



SPRING 2014 • VOL 22 • NUMBER 1

# Magazine

*For the Alumni and Friends of the University of North Alabama*



THE COMMONS





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William G. Cale, Jr.

## president's message William G. Cale Jr.

For most of you reading my column you are aware that BJ and I have made a decision that I will retire from the UNA Presidency on July 1 of this year. After that date the Board of Trustees has named me President Emeritus and asked me to remain with the university until the end of the year to insure continuity with our major projects and to assist in the transition to a new president. As I write this note in early April the Board is preparing to name a search advisory committee, select a professional firm to assist with identifying outstanding candidates, and initiate a national search for my successor. The search process should conclude in late fall.

I will leave it to others to assess the successes and shortcomings of the past nine years. What I would like to share are a few personal thoughts about what has been the most rewarding and exciting time in my professional life. UNA is a rare jewel. In many respects, what is often called the honeymoon has never ended. My role as president has been consistently supported and encouraged by a campus that wants to move forward. Ten years ago the university reached in a new direction, seeking a president who would bring a strong academic background together with the other skills needed for success. I have vivid memories from my first weeks on campus of conversations about what the faculty hoped to see happen, of what was right and what needed attention. Change began. We built and now share a strong sense of common purpose, an academic direction that is centered on both our students and the professional development of the faculty. We fully formed our model of shared governance into a wholly cooperative partnership among faculty, staff, students,

and administration. In all those years there has never been a rift among us. What we did as a university community is not so visible as new buildings and distinguished events, but it is the bedrock upon which our university now stands and upon which it will create its future. The Shoals community is similarly a rare jewel, not only genuinely warm and welcoming, but also progressive in promoting the arts, civic engagement, education at all levels, and sustaining a high quality of life while moving our economic future forward. UNA's relationship with our home city, Florence, has grown ever stronger over the years. Our city clearly recognizes the value of UNA to the community and their gift of \$3 million toward completion of the science and technology building is a testament to their belief in us and what we in turn will do for Florence. BJ and I have purchased a home here and look forward to living and staying very active in this vibrant place. Over the years we have lived in many places; nothing tops the Shoals.

There is an irony for me as my days in the presidency draw to an end. On one hand it does seem curious that at a time in my life when a few things have finally become clear, when the university is doing so well, that I should conclude that it's time to let go. But on the other, I have long held and often said that within every university, turnover of the senior leadership from time to time is necessary to retain the vitality that drives the institution forward. But care is required. Rapid turnover leads to chaos, and decades of service leads to stagnation. So I choose to step down for the best of reasons and at the best of times, for me, my wife, and the University. But stepping down is not stepping away. BJ and I intend to remain engaged with UNA for the long haul.

All my best,  
Bill Cale



# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA



Dr. William G. Cale, Jr.



Student Jordan Graham



Student Noelle Ingle



Dr. Dan Hendricks

## LEADERSHIP SUMMIT FOCUSES ON FOUNDATION FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

The University of North Alabama Foundation recently engaged a number of outstanding alumni and friends to serve as volunteer leadership in an effort to build upon the enthusiasm recently generated by several very generous gifts to the school. The volunteers met on Saturday, February 15, in the Guillot University Center to discuss ongoing and future building projects for the campus. These discussions included establishing scholarships and professorships to attract the brightest and best students and faculty; identifying specific priorities for each of the four colleges (Arts & Sciences, Business, Education & Human Sciences, and Nursing); enhancing travel-abroad opportunities for students from all disciplines; as well as creating other special projects in the area of library services, international

services, the University Success Center services, the Women's Center, and the newly formed Division of Professional and Interdisciplinary Studies.

The campus still resonates with excitement over the latest transformational gifts, which include two separate gifts from anonymous donors for the new Science and Technology building for over one million dollars, the one million dollar estate gift from alumna Mary Deeters, the additional gift from former professor Dr. Paul Yokley that will enhance the Beta Beta Beta Scholarship, and the recent completion of the Student Government Association endowed scholarship.

The summit participants also critiqued individual fundraising brochures and a video that have an

emphasis on athletics, each academic unit, and University programs with the goal of presenting compelling statements that highlight immediate fundraising initiatives to potential donors.

Many thanks to all of the dedicated alumni and friends who participated in the Leadership Summit gathering! Your loyalty, passion, and devotion to the University of North Alabama are contagious and we look forward to the next collaboration with the group.



# Office of Student Engagement and Baptist Campus Ministries Host Event to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Hannah Mask, Student Writer



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was a man who practiced what he preached. To honor his legacy and the life he led, the Office of Student Engagement and Baptist Campus

Ministries came together mid-January to celebrate his many acts of selflessness and love.

“It is important for students to attend, because Martin Luther King was a transformative leader,” Tammy Jacques, director of the Office of Student Engagement, said. “He is a symbol of courage, compassion and equality.”

George Curry, editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service, offered the keynote speech. In addition to his editorial duties, Curry writes a syndicated column for the association, which is a federation of more than

200 African American newspapers.

Curry identifies the four-year campaign he led to win the release of Kemba Smith as his greatest achievement. Smith was a 22-year-old woman who was given a mandatory sentence of more than 24 years for playing a minor role in a drug ring.

After Curry’s talk, attendees marched from the GUC to Baptist Campus Ministries for a luncheon catered by Rhoda P’s.

“Attending the MLK march is a great way to observe and reflect on an important piece of history but also to remember that our work is not done,” Jacques said.

# Upgrades Turn Mane Room into Main Attraction

By Hannah Mask, Student Writer

The Department of Entertainment Industry added to December’s chilly, cheery air, unveiling a spruced up performance venue.

The Mane Room, which is seated at the intersection of Pine and Tuscaloosa streets, has a 400-person capacity. Newly added purple and gold signage and awnings on the building’s exterior invite visitors into the venue.

Inside, too, the ambience is noticeably improved. A mural created by UNA student Jordan Wisenauer spans the length of a wall, depicting notable Shoals landmarks and capturing its music scene.

Wisenauer, a senior majoring in art, drew inspiration not only from his favorite hangouts but also from architecture in the Shoals and structures such as O’Neal Bridge, for example. He also depicted his favorite television show.

Silvio Dante, a mafia member in HBO’s *The Sopranos*, leans next to the



Jordan Wisenauer with family

walkway as though he were *The Mane Room*’s bodyguard.

“I wanted the bodyguard to look really tough,” Wisenauer said. “I can’t think of anyone tougher than Silvio.”

The Department of Entertainment Industry moved to its new facility in July 2012.

“Downtown Florence is exploding,” said the department’s chairman, Robert Garfrerick. “It just so happens that the department moved as it was happening organically.”



A recent reception honored Professor Emeriti Richie with colleagues from the Science Department. Standing: Raymond Isbell, Mike Moeller, Billy Martin, Faye Wells, Jack Moore, Joe Thomas, Charles “Bud” Richmond and Tom Murray. Seated: William “Mack” Richie and Jerelene Richie.



## Collegis Education Specialists Selected to Market UNA’s Nationally Renowned MBA Program

One of the specialists in the field, Collegis Education has been selected by the University of North Alabama to lead the interactive marketing campaign for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program offered through the UNA College of Business.

Through the new partnership, Collegis – a Chicago-based, technology-centered marketing company that specializes in higher-education services – will use a data-driven, state-of-the-art interactive approach to help identify and attract prospective students to one of the nation’s premier MBA programs.

“Our university provides a high-quality, flexible and affordable opportunity for those seeking an

MBA,” said Dr. Greg Carnes, Dean of the UNA College of Business. “Finding new, interactive ways to engage prospective students is vital to our growth. Partnering with Collegis Education and leveraging their digital-marketing expertise will help us reach more individuals looking to enhance their professional growth. We are excited to implement a sophisticated, digital-marketing approach that will build awareness of our MBA program throughout Alabama and the Southeast.”

UNA’s MBA program has been ranked ninth in the nation and was named a Best Buy on the 2012 list of Best Online MBA Programs by GetEducated.com. Collegis specializes in helping higher-education institutions

elevate enrollment by combining the latest digital-marketing techniques with responsive analytics and extensive industry experience.

“We are thrilled to work with the caliber of institution that the University of North Alabama has proven to be,” said J. Michael Locke, Collegis Education’s president and chief executive officer. “With a history as the oldest public four-year university in the state of Alabama, combined with progressive online offerings to students, the University of North Alabama is a leading option for individuals who are driven to achieve an MBA. Through the partnership, we are excited to help more students learn about and enroll in this stellar program.”





# Newly-opened campus hub serves common interests

By Hannah Mask, student writer

Listerhill, Sodexo Campus Services and the Follett Corporation helped fund the project.

But its cost will likely end up totaling only a fraction of the payoff, monetarily and emotionally. With the services The Commons offers, its doors are constantly revolving.

Alongside the enticing eatery section that features Starbucks, Frostbite Frozen Treats, and Chick-fil-A sits the brand new University Success Center. Listerhill Credit Union (operated as a campus credit-union and dubbed "The Hill"), Student Financial Services, and an expanded Follett Campus Bookstore are also housed within the complex.

Students flocked to The Commons upon its March opening. They chatted happily about the amenities it offers and settled in to get coffee, food, or a frozen treat.

The official opening was March 3, and hundreds came out to show support for the complex, which had an \$8-million price tag. Partnerships with

The Commons is just getting started — even more features are on the way.

Through a partnership with Listerhill, UNA aims to establish a new Financial Literacy Center in The Commons. The University Success Center and the academic services it encompasses will also come to life inside the new complex.

The variety of academic aid offered through the University Success Center is sure to impress. The Center for Writing Excellence, the First-Year Experience Program, the Mathematics Learning Center, University Advising Services, and more fall under the USC's umbrella.



"This building will house many of the services that enhance our academic programs here at UNA," University President William G. Cale said at the grand opening. "It will also serve as a central gathering place for our students and attract even more alumni and friends from the local community to visit our campus."

"In so many ways, this will make us a stronger and better university," he added.

The university took care to mine resources that best supported the local and surrounding economies: Hugo Dante, architect with Create Architects in Tusculumbia, designed the building, while Huntsville-based

Consolidated Construction built the structure.

"It's a real asset for the citizens of Florence to have a university at the north end of our main street," Florence Mayor Mickey Haddock said at the opening. "Believe me, we do not take for granted and we could not be more excited about how this new Commons building will enhance both the university and our beautiful downtown area."

For UNA students, The Commons simply being on campus is like a dream come true.

"I think students are just happy to be here right now," UNA junior Clarissa Shackelford told The Flor-Ala staff.





## Erica Kelly Named Miss UNA 2014



Twenty-year-old Erica Kelly was crowned Miss University of North Alabama for 2014 during the 40th-anniversary celebration of the popular scholarship pageant at Norton Auditorium.

Kelly, a psychology major from Cullman, also won the swimsuit portion of the competition. She performed the vocal number "Out Here On My Own" in the pageant's talent division.

The Miss UNA Scholarship Pageant is an official preliminary for the Miss Alabama and Miss America pageants. The program provides an opportunity for contestants to compete

### UNA Students Participating in Miss Alabama

Miss Birmingham • Chelsea Yarber  
Miss Gardendale Magnolia Festival • Erica Gholson  
Miss Northeast Alabama • Emily Winkler  
Miss Rocket City • Rachel Persall  
Miss Walker County • Sarai Ingle  
Miss UNA • Erica Kelly



Photographs by Jessica Pajaron

for scholarship funding and prizes.

"I am honored to represent the University of North Alabama as Miss UNA 2014," Kelly said. "Although it may sound cliché, it's every little girl's dream to win such a prestigious pageant and to have a shot at representing their state."

Kelly's platform is an outreach program called "Be Aware, Don't Stare." "It involves raising awareness and educating others on Autism Spectrum Disorders in the hopes that those diagnosed as such will be treated with respect," she explained. "I hope to bring more awareness to my personal platform, and create lifelong relationships in this community."

Music-education major Meredith Hamner of Killen was chosen first runner-up for 2014; Victoria Roose of McCalla was named second runner-up, and Danielle Patten from Madison was selected as third runner-up.

"We had a packed house in Norton," noted Tyler Thompson, assistant programming director for the UNA Office of Student Engagement. "It was a wonderful evening and a terrific show."

Kelly received a one-year tuition scholarship, a textbook allowance, a custom Miss UNA pageant ring, hair service, a gym membership, a \$1,500 wardrobe allowance, and other prizes.

Each Miss UNA contestant is encouraged and mentored to develop skills that will enrich her personal and professional life beyond her university experience. Miss UNA spends her year in service to the university and the Shoals area community. She promotes the platform of her choice, makes official appearances as a university representative and represents the university at the Miss Alabama Pageant.



## State Recognition in Montgomery Reinforces UNA's Commitment to Camp Courage Program



Recognition and affirmation from the state's top elected officials has reinforced the University of North Alabama's commitment to an innovative outreach project.

Participants in Camp Courage 2013 – a three-day program that allowed future teachers in UNA's elementary-education program to work one-on-one with hearing-impaired and visually impaired children – were honored in Montgomery by Gov. Robert Bentley and members of the Alabama Legislature.

"Camp Courage was one of the most amazing experiences of my college career," said Samantha Fotovich, a UNA senior from Huntsville. "It showed me that there is no limit to what children can accomplish, regardless of disability. The experience also showed me how passionate I am about children and the teaching career. Every student should feel like they are free and successful, and I want to spend my life making them feel that way."

Fotovich and her fellow UNA students were joined in Montgomery by their camp counterparts as well as UNA President Dr. William Cale and Dr. Vicky Hulsey, chair of the UNA

Department of Elementary Education and one of the organizers of the intensive, broad-based camp experience.

"The recognition our students received was gratifying," Hulsey observed, "but again, the real benefit was seeing the campers and their parents' reactions to the recognition they received. The statewide recognition helps to solidify plans and support for next year. The Camp Courage committee hopes and intends for this to be an annual event for years to come."

Camp Courage took place at Ivy Green, the historic Tusculumbia birthplace of Helen Keller (1880-1968), hailed as "America's First Lady of Courage."

"Each of our students who participated in Camp Courage came to my office the week after camp to report how elated they were to have had the experience," Hulsey recalled, "and each and every one of them who will still be a student here next fall has already asked to be included next time."

Camp Courage – sponsored by the Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation, the American Optometric Association Foundation, UNA, and the University

of Alabama at Birmingham – included educational, social, and inspirational activities ranging from arts and crafts, drama, and field trips to discussions of Keller's life, work, and influence.

Hulsey stressed that State Representative Johnny Mack Morrow, D-Red Bay, and his wife, Dr. Martha Morrow, developed the vision for Camp Courage and generated support for the project from its inception.

"The idea for Camp Courage came about as a result of my visiting the Helen Keller Birthplace over the past several years and seeing children with disabilities inspired just by visiting Ivy Green," said Morrow, who represents the 18th Alabama House District that includes portions of Colbert and Franklin counties in northwest Alabama.

"So I had the idea of expanding this into a camp so that other children could find the Helen Keller story just as inspiring," Morrow explained. "I presented this idea to the Helen Keller Birthplace Foundation, who had the vision to see the possibilities. And I think Helen Keller would be pleased to know her legacy is being used for such a noble purpose to inspire children with a disability."



# UNA Volunteerism

*Leadership changes student, community lives*

By Hannah Mask, staff writer



Throughout long weeks of classes, homework, clubs and organizations, Saturdays tempt students with promises of rest and relaxation. But for some University of North Alabama students, the idea of helping others is much more enticing than any of Saturday's typical promises.

Chris Howard, UNA leadership and volunteerism site leader, counts himself among those students who are more "hands on" than "idle hands."

Taking advantage of the university's leadership and volunteerism opportunities provides Howard with an outlet to give back to those who embraced and encouraged him during a past life of addiction, he said.

"I've had a lot of help from a lot of different people," Howard explained. "They opened their homes and their families to me and were completely altruistic with me during my past struggles.

"When I was able to get sober and get on my feet and gain the capacity to be of service, I knew volunteering was something I wanted to do," he added. Each opportunity to volunteer feeds into the organization's greater goal. It seeks to diminish the number of inactive society members and produce students who are motivated to get involved.

Faculty and staff members are also welcome to participate.

The program, at its heart, is synergetic; the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Each Saturday that students volunteer and experience personal growth attests to that fact.

Leadership and Volunteerism Coordinator Bethany Oliver '10

implemented Service Saturdays at UNA in fall 2013. At least three Saturdays each semester, UNA students offer aid to a number of community organizations. It's Howard's job to act as a liaison between the university and the participating organizations.

His job is no small task.

"We've discovered that within the Shoals community, organizations are jumping on board [with Service Saturdays] full force," Oliver said. "We always have something available for students to do."

A Service Saturday in March dispatched a total of 40 students to seven locations, she added.

"Opportunities to volunteer have ranged from helping the animal shelter to helping Hospice to cleaning up the community," Oliver said.

No matter the project, enriching the Shoals is at its core. Alternative break trips, scheduled during fall and spring breaks, are no exception.

"In the fall we went to Nashville, and our focus was on the issue of at-risk women and youth," Howard said. "We worked to help women who have been incarcerated get back on their feet, and we also worked with youth who have parents who have been incarcerated."

When the group returned from what Howard described as an "incredible opportunity," they met to debrief and reorient the issue into the Shoals community.

"When we're here on campus, we have blinders on a lot of times because we get so comfortable," Howard said. "We miss a lot of things that are going on around us. To go to a different community that's brand new and see people dealing with an issue allows students to see how they can be an advantage.

"That's why we take those trips twice a year — to look at an issue and ask ourselves, 'How is this impacting my own community?' and 'What can I do when I get home?'" he said.

During Lions Lend a Hand, a volunteer recruiting event scheduled during Welcome Week, more than 200 students participated in 30 projects, Oliver said.

"We had more than 600 hours of community service just from that one day," she said. "It's definitely going to happen again this year, and we hope to attract new students on campus who are looking for a place to get involved."

Howard will graduate in May with a degree in social work, and he's focused on the future.

"I'd like to encourage younger students to become a part of something that's really enriched my college career and turned it into something I never thought it could be," Howard said. "We can propel these students to make a life change through the experiences they've had with our program and through the process that takes place."

## September 11 Survivor, Author Lauren Manning Speaks at UNA's First Dual Commencement Ceremonies



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA introduced a new commencement schedule when graduates received their diplomas at the end of the fall 2013 semester.

Students were divided into two back-to-back commencement ceremonies according to their academic disciplines. The first honored graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Sciences. The second ceremony recognized graduates of the College of Business, the College of Nursing and Allied Health, and the Professional and Interdisciplinary Studies programs.

"Due to the very large turnouts for this highlight celebration, this reorganization allows the university to accommodate the many family members and guests of our graduates in the main ceremony location of Flowers Hall, without having to redirect them to overflow venues such as Norton Auditorium," according to Dr. Thomas Calhoun, UNA's vice president for enrollment management. "The two smaller ceremonies created a more personalized graduation atmosphere,

which enhanced the experience of each graduate and our guests."

Former Cantor Fitzgerald executive Lauren Manning was the guest speaker for both ceremonies. Manning — who survived catastrophic injuries in the tragic Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center — recounted her harrowing but inspiring experiences in the New York Times best-seller *Unmeasured Strength* (2011). In its review of the book, The Wall Street Journal called her memoir "a



gripping tale" with "valuable lessons to impart."

"I was dealt a tough hand," Manning told USA Today, "but I still had a hand to play. And I never want to forget the enormity of that gift."

Cable News Network (CNN) named Manning one of the Most Intriguing Newsmakers of the Past 25 Years. She was selected as one of Glamour magazine's 2002 Women of the Year and one of Biography magazine's 15 Extraordinary Women of 2003. She has been honored by the American Occupational Therapy Association and the Anti-Defamation League and received the Norman Vincent Peale Award. In 2004, Manning was chosen to carry the Olympic flame on the New York leg of the Athens Olympic Torch Relay.

As a nationally renowned speaker, Manning — who suffered severe burns on 82 percent of her body during the devastating World Trade Center attack — relates a harrowing true-life story filled with heartache and pain as well as triumph and rebirth.

"Every day you have a choice," she believes. "Make it count."



# UNA alumnus, world renowned photographer exhibits work in Florence

By Hannah Mask,  
Student Writer



University of North Alabama alumnus and National Geographic Editor-at-Large **Michael "Nick" Nichols '78** visited the university in October. He shared his photography and know-how with a captivated crowd in Norton Auditorium.

THROUGH THE DISTINGUISHED EVENT SERIES, Nichols spoke about his latest book, *Earth to Sky: Among Africa's Elephants, a Species in Crisis*. He also shared a slideshow featuring the book's outstanding photography.

Downtown Florence also offered an opportunity for the community to view his work.

Nichols' photo series, *The Short Happy Life of a Serengeti Lion*, was displayed in Carmen Erdmann's Court Street Market during October. In order to capture photos of the African wildlife, Nichols spent July 2011-July 2012 in the Serengeti.

"I shot 242,000 images, and Nathan Williamson recorded 200 hours of video — not to mention the audio," Nichols wrote.

In late February, Nichols claimed first place in the Science and Natural History category of a contest sponsored by Pictures of the Year International. The photograph is part of *The Short Happy Life of a Serengeti Lion* and features an African lion named C-Boy.



"WE ARE PRIVILEGED to work with the world's greatest photographers, who give so much of themselves to create these stories," National Geographic quoted director of photography Sarah Leen in February. "That partnership is, and has always been, essential to our success."

Nichols explained that few realize the severity of the ways "illegal killing, relentless habitat loss and habitat fragmentation" threaten the African lion, an animal he calls the "cooperative cat."

"Nearly a century ago, there were as many as 200,000 lions in Africa," Nichols wrote. "Today, the most recent surveys estimate that there are fewer than 30,000 wild lions."

Nichols started working at



National Geographic in 1996 as a photographer. He has published seven books, including *Brutal Kinship*, which he co-authored with Jane Goodall.

He has won four World Press Photo Awards and has been named Wildlife Photographer of the Year.







## UNA Pride of Dixie Band, Drum Line Earn Highest Honors at Prestigious National Competitions

By Terry Pace, *Director of University Communications and Marketing*

The University of North Alabama's nationally renowned Pride of Dixie Band program earned highest accolades and honors – including a championship trophy for its outstanding drum line – during performances at the Bands of America Grand National Championships and the Percussive Arts Society International Conference (PASIC) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"It was an extremely successful two days of performances by UNA band students at two of the most prestigious band-related events in the United States," according to Dr. Lloyd Jones '92, UNA's director of bands. "Not only did these valuable opportunities serve to greatly enhance the awareness and reputation of UNA on a national level, but I am confident that this experience will serve to create opportunities for other

performances as well as recruitment."

The UNA Drum Line was one of only three collegiate drum lines invited to perform in exhibition at the PASIC conference at the Indianapolis Conference Center. In addition to presenting a clinic for the conference, the Pride of Dixie percussion players – under the direction of Dr. Iain Moyer, UNA's assistant director of bands – participated in PASIC's thunderous premier event, the Drum Line Battle. UNA defeated Indiana University in the first round of the head-to-head competition before eliminating the University of Michigan in round two. In the final round, UNA defeated Lamar University to earn the drum-line championship at the world's largest gathering of percussionists.

"I think two of the critical factors that separated the UNA Drum Line

from its competition were their virtuosity and their performance energy," Moyer said. "Not only was the material they were playing some of the most demanding and difficult material a College Drum Line might attempt, but it was also delivered with a visceral authenticity when it came to emoting what the music was trying to convey to its audience and competitors."

The percussion players were supported and cheered on at the drum-line battle by an enthusiastic UNA entourage made up of their fellow student musicians from the Pride of Dixie Band, along with parents, alumni and friends. The drum-line competition also included the University of Cincinnati, Tennessee State University, Ball State University, and other top-tier percussion programs from across the country.

"I believe an honor like this one, first and foremost, draws a large amount of attention to our regional university in percussive circles," Moyer said. "When a performing group from a university like ours



comes into direct competition with some of the largest academic institutions in the country – and not only competes toe-to-toe with them, but actually wins a musical competition – it says something about the quality of work the students at UNA are doing. Secondly, I hope that each of the students involved in this year's ensemble will appreciate the award they received, but also know that it signals to future generations of UNA musicians a clear sign that excellent work is being done in the band program and music department at UNA."

A day before the PASIC conference, the entire 220-member Pride of Dixie Band Marching Band delivered what Jones calls "an inspired performance" at the Bands of America Championships at Lucas Oil Stadium – home of the NFL Indianapolis Colts. UNA was one of only four collegiate marching bands invited to perform at the event, sponsored by Music for All and the Yamaha Corporation.

"The president and CEO of Music for All, Eric Martin, found me after the show and said, 'We must get this band to perform on a Friday or Saturday evening next year! That was amazing,'" Jones recalled. "Later, Iain Moyer and I paid a visit to the Yamaha suite and found the



same sentiment from the corporate representatives."

Jones believes UNA will reap a number of immediate as well as long-term benefits from the players' hard work, countless hours of rehearsal, and their tireless dedication to excellence in their musical performances.

"This was truly a once-in-lifetime opportunity for our students and our band program," Jones said. "It validates the incredible job our students have done through the years as Pride of Dixie performers. Simply

receiving an invitation to perform at either of these events is recognition that our program is one of the most highly regarded in the United States. Additionally, having both events take place in the same town on the same weekend is somewhat of a perfect storm. Performances such as these will help raise the visibility and awareness of UNA in a competitive collegiate atmosphere."



# UNA alumnus provides new hope for amputees

By Hannah Mask, Student Writer



*IN MARCH, paralympic snowboarder Amy Purdy wowed Dancing with the Stars' judges. "Gobsmacked" and "shocked" were the words some managed to muster as they described Purdy's performance, calling Purdy herself "Wonder Woman" and "a beacon of light." The dance captivated all viewers, but for one audience member, the performance was more personal.*

University of North Alabama alumnus **Stan Patterson '89**, the person responsible for crafting Purdy's prosthetic legs, travelled from Florida to California to watch her first dance with partner Derek Hough. When Patterson returned to the Sunshine State, he came up with a way to make Purdy's flawless performance even better.

Stan Patterson, Celeste Corcoran, and Ronnie Dickson. Dickson, an above knee amputee and a prosthetist at POA, is a world class rock climber.



Amy Purdy, Karen Hughes, and Celeste Corcoran—"only one 'whole' leg between us!" Amy Purdy is a gold medal world champion snowboarder who competed in the Paralympics in the sport of snowboard cross in Sochi on March 14. Amy is a contestant on Season 18 of Dancing with the Stars. "In addition to making her snowboard legs, we are also doing her dancing ones!" said Patterson.

She now dances on prosthetic toes designed for swimming, which allow her to point her toes.

"It's the best prosthetic shop in the business," Purdy said of Patterson's company. "These guys are amazing."

Patterson, who graduated in 1989, isn't taking a break any time soon. Up next, he'll participate in the Boston Marathon alongside his patient Celeste Corcoran, who lost both legs in last year's bombing as she stood near the finish line.

In an interview with FOX Sports, Corcoran discussed how the bombing challenged her. She also noted that the company Patterson founded, Prosthetic and Orthotic Associates, "saved her life."

"I went from being so discouraged — [in June] I could barely walk, could barely stand in my prosthetics — and I've gone from that to walking pretty well in the prosthetics, the more that I wear them the more comfortable they are, to now going to running legs,"



Stan has his hair cut by Celeste—she was a hairdresser before the bombing and her wish was to get back to it, so Stan assembled all of his wife's hairdressing tools and became the recipient of Celeste's first haircut! She was so happy—it was an empowering day.



Stan and Paralympic athlete April Holmes: she brought the bronze medal she won at 2012 London games (100m race) in to show/share with Stan.





Franklin Mejias, now age 14, lost his legs and hands to bacterial meningitis in 2011. Franklin's sweet spirit and strong love of life are an inspiration to everyone who meets him. Stan has stood by Franklin throughout his painful recovery, making (and remaking) prosthetic legs, providing gentle and patient encouragement while teaching Franklin to walk. Now Franklin is ready to run!

Fox Sports quoted Corcoran.

"I never ever thought that I would get this far at this point," she continued. "So they pretty much, as far as I'm concerned, saved my life. Because it was pretty depressing to not be able to get around and to think, 'This is it, this is what I have to deal with.'"

As packed as Patterson's schedule is, there's nothing he'd rather be doing than helping people like Purdy and Corcoran.

"I need something to work on," Patterson explained. "If I were to take a vacation, I'd get bored after a week."

Many of his patients' mimic his sentiment. As a testament to their drive, Patterson takes care to make sure their stories are heard — patients' backgrounds, struggles and triumphs are posted in a blog on the site.

April Holmes is a three-time paralympian medalist and world record holder. She's also one of Patterson's patients.

A collegiate All-American, her life changed when her leg was amputated after an accident. But Holmes remained positive. Patterson's team now considers her family.

"We are honored and proud to be a part of April's team, providing the prosthetic care she needs to be 'great' and continue to go for the Gold," the blog reads.

The list of success stories goes on.

Franklin Mejias, who was only 13 when he visited POA, lost both legs during a fight with an infection.

"The infection nearly killed Franklin, but he battled back and won the fight," the company shared. "It didn't break his spirit either; he's a

fighter, with a deep appreciation for just how lucky he is to be alive."

Apart from his age, there's something else that makes Mejias stand out from the rest.

"Franklin is so very grateful for the help he has received in the United States, so much that he asked us to laminate his prosthetic legs with an American flag design," the blog reads.

Each patient's entry reads this way — they are people with stories first, patients at POA second.

With Patterson's background, it's not surprising that he has such a drive to help — he understands a thing or two about athletics and what it means to compete.

He also knows how it feels not to be able to compete.

Patterson received a number of scholarships to play college football, but many were revoked after he injured his ankles during high school. True to form, though, he found a way to turn a seemingly negative event into a positive one, and he took UNA up on its offer to redshirt him until he'd healed.

For a year, he was a cheerleader at the university; it helped make his ankle stronger, his wife Beth explained.

**Beth Patterson '88** (whose maiden name, coincidentally, was Patterson) is a former Lions' cheerleader. The couple never cheered at the same time, but their mutual love of physical activity continues to this day.

Beth is a fitness instructor of The Bar Method, a relatively new exercise regime. It incorporates aspects of ballet and is focused on making



muscle leaner and longer. "I've always been active," she said. "After graduation, I was just looking to stay active. I've been teaching off and on since 1988."

The Pattersons' pitbull "Z" typically stays at home, Beth Patterson said, but Simba and Sirabi, the couple's two border collies, are just as active as their owners. They visit POA every time Patterson goes in to work.

"Border collies are considered to be great therapy dogs," Beth Patterson said. "[Sirabi] is smaller, so the kids at Stan's office just love her.

"Sometimes people can be at Stan's office for hours, and it's nice for them to be able to play Frisbee or to play ball with the dogs — it lifts their spirits," she added.

Stan with Cameron and golf clubs: Cameron, now 11, lost his leg to bone cancer when he was 8. Some friends of Stan's from a local golf shop donated the clubs and Stan works with Cameron on his golf swing whenever he comes in.





Beth and Stan's furry children - Sarabi, Simba and Z.

As for Stan Patterson, his love of the office and interacting with patients is just as strong as his untiring, people-oriented dogs' love.

"I want to follow my excitement, wherever it takes me," Patterson said. "I am constantly being pulled in different directions, and I love it."

It's the mentality that led to Patterson deciding to work in prosthetics rather than the field in which he majored at UNA — health and physical education. He received his Prosthetic Certificate of Proficiency in 1992.

Two decades later, Patterson's business is thriving. In 2012, POA underwent an expansion. Now patients visit a 22,000-square foot facility where custom prosthetics are created in-house.

It's no stretch to describe the building as a step up from the company's first home.

Patterson founded POA in 1999 in an old Taco Tico restaurant — a company that, in the years since, has moved away from a clinical vibe. A better descriptor is "recreational."

Fabrication labs and fitness and wellness services are housed under one roof, but the five patient rooms are typically empty. Instead, patients flock to the 7,000-square foot multipurpose room, which features three sets of parallel bars, comfortable seating and a café-style coffee and lounge area.

The border collies Simba and Sarabi are typically there, as well.

"Stan likes to take a 'whole body'

approach to patient care, which is why we also offer a fully equipped fitness center, a golf training center and a traverse rock climbing wall," said POA's web and social media director Karen Hughes.

Another asset POA's impressive building offers is the chance for patients to share experiences and encourage each other, said Hughes, who is herself an amputee.

"In my 40 years of being an amputee, I have never encountered a prosthetic facility anything like this," she said. "Working here has enriched my life in ways that are immeasurable — I feel very blessed to be part of an organization that has helped so many people.

"Everyone is treated like family

— staff and patients alike — and once a patient becomes established here, they pay it forward by welcoming and making new patients comfortable," Hughes added.

Patterson follows a straightforward philosophy: There are no permanent failures. There are only learning opportunities.

It's through Patterson that his patients have come to believe the philosophy, too. When he founded POA, he made himself a promise.

He would never turn anyone away because of the inability to pay.

"We put the patients' needs first," he said. "We do not set compensation as our main goal. We do what is right, and the compensation follows."

Beth Patterson uses one word to summarize the work and the encounters it brings: Blessed.



Stan and little Jin, who was adopted from China. Jin was born missing a leg, and was put in an orphanage. Jin's American family heard about POA from other families who have brought their children here.



Stan with his Prosthetic and Orthotic Associates family and successes





Barbara '69 and Bill '94 Erwin with their daughter Christi Donnan '98



Bill Erwin '94



Tammy Irons '86



Tammy Irons '86 and Dr. Ed Jones

## ALUMNI OF THE YEAR ALUMNUS TRAVELS 5,000 MILES TO RECEIVE TOP HONOR

It took **Bill Erwin '94** 32 years to earn a bachelor's degree from the university — a fact he lightheartedly points out today.

Erwin worked toward a degree in journalism from 1962-1994. During the week of Homecoming 2013, he travelled from Hawaii to receive the Alumni of the Year award.

"I probably took longer than anyone to get a four-year college education," Erwin said. "While there was a big change in the university environment from 1962 to 1994, I didn't really notice."

"I was always engaged with the university, primarily through news coverage and activities that I attended there," he added.

Between stints at what was Florence State College and what is now UNA, Erwin was a journalist. He held jobs at WHNT-TV Channel 19 and several Shoals radio stations, working for more than three decades before deciding to finish his degree.

Erwin was also a member of the Alabama Army National Guard. He was deployed to the Persian Gulf, Panama, and Germany, and retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1997.

"In 1962, UNA graduate MG (R) James E. (Buddy) Moore '55, my company commander in the Alabama Army National Guard, enticed me to enroll in Officer Candidate School," Erwin said. "That was a major change in the direction my life would take. That training instilled discipline and put me on a path that brought me to where I am today."

Erwin wears several hats; he's consistently done so since moving to Hawaii in 1998. He's worked as chief of public affairs at Barbers Point Naval Air Station; deputy chief of public affairs at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu; chief of public affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division; and chief of plans for public affairs for U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter.

The U.S. Army Pacific named Erwin chief of strategic communication for Headquarters in Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

"I came to Hawaii 15 years ago on President's Day to accept my first civil service job with the federal government, believing that I would only be here for about two years," a U.S. Army Pacific news release quoted Erwin in 2013. "This has now become my home."

Erwin's wife, Tuscumbia-native **Barbara Johnson Erwin '69**, a UNA graduate who taught for 28 years in the Muscle Shoals City School system, also calls Hawaii her home. His daughter **Christi Donnan '98**, a UNA graduate, works for Disney public relations in California. His son Andy Erwin is an Auburn graduate and a software engineer in Huntsville.

"We still have family in the Shoals, and even though Hawaii is about 5,000 miles away and it takes about 12 hours to make the trip, we still look forward to visiting and seeing everybody," Erwin told Army Pacific public affairs officials.

## ALUMNI OF THE YEAR IRONS' SUCCESS BEGAN AT UNA

**Senator Tammy Irons '86** is well known in both state and local politics — she's won awards from the likes of the NAACP, the Unified Judicial System, and the Shoals Area Labor Council. But being honored as the 2013 Alumni of the Year for the University of North Alabama ranks at the top of her list of achievements, she said.

"It has been an honor and privilege to represent UNA as a graduate over the last 27 years," Irons said. "The accounting degree I received from UNA opened up as many doors for me as my law degree."

Irons was elected to the Alabama Senate in November 2010 and represents District 1, which includes Colbert and Lauderdale County. Before serving in the Senate, she was a member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Currently, she serves on a number of committees: rules; banking and insurance; constitution; campaign finance; ethics and elections; energy and natural resources; job creation and economic development; small business; contract review; and Alabama women's commission.

Irons noted a particular topic she always keeps in mind no matter the decision at hand.

"As a first-generation college graduate, I know firsthand the true value of an education," she said. "As a state senator, I have always been pro education. Maybe it's because I truly understand the difference education can make in a person's life, including my own."

In addition to serving state committees, Irons

is the chairwoman of the Alabama Democrat Caucus and chairwoman of the Shoals Caucus. As an attorney, she owns the Irons Law Firm, and is past-president of the Lauderdale County Bar Association and a member of the President's Cabinet at the University of North Alabama.

Irons has served as a member of the Shoals Entrepreneurial Center, the Shoals Economic Development Authority, SafePlace, and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Without the university, Irons said she may have failed to realize her aspirations.

"I am grateful my parents instilled in me at an early age the importance of a college education and gave me the support and encouragement to achieve my goals through a good education," Irons said. "While I realize learning is a lifelong experience, UNA provided me the educational foundation I required to be able to fulfill my dreams."

"For that, I will forever be grateful," she said.

She is married to former LSU and Southern Miss coach Curley Hallman.





LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

UNA EDUCATOR HELPS FULFILL STUDENTS' DREAMS FOR 34 YEARS



Over the last 34 years, the Department of Geography at the University of North Alabama has become a staple. It has given generations of students an educational foundation and the knowledge to thrive in a competitive workplace. Those students may attribute their livelihoods to **Gary Green**, recipient of the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award is aimed at recognizing those who have left a lasting impression at UNA, regardless of alumni status.

Green began his teaching career at Florence State College in 1967. Three years later, he helped to establish the Department of Geography.

The department saw exponential growth in the 30 years that followed, and Green continued to play a major role in its success.

It was not only on campus that Green advanced education. His association with the Alabama Geographic Alliance gave him an opportunity to speak to many schools and civic organizations across the Tennessee Valley.

The UNA community and those who belong to it have also reaped the rewards of Green's hard work.

In 1989, he chaired the collegiate license tag committee and established that long-standing opportunity for academic scholarships. Green said his heart warms every time he sees automobiles featuring a UNA Collegiate tag.

Those tags, Green explained, represent pride in being a UNA graduate or friend of the University. He retired in 2001, and by that time, Green had played a leadership role in most every campus committee.

Green served as president of the UNA retirees association. He has made lifetime friendships with the students he taught and mentored, changing the courses of their lives for the better.

His unwavering commitment to treating students and peers with respect led to his being honored with the President's Award of Excellence in 2001, as well as the University Service Award.

The university community has mutual respect for him and his lifelong passion for learning and people. To this day, many people still lovingly refer to him as "Tall Pine."

FACULTY STAFF SERVICE AWARD

UNA PROFESSOR SHARES LOVE OF EDUCATION, WRITTEN WORD

**Dr. Larry Adams '89** is a diligent scholar, a caring educator and an eloquent writer.

He's a published author of poetry and prose, an accomplished thespian and an associate professor of English at the University. He serves as chairman of the UNA English Department.

He was tapped to receive a 2013 Faculty/Staff Service Award.

Adam began teaching at UNA in 1998. His road to a career in higher education began when he received an associate's degree in secondary education in 1987 from John C. Calhoun Community College.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Adams continued his scholarship for six years.

He studied at UNA, obtaining a bachelor's degree in 1989 in secondary education and language arts. Adams received a master's degree in English and certification to teach English as a second language at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 1992.

In 2002, he obtained a Ph.D. in literary criticism, theory and rhetoric and language

from Middle Tennessee State University.

All the while, Adams shared his love of writing.

Adams short story "The Things We Do For Love," for which he won an award, appeared in UNA's 1989 *Lights and Shadows* publication. Adams' poetry has appeared in UNA and UAH publications.

His published works include "Winter Guests," "Just Another Day," "Untitled Haiku," "Wheels of Change," "A Need For Warmth," "Grandpa's Hands," "Eighty-four Feet" and "Autumn Leaves." In 2005, ABC-CLIO, Inc., published Adams' essays on Beat Culture.

Adams has worked as both a teacher and principal in secondary education, and he served as a minister at Cartwright Church of Christ from 1983-1994. A frequent presenter and an active member of the community, Adams was named Heritage Christian University's Adjunct Teacher of the Year in 2009 and 2011.



SHOALS BIG BAND TRUMPETER, VOCALIST, A BIG BENEFIT TO UNA



The Shoals is known for its vibrant, thriving music scene — an industry as noteworthy as the people who contribute to its success. To be awarded a lifetime achievement award at the University of North Alabama is an honor reserved for those whose presence and hard work have changed the campus for generations to come.

**Edsel Holden '57**, one of two 2013 lifetime achievement honorees, has made positive impacts in numerous civic activities. Though his interests are vast, the Shoals music scene is close to his heart.

The W. C. Handy Festival, in particular, profited from Holden's input. Not only was he active as a participant and performer, he also contributed to its development.

But Holden hasn't yet finished contributing to the music scene. Since the inception of the area's Big Band, he's been featured as a trumpet player and a vocalist.

The UNA Pride of Dixie Band and the music department, as a whole, for example, have seen and continue to witness Holden's influence.

Still, his impact reaches beyond his musical talents.

Holden has been a board member and past president of the Zodiac Theatre. He's also served as YMCA board chairman, chairman of the Florence Industrial Development board, the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts of America, and as a past president of the UNA Alumni association.

In his professional life, Holden has been no less instrumental. In 1958, he began a career with National Floor Products and continued his work for 38 years. With Holden's help, National Floor Products became a major player in the flooring industry.

For the past five years, Holden has focused his energy toward producing a series of fundraising concerts for the Shoals Theater in downtown Florence. Time and again, he's proven himself a reliable and irreplaceable member of the community, lending his talent and dedication to Shoals arts and culture.

Holden is married to his high school sweetheart, Inez. They have three children and six grandchildren.

UNA ALUMNA TRIUMPHS IN ALL ENDEAVORS

**Dr. Tera Richardson Kirkman '98** is a published writer, researcher and an assistant professor of nursing at the University.

She was honored with the 2013 Faculty/Staff Service Award in recognition of her far-reaching, long-term involvement with students, organizations, and colleagues at the university.

Kirkman began teaching at UNA in August 2006, and she currently serves as the course coordinator for leadership and management in nursing. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from UNA.

In 2003, Kirkman obtained a master's degree in nursing administration from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She furthered her education at the University of Alabama, and in 2011, she earned a Ph.D. in nursing education.

Just in the last year, Kirkman's hard work fetched a \$2.1 million Health Resources and Service Administration grant, which will create a scholarship for disadvantaged students.

She will also soon become a twice-published author.

The International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship will feature her article "High Fidelity Simulation Effectiveness in Nursing Students' Transfer of Learning."

Kirkman's diligence can be seen in every aspect of her life, and she published her dissertation in 2011. Her research experience includes investigating the effectiveness of patient simulation, the effectiveness of high fidelity simulation, and the impact of a mileage club on the cardiovascular health of school age children.

Kirkman is a frequent speaker at programs throughout the nation, and she is very active in the nursing community. She is member of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning Simulation, the Alabama State Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association and the American organization of Nurse Executive.

She was first a successful alumna, and the UNA community is happy to now call her a peer. Her success is ever apparent.





EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

FIVE-TIME TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT  
PUTS SONGS IN STUDENTS' HEARTS



The University of North Alabama is only as successful as the faculty, staff and community members who offer their time, patience and knowledge. **Rebecca Brewer Rockhill '71** teaches choral music at Florence High School and the Florence Freshman Center, equipping students with the tools necessary to succeed at the university.

For her dedication to excellence in education, Rockhill was named the 2013 Educator of the Year.

Rockhill's influence can be found statewide. Before teaching at Florence, she taught choral music at Bradshaw and Coffee and at Friendship Private School in Oxford, Ala.

However, her reach extends beyond the classroom.

She is a member for the Alabama Education Association, the Florence Education Association, Delta Kappa Gamma and the Music Educators National Conference. She has

served as Repertoire and Standards chairwoman for the Women Choirs, Male Choirs, and Show Choirs at the American Choral Directors Association.

She has served as district chairwoman, state vice president, and state president of the Alabama Vocal Association; and president, treasurer, and festival coordinator of the Tennessee Valley Choral Directors Association.

Rockhill is also the Alabama Vocal Association mentor for new teachers and the Florence High School Fine Arts Department chairwoman.

For her efforts, she has been recognized as the Teacher of the Year at Coffee, Bradshaw and Florence High Schools, and was the Florence City Schools Secondary Teacher of the Year.

Her positive influence touches everyone she encounters.

MILITARY SERVICE AWARD

RECORD-BREAKING FORMER ROTC STUDENT  
FINDS SUCCESSES IN THE ARMY



In 1975, the university's ROTC program saw a record-breaking feat. As a UNA student, Lt. Col. **Frank Bush '75** completed the Army airborne and ranger courses, rigorous training exercises designed to test stamina.

Thirty-eight years and many awards later, UNA named Bush the recipient of the 2013 Military Service Award.

After graduating from the university, Bush went on to a career in the Army. He retired in 1997 after having served for 22 years.

His resume includes leadership positions in Fort Bragg, N.C.; Camp Greaves, South Korea; and the Berlin Brigade in West Berlin, West Germany.

Though he was commissioned as an infantry officer, Bush breach transferred to Special Forces when it separated from the Army. He is the recipient of numerous awards, decorations and qualifications, including the Legions of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Expert

Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Military Freefall Badge.

For Bush, 22 years in the Army was just the beginning.

In 1995, Bush obtained a master's degree in management from Webster University. When he retired from the Army in 1997, he began working for Cubic Applications, Inc., developing an Army computer simulation program.

In 2001, Bush was tapped to lead the simulation development team at the Integrated Development Center at the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation in Orlando. He now works as a systems engineering and technical assistance team leader for Electronic Consulting Services.

Bush enjoys travelling and volunteering in support of wounded veterans' funding-raising events, and he also enjoys outdoor activities in the Florida weather.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

SCIENTIST, EDUCATOR MODELS GOOD CITIZENSHIP

**Dr. Joseph Cooney's '62** level of success is nearly unparalleled in the state. He's one of Alabama's few board-certified entomologists and has worked for more than 35 years on the biology and control of arthropod vectors of disease.

As a commissioned officer of the U.S. Public Health Service, Cooney worked with the Centers for Disease Control and focused on their yellow fever mosquito eradication program.

Cooney offered his expertise to the TVA's vector control program, which he would manage for 23 years. The research effort and control operations in the Tennessee River Watershed fell under his control.

Cooney has served for 13 years as an invited member of the international panel of experts on environmental management, known as PEEM. He has also provided consultations to

the World Health Organization on assignments in Africa and Australia.

More than 30 research publications, as well as several chapters of the World Health Organization's control methodologies, bear Cooney's name.

Various governmental and religious boards and committees benefit from Cooney's influence, and his interests reach far and wide.

He served on the Sheffield Board of Education for 18 years, the board of the Sheffield Education Foundation and has coached recreational sports in the city of Sheffield for more than 15 years.

Since retiring from the TVA, Cooney has become an adjunct professor of anatomy and physiology at Northwest Shoals Community College. He is married to Mary Settle Cooney of Sheffield.



TWO-TIME COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD WINNER  
LEND A HAND AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Not everyone can say they have experience working with space and defense missiles. **Yancy Mitchell '85**, however, is one person who can.

Mitchell has served the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command as training and workforce coordinator since 2004. But he lends his leadership abilities and compassionate nature to numerous community endeavors.

Since 1995, Mitchell has led an individual group at Boys State, even sponsoring and paying registration for some of his delegates. From 1985 to 2010, Mitchell organized, produced, directed and emceed the Miss Ardmore High School Pageant. His efforts earned more than \$140,000 for the school.

Mitchell was also a charter member and officer for the Ardmore Alabama/Tennessee Historical Society. He served on various committees for the Ardmore Area Annual Crape Myrtle Festival, served as member and

president of the Ardmore High School Athletic Booster Club. He was a personal appearance coordinator for the Miss Alabama USA Pageant. Mitchell also negotiated the installation of overhead lighting for the Ardmore High School Baseball field.

He was named volunteer of the year by Ardmore High School in 1998.

Currently, Mitchell creates and maintains online memorials for deceased UNA classmates, faculty and staff, and continues to work with the American Legion Boys State Staff.





POLITICAL SERVICE AWARD

GENERATIONS OF SERVICE, BOTH LOCAL AND STATEWIDE



It may be true that politics aren't for everyone, but with **Greg Burdine '92** in the state's House of Representatives, Alabamians can rest easy.

Burdine has represented District 1 since 2010. He serves on the Judiciary Committee, Insurance Committee, and local legislature committee, and on the subcommittee on criminal justice and insurance regulations.

His peers take notice of his hard work and in fall 2013, sought to thank him by nominating him to receive the university's Political Service Award. University officials agreed: Burdine's influence and dedication is of outstanding caliber.

Burdine received a law degree from Cumberland Law School and has been a partner in the law firm of Suttle, Mitchell and Burdine

since 1989. The firm specializes in criminal law, probate, domestic, real estate, mediation, and personal injury. He is also a member of the board of directors of Shoals Christian School.

Burdine earned a bachelor's degree in finance at UNA and played football for UNA for the championship team.

Burdine's ties to the university are heartfelt and strong; his wife Susan and their sons also call UNA their alma mater, as does his father.

UNA ALUMNUS KEEPS EDUCATION ON HIS MIND



Quality education tops the university's list of priorities and the same holds true for **Mac Buttram '69**, a member of the Alabama State House of Representatives.

Buttram was elected to the House in November 2010 to represent Cullman County. His involvement includes serving a variety of interests, including the education policy committee; transportation, utilities and infrastructure committee; and the agencies and commissions committee.

His unwavering commitment to the state and to the university earned a 2013 Political Service Award.

Prior to his political career, Buttram was a pastor in the United Methodist Church. During that time, Buttram also served at Camp Hill/Red Ridge UMC in Tallapoosa County; Taylorville UMC in Tuscaloosa County; Trinity UMC in Huntsville; St. Andrew's UMC in Cullman; and Hamilton UMC.

Buttram, the son of a UMC pastor, received a degree in history from UNA. During his time at the university, he served as SGA president and worked in sales and management. He attended seminary school at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, where he received a master's degree in divinity in 1983.

He is married to Pam Buttram and has three children and two grandchildren.

FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY

IUKA COUPLE'S GENEROSITY GOES BEYOND STATE LINES

Robert and Sylvia Ferguson have dedicated their lives to education. They worked within the schools for years and even after retiring, they found a way to help students flourish.

The Ferguson's are co-founders of the Tri-State Foundation in Iuka, Miss. The Tri-State Foundation awards needs-based scholarships to students, offering them support as they pursue their education.

Though the pair lives in Mississippi, their reach and their friendships extend well beyond state lines. In honor of their selfless donations of time, resources and energy, the university named the Fergusons the recipients of the 2013 Friend of the University Award.

To date, UNA has received more than \$500,000 in Tri-State Foundation scholarship funds. But countless numbers of students who live within a 50-mile radius of Iuka have the Fergusons to thank for helping them

reach higher education institutions all over the country.

Robert Ferguson is the retired superintendent of the Tishomingo County School District. Sylvia Ferguson also spent her career in education. The Fergusons are alumni of Delta State University.

Always quick to help in any way they can, the couple are active members of their community. They are well known amongst students, teachers and the rest of the community due to their generosity and willingness to serve others.

In addition to funding scholarships, the Tri-State Foundation awards funding to a diverse array of civic initiatives. As Tri-State Foundation board members, Robert and Sylvia Ferguson have worked to allocate funding to back training programs for officers, as well as to cover the cost of class field trips for students who would be otherwise unable to attend.



PROMISING ALUMNI



UNA students excelling in leadership, scholastics, character, service, and potential are selected to receive the Promising Alumni Award by UNA faculty and staff: Abril Agnew, D'Aria Booker, Kaitlin Chappell, Laura Giles, Anne-Marie Hall, Noelle Ingle, Wes Long and Anna Milwee.



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Holly Hollman '96, *Athens*  
Elaine Witt '76, *Colbert County*  
Eve Rhea '02, *Greater Birmingham Area*  
Patrick Johnson '99, *Decatur*  
Ryan '01 and Lisa Clayton '00, *Florence*  
Larry Allen '75, *Huntsville*  
Stan Mannon '85, *Mountain Lakes*  
Jim Page '01, *Tuscaloosa*

#### *D.C. Area* Will Hodges '10

**Florida**  
Maury Shipper '78, *Jacksonville*  
Lawrence Davis '80, *Orlando*

**Georgia**  
Carnette Johnson '83, *Greater Atlanta Area*

**Mississippi**  
Amanda Everett '74, *Jackson Area*  
Leigh '03 and John '00 Prince, *Northeast Miss*

**Tennessee**  
Katie Todd '10, *Greater Nashville Area*

**Texas**  
Charles Inman '71, *West Texas*  
Paul Smith '66, *Dallas Metroplex*

**Departmental**  
Jeff McCrary '83, *UNA Band*  
Paul Michael '05, *Geography*  
Stacy Childers '01, *Social Work*

## message from the ALUMNI PRESIDENT



Dr. William G. Cale, Jr. and  
Roderick Sheppard '98, '04, '07

Hello and thank you all for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve you as University of North Alabama Alumni President for 2013-2014. The University of North Alabama has equipped me with the educational foundation that has afforded me the opportunity to provide for my family. For that very reason, it is important to me that I use my God-given talents to help give back to the University that gave so much to me. I am thankful for the humble leadership of my predecessor **Ms. Pat Burney '88**, who served as president in 2012-2013.

There are some very exciting things going on at the University of North Alabama. If you haven't heard, our athletic program is making preparations to make the jump to Division I. As a student at UNA, I can remember when talk of a new science

building was just a dream. If you come to the campus, you will see that this dream is now becoming a reality. What's more, your alumni association will get the opportunity to name the great room in the facility. Just this semester, the new Commons Building and Student Success Center was opened. I encourage you to take the time to come back and visit your alma mater. I assure you that you will not be disappointed, as the beauty of our campus has been greatly enhanced.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to reconnect with UNA. You can do this in a variety of ways; I encourage you to do the following:

- Get active with your closest Alumni Club. If there isn't one, start one.
- "Like" the Alumni pages on Facebook, both the association page and your local club page.
- Identify yourself with the University of North Alabama on LinkedIn.
- Follow the University of North Alabama on Twitter.
- Update your alumni information in the UNA OnLion Community.

In addition, make it a point to attend one of the numerous events hosted by UNA: local club meetings, athletic events (including pre-game pavilion spirit parties), musical performances, academic occasions, or heart-warming reunions. Maybe you want to attend Derby Day, the exciting event hosted by President and Mrs. Cale which will take place this year on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Wherever you are, whatever you do, please remember that it is up to us to build the pride that is UNA.

**Roar Lions!**  
**Roderick Sheppard, '98, '04, '07**  
*UNA Alumni Association President 2013-2014*

# SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON CELEBRATES MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY

By Michael Anderson '92, *Chapter's First Chronicler*

On February 22, 2014, the Alabama Nu chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year on campus. The Alabama Nu Chapter at UNA has its roots in the Spring of 1986 when several young men wanted to begin a new, unique, and bar-setting fraternity on campus. They chose Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a nationally established and well-respected fraternity. These young men established their colony in 1987 and through hard work, focused commitment, community recognition, and achievement, the colony was awarded their official charter on February 11, 1989.

Undergraduate and alumni brothers enjoyed the recent weekend reunion which included a visit to the new chapter residence, campus tours, informal gatherings at nearby restaurants, and a formal evening banquet that provided a catered dinner, alumni commencement, live entertainment, and fellowship. Chapter alumni traveled to Florence from all over the country, including Kansas, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Florida, and various cities in Alabama.

During the visit to the new chapter house, the alumni witnessed the amazing transformation of the home. The young brothers had replaced wooden floors, removed and erected walls, painted, and cleaned the house throughout. Twenty-five years of photographs of sorority mixers, formals, fundraisers, and the infamous "Cow Pasture" parties were on display for the alumni to view and celebrate. Composite photographs from all of the previous years remain proudly displayed as a reminder of all the

brothers who have connected to grow, excel, and thrive during their formative years of college.

During the evening banquet, the undergraduate brothers had the opportunity to meet and develop connections with their alumni brothers, and the alumni were afforded the chance to get to know the younger members and witness their zest and energy for the continued success and achievements of the fraternity. Several alumni addressed all members about the inherent benefits of the fraternity and expressed appreciation for an organization that has played such an important role in developing successful

young men. Other alumni shared important stories such as the time the chapter held a charitable benefit that involved necessary participation of a cow that ultimately escaped and was chased by 15 brothers down Court Street on a spring Saturday afternoon!

Words cannot express the appreciation that the alumni feel towards the undergraduate chapter. These young men have demonstrated their enthusiasm, ability, and core desire to generate continued success in the chapter that they worked so hard previously to attain. The reunion weekend was a large gathering of diverse men, with like motivations, like competitiveness, and parallel aspirations to demonstrate the traits of true gentlemen. The brothers look forward to the challenges, triumphs, and stories that will necessarily reveal themselves during the next twenty-five years!



## Inaugural Pauline Gravlee Women's Golf Tournament

University of  
NORTH  
ALABAMA   
**ALUMNI**

Friday, May 16, 2014  
Blackberry Trail Florence, AL  
<http://alumni.una.edu/womensgolf>



# SMITHSONIAN EXHIBITION EXPLORING THE AMERICAN WORKFORCE



Rosalyn Fabianke '92

The Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, *The Way We Worked*, made its inaugural Alabama stop in Red Bay in September, 2013. It traveled subsequently to Ashland, Andalusia, Fairhope, Northport and Wetumpka and promised a second year of exhibition in six additional communities, Athens in September, 2014 is one of the next tours.

Two tireless and inspired project directors, UNA alumni **Rosalyn Fabianke '92** and **Rebekah Thompson Davis '00** have taken the leadership roles in their respective communities to bring *The Way We Worked* exhibit come to life.

In Red Bay, more than 100 highly motivated volunteers implemented the project objectives with a true love. Dedicated docents told the story at Community Spirit Bank's Weatherford Centre. Contagious enthusiasm spread throughout the entire town.

Rosalyn Fabianke said the words of Helen Keller clearly define the nature of a giving spirit as she quotes: "The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

"Volunteerism is a blending of emotions touching deeply into the heart. This rhythmic

beating of hearts drawn together creates a "ripple effect," an energizing strength shaped by footprints of the past. The eyes of young and old capture a vision together as they are unified and one – a bond, lived and shared, between friends. Stories are experienced and told echoing joyful accomplishments dedicated to a mighty purpose embraced in excellence."

The Limestone County Archives in cooperation with Alabama Humanities Foundation will explore the professions and the people that sustain American society when it hosts *The Way We Worked*, on view **September 20 to November 8, 2014**, in the former W.E. Estes & Son storefront in downtown Athens.

According to Davis, "As the first city in Alabama to host *The Way We Worked*, Red Bay really set the gold standard under the leadership of project director Rosalyn Fabianke. I'm grateful that she and others in Red Bay have helped the folks from the Smithsonian and from Alabama Humanities Foundation to take us by the hand and guide us through the process of building an event that will benefit everyone in the community."

"In addition to the honor of Athens being chosen to host an exhibit from the prestigious Smithsonian Institution, I'm excited that the communities in Limestone County have the opportunity to add our own unique story as hard-working Americans, from the days when cotton was king to making way for TVA to revitalizing our historic downtown."

The exhibit was made possible through a partnership of the Smithsonian and the Alabama Humanities Foundation and was funded through the Alabama Power Foundation, Norfolk Southern and the US Congress. The Museum on Main Street had a profound impact on understanding our nation's past and gave local communities the time and place to show off.

## Take the **UNA** **ONE for ONE Challenge** RECRUIT ONE STUDENT TO UNA EACH YEAR *each ONE...reach ONE*



The Office of Enrollment Management has increased efforts to market, communicate, and form relationships with prospective students and their parents through the initiatives established by the Enrollment Marketing Coordinator and the Enrollment Management Team. Personalized emails from department chairs, social media communications from members of recognized student organizations, mass letter mailings from the University Success Center and First-Year Experience, the establishment of the Meet Our Pride on Instagram page, and the creation of The Commons Experience gift card serve as some of the targeted, strategic initiatives that constitute this complex marketing and communication plan. Certainly, the "Each One, Reach One" initiative will help us in our efforts to improve our recruitment this fall; success often results when many different stakeholders work together to achieve a common goal. We can build our Pride together – one student at a time. The help of UNA alumni in our overall student recruitment efforts offers great promise, and it allows alumni to remain connected to the university and its students.

Thomas J. Calhoun, Jr., Ph.D.  
Vice President for Enrollment Management



## ALUMNI PRIDE



Dwight Streetman '73, Steve Defoor '95, Eddie Britton '74 & '75, and Jim Carlo



John Peden and John Haeger '99



Nancy Sanford '78 and Frank Bush '75



Kathy Hensen, Ande Jones '76 & '85, Nancy Darcy and Sherri Stewart '69



Reeda Lee '74



Lambda Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity  
**40th Anniversary Celebration**  
May 16th & 17th, 2014

Marriott Shoals Hotel, Spa & Conference Center in Florence, AL  
Welcome Reception: 6-9PM at Swampers Terrace Bar & Grill  
Anniversary Banquet: 6-9PM Marriott Conference Center

Hotel Reservations call 800-593-6450 • Details online at [www.kappasigmauna.com](http://www.kappasigmauna.com)  
Contacts: Adam Loudermilk at 205-919-8845 or Aaron Irons at 256-389-3969





**UNA Partners with Harris Connect for Alumni Directory**

The UNA Office of Alumni Relations is partnering with Harris Connect to produce *University of North Alabama Alumni Today*

a print directory scheduled for publication in early summer of 2014!





# UNA ADDS TO ITS LEGACY WITH **FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL TITLES**

Did you know that the University of North Alabama is one of just four schools in NCAA history on any level to have won as many as two National Championships in both football and men's basketball?

Not only that, but UNA was the first school to accomplish the rare double and has since been joined on that elite level by only Florida, Michigan State, and Wisconsin-Whitewater.

And while both the UNA football and men's basketball programs rank among the nation's elite on the NCAA Division II level, competing for championships in NCAA post-season events for more than

four decades, both programs added to their legacies in 2013-14.

The UNA football program, under the direction of Coach Bobby Wallace, won a share of the 2013 Gulf South Conference championship and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II playoffs. The football title was the 10th GSC crown for UNA, giving the Lions more than any school in league history. UNA also made its 18th appearance in the Division II playoffs, tying the Lions for the most appearances by any program in Division II history.

The UNA men's basketball team won its seventh Gulf South Conference

Basketball Championship and the first under current head coach Bobby Champagne. The Lions finished their season with a 23-10 record after advancing to the semifinal round of the NCAA Division II South Regional Tournament. It was UNA's 14th appearance in the NCAA Division II Tournament as the Lions received a bid for the second straight year and fourth time in Champagne's tenure.

It is the fifth time in school history that UNA has won both the GSC football and men's basketball championships in the same year (1980-81, 1983-84, 1993-94, 1995-96, 2013-14).



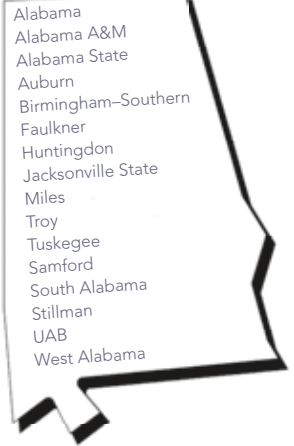
## **HERE ARE SOME OTHER FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW**

### **About Your UNA Football Program . . .**

- The UNA football program is the winningest collegiate football program in the state since 1990, with more wins and a higher winning percentage than every other program on every level in the state. UNA has a 204-82-1 record for a 71.2 winning percentage over the last 24 years.
- North Alabama has made 18 trips to the NCAA Division II playoffs, which is tied for the most by any program in Division II football history. That includes playoff trips in nine of the last 11 seasons.
- UNA has been ranked in the final Top 25 of the NCAA Division II football poll 19 times since 1980. That includes an unprecedented three consecutive No. 1 rankings (27 straight weeks) from 1993-95. The Lions have been ranked in the final Top 10 14 times since 1980.
- UNA's 31 all-time NCAA playoff wins are the second most by any school in Division II history.
- UNA was the first and still only NCAA Division II football program to win three consecutive National Championships (1993, 1994, 1995).
- UNA became the first NCAA Division II National Champion to visit the White House. The 1995 UNA football team was invited to the White House in March 1996 to meet with President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and members of Congress in honor of the team's unprecedented success.
- UNA and Appalachian State (FCS) are the only two programs in the history of NCAA scholarship football to have won three consecutive national championships.
- UNA had the first collegiate football program on any level to win as many as 40 games in just three seasons, going 41-1 from 1993-95.
- The Division II Football National Player of the Year award - the Harlon Hill Trophy - is named for a former Lion football player.
- The only defensive player to ever be named the winner of the Harlon Hill Trophy as Division II Player of the Year is North Alabama's Ronald McKinnon in 1995.
- UNA was ranked in 75 consecutive NCAA Division II Top 25 polls from 2005-2010.
- North Alabama served as the host institution for the NCAA Division II Football Championship at Braly Stadium for 28 consecutive years from 1986-2013. That is the second longest continuous period that any NCAA championship in any sport on any level has been held at one venue, second only to Division I baseball in Omaha, Neb.
- Since 2008 UNA has averaged more than 10,000 fans at its 31 regular-season home games at Braly Stadium.

### **About Your UNA Basketball Program . . .**

- In 2014 North Alabama made its 14th appearance in the NCAA Division II Basketball Tournament.
- UNA has won eight NCAA Regional Championships, made five Final Four appearances, and won two NCAA Division II National Championships.
- UNA has an all-time 31-13 record in the NCAA Tournament with a .704 winning percentage.
- Of the current Division II member institutions that have made at least 10 NCAA Tournament appearances, only North Alabama, Kentucky Wesleyan and Metro State have won at least 70 percent of their post-season NCAA games.
- UNA is one of just seven institutions in NCAA Division II history to have won multiple men's basketball National Championships (Bakersfield, Evansville, Kentucky Wesleyan, Metro State, North Alabama, Virginia Union and Winona State).
- UNA is one of just eight programs in NCAA Division II history to have reached at least five Final Fours (Bakersfield, Evansville, Florida Southern, Kentucky Wesleyan, Metro State, Mt. St. Mary's, North Alabama and Virginia Union).
- The UNA men's basketball program has competed in the NCAA Tournament in five straight decades.
- UNA was the first school from the state of Alabama to win a collegiate basketball National Championship.



White House Visit in 1995



Ronald McKinnon '09 and Harlon Hill '55 & '69



1979 Men's National Championship Team



1991 Men's National Championship Team





## UNA ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTS

HARGETT, HODGES, JOHNSON, SECKIN, SUMMERHILL  
and WILLINGHAM as Class of 2013



Jeff Hodges '82, Douglas Hargett '02, Harvey Summerhill '94, Nesrin Seckin '01, Ricky Johnson and Josh Willingham

The University of North Alabama Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2013 included former baseball All-Americans **Douglas Hargett '02** and **Josh Willingham**, former Lion tennis player and longtime sports information director **Jeff Hodges '82**, basketball standout **Ricky Johnson**, football All-American **Harvey Summerhill '94**, and volleyball All-American **Nesrin Seckin '01**.

The induction of the 2013 class brings the total number of inductees into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame to 112.

**HARGETT**, a Cherokee, Ala., native, was a four-year starter on UNA baseball teams from 1999-2002 and earned All-American and Academic

All-America® honors for the Lions, becoming one of the most recognized student-athletes in school history. He graduated magna cum laude with a double-major in Political Science and Biology. He also received UNA's prestigious Turris Fidelis Award for outstanding service to the University.

The recipient of GSC Commissioner's Trophy in 2001 and 2002 as the top male student-athlete in the league, he was also selected as Disney's Wide World of Sports Conference Commissioner's Association Regional Male Athlete of the Year in 2001 and 2002, and Disney's Wide World of Sports Conference Commissioner's Association National Male Athlete of the Year in 2001 and 2002.

An Academic All-GSC and ESPN The

Magazine Academic All-District selection in 2000, 2001 and 2002, Hargett was named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® in 2000, 2001 and 2002 and was named ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America® of the Year for collegiate baseball in 2001 and 2002.

He later attended law school at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) School of Law, graduating cum laude and returned home to the Shoals to join Hall Tanner Hargett as a partner in 2009. Hargett was selected by Super Lawyers as a 2013 Alabama Rising Star for demonstrating excellence in the practice of law, an honor limited to only 2.5 percent of attorneys within the state.

**HODGES**, a Decatur, Ala., native, is in his 30th year as sports information director at UNA, where he has helped promote five national championship teams, hundreds of all conference and All-American student-athletes, two Harlon Hill Trophy winners, and worked at both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

A 1982 graduate of UNA with a B.S. degree in Journalism and History, Hodges was a two-year letterman on the Lions' tennis teams and was a member of the 1981 Gulf South Conference championship tennis squad. He was hired as the first full-time SID at UNA in July of 1983 at the age of 22.

In July of 1997 he was honored by the College Sports Information Directors of America as the recipient of the Warren Berg Award, presented annually to a college division member who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of college sports information, and, who by his or her activities outside the field, has brought dignity and prestige to the profession. In addition to becoming the youngest recipient ever of the Berg Award at age 36, Hodges was also inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame in 1997.

Among his numerous involvements within CoSIDA, Hodges is currently the CoSIDA Secretary and has served 14 years on the CoSIDA Board of Directors.

He was honored by UNA with the Faculty/Staff Alumni Service Award in 1994 and as Alumni of the Year for 2001.

In 2008 he received the Scoop Hudgins Outstanding SID Award from the All-American Football Foundation.

In 2009 he received a 25-Year Award from the College Sports Information Directors of America for a quarter century of service to the sports information profession.

In February of 2002 he served as Venue Press Chief for Ski Jumping at Utah Olympic Park at the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Hodges was also the Venue Press Chief at the 2001 U.S. Nordic Ski Festival in Park City, Utah. At the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Hodges served as Venue Press Chief for volleyball at the Omni, where he supervised all press operations for both the men and women's volleyball competition. Hodges had previously served as press officer for the U.S. Olympic Committee at the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994.

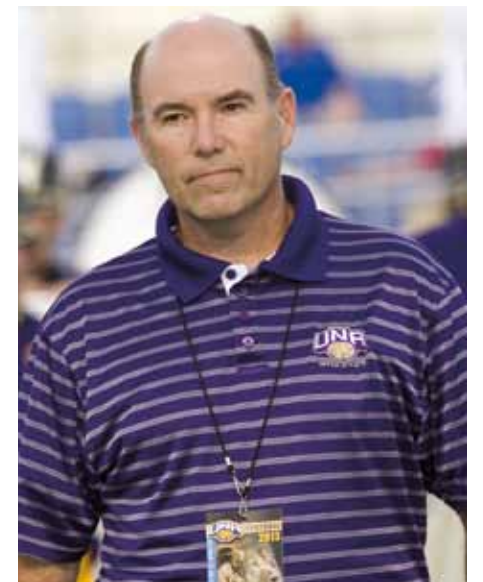
During Hodges' time at North Alabama, the school's athletic publications have received more than 80 national awards from CoSIDA, including 25 "Best in the Nation" awards.

**JOHNSON** was a standout on UNA men's basketball teams from 1989-92 and ranks as the eighth leading scorer in school history with 1,237 points. A Florence native, he was a four-year letterman and starter on UNA's 1991 NCAA Division II National Championship team. He averaged 11.8 points and 6.8 rebounds on that team that went 29-4. During his four-year career he helped lead UNA to a combined 84-32 record that included a 50-10 home record at Flowers Hall. In 112 career games with the Lions he averaged 11.0 points and pulled 703 rebounds for a 6.3 average. He scored in double-figures 68 times in his career and had 24 career double-figure rebound games. He started the last 89 consecutive games of his career at UNA, starting every game of the 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons.

**SECKIN** was a two-time All-American with the Lion volleyball teams in 2000 and 2001 and led UNA to a combined 72-7 record in her two seasons at the school. She was selected first-team All-Gulf South Conference and first-team All-South Region in 2000 and 2001 and was a two-time GSC East Division Player of the Year and two-time GSC Tournament Most Valuable Player. In



Douglas Hargett '02



Jeff Hodges '82



Ricky Johnson





Nesrin Seckin '01

2000 she was voted second-team AVCA All-American and third-team Daktronics All-American. In 2001 she was a first-team AVCA All-American selection and a third-team Daktronics pick. An All-Region Tournament pick in 2000 and 2001 and an Elite Eight All-Tournament selection in 2000, Seckin was a four-time GSC Player of the Week during her career. UNA won GSC and South Region titles in 2000 and advanced to the Elite Eight and won another GSC title in 2001 and finished as the region runner-up. A two-time Academic All-GSC pick and a 2000 CoSIDA Academic All-District selection, she received a GSC Top Eight award in 2002 and was selected as UNA's Female Athlete of the Year for 2001-02. Seckin graduated cum laude from UNA in 2001 with a degree in Accounting and is currently employed as a procurement auditor with BBVA Compass Bank in Dallas, Texas.

**SUMMERHILL**, a native of Tuscumbia, Ala., was a four-year starter on UNA football teams from 1989-92 and was a two-time All-American for the Lions. He was selected first-team All-Gulf South Conference by the league's coaches in 1990, 1991, and 1992, making him just the second Lion football player at that point to ever be a three-time first-team All-GSC pick. During his four-year career as a starter with the Lions he made 312 tackles, with 171 solo stops and 143 assists. He had 12 interceptions and 22 pass-breakups. He helped lead the Lions to the NCAA playoffs in 1990 and 1992.

Summerhill was named to the Gulf South Conference "Team of the Quarter Century" for 1971-1995 and was selected for the 50th Anniversary UNA Football Team for 1949-1998. He was also named to the Gulf South Conference Team of the 1990s and was UNA's Male Athlete of the Year for 1992-93.

He still resides in Tuscumbia and works for United Parcel Service (UPS).

**WILLINGHAM**, a Florence native, was a three-year letterman, two-time All-American and Academic All-America® baseball player at UNA from 1998-2000. During his three seasons at UNA he tied or broke 14 school records.

A two-time All-Gulf South Conference, two-time Academic All-

GSC, two-time ABCA All-South Central Region, and two-time ABCA All-American (first-team in 1999 and second-team in 2000) selection, Willingham was also named Academic All-America® in 2000, making him one of just eight student-athletes in school history to be both an All-American and Academic All-America® honoree.

Willingham finished his three-year collegiate career with a .424 batting average. He scored 178 runs, had 205 hits, 185 RBI, 43 doubles, four triples, 30 home runs, and 70 stolen bases in 77 attempts. He also set a school record with five grand slams.

During his career he led UNA to a combined 119-40-1 record that included the 1999 Gulf South Conference Championship, the 1999 NCAA Division II South Central Regional Championship, and a trip to the 1999 Division II College World Series.

He has spent the last 10 years in the Major Leagues, playing five seasons with the Florida Marlins, two with the Washington Nationals, one with Oakland A's, and the last two with the Minnesota Twins. He has played in 1,006 major league games and has a .258 career batting average with 891 hits, 504 runs scored, and 576 runs batted in. He has hit 177 home runs and has added 198 doubles and 14 triples for 389 career extra-base hits. His 471 career walks have helped give him an impressive .361 on base percentage.

Willingham hit 28 home runs with the A's in 2011 and followed with a career-high 35 homers and 110 runs batted in with the Twins in 2012, earning an American League Silver Slugger Award in the outfield.

He was hampered by injuries during the 2013 season but still hit 14 home runs and drove in 48 runs for the Twins.

His 181 career home runs rank 42nd among active Major League players.

## UNA'S PRICE SISTERS HONORED AS PART OF NCAA 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF DIVISION II



Dr. Rachel Price Bell '00 (left) and Dr. Ronda Price Brinley '00 (right) with fellow 40th Anniversary Team member Brian Kilmeade of Fox News Channel.



Associate Director of Division II Josh Looney, Dr. Rachel Price Bell '00, Dr. Ronda Price Brinley '00 and Vice President of Division II Terri Steeb Gronau.

## UNA BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STRENGTH FACILITY



The new strength facility will be approximately 5,000 square feet and will cost between \$400,000 and \$450,000, in addition to another \$100,000 in equipment. The construction has been made possible in part by a \$300,000 contribution from the state of Alabama, thanks to a local delegation of legislators working together to secure the funding. The group included State Senator Roger Bedford (D - District 6), State Senator Tammy Irons '86 (D - District 1), State Representative Marcel Black (D - District 3), State Representative Greg Burdine '82 (D - District 1), State Representative Lynn Greer (R - District 2), and State Representative Johnny Mack Morrow (D - District 18).



Yana Ninova '04, Tihana Sarlija '03, Myshara High, Cynthia Ohanaja '06, Vanessa Ferretti Howell '06 and Nicole Lambert '00



Jarius Hayes and Tony Johnson '99



Emily Gresham Taylor '96 and Kin Taylor '94



Jamie Stoddard



Kevin Baldock '95 and David Martin '89



Kenyatta Jones '96 and Jeff Redcross '01



Jeff Surbaugh '93 and Jon Thompson '96





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UNA Alumni Association

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Kevin Lamb '78 and Carol Lyles '70



Lawrence Davis '85



Larry '89 & '08 and Elaine Softley '88



Carnette Johnson '83



Michelle Eubanks '96



Neill Jobe '97



Shirley McDonald Hammons '57, Verna Lamon White '56, Sarah Kitchens Lindsay '58 and Sue Cox Kitchens '60



Beverly Ware Wisner '65 and Jim Wisner



Fred and Jane Hattabaugh and Suzanne Simpson '93



Marcus Maples '02, Billy Joe Camp '60 and Paul Majerick '70



Connie Perkenson Nix, Betty Aderholt Landers '59, Peggy Kirkpatrick Hyde '59 and Carolyn Ellis Brotherton '52



## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Brandi Ashby** is an English teacher at West Morgan High School and was announced as Morgan County's 2013-2014 Secondary Teacher of the Year.

**Calvin Cooley** is a graduate of UNA with a degree in communications, concentrating in print and online journalism. Cooley has worked as a sports writer for the *Times Daily* in Florence. Most recently, Cooley worked with *The Decatur Daily* where he did game reports, daily roundup segments and wrote feature stories. Moving to *The Moulton Advertiser*, Cooley's main duties are to cover high school athletics, writing both game stories and feature stories.

**G. Daniel Howard** has been selected as chancellor of LSU Alexandria in Louisiana. LSUA is a publicly supported university offering associate and baccalaureate degrees. The university is one of the institutions within the LSU System and operates under the auspices of the LSU Board of Supervisors.

## 1970s

**Dr. Joan Grant ('70)** is a professor in the Adult/ Acute Health Chronic Care & Foundations Department at the University of Alabama in Birmingham and teaches adult health nursing in the undergraduate and graduate programs. Her program of research primarily centers on family caregiving in neuroscience populations, such as stroke survivors and people who live with HIV. Dr. Grant's previous and current funding efforts relate to telehealth interventions

to assist family member in managing caregiving problems in the home and other settings.

**Wayne Higgins ('71)** currently serves as curator at Pope's Tavern Museum in Florence. He retired from the Florence City School System with 36 years in the classroom. In the fall semester he worked with UNA Kilby students.

**Nick Garland ('73)** is Pastor at Broken Arrow Church in Broken Arrow, Okla.

## 1980s

**Sarah Terry ('81)** has opened American Realty Company in Russellville with her husband and two business partners.

**John Robert Lauren ('82)** lives in Huntsville and has been a part-time evangelist in Morris Cerullo World Evangelism since 1994.

**Chester Ray Garner ('83)** has been named Chief of Staff to the President and Director of Community Relations for the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

**Debra Robinson ('87)** is the Secretary for the National Kitchen and Bath Association, the premier association for kitchen and bath design professionals. She is the principal of Kitchen Expressions, Inc. in north Alabama.

**Stuart Langston ('89)** has been with WDRM radio in the Huntsville area for over twenty years.

**Michelle Rideout ('89)** held her second exhibit at Brentwood Library. She was honored to have an exhibition of her paintings at Belle



# **CLASS NOTES**

Meade Plantation Art Gallery in Nashville, Brentwood Academy's Fine Art Show, and Brentwood Public Library. She belongs to the Chestnut Group, Nashville Plein Air Painters for the Land, and the Portrait Society of America.

**Anne Whitaker ('89)**, President of North American Pharmaceuticals, Sanofi, S.A., has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Cree, Inc. She joined Sanofi, a global and diversified healthcare leader, in 2011. In her current role she oversees Sanofi's operations within North America, and serves as a member of its Global Leadership Team and the U.S. Regional Strategic Management Committee.

## **1990s**

**Dwayne Montgomery ('90)** has been appointed as the Senior Vice President of Sales for IlluminOss Medical. Mr. Montgomery's career spans more than twenty years of building and leading successful medical device companies in large, mid-cap, and venture-backed stages. Most recently, he served as Vice President of Commercial Operations at TranS1, Inc., where he was responsible for North American sales and sales operations. Mr. Montgomery was formerly the Global Vice President and General Manager for Smith & Nephew, Inc. Orthopedic Trauma Division. There he was responsible for global strategic direction and business management, including a \$400M global sales business.

**Jackie Geddings Gilbreath ('92)** was nominated for the Jasper Business and Professional Women's 2013

Woman of the Year. She is currently serving her second term as President of the Pilot Club of Jasper and advisory board chair for the Salvation Army. She also serves the Alabama District of Pilot International as Anchor Coordinator for the State. She serves on the board of directors for the Walker County Chamber of Commerce. She has been employed at the First Bank of Jasper for twenty-one years. She currently serves the bank as business development officer. She was selected as "Emerging Talent" team member for Synovus and was chosen to attend the Synovus Leadership Institute. She was named Outstanding Banker for Community Education for the state by Alabama Young Bankers.

**William Andrews ('97)** was recently promoted to Vice President of Sales for Batesville Casket Company's West Division. He and his wife **Courtney Hoover Andrews ('99)** have relocated to Frisco, Texas, with their three daughters.

**Michael Edwards ('97)** is currently employed as a sergeant with the Starkville, Mississippi, Police Department.

**Esra Calvert ('98)** has been named the Research Director for Virginia Tourism Corporation. She previously served as VTC's tourism development manager, working on projects involving research; economic analysis; and DRIVE Tourism, the statewide tourism plan for Virginia.

**Cory Jackson Wilbanks ('99)** is the Director of Leadership Development for the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of

Commerce. She is a member of the Women's Chamber of Commerce and the UNA Morgan County Alumni Club.

## **2000s**

**Ginger Hunt Hansen ('00)**, with ten years' experience in Higher Education, currently serves on the President's Cabinet at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C. Her role as Vice President of Enrollment Management and Communications provides an opportunity to interact with prospective and current students. She is married to Blaine Hansen, VP of Strategic Planning and Effectiveness for Lees-McRae College. The couple met while working at Walt Disney World and later worked together at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

**Dr. Terry James ('01)** is the owner and physician at Addison Medical Clinic, and he and his wife, **Amber James ('05)**, own AmberJax Farms. They recently began their own not-for-profit for assisting rural communities with recreational facilities. They partnered this year with local schools by providing rugs for classrooms, and Dr. James provides shadowing opportunities at his Medical Clinic for high school and college students with his partnership with the University of Alabama's rural medical scholars program.

**Michael Stuart Tubb ('02)** works as Relationship Manager in the Commercial and Industrial (C&I) segment within Regions Business Services Group. As a relationship manager, he works with core and extended teammates to deliver comprehensive financial solutions to clients, while leveraging known

buying behaviors and drivers of client commitment. He has been involved in the Madison County United Way Program and was a past member of the Decatur Kiwanis Club.

**Jason Parks ('04)** is the Lead Pastor at Refuge Church in Providence, a community in west Huntsville. He previously worked in public relations and marketing, including for Crestwood Medical Center. In Madison County, he currently serves on the ALS Association's Patient Care Committee, the Calhoun Community College EMS Advisory Board, and he is a faculty member at Huntsville Bible College.

**Meredith Clark Belew ('05)** is a nurse practitioner and has opened the Rogersville Family Care Office. Belew was most recently a nurse practitioner for Athens Limestone Hospital. Her practice included urgent care, employee health, and pediatrics. She completed the Family Nurse Practitioner program at UAHuntsville in 2012.

**Donna Adams ('08)** is the Methodist Olive Branch Hospital's Emergency Department Clinical Services Director. She is a graduate of Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Memphis who has worked in clinical roles at Methodist and other hospital systems including sixteen years in the emergency department. Adams is working on a master's degree in Nursing Administration at the University of Memphis. Her experience includes previous service as Clinical Services Director of an Emergency Department.

**Sharon Cutledge ('08)** has been named President of Mississippi Board of

Nursing. She is a family nurse practitioner in Student Health Services. She spent two years serving and assisting the needs of students in the Bedie Smith Clinic. Before working as a nurse practitioner at the university, she taught nursing at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, Miss.

**Cory Hamilton ('11)** is the Senior Analyst in Corporate Sales Development at Delta Air Lines and currently lives in Atlanta, Ga.

## **2010s**

**Paige Parker ('11)** is the new Vice President of Sales for ControlCam in Jacksonville, Fla. Parker formerly at Geo Cue Corporation where she was part of their International Business Development Team. She has an extensive track record in creating and building customer relationships, including selling complex GIS software systems around the world. She has been a frequent speaker at worldwide conferences dealing with the latest developments in GIS technology. She is a member of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and is actively involved in several community organizations in northern Alabama.

**Josh Skaggs ('13)** is a Marketing Specialist for Deloitte LLP (a professional services firm). He serves the firm nationally throughout the United States and lives in the Atlanta area.

**Lindsey Thompson ('13)** recently began teaching English at Winterboro High School and lives in Sylacauga, Ala.

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# IN MEMORY

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Mary Lee Clement** started a real estate agency while living in Florence, when her husband was transferred here with TVA. She became a broker and opened her own firm, Clement Realty, and started the Women's Council of Realtors. She was named Alabama Realtor of the Year in 1982. The first female member of the Florence Civitan Club, she was chosen Civitan of the Year in 1985 and was chairman of the Civitan Telethon for United Cerebral Palsy. She was also active in the UNA Sportsman's Club and participated in many athletics events until her move to North Carolina.

**Etta Florence Moon** was active in the UNA Ladies Club, Ladies Home Demonstration Club, and the 4-H Club.

## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Carrie Louise Crowder Benefield** retired after forty-three years of service to Cullman County and Birmingham Public Schools; she was among the first certified instructors for the physically and mentally handicapped in the State of Alabama.

**Dr. John Bowman** graduated from UNA and then attended UAB to earn his D.M.D. and periodontal degrees. He served four years in the Air Force as chief of periodontics at Norton Air Force Base, Calif., and attained the rank of major. His periodontal practice was in Opelika, Ala.

**Ronnie Dale Brewer** was a U.S. Army veteran who served in the Vietnam War. He retired from Brown's Ferry after thirty-four years of service. He was the former Commander of the American Legion Post #11 and VFW Post #5140. He was also a retired volunteer fireman of Underwood/Petersville Fire Department.

**Mirial Alverson Lowe** graduated from Huntingdon College and Florence State College. She worked with children by teaching and counseling in the public schools and volunteering in her church. She finished her career as senior counselor at Bradshaw High School in Florence, Ala.

**Faye Smith McCarver** taught school for several years in the Franklin County School system and was a teacher's aide in the Russellville School System. She was past commander of the Ladies Auxiliary of the DAV and member of Ladies Auxiliary Jaycees and Lions Club.

**Thelma Lorene Huffman Thompson** graduated from Florence State Teachers' College and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, La. She and her husband served as missionaries in Argentina. She then taught school in the Danville Public Schools for twenty-five years.

## NON-GRAD

**George Richard Archer** volunteered to join the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Siboney in the Pacific Campaign during World War II and returned to Guam to help rebuild the island after the destruction it suffered during the war. Archer worked for thirty-one years for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, retiring in 1985 to run G.R. Archer and Sons Registered Angus Farms. He was life member of the Sweetwater, Tenn., Veterans of Foreign Wars and was the bugler for the state of Tennessee, playing Taps at numerous military funerals and events.

**John Royce Bailey, Sr.,** was inducted into the Limestone County Sports Hall of Fame.

**Dorothy Carmichael** attended Florence State Teacher's

College and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Athens College. She was very active in National Democratic Politics. In 1960, she and her husband, Charlie were the first couple to run as a Team of Delegates to the National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. In 1979, she was elected Colbert County Tax Assessor. Mrs. Carmichael was listed in Personalities of the South, Who's Who in American Politics, and World Who's Who in American Politics. Mrs. Carmichael served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Montevallo College in Montevallo, Ala., and worked in Girl Scouts Council.

**Terry Elaine Davis** worked with ARA Vending at Reynolds Aluminum.

**Maurice Fikes** was an instructor at Northwest Alabama State Technical Institute (Bevill) for twenty-five years and co-owner of Redmont Broadcasting (WRMG). He was a past member of the Franklin County Industrial Board, Red Bay Water and Gas Board and Hamilton Housing Authority. He was a Korean War veteran with the U.S. Army.

**Jim Ringnell** attended the University of North Alabama. He retired from Reynolds Metals Company, and he was member of UNA Sportsman's Club.

**John Peter Sell** enlisted in the U.S. Army and serving during the Korean War. After being discharged he worked as a carpenter doing general buildings as well as helping to build bridges.

**James Wheeler Vann** attended Florence State Teachers College before he was drafted into the Army. He earned a B.S. Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Tennessee.

After graduation he was employed for several years in the Propulsion Lab of AOMC before transferring to NASA/ Marshall Space Flight Center where he was secretary of the Saturn-Apollo Crew Safety Panel. He later worked on the Skylab Program and in the Preliminary Design Office of Program Development.

## FACULTY/ STAFF

**Jack Wayne Crocker** served in the U.S. Navy and was a Korean War veteran. He graduated from Tulsa University (B.A. and M.A.) and the University of Alabama, Ed.S. and Ed.D. He participated in football and track at Mississippi State and Tulsa, and was an Honorable Mention All-American in football. Dr. Crocker was a professor at UNA, Director of Continuing Education, Dean of Graduate Studies, and assistant to the president.

**Alva Dotson Fields** worked thirty five years in social services, which included tenure with the University of North Alabama Department of Social Work.

**Christine Paschke Finley** was secretary for Otis Peacock, the administrative assistant to the President at Florence State Teacher's College.

**Daniel Leasure** earned his Bachelor's Degree from Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa., and his Doctorate in Education from Penn State University. For over 37 years he dedicated his life to higher education, serving as Assistant Dean of Men at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pa., and later at North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D. In 1983, he became the Dean of Students and later Vice President for Advancement at the University of North Alabama before retiring in 1997.

**Dr. Larry Nelson** was a two-time graduate of the University of Missouri; he received his Ph.D. in American History in 1972. Upon graduation, Nelson continued his studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. Nelson would also teach at several colleges and spend time as a scholar-in-residence at the library in Picayune, Miss., before settling at the University of North Alabama. He made Florence his home for more than thirty years. His tenure at UNA was marked and celebrated with numerous awards for research, service, and Teacher of the Year.

**Leon L. (Bud) Smith** earned his B.S. from George Washington University, and M.B.A. from Harvard University, graduating with honors. He was a proud member of the military; he earned his Navy wings in 1956, flying single engine, multi-engine and helicopter aircraft in both the Pacific and Atlantic Fleets. In 1977, he joined the faculty at UNA where he taught in the Marketing and Management department for 23 years. Known as "Bud" to his students, he was voted "Outstanding Professor" three times and always worked to be worthy of that honor.

**Leonard Wigon** was the former Professor of History and Political Science from 1959-1978.

## 1930s

**Elizabeth Gaines Mann ('31)** graduated from the University of North Alabama and started teaching math at age 19. During WWII she was recruited to work in Ballistic Missiles at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Aberdeen, Md., for the war effort. During this time she worked around a number of noted scientists including Albert Einstein. She

also worked on the very first computer which covered three full stories of the building where she was located. At Aberdeen she met her future husband, G.B. Mann, a Civil Engineer and they moved to Dallas. She taught Calculus for eighteen years and served as the Head of the Math Department and Sponsor of the Student Council.

**Mary Matthews Deeters ('38)** worked as a teacher, a printer's assistant with the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C., and as a research chemist. Upon her death in March of 2013, Deeters made it clear that she had always kept her college alma mater close to her heart. Prior to her death, she made a provision in her will to donate more than \$1 million to the university. She also established the Raymond F. and Mary Deeters Endowed Scholarship.

## 1940s

**Mildred Henderson Cunningham ('45)** graduated from Florence State Teachers College and after graduation she served as secretary to the Dean at Florence State until retiring in 1954.

**Jane Patterson ('46)** graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. She began her career with TVA as a secretary and advanced to Tributary Area Development Representative, a position she held until her retirement in 1988.

**Annie Mae Witt Owens ('48)** taught at C.C. Smith and Mount Hope Schools in Lawrence County and Falkville. She retired from teaching after forty years from the Montgomery Public School System. She helped to raise money for the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the National Diabetes Foundation.

## 1950s

**Andy Hardy ('50)** served as instructor in philosophy and religion at UNA. He pastored at Woodstock Baptist Church, and then was called to Woodward Avenue Baptist Church as their first pastor for twenty years. Mr. Hardy was past President of the Ministerial Alliance and a member of Executive Board of the Alabama Baptist Convention.

**James Kimbrell ('50)** moved to Chickasaw, Ala., where he was an educator with forty-two years of service. He was a teaching principal in Lauderdale County, Ala., then taught at Eight Mile School. He was principal of Snug Harbor School and spent thirty years as principal of Saraland Elementary School. James retired in 1990.

**Dr. Erskine S. Murray ('51)** earned a doctorate of Education from Auburn University and was the former Assistant State Superintendent of Education for Alabama. He served in WWII in the U.S. Army 23<sup>rd</sup> HQ Special Troops.

**Chris Elton Luther ('50)** retired after a 40 year career as an agent with State Farm Insurance Companies. Chris served in the United States Army during World War II, serving in the occupation forces in Japan.

**Boyd Lincoln Davis ('52)** was drafted into the Army, to serve in the Korean War. He taught school and coached basketball before starting his own businesses.

**Clyde Holder ('52)** was drafted in the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman in the European theater. He was a heavily decorated combat soldier, earning the Silver Star with oak leaf clusters, two Bronze Stars, the French Republic's Croix de Guerre,

and the Combat Infantry Badge, to name a few. Holder was employed as a principal at Crooked Oak School and later as a math teacher at Weeden School before he was hired in 1966 by the Florence City Schools to serve as plant supervisor, a position he held until 2000 when he retired at 80.

**Troy Townsend ('52)** was a retired Environmental Manager for Occidental Chemicals, a school teacher at Rogers School, and worked at TVA. Mr. Townsend was also a United States Navy veteran of World War II where he served as a Navy First Class Gunners Mate.

**Neal W. Carter ('54)** served as an instructor for the Army at Fort Still, Okla., during the Korean War. After graduating from the University of North Alabama, he moved to Nashville where he taught in Nashville Schools, becoming the Math and Science Supervisor, and served as an assistant principal in several high schools before retiring.

**Mary Frances Williams ('55)** was an educator for more than forty years in Colbert and Franklin counties. She earned her education specialist degree.

**James F. Hall ('56)** went to Florence State Teachers College before serving in the United States Army coding and decoding secret messages. After brief time as an educator, Hall worked at Reynolds Metals as chemist for over thirty years.

**Thomas Kilgoar ('57)** served his country during the Korean War with the 107th Truck Transportation Company from Haleyville, Ala. He worked at Haleyville Textile Mills. He graduated from Florence State College in chemistry. Kilgoar retired from Reynolds Metals Company after thirty-five years of service.





# IN MEMORY

**Wayne Simms ('57)** served in the U.S. Navy. He helped shape the culture of New York Life Insurance during his 53-year career. As General Manager of the Montgomery General Office of NYL, he received the Chairman's trophy—the highest award in his field. He served as President of the Montgomery Rotary Club and District Governor. He also received the Lifetime Achievement Award and the District's Citation for Meritorious Service to the Foundation.

**Howard Wade ('57)** retired after thirty-two years in education, twenty-two as principal in Hernando County in Florida. He was at Mitchell Black Elementary in Brooksville for his last nine years. He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict.

**Shirley Wagnon ('57)** taught English, Latin, and Spanish at Sheffield High School for thirty-two full-time years, as well as numerous interspersed part-time years.

**Gerald Wayne Whitehead ('58)** worked until his retirement as an accountant for the Army Missile Command in Huntsville. He served in the United States Air Force in the 47th Air Police Squadron.

**Colonel Max LaDon Buff ('59)** served his country honorably for thirty years, spending more than ten years at the Pentagon. Colonel Buff was awarded more than twenty medals including four Bronze Stars, Bronze Star for Valor, and a Purple Heart. Following his retirement he worked ten years at the Orkand Corporation and served the D.C. area as a licensed real estate agent.

**Walter Garner ('59)** was a veteran of the United States Air Force serving in the Korean War. He was

employed for thirty-five years as a biochemist with Alabama Department of Public Health.

**James "Jimmy" Hunt ('59)** practiced law in Tuscumbia for over forty years. He was active in the Alabama Democratic Party and was elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He served in the United States Army Reserve and served as Tuscumbia City Judge. Jimmy was also a member of the Colbert County Historical Landmark Association.

## 1960s

**Mary Kay Moore ('62)** was head cheerleader for Coffee High School and Florence State College. She worked several years in marketing and retired after 17 years with Coffee High School where she taught Journalism and English.

**Don Carl Smith ('63)** was employed by the Lauderdale County School System, Muscle Shoals High School, and served as principal at Highland Park Elementary School for seventeen years and then worked for the Mississippi Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in Corinth, Miss., for thirteen years until his retirement in 2006.

**John Tappan Doughty ('64)** had thirty years of military service, fourteen of which were active in the Marine Corps and the Army. At the University of North Alabama he endowed a scholarship for female students. After his military career he taught school for twenty-two years with Manatee County Schools in Florida. He worked as an Independent Building Contractor. Doughty was active in the community, volunteering countless hours with the American Legion. He was a Master Mason for over fifty years.

**Carolyn Glenn-Regan ('65)** served as a city commissioner for the city of Tuscumbia from 1982 through 1985. She was one of the original organizers for Covenant Christian School in Tuscumbia and served on the board for three years.

**Larry Kenneth Green ('66)** practiced obstetrics and gynecology in the United States Air Force and in private practice in Alabama and in Fort Worth, where he practiced for over twenty years and was a chief of staff of Plaza Medical Center. Green was also CEO of a local IPA of 250 physicians and president of MSO board with over 2,000 physicians. After retiring from private practice, Green worked as a medical director in managed care for companies building HMO programs and continuing to care for others.

**Marshall Barry Martin ('67)** was employed in the optic business for over thirty years and was a cofounder of Athens Optical Dispensary. He was currently employed by Decatur City Schools as a bus driver. Mr. Martin was a past member and President of the Athens Lions Club.

**Millie Jo Monceret ('67)** taught at Rogers School for twenty-two years before retiring.

## 1970s

**James Pounders ('70)** joined the Air Force and served during the Korean War and was a member of the American Legion. Following his discharge from the military, he continued his career as a radio announcer in Columbia, Tenn., and then as program director in Centerville, Tenn., where he interviewed entertainers such as Minnie Pearl. He moved back to Florence, where he worked in the lab at Reynolds for twelve years. He began

his twenty-one year career as an educator in 1971 with the Lauderdale County School system. He was a minister of the Church of Christ for the past thirty-two years. He and his wife Frankie participated in mission campaigns of the islands of Nevis, Montserrat, and Jamaica. He was actively involved in both the Limestone prison ministry and the Lauderdale Detention Center ministry until a few weeks before his passing.

**Juanita Woods Posie ('71)** retired after a distinguished career in the Lauderdale County school system. She taught at Green Hill, West End, and Cloverdale schools.

**Carolyn Garner Yielding ('71)** graduated from St. Thomas School of Nursing in 1945. She was librarian at Underwood School, and teacher at Central.

**Grady James, Jr. ('72)** served in the U.S. Army. He owned Morris Publishing of Sheffield. He was active in the Kiwanis International and the Gideons International.

**Linda Ruth Richardson Bonner ('76)** was a former school teacher, church worker, and volunteer. She lived in Scottsboro, Ala.

**Ronald Earl McGough ('76)** worked as a salesman and was a resident of the north Georgia area for thirty-five years.

**George Frederick Blue ('79)** worked in sales and printing, he joined Unisource Worldwide, Inc. in 1984 and had a successful career as a manager in information technology and supply chain logistics. Blue was a licensed pilot and a member of the Rainbow Flyers Pilots Association for 10 years. He combined his love for flying and his spirit by making volunteer Angel Flights to transport patients and their

families to medical care facilities.

## 1980s

**Linda Sue Conwill ('81)** joined the Air Force and served as a flight nurse at Elgin AFB in Florida. Upon leaving active duty she continued in the AF Reserves for some time as a flight nurse and began working for the Veterans Administration in St. Louis, where she worked for twenty-four years as a registered nurse in various medical research departments.

**Lynda Lee (Jones) Knox ('83)** served many years in the banking and insurance industry, but some of her most diligent and rewarding work was her years as a volunteer at the Alabama Wildlife Rescue Service.

**Melanie Wimpee ('84)** worked in Florence as a social work at Riverbend Center for Mental Health as a case manager and retired with twenty-five years of service in 2011. She continued working at Riverbend part-time until 2013.

**Charles Pace ('85)** joined the Air Force and served his country in several foreign countries as a radio operator. He worked at Redstone Arsenal and for the railroad. He became a long-time employee at Ford Motor Co. in Sheffield until the plant closed, forcing him to take early retirement. Pace raised cattle and crops for many years.

**Connie Johnson ('86)** retired from TVA after 13 years, and then managed the Carriage Shed, retiring in 2010 upon its closing.

**Lacy Waynick ('87)** served in the United States Army Air Force and was a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He began his teaching career at Cloverdale Junior High School and was principal at Waterloo High School for many years.

## 1990s

**Amanda Hamby Muse ('97)** was a faculty member at Columbus State University in Georgia. She was working toward a Ph.D. in English at Auburn University.

# UNA BOARD of TRUSTEES Suffers Loss of Two Distinguished Members



**John Bunyan Cole** was a Ford Motor Company retiree with 27 years of employment. He held numerous other jobs with J.C. Penney's, Dale's Restaurant, and Turtle Point Country Club. John had the spirit of entrepreneurship and opened Bunyan's BBQ in 1972. His slaw, hot sauce, barbeque, and slaw dogs were well known throughout the city and were featured in many magazines. Cole was known as much for his civic involvement as his barbeque. He was a Board

of Trustees member of the former AmSouth Bank and served as chairman of Shoals Chamber of Commerce in 2002. He was instrumental in the development of the Main Stream Development Corporation that helped minority businesses.

Education was very important to him, and one of his greatest joys was establishing the John & Rosie Cole endowment scholarship for minority students for the University of North Alabama funded through a gift of land. He served as member of the Board of Trustees for the University of North Alabama.



**Harvey Robbins** was a highly successful industrialist who built a local company into a world leader in flooring products during his career, and dedicated countless dollars and time toward revitalizing his beloved town of Tuscumbia in his retirement. Robbins cofounded National Floor Products Co., in Florence, with his father in 1957. Robbins focused on property development and projects for Tuscumbia giving Spring Park a major makeover that included designing and building a

replica train. Robbins purchased several downtown buildings and helped fledging business owners open shops downtown. Robbins served on many local boards, including the UNA Board of Trustees, during his lifetime.

He received the Community Investment Award from the Shoals Chamber of Commerce. The following year, the chamber named him and wife Joyce Ann citizens of the year.

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

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