



# Magazine

For the Alumni and Friends of the University of North Alabama

FALL 2016 • VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 2



## DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



## Cover Story

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The UNA Color Run is one of the Athletic Department's most anticipated events each spring. With over 600 participants, this family friendly event provides a 5K and 1 Mile course where runners and walkers are showered with purple and gold color along the way. The Color Run has raised more than \$30,000 for the UNA Athletics Department.

The next Color Run will be held in April 2017.

For more information call 256-765-4615.



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Dr. Kenneth D. Kitts

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kenneth D. Kitts

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Fall 2016 UNA Magazine. There's something special about autumn on the University of North Alabama campus. Our freshmen are discovering the many opportunities UNA has to offer, classes are in full swing, and our football team has begun the quest for an unprecedented fourth Gulf South Conference championship.

The College of Arts and Sciences hosted another successful Summer Theatre. This year's production, "I'll Take You There: The Music of Muscle Shoals," was an original work that featured the remarkable musical heritage of the Shoals. We also announced that music producer and publisher Rick Hall, the "Father of the Muscle Shoals Sound," will be honored by the university with an honorary doctoral degree at the December Commencement ceremonies.

As the fall semester advances, we will see more changes around our beautiful campus. The Department of Human Environmental Sciences will soon begin moving into its new home in the Keystone Building in downtown Florence. Once that move is complete, the demolition of Floyd Hall will denote the first stage of construction on Harrison Hall, which will house the new Anderson College of Nursing. Harrison Hall and the Anderson College of Nursing will be aptly named for these two families in

honor of their extraordinary commitment to UNA and our Nursing program.

We're currently in the midst of the public phase of our comprehensive capital campaign. Dr. Deborah Shaw, Vice President for University Advancement, has a campaign update featured in this edition of UNA Magazine. As her summary makes clear, "Build the Pride" continues to experience success. We've seen an increase in overall philanthropy and endowed scholarships, which will serve to enhance the academic experience for our students. It is important to keep this momentum going. Please remember that you can always visit [una.edu/campaign](http://una.edu/campaign) to pledge your support.

This fall, I invite you to return to campus and see for yourself all the exciting things that are happening at UNA. Homecoming is always a great way to reconnect with your fellow alumni, make new friends, and share in the successes of your alma mater. Enclosed is a schedule of this year's festivities. Dena and I hope to see you there.

Roar Lions!  
Ken Kitts



## CAMPAIGN UPDATE FROM THE VP FOR ADVANCEMENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNA FOUNDATION



Dr. Deborah Shaw '82

Ask most people why they give and they'll tell you it's because UNA impacted them in a meaningful way. Some may tell you it's because our goal was \$25 million, and through the generosity of alumni and friends, we met that amount in March. Due to the public launch of the campaign in March, we raised our goal to \$35 million, and feel confident we will be able to raise this amount so that we can enable UNA to reach a higher level of success. We need your help!

We have many initiatives underway to seek donations so that we may meet our goal, and one of those activities will occur on November 29, so please mark your calendar. This is national "Giving Day," and we will be promoting it primarily through social media. This is a special day which provides encouragement to be a financial supporter of various causes, and we hope you select UNA to direct your donation. Please consider giving!

Our current fundraising total to date is \$26.2 million. We are proud of this milestone, but our work is yet to be done. It will take committed alumni and friends of UNA to help us meet our goal. I hope you will strongly consider having a part in this campaign—we need you.

**BUILD THE PRIDE**  
*The Campaign for*  
**UNA**  
 University of NORTH ALABAMA

Roar Lions!  
Debbie

# Patterson Looks to Continue Enrollment Increases as UNA's New AVP for Enrollment Management

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*



## Once a coach, always a coach!

That's a statement Ron Patterson agrees with concerning his new role as the associate vice president for Enrollment Management at the University of North Alabama. According to Patterson, a coach is knowledgeable and has the ability to lead diverse people through teaching, training, and making decisions to accomplish a common goal.

Patterson began his job July 15 and said that his road to higher education was a little different from most.

"I started out as a men's basketball coach," said Patterson. "I met my wife, decided to get out of coaching, and began my career as an admissions counselor with Christian Brothers University in Memphis."

Patterson said the position with Christian Brothers helped him recognize the importance of administrators and their ability to make a post-secondary education experience more enjoyable for students, faculty and staff.

"I have over a decade-and-a-half experience in higher education, studying and applying knowledge to obtain an Ed.S. (Education Specialist) in administration. In addition, I have worked with every position and aspect of enrollment management. That's

what created this wonderful opportunity to join UNA," he said.

Following his time at Christian Brothers, Patterson spent time at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the University of Central Arkansas, and then back to the institution where he obtained his masters, Marietta College. Patterson served as the vice president for Enrollment Management at Marietta for about a year and a half before leaving for UNA, a place close to home.

"Initially, a lot of what attracted me to this job was the possibility of coming home," Patterson said.

A native of Corinth, Miss., Patterson said he made multiple visits to the Shoals when he was younger and even had the opportunity to play basketball in Flowers Hall.

But coming home isn't the only reason the job was appealing, according to Patterson. Last year UNA saw record freshman enrollment and an increase in overall enrollment, and if predictions are correct, that trend should continue this year as well.

"I think it's a great time for the University of North Alabama in terms of increased enrollment," said Patterson. "My goal is to build upon that – not really change a lot, but rather come in and tweak a few things. You know, embrace the fact that we have great

momentum and look for ways to partner with local and regional community colleges. I'd also like to find pockets of high schools where students are excited to travel and come here to spend four years of their lives to enhance their future."

Patterson said his leadership abilities and the ability to galvanize a team will serve him well in this new role. As for benchmarks, he designed a 90-day action plan.

"My goal was to meet with every executive council member individually, get to know them and how they're connected to enrollment management," Patterson said. "I also met with the deans, and I really spent time getting to know my team, seeing what their needs were and developing a vision and goals for enrollment management."

When not in the office, you might catch Patterson spending time with his wife and children, golfing, and watching all sports.

"We're very excited to relocate to Florence, Alabama, but more importantly to join the UNA family. We're excited to have the community embrace us, but more importantly we're going to embrace the community and be very active and visible," Patterson said.



Jill Chambers '01, Julie Taylor '06 and '10, Kati Haynes, and Ron Patterson



# UNA Professor Works to Advance PROJECT SAY SOMETHING

By Taylor Goodwin, *Student Intern*

literary careers, but some of them end up right back in the system, even the successful authors such as Etheridge Knight and Jack Henry Abbott. Owens-Murphy said that poses two questions: what is it that causes them to end up back there and what tools could we be providing people so that they can become citizens again?

"They ask faculty from time to time to serve on their panels," said Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy, UNA English professor. "I, along with my colleagues Matt Duques [English] and Pete Williams [Economics and Finance], serve on the board and lead discussions. We are trying to get people to talk about race because it's difficult to talk about, learn about race because it's something that a lot of us are not very well educated about, and then create community programming that appeals to people of all backgrounds here in the Shoals."

As a board member, Owens-Murphy is responsible for education and programming within the organization, which was founded by Shoals native Camille Bennett along with her husband, Taurus. "What we've been really interested in in Alabama lately has been prison reform," she said.

Owens-Murphy taught a summer course that focused on literature written by prisoners, but not all of them are serving life sentences. She said some of the writers we read go on to have great

awareness. We're trying to pique their intellectual curiosity, keep them busy, make them feel good about themselves, and give them a sense of confidence and creativity."

Focus Scope Daycare is in the process of conducting donation drives for the prospective children in attendance. "It's a pretty affordable rate," Owens-Murphy said, "but unfortunately, some still won't be able to bear the financial burden." The organization plans to raise funds that will create vouchers for those in need.

"The goal is to work on both ends of the prison pipeline, to put together programs for at-risk youth as well as to gather resources for those who are exiting the system," said Owens-Murphy. "Hopefully by impacting both ends we can make a tangible difference."

One of these concrete initiatives will soon be available in Florence in the form of a programming model for at-risk youth that will be available in day care centers, after-school, and summer programs across Florence. Owens-Murphy said the program, called "Compass," is set to launch in the fall and is an enrichment series targeting children ages 2 to 12 who are at risk of entering the prison system because of poverty and racial bias.

"This is our way of trying to supplement what they may not be getting at school or at home," Owens-Murphy said. "We want to enrich their lives by giving them things they can get involved in and be passionate about, including yoga, art, gardening, music and cultural

# UNA ALUMNA Wants to Combat Antibiotic Resistance with Simple Test

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website states antibiotic resistance has been called one of the world's most pressing public health problems, and that's why one University of North Alabama student and her professor are trying to find a cheap test that can help combat the problem.

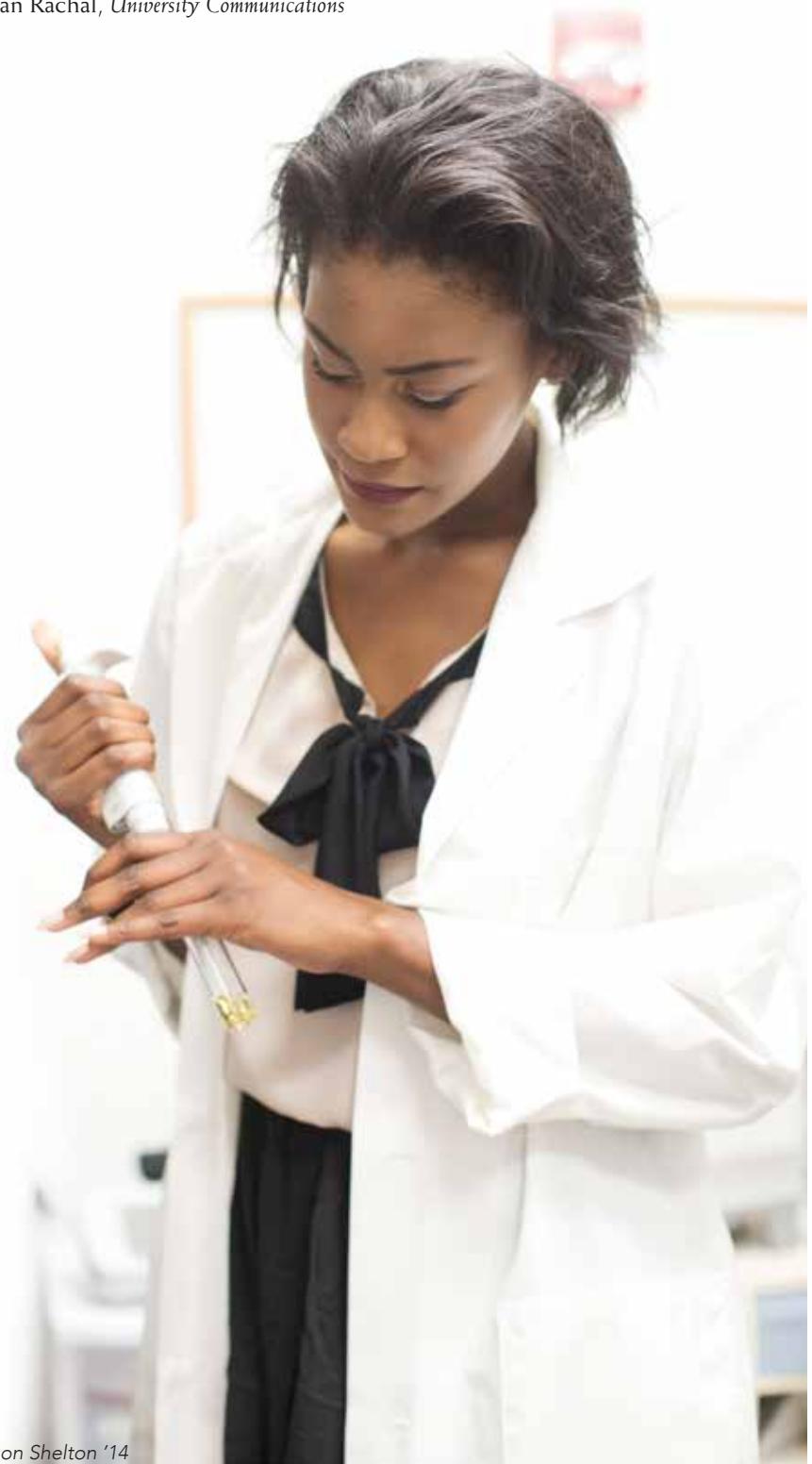
"You have to remember, a hundred years ago—so 1916—we didn't even have antibiotics," said Dr. Lisa Ann Blankinship, associate professor in the UNA Department of Biology. "So less than a hundred years out and we're pretty much seeing resistance to every class of antibiotics at some level."

According to Blankinship, a majority of the resistance comes from hospital-acquired sickness. "If you're out in the community and your son or daughter has a sinus infection and then you get sick, more than likely that's going to be a virus not a bacterium. But if you go to the doctor, they're going to give you an antibiotic to treat that."

Blankinship said that once you get into health care, that's where the issues arise. If a patient can't have certain strains of penicillin, there are only about three or four drugs that can be used to treat them. That's why a test is important.

Blankinship has teamed up with **Allison Shelton '14** to develop a low cost test that would be similar to a home pregnancy test in terms of affordability and ease of use. Shelton, who graduated from UNA with a nursing degree, said she sees the issue of antibiotic resistance on a daily basis.

"I was talking about a research project I could do," Shelton said. "I'm currently a nurse at the hospital here, and one of the things I saw was the prescription of antibiotics without



actually knowing what the causative pathogen is. I met Dr. Blankinship on a mission trip to Costa Rica and we were talking about how we could combat the issue of antibiotic resistance. And for those people who had an infection, the only antibiotic we had to give was amoxicillin. So even though we didn't know what was causing the infection, that's the only thing we could throw at it."

That's a big issue, according to Shelton and Blankinship, and the reason why is simple. If those patients were to have an adverse reaction to the antibiotic or if they were immune to it and it didn't work, they would have no recourse. By the time they figured this out, the mission group would be long gone and so would their medication and expertise.

And while there are currently tests that will check for the causative pathogen, they can cost upward of \$700. "That's not really a feasible option for many people," Shelton said. It's also another reason why she said they think their affordable test has a market.

If a person were to take an antibiotic that they were resistant to, it wouldn't necessarily cause them immediate harm, but Blankinship said the long-term effects are what should be a concern.

"You're also going to promote any bacteria that can survive that antibiotic, so basically you'll end up strengthening them. And bacteria have a habit of sharing genes, so if you get sick with something and you've had all these antibiotics, then the bacteria that survives will share that with any other bacteria you come in contact with," Blankinship said.

Consider that in terms of a long-term care facility or hospital, and then consider the number of patients that go through. How many different types of antibiotics they're given? And how much "sharing" is going on?

Blankinship and Shelton both said they think that the best way to solve this



Dr. Lisa Ann Blankinship and Allison Shelton '14

problem is with early detection, and that's where the affordable test would come in.

"If we can, at the clinic level or gatekeeper level, have available tests that tell a doctor that their patient has an infection, you know they may think it's bacterial. So a test like this would let them see if their patient was resistant to this drug before they give them 14 days of it," Blankinship said.

Shelton and Blankinship had planned on field testing their new test in Costa Rica over the summer during another medical mission trip, but they didn't have a prototype ready in time. However, once completed, they hope their test will be able to deliver results within five minutes and in a paper-based format so that it can be conducted without large amounts of chemicals, which makes it beneficial in less developed countries. Additionally, since most antibiotics come from a certain group, the test wouldn't be as specific as to tell you which one—it would simply tell you the group that you're immune to.

"I think there is a market for this, if you can get the price down low enough," said Blankinship. "Which is why we wanted something paper-based. If we can get it down to stuff that you would have





UNA COLLEGE OF BUSINESS FACULTY AND STAFF

## University of North Alabama College of Business Earns Prestigious AACSB Business Accreditation

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

Officials with the University of North Alabama College of Business have achieved a notable milestone: Accreditation by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

"It takes a great deal of commitment and determination to earn AACSB Accreditation," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "Business schools must not only meet specific standards of excellence, but their deans, faculty, and professional staff must make



a commitment to ongoing continuous improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver the highest quality of education to students."

"Our students and alumni have known for many years that UNA has an excellent College of Business," said Dr. Greg Carnes, dean of the College of Business.

"The difference now is that the premier accrediting agency for business schools across the world, AACSB, has thoroughly reviewed our mission, programs and outcomes, and has placed its Seal of Excellence on UNA."

"Now, everyone will know that UNA is a leader in business education in this region and also in our international programs in China and Taiwan," he said.



Deans for the College of Business: Roy Stevens, Lawrence Conwill, Bill Stewart, Mike Butler, Kerry Gatlin and Greg Carnes

AACSB Accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education, and has been earned by fewer than 5 percent of the world's business programs. To date, there are 755 business schools in 51 countries and territories that have earned AACSB Accreditation.

The University of North Alabama College of Business serves over 1100 undergraduates and over 400 graduate students taught by over 40 full time faculty.

Dr. Paulette Alexander, associate dean for the College of Business, said the accreditation validates the quality of the degrees present and future students will receive.

"It will open many doors both for graduate studies at prestigious universities and for careers in elite corporate environments," said Alexander.

Faculty and staff with the UNA College of Business pride themselves on offering a total experience for students. The recent AACSB accreditation in conjunction with the new programs and accolades the College has seen over the past few years shows they're making huge strides in that direction.

UNA President Ken Kitts echoed those sentiments and said the AACSB represents the gold standard of business program accreditation.

"I could not be prouder of the faculty, staff and students of our College of Business for the hard work that has led to this recognition. This accreditation underscores the depth of our commitment to academic excellence at the University of North Alabama," Kitts said.

## UNA Professor Wins Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence

By Taylor Goodwin, *Student Intern*

"I knew in January of this year that I was being nominated; that alone was a great honor," said Dr. Lesley Peterson, University of North Alabama professor. "I was hoping to make the short list and thrilled when I did so, but I did not expect to win."

Despite those expectations, Peterson was recently presented with the Tom Fairley Award, an honor presented by Editors Canada for the best work done on editing a book published in Canada in the previous year. Peterson was proud to be in the company of the other three editors who were short-listed, who she said are "highly skilled professionals who have done very impressive work."

Peterson earned the award for her work on *The Little Third Reich on Lake Superior: A History of Canadian Internment Camp R*, by Ernest Robert Zimmerman, Michel S. Beaulieu and David K. Ratz.

Unfortunately, Zimmerman passed away before the manuscript's revision was complete, creating quite an obstacle, Peterson said.

"Normally this kind of editing would involve lengthy conversations with the author, as the best choice



isn't always obvious," she said. "I had to work really hard to understand how he thought. I needed to do so in order to be able to correct all errors without diminishing his highly distinctive voice."

She said the book still needed substantial editing in order to meet the high standards of the academic press publishing it, and she was willing to make the effort in order to bring justice to Zimmerman's years of hard work. Peterson said her long-developed passion for editing fueled her efforts in the task.

"It is far more than just correcting spelling mistakes and moving commas around," she said. "I meet someone who has really good ideas and important things to say. I get to help that person communicate those ideas effectively: in editing, therefore, I am serving the author and the author's future readers as well."

She said she also expects that one of the immediate consequences of winning the Tom Fairley Award is that Editors Canada will be calling upon her for some volunteer service. "And I am looking forward to giving back in that way," Peterson said.



## UNA Student Receives U.S. Department of State Scholarship to Study Critical Language

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

are in Sochi, Rio and Pyeongchang, South Korea. I didn't speak Russian or Portuguese, but I felt like I might be able to learn enough Korean in six years to be able to fulfill that dream," she said.

Since no college in Alabama offered regular classes in Korean at the time, McDaniel studied on her own. Last year, she had the opportunity to participate in the Magellan Exchange program through UNA where she studied at Anyang University in Anyang, South Korea. It was at this time that she was able to take her first real Korean classes.

Each CLS participant spent eight to 10 weeks in one of 24 locations studying Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Indonesian, Japanese, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili and Turkish Urdu. McDaniel attended classes at Chonnam National University and stayed with a host family close to campus. The goal was to expose her to as much Korean as possible.

As for her future, McDaniel said the trip only helped her with her post-college career plans.

"In the future, I want to work in corporate hospitality, helping corporations move workers to other countries for training, temporary work or to set up new offices," she said. "I want to be that person who helps workers, but more specifically, their families, who are less likely to speak English, get settled into Alabama. There are several large Korean-based corporations with offices in Alabama and in the future there may be more."

Over the past 10 years, the CLS Program has sent more than 5,000 American undergraduate and graduate students overseas to learn critical languages all over the world. It provides fully funded, group-based, intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences. CLS program participants are expected to continue their language studies beyond the scholarship and apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers.

## UNA Hosts 6<sup>th</sup> Annual UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The University of North Alabama Front Porch Storytelling Festival was back again for another year of amazing stories. The annual performance, running May 20–May 21, 2016, marked the sixth year of the event.

For those unfamiliar with the Front Porch Festival, storytelling is presented in various forms throughout history and is a very Southern tradition. However, instead of sitting on a front porch, sharing stories with family members as in years gone by, these tellers are performing inside, in front of large crowds, painting visual images in the audience's imagination.

A common objective for storytellers is to convey morals through their messages wrapped in an amazing and entertaining delivery. This year's festivities included some very familiar names, including UNA's own **Walt Aldridge '78 & '15**, Donald Davis, Dolores Hydock, Geraldine Buckley, Rev. Robert B. Jones, Three on String, Tim Lowry and Bill Lepp.



Walt Aldridge '78 & '15

## UNA Student Sees Success With Local Record Store

By Taylor Goodwin, *Student Intern*

"Everyone thought it was crazy to have a store underground, but we immediately knew that it was what we needed," said Carter Cothren, University of North Alabama junior. "Since middle school my father had told me that I could open my own record store when I went to college. I honestly never believed him, but when we toured UNA and looked around Florence, I fell in love with the place."

And just like that, Cothren opened Underground Art & Sound with the help of his father in April 2015. Over the past year, their inventory and operation has settled into a unique routine. "We buy, sell, and trade records, cds and cassettes. We also consign local art," Cothren said. "We even have local paintings and t-shirts. I want these artists to know that if they're interested in selling, we are here to help them out."

In addition to working with artists, the store has recently started hosting resident musicians as well, having small shows underground periodically, which, according to Cothren, have been a huge success.

As if operating a business alone weren't difficult enough, Cothren is currently a business major at UNA and will begin his junior year this fall. Even though he is receiving his business education, he still asks his father for advice on the store.

"I want to further my business knowledge so I can make better decisions. Eventually, I want to be able to do all of this on my own. That's why balancing school is important," he said. But that balancing act can be difficult too. When asked how he manages the responsibilities that come with operating a business and being a student, he said it's "extremely stressful." Cothren said it's more than just balancing work and school; he also needs a social life.

"I am the vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha right now too, so finding time for everything is tough," he said. "Honestly, 80 percent of my day is difficult and



Carter Cothren

frustrating, but that's okay because the other 20 percent makes it all worth it."

After graduation, Cothren hopes to open another store in Nashville or Seattle, although he believes that this branch will remain successful in Florence even after he leaves.

"We made it through the first year, and that is always the hardest part," he said. "I just hope people continue to support their local businesses, which is so important."

## UNA Art Department Installs Sculpture Pads for Outdoor Art

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

"If you ask someone what sculpture have you seen lately, most of them are going to talk about public work," said Aaron Benson, assistant professor of art at the University of North Alabama. "They're not going to say I was inside this gallery. It's more... I saw this on the corner of a street in New York, or I saw this in Chicago. So they talk about how they see these things in public; yet often times we think of art in a gallery space. I simply wanted to give the students the opportunity to work outside."

Benson is talking about a series of sculpture pads that have been added around the art building on UNA's campus to display student work, with the hope of adding professional work to the mix later. Benson and Chiong-Yiao Chen, art department chair, spent many hours on a proposal for the pads after the sculpture idea originated with Dean Carmen Burkhalter, of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Dean Burkhalter has a vision of developing our fine arts area, including music and theatre," Chen said. "She believes the creative arts area is a very important element in helping the university develop public relations and reach out to the community, or prospective students."

Chen said the idea made sense since Benson's specialty and area of teaching is ceramics and sculpture. "Aaron is involved with all aspects of three-dimensional art and he has a vision for the future development of our 3D program. Sculptures are tangible objects; it helps to engage people," she said.

Benson said that when he first heard the idea of the pads, two thoughts came to him: One, he could possibly use it as an opportunity to display his sculptures and professional pieces; and two, it could be integrated into the current curriculum.

"I wanted to give the students the opportunity to work outside, but also use it to teach about the parameters you need to address," Benson said. "Like what



Nathan Smith

about longevity? What if it rains on your sculpture?"

The goal, according to Benson, is for this to grow. "So maybe the history department will see the sculptures and want to place another one in front of their building and so on," he said. However, for the time being the four pads on campus are currently filled with student art.

Benson said something that's really nice is that you can drive down the road on Pine Street and see two sculptures; it puts pride into the students to create something that's actually going to be seen. "So it ups the craftsmanship, the effort and the amount of time they spend on it," he said.



## UNA's Writer's Series is Like a Classic Novel; It Stands the Test of Time

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The University of North Alabama Writer's Series has gone by a few names since its inception in 1984. It's been known as the Writer's Conference, the Writer's Festival and of course, the Writer's Series. However, the quality and the overall goal to expose students to professional writers from all genres have not changed.

**Pam Kingsbury '81**, UNA English instructor, said UNA's series is actually based off a similar series from Colgate University. "One of the founders of the series was Jack Kingsbury and he went to Colgate; their series was intended for all students on campus to have an interaction with someone who was a living writer, and to show students that writers came from all disciplines," she said.

Kingsbury said their overall idea was similar to UNA's now: bring in a writer for students to get to know so they have that "Aha moment" of oh, yes, writers are still with us and they're not long ago, far away, and always dead.

But this series isn't just for the students; in fact, Kingsbury said different authors have elicited different crowds. "This particular event has always been free and open to the public, so we get different audiences for different writers," she said. "For example, with Nikki Giovanni a few years ago, we got her entire sorority from this end of the state, and she was very gracious and had her picture taken with the whole group."

Kingsbury said they always have their regulars who attend every year, but some authors bring out a unique crowd. One such author was last year's featured guest, Daniel Wallace. Wallace is the author of *Big Fish*, which was also made into a popular movie by the same name.



Justin Cronin

## UNA Writer's Series



in has had some connection to the South in some way or other," Kingsbury said.

2016's featured author, Justin Cronin, is from New England and lives in Houston, Texas, but Kingsbury said that parts of his recent novels refer to the South and have some Southern settings as well.

So with the 35th year of the Writer's Series completed, what kind of impact has it had?

"One of the things that's very interesting," said Kingsbury, "is that when we invite an author, quite often they go and look at who's been here before and they decide that maybe this is a place they would like to come."

And come they have, as evidenced by this list of attendees over the years: Jon Silkin, Michael Wilding, Russell Banks, Marilynne Robinson, Ellen Gilchrist, Miller Williams, Al Young, Eugene Walter, Vicki Covington, J. California Cooper, Kelly Cherry, W.D. Snodgrass, Carolyn Kizer, Robert Olin Butler, Al Young, Natasha Trethewey, Joy Harjo, Jeff Sharlet, Isabel Wilkerson, Ishmael Reed, Tennessee Reed, Nikki Giovanni, Trudier Harris, Ayelet Waldman, and Daniel Wallace.

It's an extensive list with very recognizable names, and that's the way Kingsbury said she likes it. "The Writer's Series' Committee and the English Department have tried to be good stewards of the Series, and that stewardship has allowed the event to evolve."

## UNA Adds Additional Professor to Isbell Scholar Program

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

Officials with the University of North Alabama Foundation received some great news recently. Dr. Paul Kittle, professor of Biology, announced that he would be entering into the Isbell Scholar Program. The Isbell Scholar program was named in honor of **Dr. Raymond Isbell '53** and was designed to allow UNA faculty and staff the opportunity to work an additional year after retirement; however, the salary they would earn is instead given to the University to create an endowed scholarship fund.

"This is such a unique program to have and we're so fortunate Dr. Kittle was interested in participating," said **Dr. Deborah Shaw '82**, vice president for University Advancement. "It's great to know we have amazing faculty members who feel so strongly about education that they're willing to forgo a year's salary in order to provide scholarship support for our students."



Kittle is one of 19 employees who have already participated, or are currently participating in the Isbell Scholar Program. So far this one-of-a-kind program has created 35 different endowments to support the university's mission of education.

Isbell, who retired as department chair and professor of Chemistry, first initiated

the idea of contributing volunteer service after retirement in lieu of salary in 1997. In 2008, the program of funding scholarships in retirement was formalized and the guidelines were developed, and in 2011 the program was renamed after Isbell.

## UNA Looks to Strengthen Partnership with Northwest-Shoals and Other Area Community Colleges

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

Officials from Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) were on the University of North Alabama campus this past summer for a special meeting. NW-SCC President Dr. Humphrey Lee and UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts met to discuss ways in which both schools could strengthen their partnership with each other.

NW-SCC is often seen as a feeder institution for UNA, and because of that Kitts said he wanted to make sure the two schools are doing everything they can to work together in order to make higher education a priority in the Shoals. Kitts said that UNA is always looking to have more students transfer from NW-SCC, but the University also refers some students to NW-SCC as well.



Administrators from UNA, Calhoun Community College, Northwest-Shoals Community College and Bevill State Community College

"As two institutions of higher education in the Shoals, it's important for us to work together as much as possible," said Kitts. "And really, it comes down to one thing; we are looking for every opportunity to help people have access to education. Of course, we hope this renewed effort will result in more students matriculating to UNA, but more importantly, this will show students that both of these institutions have their long-term educational goals in the forefront," he said.

In addition to the meeting with the Northwest-Shoals representatives, the presidents and other key staff from Bevill State Community College, Calhoun

## UNA Summer Theatre Features the Music of the Shoals

By Wanda Dixon, *Department of Entertainment Industry*

UNA Summer Theatre was back on stage at The Mane Room in July, and audiences were able to enjoy performances of an original work that featured the musical heritage of the Shoals.

"In 2014, we commissioned an original piece with Tony-nominated director and writer Randal Myler," said Charlton James, associate professor of Theatre at UNA and artistic director for UNA Summer Theatre. "We were thrilled to bring this work to audiences this summer."

"I'll Take You There: The Music of Muscle Shoals" premiered during Handy Week 2016 and was the Handy Festival headliner concert.

The production, which is a historical musical revue of the music culture and history of the Shoals, included songs that were produced in the Shoals by various artists, such as Etta James, Aretha Franklin, Bob Seger, The Rolling Stones, Paul Simon,



Wilson Pickett, Bob Dylan and The Staple Sisters.

Myler, who also wrote "Hank Williams: Lost Highway" and "It Ain't Nothin' but the Blues," directed the production. He is a UNA Summer Theatre veteran, having directed for the past four years.

The cast was led by well-known TV actor George Wendt, who portrayed Norm in the popular series "Cheers," and Broadway sensation Felicia Fields, who received a Tony nomination for her portrayal of Sofia in "The Color Purple."

A VIP event was held on opening night, July 23, at the Gold Record Room in the SunTrust Building in downtown Florence. Partygoers were able to meet the cast, enjoy refreshments and celebrate the "Muscle Shoals Sound."

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A collage of images related to the Higher Education Partnership. It includes a large graphic of the state of Alabama with the text "HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP" overlaid, a group photo of four people, and several smaller photos of people speaking at a podium or posing together.



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Brooklynn Clark homers during her first at bat of 2016 NCAA Division II Women's College World Series. Clark, who was the Division II National Player of the Year, finished the opening game 3-for-3 at the plate with two homers and five RBI. UNA won 9-0.

# SMALL TOWN LADIES, BIG TIME SUCCESS

By Shane Herrmann '99, Associate Sports Information Director

As the victories began to pile up for the University of North Alabama softball team at the NCAA Division II Women's College World Series in Denver, Colorado, the post-game press conferences started to become a routine for the UNA players and coaches. It never got old, however, for the media members ranging from California, to Indianapolis, to the local Denver market.

After every UNA victory, the media tent was filled to capacity with reporters waiting to hear the take from the ladies from small towns across the South.

"It feels pretty darn good," said senior Brooklynn Clark, after winning the program's first national championship. Clark, who homered her first two at bats in the World Series and was named to the all-tournament team, hails from Seadrift, Texas. She said the coastal Texas town of just over 1,000 residents is very different from Florence, Alabama.

"There is not even a red light back

home," said Clark. "We have two gas stations, four small restaurants, a Dollar General and an elementary school. When I first came to UNA, I got lost a lot because I didn't know my way around. But I love it here and plan to make Florence my home."

Several players on the UNA team come from small, rural towns. That, however, did not affect their performance on the nation's biggest stage. With the metro Denver skyline visible beyond the outfield fence, the Lions won five games at the World Series to capture the national title. The final win, a 4-1 triumph over California's Humboldt State, capped a 60-7 season that included multiple team and individual records.

Maybe it was the smiles and light-hearted comments each player seemed to make. Maybe it was the pre-game dancing or the eccentric dugout props and attire that the NCAA banned following the Lions' first game of the tournament.



Hillary Carpenter, Ashley Cozart and Harlie Barkley '16



Reagan Tittle



Bailey Nelson, Courtney Shields, and Peyton DeLong



Mackenzie Roberts



Danielle Cruickshant and Courtney Shields



Lions prepare for Championship Saturday with a pregame dance party.

Maybe it was the southern accents every player had. Whatever the reason, people in Denver were lined up to talk to the Lions.

"Everywhere we went, people were complimenting me on our team," said UNA head coach Ashley Cozart, who just completed her third season as head of the program. "Reporters, NCAA officials, even the people at the hotel said of all the teams here, our girls just sounded the most genuine and sincere.

"Everyone who I talked to after we got back from Denver talked about our post-game press conferences and how we were so genuine and 'down to earth'. I think that says a lot about how we play the game and why they were so successful. They never get too high or too

low they just stay humble and confident."

Junior Anna Gayle Norris said the trip to Denver capped an amazing experience during her first year on the UNA roster.

"Man, it was great!" said Norris, who prepped at Gordo High School in rural Pickens County, Alabama. "In high school, I played varsity every year from seventh grade. It was so small, there just were not that many players to choose from. My JUCO team (Central Alabama Community College) was also in a small town. At UNA, we had over 800 fans at the Super Regional. It was so awesome to see all of that support. It energized our whole team. By the time we got to Denver, we knew we could make a run."

Senior Peyton DeLong came

to UNA from Beauregard, Alabama. After lettering four years at the Class 4A school, she played two seasons at Southern Union Community College. She said the title run for the Lions will be a lasting memory.

"It's one of those things that every little softball player dreams of," said DeLong. "I will always think about it like, 'We did that. We made history at UNA.' The feeling is amazing."

The collection of talent that brought UNA its first softball national title was a makeup of players from Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas. Most came from towns much smaller than Florence. Cozart said it was just easy to make connections with those players.

"I feel like our staff just connects

with them better," she said. "When we have a player on a visit, it isn't just about their ability but also about their personality, background and most importantly, their character and how we all connect. I think we just hit it off better with players from small towns."

Sophomore Reagan Tittle came to UNA from tiny Lynn, Alabama, where she was a standout for the Class 1A Bears. After hitting a home run in the opening game and eventually being named to the all-tournament team, she says the whole experience will be one she never forgets.

"Since I got home, tons of people have been congratulating me on the national championship," said Tittle. "They all want to talk about the trip to Denver. They also say thank you for putting Lynn

on the map. It has been crazy but it has also been great. Lynn is a very small town that revolves around sports. Not many people get to go to college so the opportunity for me to go to UNA to play softball was great."

Hillary Carpenter signed with the Lions following a standout career at Hatton High School. The left-handed pitcher guided the Hornets to four consecutive Class 2A state championships at the small Alabama town, but no one was sure how that success would translate to playing at the collegiate level.

Those questions were quickly answered as Carpenter was named the 2014 Gulf South Conference Pitcher of the Year. Three seasons later, Carpenter owns school records for most victories in



Raven Cole



The UNA dugout celebrates a hit during the Lions' 10-1 win over Humboldt State in game two of the championship series.



Harlie Barkley '16 and Dr. Kenneth D. Kitts

a season (33) as well as most career wins in the circle (69).

"I have always loved pitching in the post-season," said Carpenter, fighting back tears following the title game. "For some reason, that has always been when I bring my best game. It's been that way since high school. In the national championship game, I was a little nervous but I guess my adrenaline kept me going."



UNA players celebrate the 2016 NCAA Division II South Region championship. The Lions swept Rollins 3-0, 6-5 in front of 822 fans at home to advance to the Women's College World Series.

Barkley's trip was made even more special when the senior received her degree in Denver during an impromptu ceremony with UNA President Ken Kitts prior to the championship game. The trip caused her to miss UNA's commencement services. Barkley graduated summa cum laude with a degree in biology and was awarded her degree in front of teammates, family, fans and UNA staff members in the ballroom of the Downtown Denver Sheraton.

"I wasn't really expecting it," said Barkley, who recently began grad school at Mississippi State University. "It was special to do this with all of my teammates. A lot of them would not have still been in town if it was back home."

Oh, and Barkley also made an impact on the field. At the championships, she drove in six runs off five hits, including a three-run triple during the second game against Southern Arkansas. The big hit came after the Muleriders intentionally walked Clark to load the bases.

Back in the media tent following the game, a 10-2 triumph that put the Lions in the championship series, reporters erupted in laughter when Barkley commented on the play and simply stated, "I really wanted to hit a grand slam. When I got to third I was so pumped. I just looked at coach Cozart and said I'm glad I swung at that."

## 2016 Division II NATIONAL COACHING STAFF OF THE YEAR

On the heels of a 60-7 season that included conference, regional and national championships, University of North Alabama head softball coach Ashley Cozart and assistant coach Whitney Hawkins have been recognized as the National Fast-Pitch Association (NFCA) 2016 Division II National Coaching Staff of the Year.

Cozart and Hawkins were selected after being named the South Region Coaching Staff of the Year last week. After wrapping up first place in the Gulf South Conference regular season, UNA went 14-2 in the postseason to finish the season with 34 school and conference records.

The Lions, who were picked to finish fourth in the GSC in the preseason coaches' poll, earned the top seed in the conference tournament. After a 3-0 showing in the GSC Tournament gave UNA its first conference title since 1987, the Lions went on to claim the NCAA South 1 Regional by battling out of the loser's bracket. A two-game sweep over Rollins in the Super Regional gave North Alabama its first-ever berth in the Division II Women's College World Series in Denver, Colo.

At the finals, UNA won its first three games before dropping Game 1 of the championship series to Humboldt State. The Lions, however, rebounded to post back-to-back wins over the Lumberjacks (10-1 & 4-1) to claim the program's first national championship.

During the season, UNA finished as the top home run hitting team in Division II with 90. The Lions ranked high in several offensive categories, including doubles (2<sup>nd</sup>, 122), batting average (2<sup>nd</sup>, .353), slugging percentage (2<sup>nd</sup>, .583), homeruns per game (3<sup>rd</sup>, 1.34), scoring (4<sup>th</sup>, 7.28 runs per game), and on base percentage (6<sup>th</sup>, .418). North Alabama's 60 victories and 645 hits also led the nation.

Completing her third season as the program's head coach, Cozart has posted a 136-39 record for a .777 winning



Whitney Hawkins and Ashley Cozart

percentage at UNA. The 2016 Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year has led the Lions to three straight NCAA

Tournament appearances. Hawkins, who has completed her second season with the program, serves as pitching coach.

## NCAA Elite 90 Award AMY CARDEN

North Alabama's Amy Carden was honored at the ceremony as the 2016 softball recipient of the NCAA Elite 90 Award. The junior from Madison has a 4.0 grade-point average while majoring in secondary education.

The Elite 90 recognizes the student athlete with the highest cumulative GPA who has reached the competition at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 90 men's and women's championships across its three divisions. Students are eligible if they are at least a sophomore and in at least the second year of competition at the school.





# Amazing Gracie

By Shane Herrmann '99, Associate Sports Information Director

When **Madeline Lee '16** fielded a ground ball at second base and flipped it to first baseman Brooklynn Clark for the final out of North Alabama's NCAA Division II softball national championship run, the celebration began immediately. The celebratory dog pile near the pitcher's circle consisted of players, coaches, and other team personnel.

There was, however, one addition included in the celebration.

As nine-year old Gracie Billups made her way from the dugout to the field, she was a little timid to jump in the pile with the rest of the UNA players. That didn't stop the Lions players from including Billups in the rest of the post-game festivities as UNA celebrated its first national title in softball.

Billups, who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on Oct.

8, first paired up with the Lions during the team's third game of the national tournament. Through a partnership with the NCAA and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, she was introduced to the team and participated in all game-day activities.

She threw out the ceremonial first pitch for UNA's semi-final game against Southern Arkansas and remained in the dugout throughout the contest.

"Our girls just immediately had a connection with Gracie," said UNA Head Coach Ashley Cozart. "From the first moment she came into the dugout with us and was wearing purple shorts and cheering for us, we knew she was part of this team."

After UNA disposed of the Muleriders 10-2 in five innings, Billups accompanied the team to the locker

room. Following a post-game speech by Cozart, the team gathered for a prayer, thanking God and asking not only for the safety of the players in the future games, but also for continued support of Gracie in her battle against cancer.

"That was a very emotional prayer," said UNA Assistant Coach Whitney Hawkins. "Afterwards, there was not a dry eye in the room. It was awesome to see everyone come together for something other than and more important than softball."

Since she was first diagnosed, Billups has been involved in a very harsh round of chemotherapy known as delayed intensification. The treatments, which take their toll on a young girl's body and spirit, were expected to continue throughout the summer.

A scheduled doctor's appointment

caused Billups to be unavailable for the Lions' next game at the tournament on Friday. UNA lost a 5-0 decision to Humboldt State in the first of the best-of-three series to determine the national champion. She was, however, back the following day...donning the same purple shorts and bearing good news.

A prayer had been answered as doctors had revealed that delayed intensification was no longer needed and that Billups was now scheduled to undergo a less strenuous type of chemo.

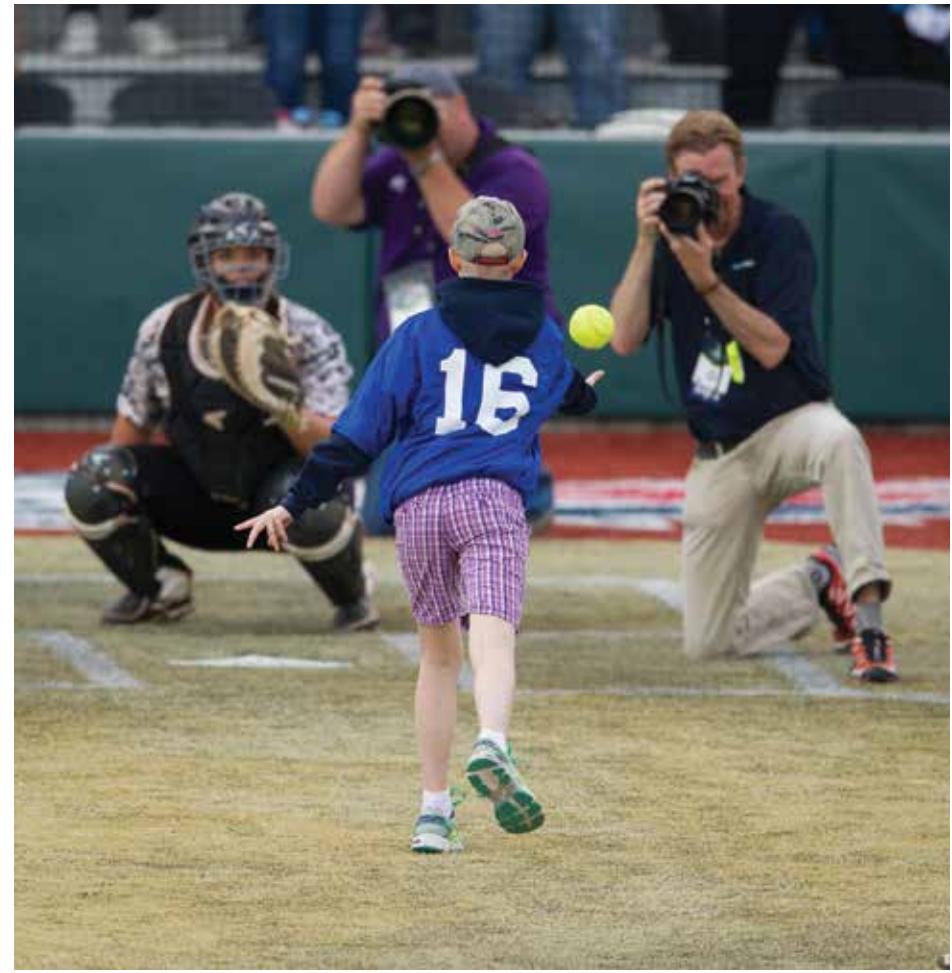
"It was unbelievable news," said Billups' mother, Elizabeth. "We had mentally prepared ourselves to spend the entire summer as a hostage to this treatment. It truly was an answered prayer."

UNA continued its championship race that Saturday, needing to win two games to claim the national title. Gracie had returned to the dugout wearing her same "good luck" purple shorts, and had even insisted her mom wear a purple shirt as well in support of the Lions.

Did it work? You bet!

After evening the series with a 10-1 win over the Lumberjacks in the first game on Saturday, UNA won the national title with a 4-1 victory in the championship game.

"It was just an unbelievable experience that I know Gracie will never forget," Elizabeth Billups said. "From the first day she was supposed to throw out



Gracie Throws Out First Pitch

the first pitch, the UNA players just did everything to include her as a member of the team. It was a national championship tournament, but that didn't stop the players from chatting with her, taking pictures with her and inviting her to the locker room. It was like a movie."



Hillary Carpenter and Gracie Billups

The overall experience has made UNA fans out of the Billups family, who live in the Denver suburb of Highlands Ranch. Gracie's bedroom is now decorated in purple and gold, with Lion memorabilia on the walls. The Billups family is also planning a trip to Florence this fall for the Lions' football home opener on September 17 against Valdosta State.

Billups said everything just came together to make things happen the way they did. "Make-A-Wish and the NCAA gave Gracie and our family this fabulous opportunity, and the unbelievable Lions made it even more spectacular," she said. "These women are shining examples of what all of us should strive for. In the midst of their own chance to accomplish something they've worked for much of their lives, their hearts were focused on lifting up Gracie. And lift her up they did! They lifted us all up at a time when we definitely needed it."

## DR. JIM F. COUCH OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH AWARD

**GLENN A. MARVIN**, Associate Professor of Biology

1986, B.S., Zoology, University of Kentucky  
1990, M.S., Biology, Eastern Kentucky University • 1996, Ph.D., Zoology, University of Oklahoma

**Dr. Glenn Marvin's** career in biology may provide one more tally mark for nature over nurture. His fascination with animals began very early in life and never faded. As a very small child in suburban Ohio in the 60s, he amassed a collection of small plastic and rubber critters (including exotic species like Gumby and Pokey) obtained largely from gumball machines. Later, a captivation with salamanders and a burgeoning appetite for uncovering them was heightened by innumerable exploratory hikes and sojourns in the backwoods of Kentucky. For his undergraduate education, he resisted the expectation to follow in his father's footsteps and study engineering, and instead followed his whim to pursue a degree in zoology. While in graduate school, his desire to learn more about salamanders became an inspiration for research. Published work during graduate school includes studies on life history, courtship behavior, territorial behavior, interspecific competition, and the avoidance of alarm chemicals as an antipredator behavior. Because a livelihood based solely on "playing" with salamanders is not feasible, he is thankful that teaching assistantships during graduate school helped him to become an educator as well. In spite of numerous cynics and naysayers encountered along the way, a chip on the shoulder and an enduring fire in the belly allowed him to eventually overcome each obstacle. During graduate work in Oklahoma, he was very fortunate to meet a woman who shared his passion for biology and tolerated his idiosyncrasies. She is a fantastic mother to their wonderful daughter.

Together with UNA biology students, Dr. Marvin continues to study the ecology, behavior, and physiology of salamanders. Recent published research includes studies of sexual and seasonal dimorphism, the effect of controlled tail loss (i.e., tail autotomy) on locomotor performance, thermal and body size effects on the rate of tail regeneration, and the lower temperature limit for predatory behavior. In one terrestrial species of woodland Slimy Salamander, he found that females differ from males in snout shape, trunk length, and tail width. Distinctive features of females may increase fecundity and those of males may be indicative of an enhanced chemosensory ability to find females. Although tail autotomy in semiaquatic Dusky Salamanders may often allow individuals to escape from predators, the shortened tail greatly diminishes swimming performance. This locomotor cost after tail autotomy is greater for larger individuals because they have a much slower rate of regeneration, and this may partly explain their greater



different elevations. Dr. Marvin and his students documented that Dusky Salamanders continue to stalk and capture prey at very low temperatures (only a few degrees above freezing). This ability, in part, allows them to occupy a unique niche as predators of small invertebrate animals in forest ecosystems. As long as the fire continues to burn, he relishes the opportunity to guide student research on salamanders in the future.

*"All this worldly wisdom was once the unamiable heresy of some wise man." — Thoreau*

## DR. LAWRENCE J. NELSON OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

**WILL BREWER**, Assistant Professor of Nursing

2003, AAS, Nursing, Northwest Shoals Community College  
2010, BSN, Jacksonville State University • 2011, MSN, Jacksonville State University

**Mr. Will Brewer** joined the college of nursing faculty in 2012. He teaches adult health nursing and introduction to professional nursing in the traditional nursing program. When he graduated from Mars Hill Bible School, Will's career trajectory did not include nursing or education. However, the summer before he entered college Will started working at a local convalescent center and watched how the nurses made an impact on the lives of those they serve. This quickly cancelled his plans to enter medical school and he enrolled at the local community college for nursing classes. During this time, he realized that one day he wanted to teach the nurses of tomorrow. Will earned his Associate of Applied Science in nursing and worked for the Huntsville Hospital system the majority of his bedside career as a clinician in the emergency department. Upon completion of his BSN, he went to work in hospital education teaching advanced cardiovascular life support and pediatric advanced life support. During this time, he also taught numerous cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes for the hospital and the community and is still active in teaching CPR to clinicians and the lay rescuer. Upon completion of his MSN, Will helped to open a small community hospital and worked as the emergency department clinical nurse educator. While he enjoyed his time as clinician, Will knew his calling was to teach nursing. During his time as a hospital nurse, he also taught as an adjunct role for the community college system focusing on clinical care of the emergency and ICU client.

Will's teaching philosophy revolves around several facets: academic excellence, passion, and service. Having a passion for teaching and learning is something that is instilled into each of his students. In nursing, learning occurs in the classroom and in the clinical setting. Will exemplifies his care delivery model to his students in the clinical setting. One very important thing he ensures that his students know is that they need to treat the patient like they would want to be treated. In the classroom, Will uses memory mnemonics and pictures to help his students remember difficult subject matter. Each semester, his students participate in the "Cardiac Movie Awards" where they make up lyrics to a popular song but the words are related to the cardiovascular system. These are just some of the ways that he helps them learn!

Will is a current student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is pursuing his Ph.D. in Nursing Science. His dissertation focus is oral hygiene practices in persons with stroke related dysphagia. After completion of his degree, Will

plans to continue to work with stroke survivorship and medical simulation research.

Will believes that nursing is a wonderful career choice for anyone interested in science and the healthcare field. He is very



grateful for the mentors that helped him choose nursing and he strives to be that role model for the future of nursing. He often shares his personal education and nursing experiences with his students to help them become better clinicians.

*"Before great things can be accomplished, dreams have to be dreamed." — Ida V. Moffett, RN*

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ADVISING

**AMBER PAULK**, Associate Professor, Sociology and Family Studies

2003, B.A. Psychology, Auburn University • 2006, M.S. Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University  
2008, Ph.D. Human Development and Family Studies, Auburn University

Early in her career, **Dr. Amber Paultk** developed a strong interest in the critical role of advising in students' development. She sees her role as an academic advisor as an opportunity to teach outside the classroom. Transformational theory provides the underpinnings of her philosophy of advising, which is guided by a few simple, yet fundamental principles.

**Demonstrate Genuine Interest.** Dr. Paultk believes it is impossible to provide appropriate guidance to students if you do not know who they are. Therefore, she endeavors to be a student of her students. She takes the time to learn about their interests, experiences, and passions. Through intentional conversations, she can introduce the right challenges at the right time and assist students in identifying their professional goals.

**Offer Perspective.** Students often focus on the hurdles ahead and fail to acknowledge the ones they have already overcome. Dr. Paultk believes it is critically important to help students savor every success and acknowledge growth. She tries to help students put setbacks in perspective by sharing her own failures and how they promoted her professional development.

She provides models of coping with failure and helps students learn from mistakes. By letting students know that she does not have all of the answers she hopes to encourage students to take risks.

**Stimulate Growth.** Students perform at the level expected of them, so Dr. Paultk sets high expectations for all of her students. She works with students to establish measurable short- and long-term goals and expects students to work hard toward achieving those goals. Along the way, she provides students with feedback that includes praise as well as constructive criticism and makes it clear that the goal is not perfection, but growth.

**Provide Affirmation.** In order to achieve their highest potential, students must feel good about themselves. Students often feel like imposters, and affirmation helps them push through self-doubt. By demonstrating faith in their abilities, Dr. Paultk gives students the permission to believe in themselves. She actively seeks out opportunities to offer her students support and praise. However, her students also know that with or without success, she sees them as persons of great value. By unconditionally affirming her students, Dr. Paultk provides a space where it is okay to take risks and fail, and acknowledge fears and weaknesses without becoming paralyzed by them. Dr. Paultk's goal is to make her office a safe place where she and her students can work through challenges and learn they are not insurmountable.



Studies at Central Washington University (Ellensburg) for three years before accepting a position at the University of North Alabama in 2011. She is married to Dr. Ryan Zayac, Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of North Alabama, and together they have a three year old daughter, Reese.

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

**ANDREA HUNT**, Assistant Professor, Sociology and Family Studies

2002, B.S. Social and Behavioral Sciences, Rogers State University • 2004, M.A. Sociology, University of South Alabama  
2012, Ph.D. Sociology, Minor in Women's and Gender Studies, North Carolina State University

**Dr. Andrea Hunt** joined UNA in 2013 upon completion of a postdoctoral teaching fellowship at North Carolina State University. As a sociologist, Dr. Hunt is committed to serving the larger community and addressing the social problems that youth and families face today. As a result, she has conducted a variety of community presentations and workshops. For example, she presented anti-bullying programming for several elementary schools, study skills training for adjudicated youth, and college readiness workshops for local high schools. In all, Dr. Hunt has conducted 35 workshops since joining the faculty. Dr. Hunt has also served on 15 different committees or advisory boards at the university, college, or department level.

Dr. Hunt recently partnered with the Shoals Chamber of Commerce to deliver the *Choices* program in local middle schools. Her work encourages youth to graduate high school and pursue higher education. This led to the development of a mentoring program between UNA students and Florence Middle School. Dr. Hunt's commitment to students is evident in her work with early scholars. Dr. Hunt helped develop a partnership with Deshler High School and travels there three times a week to work with students. This spring she taught the first early college class at Sheffield High School. Her work with Sheffield was recently featured in the *Times Daily*.

Dr. Hunt's passion for service can also be seen in her desire to help abused and neglected children in the Shoals. Dr. Hunt was recently appointed as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Dr. Hunt has a strong commitment to making UNA a safer campus. As a member of the Title IX Education and Prevention Advisory Board, she assisted with the development and coordination of UNA's Student Campus Climate Survey. The purpose of the survey was to provide UNA with critical information regarding our campus climate, campus resources, and experiences of our students. Dr. Hunt assisted with a series of research briefs that were released to the campus and Shoals community. Dr. Hunt worked with a small group of undergraduates to teach them how to become peer educators and deliver bystander intervention programming. Their work was featured in the *Times Daily* and led to Dr. Hunt speaking at the "It's on Us" campaign last fall. Dr. Hunt led bystander intervention training for the Students Affairs staff, Residence Life, FYE classes, ADPi sorority, and the Greek organizations in the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Because of her service work on campus and in the

community, Dr. Hunt was featured in a special edition of *Times Daily* on young professionals in the Shoals making a difference. She served as a keynote speaker this summer at the Conquering



Life Retreat which empowers women to thrive and find their passion in life.

Dr. Hunt is dedicated to the university and local community. Most students would agree that she leads by example. Even in her free time, Dr. Hunt encourages her own children (Ruby and AJ) to be of service to others through participation in toy drives, community meals, and meal packing for the hungry.

*"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" — George Eliot*

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi*

## ELEANOR P. GAUNDER PHI KAPPA PHI EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

### KRISTY ODEN, Assistant Professor of Nursing

2000, ADN, Itawamba Community College • 2002, BSN, University of North Alabama  
2003, MSN, University of Alabama at Huntsville • 2011, DNP, University of Alabama at Huntsville

**Dr. Kristy Oden '02** is a native of Mississippi, but has been in the Shoals area for the past 16 years. She is married to Mr. Jered Oden, a UNA graduate of the College of Business, and they have two daughters, Addison who is 9 and Hadley who is 2. She began her nursing career with an Associate Degree from a local community college in 2000 that then brought her to UNA, where she completed her RN-BSN degree online in 2002, one of the programs in which she now teaches. She continued her education at the University of Alabama, Huntsville where she obtained her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus on Family Practice in 2003 and then her Doctorate in Nursing Practice in 2011.

Prior to coming to UNA, Dr. Oden served (the local area) as a Labor and Delivery registered nurse for 5 years and then as a nurse practitioner in the area of adult health and gastroenterology. She continues to maintain an active family nurse practitioner certification through local practice and volunteering at the Shoals Community Clinic.

Serving the University and the local community is a priority for Dr. Oden. She has served, and continues to serve, on a variety of College of Nursing and University committees. She is an active fundraiser for Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. In this effort, she created and donated a quilt as a fundraising effort for her Relay for Life team the past three years. She also founded MUNCH (Making Unforgettable Children less Hungry) in 2011 which has a focus of decreasing hunger in school age children in the local communities. The program has continued to grow over the years and she has been able to meet the demands, helping to reach the goal of decreasing childhood hunger.

Dr. Oden began her career at the University of North Alabama in the traditional nursing department in the fall of 2011. She then transitioned to the online department in the fall of 2013. She currently serves as an Associate Professor in the Online Department with the College of Nursing. With the undergraduate students, she taught courses such as Dosage Calculation and clinicals in the area of Mental Health and Women's Health. She has taught RN-BSN students about Women's Health, Research, and Physical Assessment. Within the Master of Science in Nursing program, she has taught courses in Advanced Research, Nursing Theory, Advanced Pathophysiology, the Capstone Project, and courses in each of the specialized tracts (nurse educator and nurse leader). Within the Physical Assessment course, she has utilized virtual patients and in the Advanced Pathophysiology course she has created evolving case studies of patient care within the online hospital environment. She has embraced the challenge of

engaging students in the online learning environment.

Over the years, Dr. Oden has had many presentations locally, and has represented the College of Nursing and the University through podium and poster presentations at the



international level. Additionally, she has authored and co-authored articles for publication in peer reviewed nursing journals.

She continues to maintain a creative learning environment that promotes excellence in learning through engaging her students. She knows that students who enter her courses are at all stages of their life, career, and even their education. Dr. Oden strives to encourage students, and wants to remind them of one of her favorite quotes by C.S. Lewis, "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

*"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." — C.S. Lewis*

### UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Michelle Eubanks '96, President Elect  
Aaron Irons '99, Vice President  
Derrick Chatman '08, 2nd Vice President  
Linda Vaughan '70, Secretary  
Lucy Trousdale '89, Treasurer  
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Pat Roden '77, Faculty Advisor  
Jan Ingle '85, Public Relations  
Larry '89 and Elaine '86 Softley, Past President  
Carol Lyles '70, Director of Alumni Relations

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Bishop Alexander '09  
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Apreill Curtis Hartsfield '00, Montgomery  
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Leigh '03 & John Prince '00, Northeast Miss  
Mike Thorn '82, East Central Mississippi

**TENNESSEE**  
Jamie Moorer Ellis '08, Greater Nashville Area  
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**TEXAS**  
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Tommy McNeill '69, Houston  
Paul Smith '66, Dallas Metroplex

**DEPARTMENTAL**  
Jeff McCrary '83, UNA Band  
Paul Michael '05, Geography  
Stacy Childers Lee '01, Social Work  
**Y'all** (Young Alumni Lion Leaders)  
Bishop Alexander '09

## message from the ALUMNI PRESIDENT



Douglas Hargett '02

Over the past year, I have had the opportunity to hear the stories of many of our alumni and friends of the University who live in the Shoals area and places far beyond. Those stories and shared memories have continually reminded me of how special our college has been for so long to so many people.

I heard **Dr. Laurentis Barnett '03** talk about how the education he received at UNA prepared him and gave him an edge in the classroom in dental school. I listened to **Nick Lang '16** tell about how his involvement on campus prepared him for and inspired him to pursue a post-graduate degree and career in higher education. I sat in the audience as **Anthony Sparks '06** shared the story about how his time at UNA shaped his personal life and professional career as an author and speaker. I had the chance to meet **Tommy Pirkle '56**, who attended our Alumni Leadership Summit this year and inspired those in attendance to stay connected at UNA for our entire lives. I listened to **Savannah Liles '11 & '14** and **Cassandra Thompson '12** discuss their experiences at UNA and how we can pass those memories on to recruit new students.

I've seen friends of the University, including Bill Norvell, keep our community engaged with what is happening on campus through social media. He has become a recognizable superfan and ambassador of the University. I have seen first-hand how alumni like **Dr. Jonathan Frederick '00**, **Johnny Simpson '90**, and many others volunteer their time, use their talents, and apply the education they received at UNA to serve others in the community. These individuals are the tip of the iceberg. Their stories and your own are important to share with high school students who are considering UNA for college, current students who are creating their own memories, and alumni and friends who have a common bond.

Not only are the stories of our University's alumni and friends encouraging, but UNA is flourishing right now from the story currently being written by the Kitts family. President Kitts, Dena, and their two boys, Colin and Corbin, came to UNA less than two years ago. They fully immersed themselves on campus, in the community, and around the United States as they travelled to meet our alumni. Their constant presence and passion for the University has made the campus feel like home, and it has made our alumni, friends, and students feel welcome and wanted on campus year round.

Finally, our alumni association has been blessed to have **Carol Lyles '70** serve as the Director of Alumni Relations for the past 18 years. At the end of this year, Carol will give up the reins as the consistent smiling face our alumni see at almost every event on and off campus. Under her leadership, our alumni association has thrived. Her hard work, high energy, and genuine love of UNA and its alumni and friends have been witnessed by everyone fortunate enough to have come in contact with her. So many of the things she has done have gone unnoticed, but her thumbprint on the University will last for generations to come. We hope you enjoy your retirement, Carol, and we appreciate all that you have done for UNA.

I hope to see you on campus this fall and get a chance to hear your story. If you have not had an opportunity to come back to campus this year, please make plans to do so. Find a time to visit by yourself or with your family and friends.

**Roar Lions!**

**Douglas B. Hargett, '02, 2015-2016 Alumni Association President**



## To everything there is a season...

By Hadley Skalnik '16, Student Worker

**Carol Lyles '70** has lived out her love for the UNA community in various ways since graduating. However, her greatest role in serving her alma mater has been in her time as the Alumni Director for the University. This December, Carol will retire after 18 years of devoted service to the University, leaving behind a legacy of connection and devoted service to her alma mater.



Carol Spalding Lyles '70

Lyles was hired as the Alumni Director in 1997 after years of serving as a volunteer with Alumni, including president of the UNA Alumni Association. Since then, the Alumni Association has grown in scope, volunteers, involvement, and has gained coast-to-coast and international presence. Furthermore, the Association has hosted successful events multiple times a year including festivals, fundraisers, local club meetings and outings, and Homecoming alumni awards banquets. Lyles has also served as Editor of the *UNA Magazine* since becoming a UNA staff member.

But those who know Lyles do not only mark her accomplishments based on her time spent in the office. Lyles is a known advocate for the relationships the Association encourages among alumni, friends, and community. In fact, many would say her legacy is not just based on money raised or increased involvement, but in the relationships and connections she made surrounding people's mutual love for the University.

"I believe college truly is the best time of your life," Lyles said. "The campus community becomes your home, and your friends become your family. That's what I want the alumni to feel. I want them to always return home to campus to see people who have that same love for UNA and remember their special time as the best time of their life and what influenced their journey."

During her time as an undergraduate she recalls being involved in the Pride of Dixie Lionettes, working on the *Diorama* staff, serving on the homecoming court, and being involved with the Association of Women Commuters. Carol credits the University and her close ties to campus with her decision to stay in Florence and raise her family.

As for life after retirement, she plans to focus on spending time with her children and five grandchildren, and refocusing by being an attendee instead of facilitator. She says she'll miss the people she's met through this job the most—volunteers, student workers, co-workers, and countless alumni and friends of the university.



Melissa Pettus Mason '10, Melody Stewart '06, and Carol



Carol and George Lindsey '52



Carol, Leigh Carl McElyea Corum '09, and Rhonda Derrick



Michael "Nick" Nichols '78 and Carol



Carol and Noelle Ingle '14



Ronald McKinnon '09 and Carol



Amy Bishop '06, Carol, and Hadley Skalnik '16



Will Stutts '70, Vicki Lawrence and Carol



Carol and Judy Jackson '91 and '02



Robert Potts, Santa and Carol

I just read in the President's Communiqué that you will be retiring. I really hate to see you go. You ARE UNA!

Seriously, the work you have done for this institution is significant and immeasurable. Furthermore, there is nobody I know of who has that database-style mind of yours that can instantly recall the most minuscule fact about one of our alums. Moreover, you have been a great friend and colleague.

While I know all of us need some relaxation after a job well-done, you will truly be missed.

— Andrew Luna

Thank you for everything, Ms. Carol, and I agree with everyone when I say that your leadership, charisma, and passion for the University will be missed after your retirement in December. You are one of the reasons I wanted to get more involved with the University after I graduated in '09 and '12. So many alums who have reconnected with UNA are here because of you and Alumni Relations.

I look forward to taking on the new role of 2nd Vice-President later this Fall and that could not have been possible without great leaders like you, Derrick Chatman, Douglas Hargett, and a host of others who inspire UNA Alumni to step up and get involved with the University and their local communities. Thank you for believing in us all, Ms. Carol.

— Bishop Alexander

Carol....  
I just read that you are retiring this December. You are going to be missed! You have done so much for this University. You are a rock star!

— Tammy W. Jacques

And as for your tenure at UNA ending—I'd be lying if I said I wasn't getting a little teary-eyed reading this bit of news. You embody UNA and personify all that I and so many others grew to love about the university. It's not just a school, it's a home. And you have been one of the reasons I want to make sure it has the same impact on future students that it had on me.

— Will Hodges



# Q&A WITH

## UNA's Vice President for University Advancement, Dr. Deborah Shaw

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*



Dr. Deborah Shaw with sister Kathy Haraway

**Dr. Deborah Shaw '82** is no stranger to the University of North Alabama, but that doesn't mean there isn't more to discover. *UNA Magazine* sat down with Shaw for a quick Q&A to find out a little more about UNA's newest VP!

**Q.** Name?

**A.** Deborah Lee Shaw

**Q.** Where were you born?

**A.** Savannah, Tennessee

**Q.** What did your parents do for a living?

**A.** My father was a welder and worked various construction jobs his entire career. My mother was a stay-at-home mom until she started working in retail when I was a teenager; later she began working in the lab of the Packaging Corp. of America in Counce, Tennessee. By this time, my parents were divorced and Mom supported three children by working tough night and weekend shift hours. She really taught me the value of hard work. She never cut corners to get a job done.

**Q.** Do you have any siblings?

**A.** My sister Kathy attended UNA and currently works in the Human Resources Office on campus. My brother Pat, who was one year younger than me, died when he was only 21. I am very close to my niece Toni and nephew Tyler. Both are graduates of UNA.

**Q.** What attracted you to UNA for this position?

**A.** The biggest attraction was the opportunity to give back to the university that provided me with enriching experiences, leading me to a lifetime career in higher education. It was also tempting to live in the same city as my sister and nephew. Third, who would not want to live in the Shoals community – a place which embraces the arts and education, as well as provides a family atmosphere?

**Q.** What are some of your biggest challenges as the new VP?

**A.** One challenge is learning new procedures and processes of a new university. No matter how many years I have worked in higher education, every university does things a bit differently. I also have so many people to meet – alumni, faculty and staff, and city leaders. On top of my regular duties, I also have a campaign to lead, and raising money for UNA is top on my list. Being able to effectively multi-task is a challenge, and a necessity.

**Q.** What's your favorite thing about Florence?

**A.** I love that almost every single weekend there are activities in which to participate – arts and crafts shows, music festivals, etc. I love that Florence is full of caring individuals who have welcomed me with open arms. I also am grateful for a community that appreciates and supports the university.

**Q.** What inspires you?

**A.** I've always been motivated to make things better, to not accept being mediocre. Therefore, I am inspired to work hard to achieve great things. Goals inspire me. People inspire me. I was encouraged to return to Florence by inspiring people, such as our university president, Ken Kitts, and the chair of our Board of Trustees, Marty Abrams. I am inspired by colleagues on campus who are willing to go above and beyond to make UNA great. Those are people I want to spend time with.

**Q.** What are some of your hobbies?

**A.** I love to travel the world, and my most special place to visit is Italy – anywhere in Italy; I've visited about seven times. Reading is a luxury, since it's hard to find time to do it, but I love a good book. When I am not cheering for the Lions, I enjoy a good Auburn football game.

**Q.** What is your favorite book?

**A.** Because I read a lot of educational literature, I really enjoy books that keep me on the edge of my seat, such as a John Grisham legal thriller; but Pat Conroy is my all-time favorite author. Another favorite author is Patti Callahan Henry, for a good beach read.

**Q.** What is your favorite movie?

**A.** Shawshank Redemption is my favorite movie of all time. I never tire of watching it. I am also addicted to Game of Thrones and The Walking Dead. When you binge watch, they are like one, long movie.

**Q.** What is your favorite food or drink?

**A.** I love almost any kind of seafood, but especially steamed, Cajun-flavored shrimp. My favorite drink is Diet Dr. Pepper.





## From UNA to Billy Reid, Alumnus **KRYSTINA BOLE** is Making the Most of Her Opportunities

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

"There were 13 other people going for the same award," said internationally-renowned clothing designer, Billy Reid. "In many ways Krystina had it a lot tougher, as this is our corporate office. So more eyes were on her, and it's our good friends and family who are the customers," he said.

Reid is speaking about **Krystina Bole '10**, a University of North Alabama graduate who was recently selected as his Store Director of the Year, which was clearly a tough award to win. But Bole wasn't always with Billy Reid. She, like so many others, started her journey into fashion after receiving her degree from UNA. However, her journey toward high fashion started a year later.

"A year after graduation I connected with two girls starting their own clothing line, ellelauri," said Bole. "They were just starting out and were interested in sales reps in my area. Their brand didn't have any other reps for the company, so my ideas were taken quickly and helped grow their company rapidly," she said.

Bole said that it was a baptism by fire as she was thrown into the world of fashion, but she used her knowledge from working with sales reps in the wedding industry during college. With ellelauri, Bole would travel the local area and surrounding states, booking appointments with boutique owners, collecting orders for the following season and breaking down trade shows.

One year after working for ellelauri, Bole took a trip to New York to meet the owners in person. Needless to say, they were impressed. It was during that trip that she was offered a full-time position in the Big Apple.

"Before that day I had worked so hard to get to where I wanted to be. I knew I wanted to be in New York and I had to make it happen. I worked and worked, saving every commission penny I made as

a sales rep, while also working a separate full-time job. I made it my goal to get there no matter what it took."

Sometimes, though, what you want and need are two different things. Having never lived anywhere other than Florence, Alabama, Bole said that her biggest fear was not having a support system in New York. "It's fulfilling making your dreams come true, but what does it mean to you if you don't have the people you love with you along the way? Being back home felt right at the moment."

And it probably didn't hurt that home, in this case, was also home to renowned designers like Billy Reid and Natalie Chanin.

"After deciding to move back, I knew the only way I could continue working in the fashion industry was with Billy Reid," said Bole. "As soon as I got back I accepted a job in the Florence shop. I immediately fell back into the Alabama lifestyle with friends and family, and I fell in love with my job."

Business success has come along with the change as well; Bole said in the past year the store has more than doubled sales percentages and gained solid clientele from surrounding areas. But Bole has also experienced personal success too, as is evident by her recent honor from the head honcho himself.

"Krystina has taken over the shop and met every challenge with self-initiative," said Reid. "She's built a great team that respects her and loves working for her. There's a vibe in the shop that is warm, social and hospitable. Not to mention, her shop has grown very impressively."

And while the Florence store is growing, some may still question why Reid would choose to house an American luxury brand and its corporate headquarters in a small Southern town. "Being a part of this community

and helping it grow is something we really believe strongly in," said Reid. Additionally, Reid said being close to UNA and having access to the Department of Human Environmental Sciences (HES) has been beneficial. Reid said they currently have several interns from the program and employees who are alums of the University.

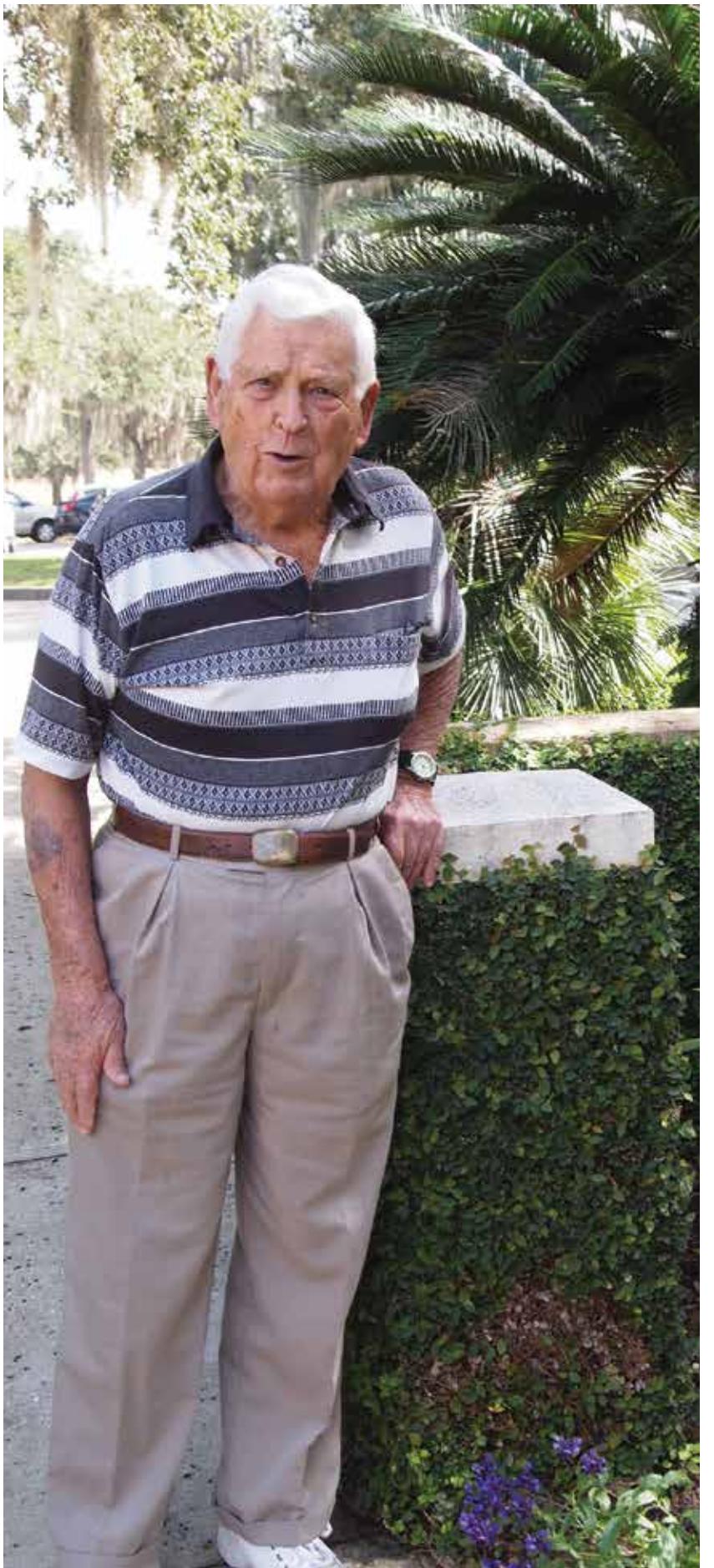
Bole credits her HES degree from UNA's College of Education and Human Sciences with helping her get to that next step.

"I wouldn't have made it this far without Mrs. [Jane] Wilson's sewing lab sessions or her obsession with the history of fashion," she said. "I also think it helped me learn more about what is expected. Mrs. Wilson always taught us that nothing in fashion would be easy. Thankfully working hard comes natural to me."

As mentioned in the beginning, that hard work certainly paid off. Bole received her Store Director of the Year award at Reid's Shindig during their biannual symposium. Bole said she put in two years before that night and watched several deserving people go onstage and accept the award. "I honestly never thought that I would win. In my mind I thought a shop with more volume, customers and staff would always have the upper hand on the Florence location." Clearly, that wasn't the case.

As for her life path so far, Bole said she wouldn't change a thing about it.

"Stepping out of my comfort zone and into the unknown was an exhilarating experience that helped me discover things about myself that I had never known before," she said. "No matter how big, small, scary or unrealistic your dream may seem to everyone else – go for it anyway. You are the only designer of your destiny."



Russ Rowe from Sun City Center in Florida

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT RUSSELL ROWE

By Dr. Judith Jackson '91 & '02,  
Associate VP, Advancement Services

Russell Rowe's fondest memories are of his two mentors at Florence State Teachers College, Gladys "Glad" Shepard, professor of theatre and former Central High School counselor, and Coach Eddie Flowers. He credits Miss Shepard and Coach Flowers as the driving forces who helped him grow from an immature youth into a responsible young adult.

Russell gives Miss Shepard credit for introducing him to the concept of higher education, and says she inspired him to change from settling for poor grades to making the Dean's List every quarter. He credits Coach Flowers with recognizing the greatness that was inside him and stretching him to accomplish it. He calls them both "my guardian angels" and says "they both continue to walk beside me and guide me when I need an answer to a problem. Miss Shepard spent five years in high school and two years in college with me. Coach always welcomed me to his office in the gym. He was a taskmaster but the very fond memories of both have helped me make decisions in my life."

Russell Rowe was born and raised in Florence. His grandparents lived across the street from St. Joseph Catholic School, and his family lived on Plum Street. Russell attended Maud Lindsey Kindergarten, Underwood Elementary School, Gilbert Elementary School and Central High School. While at Florence State Teachers College, he met Coach Flowers, excelled in all his physical education classes, and eventually played basketball for Flowers. Russell has many tales of adventures traveling with the FSTC basketball team.

He attended Florence State Teachers College for two years, and then he joined the Navy to serve his country after the Pearl Harbor attack. He originally trained to be a pilot, but decided he wanted his feet to be on the ground, so he attended a special gunnery mortar school and instructed pilots-in-training how to hit their targets.

After finishing his military obligation in the Navy, Rowe earned his BA from the University of Alabama in psychology. He wanted to be a clinical psychologist, but UA did not offer that advanced degree, so he enrolled in Vanderbilt, majored in social work, and earned his master's degree in 1950. While at Vanderbilt, he met his wife, Hester, who was one of the few students at the time to have a car on campus.

Job offers were not plentiful after Russell earned his graduate degree, and when he received an offer from the Army to develop a program to work with servicemen who had psychological issues from being in combat, he accepted the challenge. Russell worked with each patient for two years, using the Menninger Clinic treatment theories. He worked in this career for 26 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1972 in Denver, Colorado.

Rowe moved to Oregon to become a cattle baron, and while there he was offered a position to establish mental health services in Oregon, which had very few such facilities at the time. He accepted this new challenge and planned to retire from his second career within a few years, but ended up working 15 years in this position. He finally realized he could not tolerate the cold weather, however, and started visiting independent living facilities in warmer climates. He ended up in Sun City, Florida, where he has been for the past 16 years.

Rowe recently made a sizable donation to an existing H.A. Flowers Scholarship Endowment for junior or senior students with financial need who are majoring in physical education and preparing to teach at the elementary or high school level. He invites others who experienced life-long influences by their faculty to remember their legacy by giving to existing scholarships.



## Major Dwayne Williams MEMORIAL CURRENT USE SCHOLARSHIP

**Major Dwayne Williams '83** was a native of Jacksonville, Ala. Williams received a football scholarship from UNA and graduated with a degree in marketing. It was at the university that he met his wife of 18 years, the former Tammy Cooper of Florence.

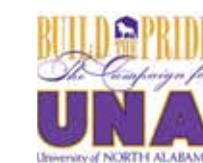
Enlisting in the United States Army in January of 1984, he served as a soldier for four years before making the decision to attend Officer Candidate School. Williams' military education included the Basic Airborne course, Jungle Warfare School, Ranger School, Adjutant General's Corps Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, and the Army Command and General Staff College. He served in the Persian Gulf War and was assigned to the Pentagon in July of 2001.

Williams' life and career were ended abruptly by the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, when a plane flew into the Pentagon.

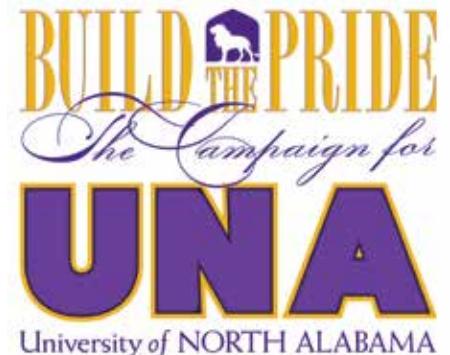
The Old Skool Bash Committee of UNA Homecoming reunions, under the direction of **Carnette Johnson '83**, has established the Major Dwayne Williams Memorial Current Use Scholarship. The scholarship guidelines are as follows:

To the extent permitted by law, priority of consideration shall be given to a student that is an incoming freshman whose enrollment would enhance the diversity of the University's student population, thereby improving the quality of the University's educational experience and product; or a current enrolled student with a minimum 2.5 GPA whose admittance enhances the diversity at the University of North Alabama. The recipient recommendations will be selected by the Office of Student Financial Services in consultation with the Chief Diversity Officer.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING, GO TO  
<https://alumni.una.edu/dwilliamsmemorial>



For additional information about establishing a scholarship, contact Deborah Hensley, UNA Box 5113, Florence, Alabama, 35632, or [dlhensley@una.edu](mailto:dlhensley@una.edu).



# University of NORTH ALABAMA ALUMNI

*'The true meaning of life is to plant trees,  
under whose shade you do not expect to sit.'*

Author Nelson Henderson's famous quote is often used to remind us that the future rests on the shoulders of the present. The University of North Alabama Alumni Association has made a commitment to the Build the Pride Campaign to grow our scholarship base by making matching gifts to established scholarships that have yet to endow. All gifts made to current endowments prior to December 31, 2016, will be matched one to one, up to a \$50,000 maximum.

We hope that you will take advantage of the match in stretching our goals to get these scholarships to endowment level:

Greater Montgomery Endowed Scholarship  
Lauderdale County Alumni Club Scholarship  
Limestone County Alumni Scholarship  
Central Mississippi Alumni Endowed Scholarship  
Jackson County/Scottsboro Alumni Endowed Scholarship  
Colbert County Alumni Club Scholarship  
Camelot Endowed Scholarship for Residence Hall Students  
\* Greater Birmingham Area Alumni Scholarship  
\* Decatur/Morgan County Endowed Scholarship  
\* Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Scholarship

*\*endowed*

Please call or email the Office of ALUMNI RELATIONS at  
256-765-4201 or [alumni1@una.edu](mailto:alumni1@una.edu) if you have any questions about this scholarship offer.

**ROAR LIONS!**

## COLBERT COUNTY / LAUDERDALE COUNTY CHALLENGE

"As we live in the shadow of UNA and have the largest alumni presence of all clubs, I feel we [Colbert and Lauderdale County] should set the standard for all Clubs. We have some "catching up to do" and now is the time! As a Colbert County resident, I challenge Lauderdale County to rise to the occasion and use this opportunity to move quickly toward an endowed scholarship! The race is on!"

— Lucy Trousdale '89, Treasurer, UNA Alumni Association



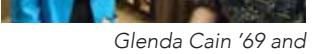
Steve "Trash" Richerson '84, Alice Gross '88, and Robert Allen Holder



Ali White and Duell Aldridge '08



Karen Gruber, Susie Shoemaker '84, Amy Flippo Montgomery '88, and Laura Connolly '84



Glenda Cain '69 and Anthony Balch '72



Adam St. John '14 and Bailey



Evan Tucker '01 and Mandy Laws Hughes '03

Susie Shoemaker '84 and Tonya Holley '87

## THEATRE REUNION A BIG HIT ON NORTON STAGE

By Taylor Goodwin, *Student Intern*

The University of North Alabama recently brought alumni, past and present participants, and current students together to represent nearly 50 years of UNA Theatre in a reunion. Over 100 guests gathered in and around Norton Auditorium and the Lindsey Theatre to celebrate the progress of the program.

"The UNA Theatre program is at a major turning point in our history," said Dr. David Ruebhausen, UNA professor of Theatre. "With the program growing in such positive ways, we felt it was time to bring everyone together to share the changes with them and let everyone know that they are needed to be a part of the future of the program."

UNA Theatre began to see advancement when the university opened the Lindsey Theatre as the home of the program in 2012. In the spring of 2016, the program launched a Bachelor of Arts degree in which students can pursue general theatre or concentrations in either acting or design and technology. Finally, the program moved to the Department of Entertainment Industry.

"This was an opportunity to bring the family together and let them know that just because they are no longer at

UNA, doesn't mean they aren't a part of the present and future of the program," Ruebhausen said. "For the current theatre students, they had the opportunity to see that they are a part of something so much larger than themselves. They got to meet and network with professionals in multiple entertainment fields. They got advice and encouragement for their future plans."

"Dr. Dave and staff put on an amazing event for us alums. It gave me more than just a night of reminiscing. It reignited my passion for the arts, and in this field that is key," said **Daryl Crittenden '03**.

Robert Allen Holder, former faculty member, said, "Norton Auditorium's massive stage was transformed into a place I had never seen before, although I had worked there for 25 years. We became the ghosts from the past interacting with those who continue to keep theatre alive at UNA. David Ruebhausen and his committee are responsible for the biggest and most successful theatre experience in the history of our program at UNA."

This reunion received such praise that Ruebhausen said he expects attendance for the next reunion to double.



*"Memories of a Child Survivor of the Holocaust"*

## Inge Auerbacher

Join us to hear her amazing story of survival!

Thursday, September 15, 7:00 p.m.

Norton Auditorium

University of North Alabama



As a three year old, Inge Auerbacher experienced Kristallnacht, *the Night of Broken Glass*, and spent three years in the Terezin concentration camp. Twenty of Inge's relatives were killed during the Holocaust. Inge is the only child survivor from the State of Wuerttemberg who was deported from Stuttgart, Germany, to the concentration camps.

Ms. Auerbacher's book, *I am a Star*, will be available for sale for \$6.00 cash only.

For more information or to donate to the UNA DES, visit: [www.una.edu/distinguished-events](http://www.una.edu/distinguished-events), or call 1-800-TALK UNA.



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This program is presented by the University of North Alabama Distinguished Events Series.



Hartselle High School Students



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By patronizing our Corporate Partners, you positively impact the quality and success of the UNA Athletics Department. Our corporate partners need to see a return on their investment and know that we, the Lion Nation, spend our money in the Shoals. Below, we have listed our 2016-17 Corporate Partners (as of July 2016). Thanks for your support, and Roar Lions!

— Mark D. Linder, *Athletics Director*

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Jimmy John's  
Legend's Steakhouse  
Lenny's Sub Shop  
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Sbarro Italian Cooking  
Steak-N-Stuff  
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Agent Bill Alexander  
Agent Steve Pierce



## 2016 FALL ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

### CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	OPPONENT
9/2/16	Jacksonville State University
9/17/16	Rhodes College Invitational
10/1/16	UAH Invitational
10/7/16	Watson Ford Invitational
10/22/16	Gulf South Conference
11/5/16	NCAA Division II Regionals

### FOOTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	SITE
9/1/16	6:00	at Jacksonville State	Jacksonville, Ala.
<b>9/17/16</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>* VALDOSTA STATE</b>	<b>HOME</b>
9/24/16	6:00	* at West Alabama	Livingston, Ala.
<b>10/1/16</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>* WEST GEORGIA</b>	<b>HOME</b>
10/8/16	6:00	* at Florida Tech	Melbourne, Fla.
<b>10/15/16</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>* SHORTER • HOMECOMING</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/22/16</b>	<b>6:00</b>	<b>NORTH GREENVILLE</b>	<b>HOME</b>
10/29/16	2:00	* at Delta State	Cleveland, Miss.
<b>11/5/16</b>	<b>1:30</b>	<b>* WEST FLORIDA • PREVIEW DAY</b>	<b>HOME</b>
11/12/16	2:00	* at Mississippi College	Clinton, Miss.

### SOCCER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
9/2/16	7:30 p.m.	Columbus State	Columbus, Ga.
9/4/16	2:00 p.m.	Eckerd	Columbus, Ga.
<b>2016 LION SHOOTOUT</b>			
<b>9/9/16</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Mississippi College</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/9/16</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Tampa</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/11/16</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Nova Southeastern</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/11/16</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Mississippi College</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/11/16</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Nova Southeastern</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/14/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tampa</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/14/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Shorter</b>	<b>Rome, Ga.</b>
<b>9/18/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Lee</b>	<b>Cleveland, Tenn.</b>
<b>9/21/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Alabama Huntsville</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/25/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* West Alabama</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/28/16</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>* Spring Hill</b>	<b>Mobile, Ala.</b>
<b>10/2/16</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>* West Florida</b>	<b>Pensacola, Fla.</b>
<b>10/12/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Delta State</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/16/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Mississippi College</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/19/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* West Georgia</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/23/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Valdosta State • Senior Night</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/26/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Christian Brothers</b>	<b>Memphis, Tenn.</b>
<b>10/29/16</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Union University</b>	<b>Jackson, Tenn.</b>

### VOLLEYBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
<b>UNA VOLLEYBALL CLASSIC</b>			
<b>9/2/16</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>MARTIN METHODIST</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/2/16</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>NORTHWOOD</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/3/16</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>TIFFIN</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/3/16</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>TREVECCA NAZARENE</b>	<b>HOME</b>

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
<b>INDY INVITATIONAL</b>			
<b>9/9/16</b>	<b>11:30 a.m. (EST)</b>	<b>West Texas A&amp;M</b>	<b>Indianapolis, Ind.</b>
<b>9/9/16</b>	<b>5:30 p.m. (EST)</b>	<b>Truman State</b>	<b>Indianapolis, Ind.</b>
<b>9/10/16</b>	<b>Noon (EST)</b>	<b>Ashland</b>	<b>Indianapolis, Ind.</b>
<b>9/10/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. (EST)</b>	<b>Saginaw Valley State</b>	<b>Indianapolis, Ind.</b>
<b>9/13/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* WEST ALABAMA</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/16/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. (EST)</b>	<b>* Shorter</b>	<b>Rome, Ga.</b>
<b>9/17/16</b>	<b>2:00 p.m. (EST)</b>	<b>* Lee</b>	<b>Cleveland, Tenn.</b>
<b>9/23/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* UNION</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/24/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* CHRISTIAN BROTHERS</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>9/27/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m. (EST)</b>	<b>* West Georgia</b>	<b>Carrollton, Ga.</b>
<b>9/29/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* UAH</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/1/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/7/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m. (EST)</b>	<b>* Valdosta State</b>	<b>Valdosta, Ga.</b>
<b>10/8/16</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* West Florida</b>	<b>Pensacola, Fla.</b>
<b>10/11/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* West Alabama</b>	<b>Livingston, Ala.</b>

### OCTOBER 14-15 SOUTH REGION CROSSOVER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
<b>10/18/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* WEST GEORGIA</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/21/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* LEE</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/22/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* SHORTER</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>10/28/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Christian Brothers</b>	<b>Memphis, Tenn.</b>
<b>10/29/16</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Union</b>	<b>Jackson, Tenn.</b>
<b>11/1/16</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* UAH</b>	<b>Huntsville, Ala.</b>
<b>11/4/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* Mississippi College</b>	<b>Clinton, Miss.</b>
<b>11/11/16</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* WEST FLORIDA</b>	<b>HOME</b>
<b>11/12/16</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>* VALDOSTA STATE</b>	<b>HOME</b>

\* Denotes Gulf South Conference (All times Central unless noted)

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Ande Jones '76 & '85 and Ashley Cozart

Former longtime UNA softball coach Ande Jones (1983-94) sent the following note to current head coach Ashley Cozart following UNA's 2016 NCAA Division II Softball National Championship.

"Thank you, Ashley, for putting together this wonderful group of young women! They have thrilled, inspired, and brought such joy to so many! And as I've told you before, I believe a team takes on the personality of their coach and that's been demonstrated over and over by this team with their heart, love, positive spirit, unselfishness, and high character—a reflection of you. What a great example of TEAM y'all have been to us all. The memories will last a lifetime!"

**TRAVEL**  
*with the Lions!*

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**SHADES OF IRELAND**  
March 15 – 24, 2017



**MAGICAL RHINE & MOSELLE**  
October 8-16, 2016



Dena and Ken Kitts



Alicia Haataja '03 and Scott Haataja '93



Debbie Shaw '82, Haley Brink '08 and '13, Barbie Terry, and Jo Ann Thomas '69



Will Culver, Sybil Cleveland '84 with Claudia '90 and Tom Ross '80



Steve '64 and Sherian Logan with Derby horse



# CLASS NOTES

## 1980s

**Malinda Hoffman ('83)** is the new administrator for the Gardens of Talladega senior retirement community. Hoffman is a licensed assisted living administrator. She has Bachelor of Social Work and a Bachelor of Science in sociology degrees from UNA. Prior to joining the Gardens of Talladega team, she served as the administrator of Country Place Senior Living in Winfield and held several other management positions in nursing homes and in short-term rehabilitation centers.

**Judy Wetherbee ('85)** was appointed to the Tennessee State Board of Accountancy in October 2015 as the public member. Judy is the Owner and CFO of Trafalgar Enterprises, Inc. in Nashville, Tenn. She has over 25 years of experience in the accounting and finance fields with an extensive background in mergers and acquisitions.

**Caryn Hairell ('88, '98 & '11)** has joined the Muscle Shoals City School Board as the Career Academy Director. She holds a bachelor's, two Master's, and an Ed.S. from the University.

## 1990s

**Tracy Blalock ('90)** is currently the Band Director for New Hope High School in Mississippi.

**April Potter ('95)** has announced the re-launch of April Potter Agency (APA). Potter brings to her agency 20 years of experience in the gospel music field. In 1996, she began working for The

Harper Agency, and later formed her own company in 2002, where she represented some of the most popular names in gospel music. She returned to work for Harper in 2010 for two more years, before she left to homeschool her daughter. Since that time, she's worked as a freelance consultant in multiple areas of the industry, including consultant, management, marketing, radio, publicity, and booking. Potter, a graduate of UNA, lives in Nashville with her husband, Greg Holloman, and their daughter, Chloe.

**Howard Broadfoot ('95)** has joined FreightCar America, Inc. (NASDAQ: RAIL) as Vice President, Manufacturing. Prior to joining the company, Broadfoot was the VP of Operations of Electro-Mechanical Corporation with multi-plant, multi-product line responsibility in the electrical transmission, distribution, and control business for seven years. He also held senior operations leadership roles with Thomas and Betts, Newell-Rubbermaid, and the ZF Group America. Broadfoot is a native of northern Alabama and graduated with a bachelor's in Industrial Management and an MBA from UNA, where he also participated for four years in varsity athletics. In addition to his college education, he holds various industry certifications such as the ASQ six-sigma black-belt champion designation and a master APICS certification in Global Supply Chain Management.

**Jeff Madden ('96 & '08)** recently accepted a position as Muscle Shoals High School assistant principal. He holds both a bachelor's and a

master's degree from the University.

## 2000s

**Kristy Lott ('00)** received a Bachelor of Music at UNA, her master's of vocal pedagogy from Belmont University, and her certification in Orff-Schulwerk Level in 2012. She has been nominated for Teacher of the Year. Before working at Clay Elementary School in Clay, Ala., she taught at two junior highs and two high schools. She also taught piano or voice at two academies, and for a special needs summer program. She has been her school's choice for TOTY five different times.

**Chris Estave ('01)**, Vice President of Mortgage Lending at Bank Independent, has accepted an appointment to the faculty of Alabama Banking School in Mobile as Residential Lending instructor. He will join a teaching staff of more than 25 bankers and industry professionals for the school's 41<sup>st</sup> semester this summer. As a member of the residential faculty, Estave will teach a freshman-level course that will cover all areas of residential lending including receipt of applications, analyzing applications, credit scoring and regulations, and customer satisfaction issues. Estave is a 2012 graduate of the Alabama Banking School. He and his wife Alyson reside in Muscle Shoals.

**Chad Holden ('02, '05 & '10)** has received his Bachelor's, Master's, and Ed.S. degrees from UNA. Holden was recently named the Principal at Muscle Shoals High School.

**Kevin Davis ('02, '05 & '10)** holds two bachelor's and a master's degree from the University. Davis is currently the Principal at Muscle Shoals Middle School. He is currently enrolled in the University's Ed.S. Program.

**Kelli Nichols ('02)** was named Assistant Principal at Muscle Shoals High School in Muscle Shoals, Ala. Nichols received a bachelor's degree from the University.

**Lindsey Thompson ('03)** has been named the Assistant Coach for the nationally-ranked Itawamba Community College Indians. Thompson is a former catcher for the University of North Alabama and played for Head Coach Jeremy Reece. While at UNA, she was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference (GSC) selection and was chosen as the team MVP in 2002. Thompson earned her bachelor's degree in Fitness Management from the University of North Alabama.

**Alan Willingham ('04 & '08)** is the Principal at McBride Elementary School. He has received his bachelor's, master's, and Ed.S. degrees from the University.

**Brian Lindsey ('04 & '14)** is the Superintendent of Muscle Shoals City Schools in Muscle Shoals, Ala. He has received a bachelor's, two master's, and an Ed.S. degree from the University.

**Denise Woods ('06)** currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Muscle Shoals City Schools in Muscle Shoals, Ala. She holds both a master's and an Ed.S. degree from the University.

## 2010s

**Will Hodges ('10)** recently accepted a position with Pricewaterhouse as a Public Relations Manager for the advisory line of services. He and his wife currently reside in Oklahoma. They have two daughters.

**Dr. Reema Elalam Simon ('11)** received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Alabama. Simon is planning to continue her medical training in family medicine at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News, Va.

**Chase Hutcheson ('11)** grew up in Phil Campbell, Ala. and graduated from Phil Campbell High School. He received his undergraduate degree from UNA before attending law school at the University of Alabama School of Law. He was admitted to the Alabama Bar in September of 2015. After working at the law firm of Bedford, Rogers, & Bowling, P.C., in Russellville, Ala., Hutcheson has now moved back to Florence to continue his legal career with Potts & Young Attorneys, LLP.

**Maryanne Fults ('16)** is the Director of the Rogersville Chamber of Commerce. Fults graduated from the University with a degree in Public Communications. While enrolled at UNA she served as a member of Lambda Pi Eta honor society and Phi Mu Fraternity.

**Luke Wingo ('16)**, UNA senior quarterback, received the 2016 Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy as the top male student-athlete in the league.

## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Forrest Knight** has been named the 2016 PING All-South Region team announced by the Gulf Coaches Association of America. Knight was also an All-South Region selection in 2015 and earned the GCAA All-American honors. This year he posted 72.8 stroke average for the combined fall and spring seasons over 34 rounds. He previously earned All-Gulf South Conference and All-GSC Tournament honors this spring.

**Jason Brashier** is the Dean of the College of Business for Freed-Hardeman University. Brashier has been a member of the business faculty since 2005. For the past three years, he has been the Director of Institutional Effectiveness and the liaison with the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges. Brashier holds a doctorate degree in Business Administration from Northcentral University, a master's degree in management and a bachelor's degree in business administration from UNA. Brashier and his wife April ('00) have three children: Ava, Miles, and Amos.



# ALUMNI PRIDE



Eve Rhea '02, Sarah Emerson '15, Vincent Saylor '05, Walter Hartley '15, Jordan Graham '14, Elizabeth Tyson '15, Kekoria Greer '15, Dena Kitts, Ken Kitts, Ethan Cagle '13, Chris Burrell '02, and Will Riley '13



Raegan Brown, Jason Brown, Reese Brown, and Emily Brown '03



Matthew, Drew, Davis and Treva Hadley '06 with Montgomery Biscuits mascot, Gravy



Melody Stewart '06, Evelyn and Rebecca Mann '00



# IN MEMORY

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**William Luckey Crocker, Ed.D.**, passed away on July 13. Crocker graduated from Oak Grove High School in 1944, and enlisted in the Navy. He attended the University of Alabama and in 1983, the University of North Alabama conferred upon him an L.H.D. degree.

From 1947 to 1957, Crocker was a teacher, principal, and coach in Alabama schools. In 1957, he joined Florence State Teachers College as a professor. After a teaching stint at Rutgers, in 1961, Crocker returned to UNA until his retirement in 1983 as the Dean of Faculty and Instruction. Crocker served the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for 20 years reviewing and evaluating Latin American schools for accreditation. He also made visits for The Commission on Colleges and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Even after retirement he loved his work, UNA, and his community. He was a long time member of the UNA President's Cabinet and served a term as its chairman. He was a member of the UNA Foundation Board and a member of the UNA Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee and UNA Sportsman's Club. In 2001, UNA presented him with a lifetime achievement award.

Crocker served on the City of Florence Civil Service Board. He was a 48-year member of the Florence Downtown Lions Club. Recently he received the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for Dedicated Humanitarian Services. He was a member

and past president of the Alabama 60 plus Golfing Association and, for more than 50 years, was a Freemason. Crocker was also an active member of Woodmont Baptist Church for more than 50 years.

**Mr. Thomas Risher** was a professor, educator, and a professional musician for over fifty years. Mr. Risher passed away this summer at the age of 65.

He was a percussion instructor at the University of North Alabama, and also served as the assistant director of the Pride of Dixie Marching Band. Risher taught numerous drummers and percussionists while at the university—he was very proud of all his students. He was also a collector of antique instruments, including many unique percussion instruments.

UNA Band Director Lloyd Jones said Risher became the university's first percussion instructor when he came to UNA in 1978. Jones said his father, former UNA Band Director Edd Jones, brought Risher in as his assistant. He was the drum set player for the Shoals Area Big Band and its smaller spinoff, The Little Big Band; the Edd Jones Orchestra; and the Celtic music group, The Full Moon Ensemble.

After his retirement, Risher accepted a job on a Carnival Cruise Line ship, playing jazz and big band music. He was a member of Percussive Arts Society, an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, and a member of the American Federation of Musicians.

## 1950s

**Samuel A. Mitchell Jr. ('55)** passed away in Athens. Mitchell received a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University. He worked for a time for Eaton Corporation in Human Resources.

**Frances Carolyn Crockett Seibert ('59)**, a resident of Timber Creek in Daphne, passed away. She was a member of Spanish Fort United Methodist Church and a former member of Ascension Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church where she served on the Congregational Council. Seibert received a Bachelor of Arts degree from UNA and MA and DAST degrees from Emory University Graduate School in Atlanta, Ga. She served thirty years in the field of education and retired from the DeKalb County, Georgia, school system where she was Mathematics Department Head and was named Teacher of the Year and STAR Teacher during several different years. She also taught in Decatur, Ala., and Reading, Pa.

**Charlotte Jane Carter Hampton ('64)** died July 10. Hampton grew up in Nashville Tenn., and graduated from Florence State University where she was a member of the Lionettes. Together with Jess and Louise Sanford, they owned and operated Gibson's Bar-B-Q until their retirement.

She was a member of First Christian Church and also attended the Chase Campus of Cove Church, where her son is the campus pastor.

**Linda Gail Tedder Brown ('69)** passed away on Tuesday, May 3. Brown retired as a teacher from Decatur High School. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Florence State and her master's from the University of Alabama.

## 1960s

**Rosa Lee Waldrep ('60)** graduated from Florence State Teachers College and from Stetson University with a master's in history in 1966. Rosa taught Social Studies in Largo High School from 1963-1999, earning the "Distinguished Teacher Award" from the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars in 1990.

**Thomas L. Tabereaux ('73)** passed away on July 25, at his home in Meridian, Miss. Tom married Charlotte in 1973 in Russellville, Ala.

They shared 43 years of marriage. Tabereaux most recently served as Director of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program with United Way of East Mississippi, as well as President of the Meridian Rotary Club where he established a \$25,000 endowment for the MCC scholarship fund.

Tabereaux graduated from UNA with a degree in business management. He enjoyed a 30-year career with Junior Achievement, working at the national headquarters in Colorado and also serving as the chief staff officer in four cities in the South. He served as President of Junior Achievement in Jackson,

served as Association Executive of the Meridian Board of Realtors, and later worked as a development associate and consultant to non-profit organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Mississippi Main Street Association.

In Jackson, Tabereaux was an active member of the Metro Chamber, Mississippi Economic Council and the Public Education Forum. He chaired the Education Foundation Trust and Mississippi Center for Non-Profits. He was especially involved in the Rotary Club, where he served as a director and chaired committees. He was a member of Central United Methodist Church and the Mac Barnes Sunday School class. He and Charlotte have two sons.

## 1980s

**Marla Cataldo Cassady ('83)** was a graduate of Huntsville High School and the University of North Alabama. She had a major in broadcast journalism and a minor in marketing.

**Gwendolynn "Lynn" Anderson ('87)** obtained her Master of Education at UNA. She taught in various elementary schools while living in Illinois, California, Kansas, and Alabama. Her family moved to Athens, Ala., in 1979 where she continued teaching for 22 years until she retired in 2002. She and her husband, Quinton Sr., traveled

through various countries throughout the world and were very proud of her time teaching young children for 45 years. She died suddenly of a brain hemorrhage.

**James Todd Grant ('90)** of Birmingham, Ala., formerly of Haleyville, Ala., passed away March 20. He was born in Oxford, Miss., and graduated from Haleyville High School and UNA with a teaching degree. He taught in the Huntsville City School System and was a member of New Prospect Baptist Church.

## 2000s

**Justin Wayne Parsons ('03)**, a loving and devoted husband and father, passed away March 31. Parsons and his family lived in Fairhope, Ala. Justin was a graduate of Sparkman High School and went on to UNA where he earned his undergraduate degree. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Alabama School of Law.

## 2010s

**Elise Christine Denton ('10)** passed away July 11. Denton graduated from Bob Jones High School in 2005. She continued her education at UNA where she graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Denton spent her youth playing recreational and club soccer, as well as for all of her school's teams. She was a member of Bob Jones High School's very first team to win a 6A State Championship.

Immediately following college, she accepted a position with St. Thomas Hospital West in Nashville, Tenn., as an orthopedic nurse. Within a year she began her career as a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Baptist Hospital, currently known as St. Thomas Midtown

Hospital. She was married to Dillon Hodges from October 2012 through March 2016. Recently, she accepted a position as a travel nurse and was about to embark on her first assignment in Seattle, Wash., this August.

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Dr. Charles Cooper King, Jr.** attended Florence State before transferring to Auburn University where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1952. Upon graduating he was hired as a research associate and then obtained his Master of Science degree from Auburn University in 1954. King entered the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant, serving for two years in Armored Cavalry at Fort Knox, Ky., and being honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant. He returned to Auburn University as an Assistant Professor.

## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Billie G. Boyd** received her bachelor's degree from Florence State Teachers College before moving to Florida. There she taught in Broward and Martin County Schools for 30 years. She and her husband, Tom, retired to Palm City in the early 1980s. She was active in service, delivering Meals on Wheels and in several philanthropic groups.

**Bryan Estis** attended UNA and worked as a finance manager at Pinnacle Motor Sports / Big Number One Motor Sports.

**Jimmy Eaton Irwin** graduated from Wayne County High School. He attended Florence State before serving his country in the Air Force. He also attended Vincennes University. He spent most of his working years in the automotive business in sales, finance and management and owned his own dealership.

**Noreen Galgay** graduated Cum Laude from the University of South Florida and taught in Ocala for three years before moving to Madison in 1996. She continued her education at UNA where she received her Master of Education. She taught in Madison County and Madison City schools, retiring in 2010. Galgay was quite accomplished, obtaining her private pilot license, real estate license, and most recently completing the Master Gardener class with the Huntsville Botanical Gardens.

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## ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATE

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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Have you won an award, changed jobs, earned a promotion or completed another degree? Your UNA classmates would like to know more about it! Send us your news and we will publish it in a subsequent issue of the *UNA Alumni Magazine*. Please complete the form and send it to the Office of Alumni Relations, UNA Box 5047, Florence, AL 35632-0001 or e-mail to [alumni1@una.edu](mailto:alumni1@una.edu).

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