southern people did. After coming in from working the soil or milking the cows or breathing in fibers all week at the cotton mills, they pulled up a seat on the front porch to disappear into the fables and tall tales of long-winded kinfolk, while the lightning bugs and stars

flickered in the background.

So when they gather 'round and pay for someone to tell them stories, there's a high standard to be met. Without a doubt, the stories of Andy Offutt Irwin, Carmen Deedy, Donald Davis, Bil Lepp and others were worth their weight in gold during the inaugural UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival.

"What exactly is a storytelling festival?" you may be asking yourself. **Jan Ingle ('85)**, former UNA Alumni Association president, acknowledged that if you're not familiar with the storytelling festival culture, you might not know what to expect.

Ingle attended after her best friend and fellow alumnae **Cindy Ardis ('79)**, who lives in Sumter, S.C., encouraged her to go.

"[Ardis] is an avid storytelling festival goer, and was so excited the festival was going to be [at UNA]," Ingle said. "If she hadn't told me how wonderful it was, and how I would love it, I might not have made plans to come. Without having been, you don't know what to expect or how good it's going to be."

The storytelling culture has evolved into a nationwide following of folks who gather to—well, tell stories. They share the characters of their pasts, their childhood memories and sometimes, just the fantastical outcomes they wish had actually happened.

"You feel like you know these people by listening to these stories. They're heart-warming, feel-good. They all had difference perspectives



Storyteller Carmen Deedy and Jan Ingle ('85)



Storyteller Donald Davis

on life, and listening to them was fascinating," Ingle said. "I had never been to a storytelling festival before, and it was enthralling. Just...laughter through tears. I loved very minute of it."

Most of the attendees had no previous connection to UNA. Kevin Cain, a Birmingham resident, is a fan of storytelling festivals, and was excited to see what UNA's festival would have to offer.

"It's an amazing adventure, just sitting back and listening to stories. It just kind of pulls you into a time in the past," Cain said. "Without the oral tradition, we wouldn't be able to see that. Storytellers take us on a little journey into their own lives. It's...it's like clean comedy, and there's something there for everybody."

Cain said the festival was well worth the drive from Birmingham to Florence. He has attended other regional storytelling fests in Athens, Huntsville, and Selma, and was excited to learn of a new one developing in north Alabama, especially one that included Irwin and Lepp, both of whom he'd seen before. "This festival was even better [than the others] because the majority



Storytellers entertained guests aboard the Pickwick Belle Riverboat cruise on the Tennessee River at the Port of Florence during lunch and dinner time excursions.

Mark your calendar for the 2012 University of North Alabama Front Porch Storytelling Festival set for May 18 and 19 in the Memorial Amphitheatre.



of those are usually under a tent or indoors. This was out in the open with tall trees and nice shade...it really was like you were sitting on somebody's front porch," Cain said. "I'm honored I was able to attend the very first [at UNA]. I hope they'll have many more, and I know I'll be back."

The trip was his first one to Florence, and he said the riverboat cruise and the hospitality he was treated to in Florence was incredible.

Ingle said she was disappointed in the overall turnout of attendees at the festival, which hovered around 225 each day. However, she hopes word of mouth about the festival's success will encourage more people to attend in the future—especially alumni.

"I encourage all alumni to support the festival. There were only a handful there, but that may be because people were just not aware of it or knew about it," she said. "Mostly the attendees weren't locals; they were from out of town. There were people from all over the country who came, and they came because of the quality of the storytellers. It was such a high-quality event, and they all said they were looking forward to coming back."



Dr. Bill Foster

"I know I plan to attend, and as soon as I know the date for next year's festival, I'll have it on my calendar," Ingle said.

For more information about the UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival (www.una.edu/storytelling), or to donate, please contact the festival at 256-765-4651, or e-mail storytelling@una.edu. Follow the festival on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/UNASTorytellingfestival>, and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/UNASToryfest>.



Storyteller Syd Lieberman

The UNA Family Will Miss Our Friend KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

The original headliner for UNA's event was Kathryn Tucker Windham, an Alabama-born storytelling celebrity. She's well-known in her home state for her children's ghost story book series—13 Ghosts and Jeffrey.

She visited UNA in 2006 to speak as part of the annual Distinguished Events series. Windham was unfortunately not able to attend the festival, however, citing health problems.



2001 Royal Street
Selma, Alabama 36701
March 18, 2011

Dear President Cale,
My night here found out
a few months ago that I am
92 years old, and that information
has spread all over my body.
No 1918 parts are available, not
even if they were, I have long
outlined my warrenter. But, oh,
it has been a great, exciting,
fun, wonderful, happy life!
My mind has not left me
yet, so I know I will not be
able to come to the Storytelling
Festival in May. I am honored and deeply
touched to be invited back, and
I am sad to have to decline.
Please ask your lions to rear
for me.

Sincerely yours,
Kathryn T. Windham

The first morning of the storytelling festival, master of ceremonies Dr. Bill Foster shared Windham's letter written to UNA President Bill Cale, in which she shared her regrets for missing the festival.

Later in the morning, storyteller Lepp addressed Windham's absence and jokingly said he's heard of calling in sick, but this was the first time he's ever heard of someone phoning in "old." A chuckle washed over audience, which included many friends and admirers of Windham.

Her friends and family announced her death a few weeks later on June 12—10 days after her 93rd birthday. She was one of best-known story-tellers in the country.

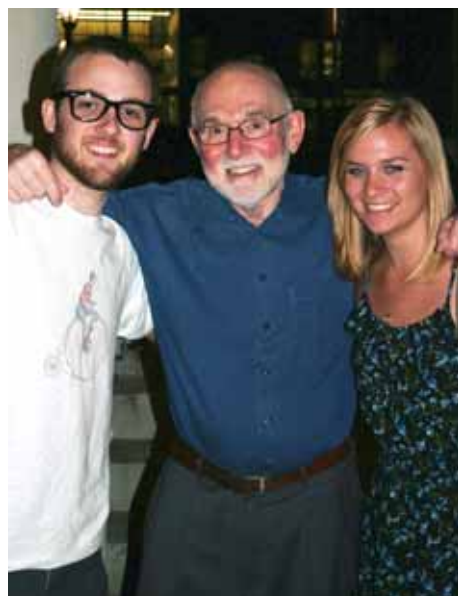
MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WON'T BE MY LAST *Boy, was I ever wrong!*

By Carol Lyles ('70)

First impressions are sometimes misleading. I found that out very quickly. Storyteller Donald Davis (who I picked up at the airport and greeted with a, "You don't look like a storyteller!") proved to be the epitome of what the craft is about. Now, I can visualize his actions (arms and legs and facial expressions), hand-tied bow tie, and long sleeved dress shirt and linen trousers, and can hear with laughter ringing the tales and pictures he painted with words. He was amazing! Donald, who has retired from his first profession, travels 42 weeks out of the year to festivals. Bil Lepp traveled with his wife and two children to northwest Alabama from West Virginia. Syd Lieberman is a retired school teacher from north of Chicago. UNA's Bill Foster played the role of moderator.

We were fortunate to kick off our inaugural festival with the very best tellers from across the country. The tellers have a bevy of groupies or listeners who travel far and often to sit at the feet of the masters. We entertained listeners from Washington State, Pennsylvania, Nashville, Chattanooga, Orlando, Jacksonville, and all over North and South Carolina. Listeners know the tellers personally: they have spent 20-30 years following the storytellers all over the country. They keep the tellers on their toes looking for new and different stories to share.

Next year's University of North Alabama Front Porch Storytelling Festival is scheduled for the third weekend of May and will coincide with the Arts Alive Festival in downtown Florence. Make your plans to come: seek out tellers on their websites and read about the craft in trade magazines. You will want to educate yourself so that you can fully enjoy!



UNA Student Dillon Hodges and Elise Denton '10 with Storyteller Syd Lieberman



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ALUMNI CLUBS ALUMNI ON THE ROAD



Roman McCloud ('95) and
Bridgett in Montgomery



Bimol Poole ('55) with daughters, Kim
Armstrong, Beth McDonald and Laura
Parrish in Atlanta



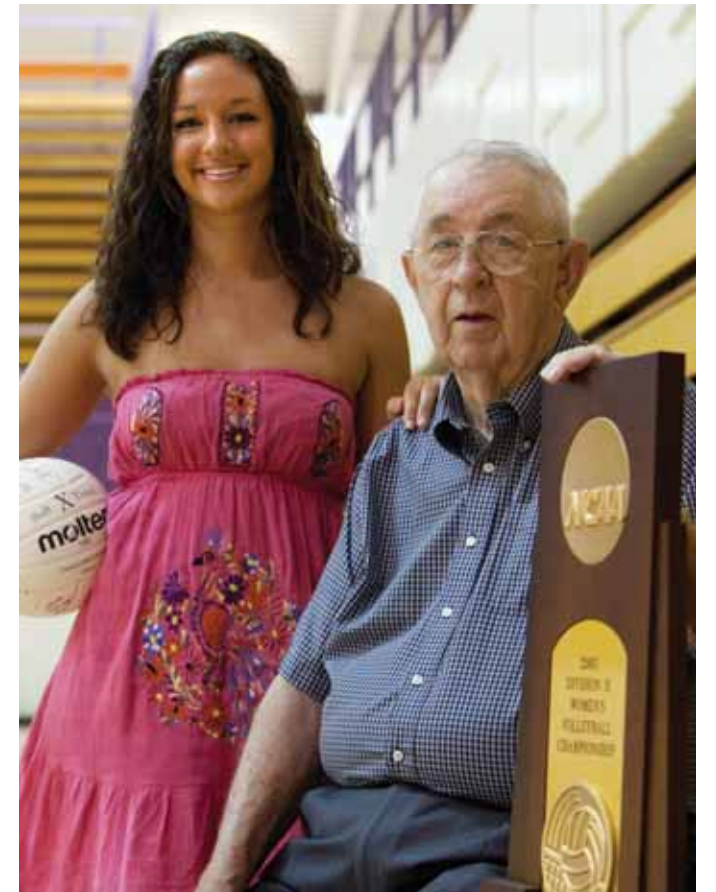
Pamela and Roger Baschab in
Mobile/Baldwin County



Allison Post ('08) with her
grandmother Jeanine Spruell at
Braves game



Janet ('77) and Buddy Price ('75), Carol Lyles ('70), Diane ('78) and Maury
Shipper ('78) in NE Florida



John and volleyball middle blocker Sarah Roberts, who received first-
team honors from the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).

SERVING SCHOLARSHIPS

John Doughty ('64) has a special interest: helping young women who compete on the athletic field. John taught PE and coached girls' programs during his long teaching career. He is a believer in the women's athletics programs at UNA, and he chooses to give back so that young athletes can reach their potential and complete their education.

You, too, can designate your support and feed your Passions. Give to the Scholarship of your choice.



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Melissa Pettus, *Coordinator of Endowed Scholarships*

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CLASS NOTES

YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

Jacob Flanagan has been recently hired as an Anniston assistant coach. Flanagan, who played at UNA, worked as an assistant at Winston County where he coached quarterbacks, wide receivers, and defensive backs.

Mike Nave is a 2011 Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame inductee. He was a starter on the offensive line at UNA and also played baseball at UNA. He also coached at West Limestone High School for 16 years.

Buck Williams is a 2011 Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame inductee. He played at UNA from 1985-89.

1950s

Miriam Watkins ('52) taught school for six years. She served on Alabama Council-Extension Homemaker for thirteen years and on National EHC for six years. She is presently serving on the Shoals Area Special Olympics Steering Committee and on the Arc/Shoals Board of Directors.

1960s

Thomas Drinkard ('64) author of "Piety and Murder," his debut novel, is now working on a prequel "Where There Were No Innocents." Drinkard uses his past experience as a Green Beret; his work is filled with comic wit, poetry for the soul, and violent action.

Harry Smith ('64) was inducted as an honorary member into the UNA Eta Alpha Chapter of the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in business administration. After graduating from UNA, Harry worked as a CPA for 16 years before moving to Memphis, Tenn., to become co-owner, chairman, and CEO of Schilling Enterprises. He served or has served on several for-profit and non-profit boards, spanning health care, banking, civic, transportation, religion, and education. At the University of Memphis, he serves as Executive-in-Residence at the Fogelman College of Business. In 2004, he was inducted into the Society of Entrepreneurs.

1970s

Will Stutts ('70) brought his acclaimed one-man play, "Frank Lloyd Wright," to Florence and performed it at the Rosenbaum Home.

Alice Caron Watts ('71) retired from the University of Montevallo after 28 years and has moved to the Huntsville area to be near her two grandsons.

Michael McGee ('78) is a United States Diplomat who spoke at the Florence Rotary Club. He is a regional senior officer with the U.S. Commercial Service, the trade promotion arm of the U. S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration.

1980s

Mark White ('80) has joined the tourism staff of the Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce.

Luther Bishop ('81) was chosen by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as a delegate for the Pork Act delegate assembly. He is one of 152 delegates who represent producers from 45 states and importers who sell pork products in the United States.

Steve Richter ('84) has been named vice president and business development officer for U.S. Bank Institutional Trust & Custody of Birmingham. He is responsible for developing new business for the bank's Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee division. He has 19 years of experience in custody trust and asset management.

Johnathan Pettus ('87) is the Chief Information Officer at Marshall Space Flight Center. His wife, **Angela Jackson Pettus ('87)**, who received the Keller Key, teaches math at Athens High School.

Anne Whitaker ('89) will join Sanofi as President, North America, Pharmaceuticals, global healthcare leader where she was Senior Vice President and Business Unit Head, Cardiovascular, Metabolic and Urology. She began her career at Delta Communications and joined the Upjohn Company in 1991 as a metabolic disease specialist. She joined GSK (Global Management Committee) SK as a sales representative and held various positions in Sales and Training.

1990s

Timothy Green ('90) is the vice president of commercial lending at BBVA Compass. He has recently been chosen for a five-year term on the Athens City School Board.

Patricia Hartley ('92) has been named to the Girl Scouts North-Central Alabama Board of Directors.

Wiley Barnard ('94) has been appointed as the executive director of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. He was hired for the position after a unanimous vote by Hall of Fame board members. He is a graduate of UNA and is set to receive his master's degree in nonprofit management from Belmont University. Barnard has a background in working with nonprofit organizations and music merchandising.

Kimberly Mauldin ('94) has been inducted as an honorary member into the UNA Eta Alpha Chapter of the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in business administration. Mrs. Mauldin has served as Director of Admissions at the University of North Alabama since 1995. She has been the recipient of several awards at UNA: Alpha Theta Chi Honorary Inductee, Outstanding Service Award, UNA Faculty/Staff Alumni Service Award, and Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society Inductee.

Jessica Christ ('95) is a 2011 Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame inductee who earned 22 letters while participating in sports at Elkmont High School. She earned six letters

in basketball, softball, and volleyball.

Nicky Ray ('96) was elected Pastor of Lynn Church of God in Lynn, Ala.

2000s

Scott Harbour ('03) is the Director of Retail Sales at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Hayden Strickland ('03) has been promoted to Executive Director of GIS Services at Magnolia River Services, Inc., in Hartselle, Ala.

Crystal Cagle Holland ('05) teaches kindergarten at Sulligent Elementary School and has two children.

Alvin Taylor ('05) has recently been appointed to Meridian Public School District Superintendent in Mississippi. He received his education specialist degree from the University of North Alabama.


Luis Fisher ('08) completed a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Thevecca Nazarene University. She was hired as the director and Instructor of Music at Mission Heights Preparatory High School in Casa Grande, Ariz.

Thomas Whitten ('09) recently married Natalie Dodd and moved to Franklin, Tenn. They are the parents of a daughter. He works at the Double Tree by Hilton in downtown Nashville.

Daniel Holt ('11) has been added to the musical ministry of The Watkins Family of Toccoa, Georgia. He joined the group full-time playing a variety of instruments. He graduated from UNA with a Bachelor in Business Administration with an emphasis in Entertainment Management.

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IN MEMORY

YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

James Brink served in the U.S. Navy and earned four battle stars. After his discharge from the Navy, he moved to Florence and briefly attended Florence State Teachers College and worked at Reynolds Metal. He was with Curtis Candy Company for 11 years, and was the founder and owner of Jim Brink Apartments.

Mabel Burgess attended Florence State Teachers College and received her teaching certificate. She taught second grade in Sheffield, Ala., and later worked at TVA.

June Florman was a guidance counselor at Sheffield High School. She belonged to the National Education Association, AAUW, Tennessee Valley Girl Scouts, Colbert County Retired Teachers Association, Alabama Retired Teachers Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, and Temple B'Nai Israel (past president). She was involved with the Institute for Lifelong Learning (past director), Tennessee Valley Art Association, Friends of Sheffield Library, Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club (past president Ladies Association), Alabama Vocational Guidance Association, Alabama Guidance Counselor Association, National Guidance Counselor Association, and the Shoals Community College Advisory Council.

Mary Regna Baites Howard was active in the Madison Cross Roads Home Demonstration Club and served as president. She received a teacher's degree from Florence State Teacher's College and taught school at

Riverton, New Sharon, and Pulaski Pike Schools.

James Irons served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War after attending Florence State Teachers College. After his discharge he came back to Florence, and worked as an electrician for several years. In 1960, he founded Irons' Electric and successfully operated it until his retirement in 2009.

Paul Mitchell Lackey attended the University of North Alabama and was also a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He worked as a make-up artist and in retail sales.

Frank Potts enrolled in Florence State Teachers College, which he attended for two years, and then dropped out to accept a teaching job at Greenhill School. While at FSTC, he played baseball for Coach Eddie Flowers. After teaching two years at Greenhill, he enrolled in the prelaw program at the University of Alabama. Following his graduation and admission to practice by the Supreme Court of Alabama, he returned to Florence to open a private law practice. Frank conducted a successful law practice in Florence at the firm of Potts & Young for more than 70 years. He served as a part-time County Solicitor, Administrator of the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and Chairman of that board for three subsequent Governors. He also served as the attorney for the Lauderdale County School Board for more than a decade.

Jonathan Sullivan played football as a defensive lineman under head coaches Mark Hudspeth in 2008 and Terry Bowden in 2009.

Nicholas Watkins was a former student at Kilby Elementary, Bradshaw High School, and the University of North Alabama.

1940s

Mac Bolton ('49) was the former principal of East Rome Junior High School, Adairsville High School, and Coosa High School. He started the basketball program at Adairsville High School and won Girls' State Title. He retired in 1978 to enjoy his favorite pastime, golf. Mr. Bolton served two active tours of duty with the U. S. Army –in Japan and during the Korean Conflict with the rank of First Lieutenant.

1950s

Lucille Nicholson ('52) taught at Brilliant High School, Eva High School, Morgan County High School (Hartselle High School), Calhoun Community College, Tennessee State University, Florida University in Tallahassee, and Wallace State College. She retired from Summerford Nursing Home as director in charge of Medical Records Technology.

Mattie Whitsett ('56) was a member and past president of Kappa Kappa Iota Conclave, N.E.A., and A.E.A. She was a home economics and guidance counselor before she retired in 1998.

Mary Alice Darrah Barrett ('57) was a member of Village Bible Church. Her husband **William Barrett ('59)** passed away soon after her death. He proudly served his country for 30 years as an Army officer. He

was a helicopter pilot, did two tours of duty in Vietnam and two stints at the Pentagon. They lived in Hot Springs Village, Ark.

William Grisham ('58) was a U.S. Navy veteran having served aboard the USS Des Moines heavy cruiser.

1960s

Bill Wise ('63) was the former director of Nashville's public school district. He retired from Metro Nashville Public Schools in 2001 after 31 years of service, the last three in the director's role. He also was a teacher and football coach in the Florence, Ala., school system. He earned a doctorate in education in 1970 from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

Ardelle Jones ('68) graduated from the University of North Alabama with an MA degree and an Ed.S degree. She taught at Fort Payne High School for one year and at Central High School for 15 years. She was the food service supervisor for Lauderdale schools for 20 years.

1970s

Philip Zahnd ('72) served active duty during the Vietnam War. He served his country on a nuclear submarine tender, the USS Canopus, in Rota, Spain. He graduated from the University of North Alabama. After graduation he accepted a job with the U.S. Department of Labor as regional cost negotiator in Atlanta, Ga. In 2003, he received the U.S. Department

of Labor's highest award, "The Exceptional Impact Award."

Bobby Jack Graben ('77) was an educator, coaching and teaching for 33 years in Alabama and Florida schools. Graben taught drivers education and drug and alcohol classes for the 19th Judicial Circuit after retiring from the Saint Lucie County School District. He served 1953-1963 as a military reservist in the Alabama and Florida National Guard during the Korean conflict and Cuban missile crisis.

Patricia Cook Graham ('79) was a member of Florence Teachers Association, the Alabama Education Association, and taught special education at Weeden School. She received a master's degree from the University of North Alabama. She was a four-year member of the UNA Pride of Dixie Marching Band, serving as both a majorette and the drum major. She was a member of the UNA Chorus and active in the American University Women.

1980s
Mary Jen Crane ('86) was killed in a two-car accident. She was employed by Bank Independent in charge of all sales offices at all of the bank's branches. She was the former manager of Parisian department store in Florence. She was very community-oriented, spending a lot of time with the St. Joseph Catholic Foundation board and other local agencies.



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January 15, 2012, Sunday • 2:00 p.m. • Norton Auditorium
www.dancetheatreofharlem.org

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