



SUMMER 2012 • VOL 20 • NUMBER 2

# Magazine

For the Alumni and Friends of the University of North Alabama



*Two-Time  
Grammy  
Winner*

John  
Paul  
White<sup>'99</sup>  
*The Civil Wars*



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William G. Cale, Jr.

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

As we conclude this academic year we look forward to the challenges and excitement that are on our horizon for 2012-

2013. Our applicant pool for next fall exceeds last year by over 300, pointing to a resurgence in growth that has been absent for two years. We look forward to introducing an option in innovation at the MBA level, tailored for our international online students but also available to local graduate students. The History and Political Science Department is creating a new area of emphasis in Public History, and the Culinary Program will add another faculty member to support their phenomenal growth. And we are moving quickly to implement our campus-wide initiative in research literacy, the theme that was integral to our highly successful accreditation review last February. As one friend to UNA said to me recently, you've got a lot of balls in the air. Indeed we do, and wouldn't have it any other way.

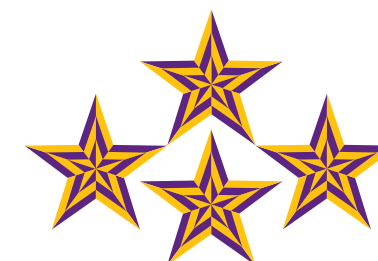
Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President for University Advancement, is leaving us in June to take a similar position at Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. This is a nice move for Alan and we wish him much success in his new position. Meanwhile, we have begun the search process to identify his successor. Dr. Medders was our founding vice president in advancement and transformed every aspect within his portfolio. We will build upon his legacy and become ever stronger.

The budget situation in Alabama remains strained and higher education faces another cut, this one of 4%, making our total reduction in State support about 34% (\$11.1 million) since the budget crisis began. Donor giving continues to be strong and has become a vital element in UNA's efforts to keep a college education within the reach of our students. Thanks to all who support us.

We were sad to lose our dear friend and alumnus George Lindsey in May, and I hope you will all keep George's family in your thoughts and prayers. George was with us for the annual film festival that bears his name, and as part of the festival we celebrated the grand opening of our new theatre, also named for George. Ernest Borgnine was here as well and in recognition of the many things Ernie has done for UNA, we named the performance hall within the theater for him. Pictures of the festivities are on the UNA web site (look at the week of February 26, 2012, in "This Week in Photos").

As an added enticement to return to campus, our Department of Music and Theatre will offer as part of their America Classic summer series the Tennessee Williams favorite, *A Street Car Named Desire*. The show will be performed in the George S. Lindsey Theatre in late June and early July. Check the UNA homepage as the time draws nearer. Hope to see you there!

All my best,  
Bill Cale



## A FOUR-STAR REVIEW

### University receives perfect outcome from SACS

On the morning of March 1, UNA received what its president, Dr. William G. Cale Jr., called "the rarest of rare outcomes." Following its on-site review of the university, an eight-person team from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reported no findings, recommendations, or need for follow-up. Such a report from SACS is achieved by only about 2 percent of colleges and universities undergoing similar reviews.

SACS is the regional accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in the Southeast. Every SACS-accredited institution undergoes a review every 10 years.

"I felt good going into the review," Cale said, "but no one anticipates a perfect outcome. This is an affirmation of the excellent quality found at UNA."

The SACS review included two major components: UNA's compliance with more than 80 academic and administrative standards, and its effective implementation of its Quality Enhancement Program (QEP). The QEP at UNA – entitled "Building Success Through Discovery: Imagine, Investigate, Communicate" – focuses on academic research literacy. The program helps ensure students' strength in the reading, data collection, analysis, and presentation skills required in any given discipline or career.

Cale said a positive outcome from a SACS review is achieved only through a continuous maintenance of high standards over time.

"The review team researches not only your current level of quality but how you've built and maintained that level of quality over a period of years. It is a strenuously thorough study, and its outcome for UNA should bolster the confidence of everyone on this campus and in this community."

The official reaffirmation of UNA's SACS accreditation is expected at the annual SACS conference in December.





## College of Nursing offers new training simulation lab

By Lucy Berry  
Senior Student Writer for University Communications

The College of Nursing at the University of North Alabama has a lot to be excited about recently with the addition of an on-campus medical training simulation lab, new accelerated options for students, and a partnership with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to help veterans nationwide.

Dr. Marilyn Lee, chair of the Department of Traditional Nursing, said every semester, students, faculty and staff come together in her department to give back to the community. They participate in blood drives, donate to food banks, and even won an award for their recovery efforts after last year's devastating April 27 tornadoes.

In early spring, the nursing department opened its new medical training simulation lab for students. The lab, which is located in an old classroom in Stevens Hall that was remodeled to look like a hospital, has everything a UNA nursing student would need to

get clinical experience—hospital beds, equipment, medical supplies, and life-sized simulators.

The remodeling of the lab and new simulators cost approximately \$500,000, according to Lee. The College of Nursing is hoping to branch out and form relationships with local health agencies, such as Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, so their nurses can also use the lab.

"The students love it," Lee said. "Our graduates say they wish we had something like this when they went to school here. We also do evaluations of students at the end of the semester, and students have indicated they love the experience they get [from the lab]."

The department has also had success with its accelerated alternative option to the traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing degree. The 15-month program is designed for people who already have a degree become registered nurses in less time.



"If you enjoy working with people, have good communication skills, are willing to take on the responsibility that goes with having a meaningful, exciting, challenging but rewarding job, [nursing] is for you," Lee said. "The work is never the same. Every day is different."

In April, the College of Nursing partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to assist and meet the healthcare needs of veterans and their families.

Lee said UNA nursing faculty have and will continue to view a series of webinars to help returning veterans impacted by post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, and other combat-related issues.

UNA President Dr. William G. Cale Jr., Vice President for Academic

Affairs and Provost Dr. John Thornell, and College of Nursing Dean Dr. Birdie Bailey, along with the chairs of the UNA nursing departments – Dr. Marilyn Lee and Dr. Wanda E. Bradford – have signed on in support of this national endeavor.



## UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

By Jordan Graben  
Student Writer

The University of North Alabama announced it has now completely implemented its new Undergraduate Research Program, also known as URP.

The newly established Undergraduate Research Program was a project generated by the Office of Sponsored Programs, in conjunction with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Nursing. URP was created to encourage and support student-initiated research efforts that are focused in the fields of their studies.

Dr. Tanja Blackstone, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, said that this opportunity to participate in URP is one that will make a lasting impression. "A student who participates in URP and is able to put this in his or her resumé and portfolio will have something that is going to set them apart from others," said Dr. Blackstone. "This research opportunity will not only be a wonderful opportunity but it will also be a great learning experience. The chosen students will learn how to write and interpret research reports in a succinct and precise manner."

There are only four available URP positions and admittance into the program is very competitive for students. Each program award comes with a \$1,000 research grant and requires the student to enroll in a 400-level independent study course. In addition to the \$1,000 research grant, the URP will waive the Independent Study course tuition (up to three-credit hours).

Dr. Blackstone and the entire UNA administration encourage students from every field of study at UNA to apply for the prestigious positions. Students interested in being considered for participation in URP must electronically submit a complete research proposal and must also be enrolled in at least six hours of coursework at UNA.



# Lucy Berry

## Garners Associated Press Awards

By Josh Woods

**E**VEN BEFORE finishing college, Lucy Berry has already snagged a state journalism award usually won by full-time seasoned writers.



Just weeks before Berry's graduation, the Alabama Associated Press awarded her second place in its News Feature category for her series of stories on homelessness in the Shoals.

She wrote the stories as an intern for the TimesDaily in Florence in the summer of 2011.

"Lucy did a great job for us last summer. We were able to trust her with stories of a nature and sensitivity that an intern ordinarily wouldn't be assigned," said Scott Morris, TimesDaily executive editor. "Lucy did everything we asked her to do and did an exceptional job for us. She has a bright future in journalism."

While at UNA, Berry, of Decatur, has served as a staff writer, news editor and, this past year, executive editor for the Flor-Ala campus newspaper. She has also served as senior student writer for the university's Office of Communications and Marketing.

Berry's Alabama Associated Press award came on the heels of another major honor: in February, she won first place in the Southeast Journalism Conference's Best of the South category for her Flor-Ala coverage of the April 27, 2011, tornadoes and UNA's response to the devastation. "It was no surprise that the Alabama Press Association and the judges for the Southeast Journalism Conference saw [Berry's] work worthy of recognition," said Rebecca Walker ('07), UNA coordinator of student media. "Her work and dedication will impact future Flor-Ala staffs for years to come. She's one of UNA's promising alumni, and I look forward to one day seeing her byline at some of the top publications in the country."

Berry graduated in May with a degree in English and journalism.

# UNA Student Writer Published in USA Today

By Jordan Graben  
*Student Writer*

*Alex Lindley*, a senior English and professional writing major at the University of North Alabama and the 2012-2013 news/managing editor for UNA's student newspaper, The Flor-Ala, was published by USA Today, one of America's most widely circulated daily newspapers. Lindley's article "International students often struggle with culture while studying in the U.S.," was featured online in the newspaper's popular college blog site.

According to Lindley, USA Today allows college students from across the world to pitch their article ideas and will select new articles to feature online each month. In February, Lindley received the good news that his article had been chosen and was accepted to be published. "I had sent several pitches by the time my idea was accepted," Lindley said.

When asked about how he developed the idea for his article, Lindley said that studying at UNA, a university with one of the largest international student populations in Alabama, is what played a major role in contributing to his story idea.

His article recounts a story about a friend of Lindley whom he met through the university. Pierre Jamot, a then 20-year-old student from France majoring in marketing at UNA, immediately fell into a state of culture shock upon arriving to the United States. Jamot said a major portion



of his homesickness was due to the new adjustment of no longer being able to legally drink. Being a native of France, a country with a legal age of consumption set at 18 and where drinking is a normal, acceptable part of everyday life, Jamot found himself in a stranger place than he had anticipated with new rules to abide by. Jamot's additional tension added to the inevitable list of conflicts to cope with that comes along with moving across international borders and was something that Lindley could empathize with.

"I studied abroad in Switzerland last summer," said Lindley. "I am 20, so I cannot drink in the U.S., but when I got to Switzerland, I was of legal age, so I wondered what the reverse would be like."

Lindley has had several articles published in The Shoals Variety Show magazine and does freelance work for Shoals Woman Magazine, an

affiliate of The TimesDaily newspaper. He has also been published in the Encyclopedia of Alabama for his article on the history of UNA, and this year he had his work accepted by Outrageous Fortune, an online creative magazine.

"As news/managing editor, I plan to continue to cover campus news for students and the UNA community. I also want to do more investigative reporting on issues important to students," said Lindley.

Lindley is scheduled to graduate May 2013. He plans to spend his summer at his technical writing internship at IFDC in Muscle Shoals and working with Boxcar Voices, a local spoken word and storytelling group. "I'm trying to get a lot of varied experiences in writing. I love all types of writing and work to get published anywhere and as often as possible."





## SGA RUNS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

*By Jordan Graben*  
UNA student writer

The Student Government Association at the University of North Alabama hosted a Sunset-Fountain 5-K run in April that started and ended at the Harrison Plaza Fountain on campus to raise funds for SGA's student-led endowed scholarship initiative. SGA was the first registered student organization at UNA to create an endowed scholarship fund for future UNA students. SGA has an annual goal to raise \$25,000 for the scholarship fund every five years. The SGA Sunset Fountain 5-K is a crucial part of their efforts for funding.

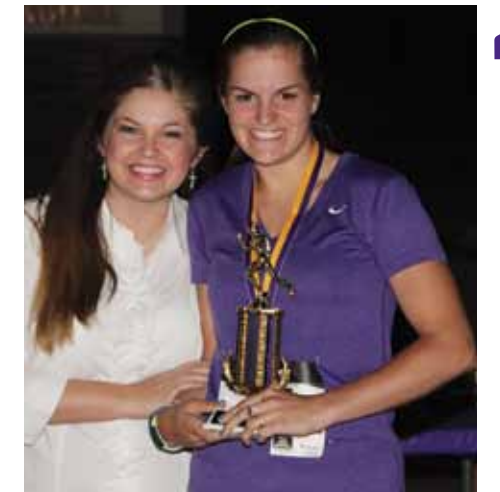
John Ledgewood, SGA secretary for 2011-2012, said, "This is a scholarship that was started by the students. We are working toward a goal of helping future students. We're here because we care about UNA and we're trying to build the pride."



Before the race that was held on April 14, SGA had raised a total of \$3,900 toward the endowed scholarship fund. This year, the Sunset Fountain 5-K raised over \$1,500 for the scholarship fund, exceeding the amount that had been raised the previous year.

Sarah Emerson, a member of the 2011-2012 SGA Freshman Forum, said she was excited to be given the opportunity to help out with many of the SGA-sponsored events including the Sunset Fountain 5-K. "It was an awesome experience to see the three largest branches of SGA come together and raise money for the SGA Endowed Scholarship Fund and to see such a large turnout."

The three branches of SGA include the Senate, University Programming Council, and Freshman Forum. All three work together to organize, host, and manage SGA-sponsored events which benefit the students and future students of UNA. It takes dedicated and joint efforts on every branch's behalf to maintain funding for endowed scholarships and also to raise money for charity along the way.







**– NOW AVAILABLE IN THE APP STORE**



UNA news headlines, game scores, calendars, maps, class schedules, grades and more are now just a touch away. The UNA mobile app is available for iPhone, Android and BlackBerry devices.

Calling it a "perfect tool" for students, prospective students, alumni and anyone who is a part of the university community, UNA communications and marketing director Josh Woods said the new mobile app has been a long time coming.

"This has been a goal of ours for several years as we've monitored the ongoing evolution of Web-based media," he said. "Our primary objective is always to make UNA's front door as easily accessible as possible to everyone who is or wishes to be a part of our university community. Today, mobile apps are a medium our students, alumni and others are using every day—and many times a day—so it only makes sense that we use that medium to reach out to our community in greater ways."

The opportunity to finally develop and launch a UNA app came last fall during a campus presentation by the university's new cell-service provider, AT&T.

AT&T demonstrated a new university app product "that was very multi-dimensional, offering exactly what we've envisioned for a UNA app. Yet it will also allow us to grow the app and add new features along the way," said Alan Medders, vice president for university advancement.

The initial version of the app includes UNA news headlines, game scores, a campus directory, campus map, university videos, events calendars, class schedules and grades.

"What sets UNA's app apart from many other university apps is that it is so broad in scope," said Jeremy Britten, UNA Web communications manager. "It isn't just surface-level information about the university. Its integration with our campus administrative softwares make it a practical, everyday tool that is going to make life much easier for students."

Britten said that one of the first new additions to the app will be a virtual campus tour, in production now.

The UNA mobile app is available at the App Store, Google Play and App World. For more information, visit [www.una.edu/app](http://www.una.edu/app).



# Closing the Deal

**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS OPENS PROFESSIONAL SALES CENTER**

By Chelsea Bryant  
*UNA student writer*



The College of Business at the University of North Alabama has implemented a new component in its Professional Marketing degree.

The Professional Sales Center and lab in the College of Business has been created to prepare students for careers in the ever-growing professional sales field.

**Jerome Gafford ('03 & '05)**, assistant professor of marketing at UNA, is leading the program for the College of Business. After attending the Sales Educators Academy in Orlando, Fla., in June 2011, Gafford saw a need for just such a curriculum at UNA. After meeting with Dr. Kerry Gatlin, dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Dan Hallock, chair of the Department of Management and Marketing, the UNA Sales Center and its curriculum became a reality.

"Currently, there are only 60 colleges and universities out of 5,500 nationwide that offer degree programs in Professional Sales," said Gafford, "and the need for training and expertise in this field is tremendous."

Research shows that the career placement rate for the average college undergraduate is 43.5% nationwide, while students with undergraduate degrees that include the Professional Sales curriculum have a placement rate of 90%. The Professional Sales industry will hire an average of 1.6 million representatives in 2012 and companies are constantly seeking experienced and qualified employees in the sales field.

The UNA Sales Program and Center is partnering with Pi Sigma Epsilon, the national fraternity for sales professionals; National Collegiate Sales Competition;

the Sales Educators Academy; and the University Sales Center Alliance. They have also partnered with the Sales Education Foundation, which is a prestigious organization that provides funding and research support within the professional sales industry.

The UNA Sales Center is currently securing funding for a Sales Lab to provide students the ability to record role-playing and selling interactions for review by faculty and industry professionals. For more information on becoming a partner with the UNA Sales Center, please contact Jerome Gafford at 256-765-5068 or e-mail [unasalescenter@una.edu](mailto:unasalescenter@una.edu).



## Just Being Himself



John Paul White *talks about the music business, writing selfishly and devouring new knowledge*

By Josh Woods

AFTER A WHIRLWIND YEAR punctuated with two Grammys, three performances on "The Tonight Show," and a tour with Adele, **John Paul White** ('99) is off for a few weeks this summer. His first morning home, he stopped by the University of North Alabama, where he's known simply as John to old friends and professors. But even here, he was still a celebrity. There were autographs signed. There were iPhone pictures that went straight to Facebook. There was one student who ran to chase him down outside the Music

Building just to shake his hand.

I met up with him at Noise Block Studios, the new home to UNA's Department of Entertainment Industry, the program from which John Paul earned his degree. There, we talked about his start in the music business, The Civil Wars, and the commonly known but uncommonly practiced advice that led to his musical success.

**JOSH WOODS:** How early in life did you know that you wanted to become a musician?

**JOHN PAUL WHITE:** When I was in high school, I had some friends that were musicians, and we decided we were going to enter the talent show at Loretto High School. We were going to do "Back in Black" by AC/DC. We got together, and I was going to be the bass player. I had no idea what a bass player was, how you play the bass, but I didn't care—I was in.

So we went to practice, and the drummer, his dad had a practice facility and PA and everything. I didn't know what anything was, but it was fascinating. The drummer, Anthony Weathers, and the guitarist, Jeff Moore, they started playing some Ozzy stuff together. I started singing into the mic, because they wanted to know if it was on. Everybody just stopped and stared at me, and I thought I had done something wrong. They said, "You can sing," and I was like, "I can?" It had never entered my mind that that was a talent I had. From that moment forward, nothing else mattered. I was singular of purpose at that point.

It didn't hurt seeing the way that girls looked at the lead singer. That didn't hurt at all. But it took me until college to start writing songs diligently and thinking that that could actually be something I could do for a living.

**JW:** AC/DC. That's a bit different from the kind of music you're writing and performing now. How did you evolve as a folk musician?

**JPW:** Well, I don't know if I'd even consider myself a folk musician. I'm not sure what I would consider myself. I think everybody has a hard time figuring out where we fit. I

think it's because of me having a big background in metal music, but also growing up with my dad's country records and listening to Merle Haggard and Johnny Cash and Don Williams and Ray Price and things like that. That was a big part of my childhood. I was listening to a lot of rock music and pop music, too. The strange thing is that I never really drew that strongly from my country background. I had a record deal with Capitol Records out in L.A., and it was a rock deal.

When I met Joy, we had this common background in that we'd made a lot of music that we didn't really enjoy making, or it never fully felt like the right thing. So we started making music really selfishly and just drawing from our backgrounds. She had no background in the country world—

her background was more Beach Boys and Billie Holiday and things like that, so I would pull those things from her. What came out was what you hear on that record. I couldn't explain to you exactly why that's the way it worked, but we just kind of followed our gut, and that's where it ended up.

**JW:** When were you offered the rock deal with Capital Records?

**JPW:** I got my deal in 2006, made the record in December 2006 and was putting finishing touches on it in 2007. I made the record with Mike Hedges, who produced The Cure and Travis and Dido and artists like that. We made the record over at Fame Studios, and I'm intensely proud of the record.







We were over in London doing strings at Abbey Road and got the call that the president and all of the A and R had been fired, and we knew at that point our days were numbered. So my manager at the time told me, "Hurry up and cut those strings. Cut them as fast as you can before they pull the plug." Well, they kept us around for a while. They liked what we were doing and approved a mix budget, but halfway through mix process, they called us and said they're not putting the record out. I was able to live with that because it wasn't really a musical decision. It was a financial decision, and that didn't hurt quite as much. So when I met Joy, it was in the aftermath of that. I'd lost that record deal and was just kind of in a place of not knowing exactly what I wanted to do.

JW: How did you meet Joy [Williams]?

JPW: I was writing for EMI at the time and was asked to go do a songwriting camp. That's where about 20 to 25 writers are thrown into one space, and they draw straws and pair you up, usually with a stranger.

So I ended up in a room with Joy. I knew nothing about her, had never heard of her. She had just, by her own choice, walked away from a contemporary Christian career. We spent about twenty minutes getting to know each other, and there was this instant thing. She started singing. I knew instantly she was a really good singer, that she was a great singer. But, you know, there's a lot of great singers in Nashville, and I've been around a lot of really great singers. But I do remember sitting up and thinking, Wow, she's very talented. It was a strange thing how our voices blended together and how the vibrato matched up and how we would trail off of words at the same time and swell into words the same way. I knew where she was going, and she knew where I was going. It was this weird telepathy, like brother-sister, like twin speak kind of thing going.

And we both kind of filed it away. Neither one of us said anything about it, because we were both in that kind of burnt out space of post-solo artist. And we actually talked about how much we disliked it and didn't really think we wanted to do it again. So the idea of being a duo was as far from our minds as humanly possible.

We made another appointment to write, because we enjoyed the

process and got back together, and it was the same thing. That second time we wrote "Falling," which is on the record. And so we needed to pitch it. We were just going to pitch it to other artists. We went in to record it, and after the recording, there was that same click. So, I finally got the nerve up to make the comment. And my pitch was, I don't want to be an artist, you don't want to be an artist, but this is really fun. I really like this music. Let's write some more of these and then go find an open mic night somewhere and don't tell anybody we're going to do it. Let's just sing these songs for fun. But, of course, that never happened. It just took off from there.

JW: With yours and Joy's diverse musical backgrounds and the type of music that you're writing and recording now as The Civil Wars, would you consider yourself to be part of a shift in the music industry?

JPW: Well, I think that the common thread to a lot of this little wave of artistry that's going on right now is less is more. I don't think you can put it all in the same genre or the same box. I think if you look around, we're all kind of simplifying our lives and trying to remove excess and make things as minimal as possible. And we did that with this record, without even trying to. It just happened that way.

When we wrote the songs, it was she and I and a guitar. When we went to play the songs, we couldn't afford to hire a band. We didn't really want a band. At the time, we thought, "Well, we can do it, you



and I and this guitar. Let's go play somewhere." And so we got to where we really enjoyed that. We felt the power of being able to control every note that comes off the stage. We'd never really done that before. We'd always played with bands. So once we went into the studio, we'd whittled these songs down as much as humanly possible, because you couldn't rely on a really cool guitar intro or a really long solo, because it was just us, so we had to make everything really concise.

Once we recorded those parts in the studio, we didn't leave a whole lot of room for anything, with the guitar and the two voices. Everything that we'd add to it really had to fit, or it'd just be in the way, and we'd take it back off. So we ended up with a really sparse

record. I think a lot of people are making music that way, without even thinking about it. They're just cutting the fat and making it about the song and about the voice. I think it's a good thing in the long run.

JW: Has music been a full time career for you since your graduation from UNA?

JPW: It has. When I graduated, I had just finished an internship with **Walt Aldridge ('78)**. I was an entertainment industry management major and did my internship with him. He had just recently formed Waltz Time, which was a co-venture with EMI and himself. **Janna Malone ('87)** [a UNA entertainment industry instructor] had introduced me to Walt and

played him some of the songs I had written. I honestly wanted to just be a singer—I didn't really want to be a songwriter. That was just a means to an end. I wrote songs trying to impress him with my voice, because I didn't want him to hear me singing somebody else's songs and then subconsciously compare the two. He saw promise there in the songwriting.

I approached him with the idea of doing an internship at his new company, which worked out really well. We did that in the summer. In the meantime, he's playing some of these songs for EMI, and I ended up getting a deal with them. So as soon as I graduated, I had a publishing deal and have done nothing but that since. Since Jan. 1 of '99, that's been my vocation.



JW: Through that time, were there ever times when you thought, The music business is a tough business. I don't know if I'm going to make it. I think I'll stop and do something else.

JPW: Every day. Yeah. I've quit the music business probably three times every day. There's a Hunter S. Thompson quote about the hollow trench of evil that the music business is—and then there's the bad parts. I spent as much time as anybody moaning about the music business and the industry and the way that things are set up and the things you have to do to become star and even to just get a gig. I came around to the conclusion that it is what it is. I figured out that the only thing that I could possibly do that was going to work is to be completely selfish and make myself happy and write songs primarily for myself. It was from that point forward that things really started to work. That's not always going to be the case for some people. For some people, what they truly, intensely love might not connect with the public, and that's the really frustrating thing about what we do: It's all subjective. It's all opinion. Your success is based on whether other people like what you do or not. It's a really strange thing.

In The Civil Wars, we've been really fortunate in that what we love and what we selfishly made without caring what anybody else thought, people have connected with it. We don't take that for granted.



JW: You had become a performer before you started writing for Walt Aldridge. Today, do you consider yourself a songwriter who performs or a performer who writes his own music?

JPW: I'd say a songwriter who performs, which is funny. I wouldn't have said that 10 years ago. But I learned the more that I wrote, the more I figured out who I was, the more I dug down in there and figured out what I cared about and what I didn't care about. It started shaping who I was as much as I shaped what my songs were. It's a symbiotic kind of relationship.

But I always thought that I was just a singer. I could never find that spark down inside of me, that

voice, that thing that I wanted to say and wanted the world to hear. I was never really that guy. I'd mimic other people's voices, and I'd figure out what other people liked to hear, and that's what I'd do. I played in cover bands along the state line and was perfectly happy doing it. I'd sing whatever the new hit was and whatever I knew people wanted. That was fine with me. I just wanted to sing. I can't imagine going back to that again. But I had to figure that all out the hard way.

JW: How were you inspired by the Shoals' music heritage and the current music scene here in the Shoals area?

JPW: Well, growing up, I knew all

the legends, and I knew the music that came from this place. You'd go to bars around here, and you'd see the guys that played on those huge records. You could go see David Hood and could see Clayton Ivy and could see Kelvin Holly, and it was just mind-blowing. And you knew instantly, I'd better get my act together, because it's not just another gig around here. You have to always bring it. There's always somebody standing right behind you that's going to take it from you.

There's a fraternity of everybody, too. Everybody's all for one and one for all. Everybody supports each other, but we also inspire each other and push each other – like, Okay, watch this. So that's a big part of who I am.

And then people like the Alabama Shakes and The Secret Sisters and Dylan LeBlanc – they keep pushing, too. It's a good thing. It's very inspiring. I think this community's got a whole lot of legs left, and there'll be plenty more right after them.

JW: Through the journey of your musical career up to this point, what has been the most surreal moment for you?

JPW: I could give you a number of them. Like I said before, this entire process has honestly been surreal. It's like, don't pinch me. I don't want to wake up.

Selling out the Ryman. The Ryman is the mother church, and I had dreamed of playing there my entire life, much less selling it out as

a headliner. Playing on the Grand Ole Opry. That was ridiculous—chill bumps the entire time. Performing at the Grammys, winning two Grammys. Just being nominated was ridiculous. Playing the Royal Albert Hall in London. Meeting and touring with Adele.

Honestly, it feels completely like bragging; it feels completely egotistical to think back on the things we've been able to do this past year. We had this bucket list of what we'd like to accomplish in our careers, and we've knocked so many of those things out this year. It's hard to grasp it.

So now it's time to start making another album. And I hope we're able to make another record the exact same way we did the first time around and not let all these things weigh on us and put pressure on us and put added responsibility. Let's make a record for us like we did last time. Let it mature. Let it be whatever it's going to be. Will it be a minimal record? I don't know. Will it have a lot of electric guitars? I don't know. Maybe. Will there be a band? Maybe. We're going to completely leave all of our options open and just follow our nose.

JW: With that said, what do you think will be your next major milestone?

JPW: I don't know, man. It's still that old dream of making music I love and putting food on the table. That's still the be-all and end-all. The rest of it is icing on the cake.







moved to Nashville and never really considered it. We have the best of all worlds here: Studios and players and writers. And it's beautiful. I'm not going anywhere.

JW: This may sound cliché, but it's still an important question: What advice would you give aspiring musicians who are enrolled in UNA right now?

JPW: The one thing that used to always surprise me and frustrate me was being around anybody that wasn't soaking up every single bit of knowledge they could possibly get. You'd better grab a hold of everything you can possibly get and just devour it. There are always those people in the classes that are going to do whatever it takes. That would be my main bit of advice: Everything you can possibly get your hands on, take it in and consume it.

And then, outside of that, please yourself. It's so cliché, and I've heard it all my life: Be yourself. Make yourself happy. Do what you love. You know, everybody hears that. Everybody says that. But most people like me have to get to a desperate place before actually doing it, because it's scary to buck convention and say I don't care what anybody thinks. I'm going to do it my way and to please me. But you have to do it. I mean, if you look at your heroes—look at every one of your heroes—I guarantee you that's the way they went about it.

JW: How much of a difference has it made for you personally



and professionally to have gone through an academic program like the entertainment industry major here at UNA?

JPW: Well, it's funny. When I was playing up in Lawrenceburg and on the state line, I was playing in bands like Nothing Fancy and Cheyenne and had a wonderful time in those bands, and I'm still really good friends with all those guys. I just assumed that somebody was going to come walking into one of those bars and discover us and say, "Here's the contract. Sign on the back, and we're going to make you stars." I really had no clue how the whole business works, what the realities were, and about networking and

publishing and record company operations and how to write a song. You know, I'd written some songs, and some songs that I'm still proud of, but never on a nine-to-five kind of professional basis.

I couldn't believe how wonderful an education could be until I got here. I was taking classes on subjects that meant more to me than anything with people that felt the exact same way, with instructors that felt the same way and had been part of the life and the business and could give insight on what to do and what not to do. I felt like I'd struck gold. It was like, these are my people. These are people that have the same values systems and beliefs that I

do. They all had that common goal of making a mark. So I just completely fed on that and ate up every bit of information I could possibly find and started figuring out that it's not that far to Nashville. I wouldn't have ever met Walt if it weren't for this program. I probably would have just continued playing bars and waiting for that thing to happen that probably would never happen.

So it's the single most important thing I have done in my career. It made all the difference in the world.



Barton Hollow

JW: In the midst of this hugely successful career of yours, what do you enjoy most about coming home to UNA on days like today?

JPW: What I love about UNA and what I love about the Shoals and about living here and keeping my family here and my base here is that things do change and evolve, but they always stay the same. You know, it's a big small town, and I love that. I love that my family feels safe here, and we have our support network here. It's great seeing everybody from the not-so-distant past and knowing that that thread is still here and those roots are still here. That's a big deal to me. And that's why we've never





## GEORGE S. LINDSEY THEATRE DEDICATION

By Terry Pace ('85 & '04)

The University of North Alabama left a deep and lasting impression on an eager, irrepressible young football player and biology student from Jasper named **George Smith Lindsey ('52)**.

"My years here will never be forgotten—I wish I could relive them," the world-famous actor, entertainer, humorist and humanitarian declared as his beloved alma mater officially dedicated the George S. Lindsey Theatre on March 2, 2012. "If I had it to do over again, I'd do it exactly the same way."

The intimate black-box theatre—which provides a permanent home and state-of-the-art showcase for the school's vibrant and flourishing theatre program—is located behind Norton Auditorium and faces the Pine Street entrance to the UNA

campus. The theatre will make its official public debut when the UNA Summer Theatre program presents Tennessee Williams' classic Southern drama *A Streetcar Named Desire* from June 28-July 8.

"A principal gateway to UNA sits right outside the door to this theatre at Pine and Irvine streets, and is now distinguished by the presence of the beautiful George S. Lindsey Theatre," UNA President William G. Cale noted during the long-awaited dedication ceremony, assuring Lindsey that "your name will forever be a visible symbol of excellence in the performance arts and an inspiration for generations of students yet to come."

Lindsey—who was born in Fairfield, Alabama, and raised in Jasper—earned a







permanent place in American popular culture playing dim-witted but good-natured filling-station attendant Goober Pyle on one of television's most enduring and dearly loved sitcoms, *The Andy Griffith Show*, and its popular spinoff series, *Mayberry R.F.D.* In 1998, he launched the George Lindsey/UNA Film Festival, a regional film competition that celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the weekend that coincided with the theatre dedication.

"This institution and the people here changed my life," Lindsey recalled. "I came to this school on a football scholarship. I didn't know at the time what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew I wanted a college education—I always thought that was important. I got my degree in biological science, but I don't have a clue what's that about—I think it's got something to do with chickens. But getting an education is important. If

you've got an education, you can always get a job."

The theatre dedication also marked the return of Lindsey's best friend—Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine—to the UNA campus. Borgnine appeared as special guest for the Lindsey film festival in 1999, 2004 and 2007. While serving as the school's commencement speaker in 1999, Borgnine donated his personal collection of leather-bound career scripts—including his Oscar-winning role as Marty (1955)—to UNA's Collier Library Archives. The black-box playhouse inside the George S. Lindsey Theatre has been designated the Ernest Borgnine Performance Hall in honor of his close friendship with Lindsey and his own generous contributions to UNA.

"When I saw the enthusiasm in this place—not only from the students, but from the teachers as well—I said to myself, 'You know, it's crazy, but I wonder if they'd mind taking my scripts and using them,'" recalled Borgnine, whose credits include such screen classics as *From Here to Eternity*, *The Wild Bunch*, *The Poseidon Adventure*, *Escape from New York* and the



classic sitcom *McHale's Navy*. "So I offered them, and they took them most willingly. It was wonderful. I felt, 'Hey, man, I've accomplished something,' because they're not just sitting in some dusty floor at Yale University. They're being made use of here, and that's what counts. Since then it's been just one love affair after another with all the people here, and I just feel right at home."

Lindsey's wide-ranging career includes television's long-running country variety series *Hee-Haw*, memorable guest roles on *Gunsmoke*, *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *M\*A\*S\*H*, *The Rifleman*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* and *NewsRadio*, the Disney

animated favorites *The Aristocats*, *Robin Hood* and *The Rescuers*, and the feature films *Ensign Pulver*, *Snowball Express*, *Charley and the Angel* and *When I Find the Ocean*. Following the dedication ceremony, he and Borgnine chatted with UNA theatre and film students and encouraged them to follow their own hopes and dreams.

"Don't give up," Lindsey told the students. "Don't let anybody tell you that you can't do it, because you can. I went to Hollywood to work, and I did. I was not to be denied. It's not the easiest profession in the world, but somebody's got to do it—and it might as well be you."

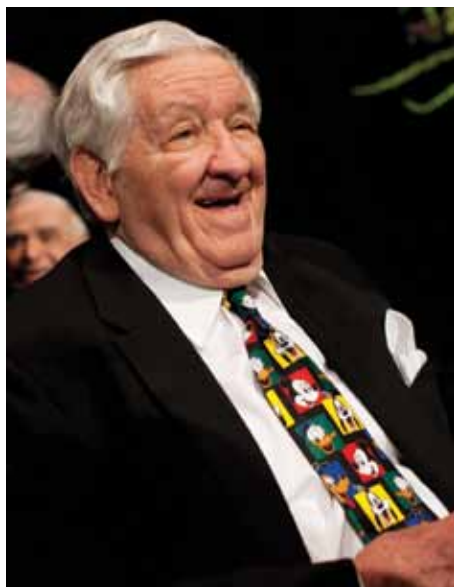


## UNIVERSITY MOURNS PASSING OF GEORGE LINDSEY

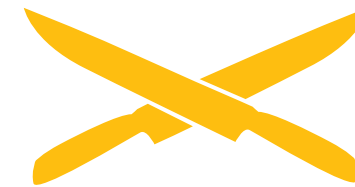
UNA lost a beloved member of its community the morning of May 6, when celebrated actor and entertainer George Lindsey passed away at age 83.

Lindsey was a 1952 graduate of UNA, where he was a member of the Lion football team. He was also one of the founders and namesake of the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, held each March since 1998. He made his last visit to campus in March, when UNA dedicated its new George S. Lindsey Theatre in his honor.

"Mr. Lindsey was a very dear member of our university family," said Dr. William G. Cale Jr., UNA president. "His outstanding career inspired many students, and we were always honored by his presence during his many visits to campus. He will be very greatly missed."







# GOOD GRUB

HOLLYWOOD STYLE

By Chelsea Bryant  
UNA student writer

The University of North Alabama is making a presence on the big screen. **Jack White ('78)**, a UNA alumnus, served as food stylist on the set of the hit movie *The Hunger Games*. Assisting Jack on the set of the film was UNA senior James Perini.

Jack White has been working on the set of various motion pictures since 1992; White has worked in food styling on the set of more than 75 motion pictures, including *The Social Network*, *Iron Man*, and *The Hangover*.

"Probably 65 to 70 percent of what I do never makes it in the movie," White said. "When I did *Iron Man*, there was a Moroccan party scene, which had a 12-foot buffet table. I spent a long time buying the food and preparing it for the scene, but during the filming, the camera never turned that direction."

But there was no such frustration with his latest project, *The Hunger Games*, in which food plays an integral part of the plot. Food plays a pivotal role in *The Hunger Games* and nearly all of White's work and Perini's assistance can be seen throughout the film.

*The Hunger Games* is popular among teens and young adults, and White's work on the film has turned him into a bit of a celebrity. After

the presentation, a young lady came up to White asking for a picture saying, "I told my friend this is the guy who made Peeta's bread!" Food was abundant in the fictional Capitol of *The Hunger Games*. And creating the large volume was somewhat of a challenge for White, who also operates a catering business in Pulaski, Tenn.

The movie, based on the best-selling series of books, takes place in a post-apocalyptic future in the national of Panem, which consists of a wealthy capitol surrounded by 12 impoverished districts. As punishment for a past rebellion against the government, the Capitol initiated the Hunger Games, a televised annual event in which one boy and one girl from each of the 12 districts are selected in a lottery as "tributes" and are required to fight to the death in an arena until there is one remaining victor. The movie featured a lot of lavish futuristic food that the wealthy people living in the capitol enjoy eating, as well as food for the impoverished people in the 12 districts.

"This is the absolute best movie I've worked on in terms of food," White said. "Food made up a big



In a dramatic scene from *The Hunger Games*, the star pulls back the string of her bow, points her arrow toward a suckling pig perched on a dining table and shoots the apple right out of its mouth. But the story you might not know about that pig is it was cooked in Big Bertha, a smoker that made the trek from Pulaski, Tenn., to North Carolina, where the wildly popular movie was filmed. In fact, every morsel of food in the movie—and there's a lot of it, from fancy flying fish to loaves of bread—was prepared by Jack White, a Radio, Television, & Film graduate from UNA.





James Perini

projects, White asked Perini if he'd be interested in assisting on the set of *The Hunger Games*.

"The first day there blew my mind. I couldn't believe I was working on the set of a major motion picture! It was hard to believe at first," said James. "The next day was a shoot day and that's when I saw my first movie star: Woody Harrelson, who plays Haymitch in the movie. It was very surreal and honestly, I was star struck."

When asked what he thought about working on the set of a major motion picture, James said, "Working on a movie set was the biggest learning experience ever for me. I had no idea what it took to make a movie; it takes hundreds of people, not just the actors, to make a movie happen. I think that everyone, from the construction workers to the director and all those in between are true artists." Perini said that he has also gained valuable experience from his mentor and UNA alumnus.

"The thing I loved the most about working on a movie set was that every day was different. There was not one day where I got bored or even tired because I love food. The whole experience was very valuable to me and everything I was experiencing was mind blowing." When asked if he wants to work on another movie set, James said, "Yes! I can't wait to work on another movie!"



Sarah Schiavone and Tyler Layne

Jack likes to spend as much time as possible at his home in Pulaski. A catering and private event space downtown (227) off the square is a training ground for UNA Culinary students like Tyler Layne who is preparing purple cupcakes like the ones from *The Cat in the Hat*.

part of the film and there was more food we actually created than in any other film I've done. It was really fun making up food for the film. The biggest challenge was creating the abundance of food that was portrayed in the book.

"In the book, Katniss goes from having next to nothing to being thrown into a world where there is more abundance. I got to create a world where there was an excess of everything and everything was really beautiful. When I go see the movie," White said, "seeing all that stuff we did blow up and on the big screen, it's going to be really cool. I'm really looking forward to it."

James Perini, of Sylacauga, a senior in the College of Human Environmental Sciences concentrating on Culinary Arts, tells how he was chosen to help Jack White with his food styling.

"I was in class one day and my chef made an announcement regarding Jack White, a food stylist from Los Angeles. When I heard 'food stylist' and 'Los Angeles' I immediately decided to call [Jack]," said James. Jack White returned Perini's call a few days later and he immediately began assisting White with food styling at smaller events and traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, to assist with events there. Soon after having Perini assist on many different



UNA senior James Perini and Jack White ('78)



# FROM THE PEACE CORPS TO THE FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE

By Lucy Berry  
Senior Student Writer in University Communications



Peace Corps, Honduras



With mother, Bea McGee at Graduation.

He's had tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid fever, parasites, been shot at, mugged, stabbed, pistol whipped, and taken hostage.

The University of North Alabama graduate has also survived earthquakes, hurricanes, mortar attacks, floods, burglaries, bombing attacks, crash landings and more.

But that's just a part of everyday life for UNA alumnus **Michael McGee** ('78), who has spent more than 30 years living and working overseas as a commercial counselor for the U.S.

Embassy, Peace Corps volunteer, businessman in Panama, and director of two programs to help refugees and ex-combatants of the Central American civil wars.

McGee, who is currently stationed in Bangkok, Thailand, was raised in rural Lauderdale County. He calls himself a quintessential country boy who grew up hunting, fishing, and working in the garden. But he always had a taste for something bigger and dreamed of seeing the world.

"I think that a lot of the time while

I was sitting on the shore fishing or waiting while I was deer hunting, I always dreamed about going to places and doing things no one else I knew had done and being able to have grand adventures and experiences in faraway places and strange cultures and environments," he said.

That's just what McGee did. After graduating from UNA with a bachelor's degree in psychology and health, physical education and recreation, and a master's degree in psychological counseling, McGee was accepted as a volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps and transferred to Honduras.

"I was at a point in my life where I needed a big change and the Peace Corps came along as an opportunity at that time," he said. "It was a completely different kind of experience and it was a very interesting time to be in Honduras because the wars in Central America were quite volatile at that time."

After McGee was assigned to a small village in Honduras near the border of El Salvador, the house he was setting up in was overrun by guerillas and shot at multiple times. That incident forced the Peace Corps to reassign McGee to another location in the country.

McGee stayed with the Peace Corps as a volunteer from 1982 to 1985 where he eventually took on a semi-supervisory role and headed up a project that allowed him to work with disabled people in Central America. At that time, McGee said there were







The Dominican Republic with President Fernandez, Ambassador, and staff.



virtually no services for people who were blind, deaf, or mentally disabled within the country.

He used his background and education in psychology to assist other volunteers dealing with crisis or emotional situations, and also wrote a grant that helped secure \$1 million to develop services for disabled people.

During his time as a Peace Corps volunteer, McGee organized the first-ever telethon in Honduras, raising approximately \$2 million that went on to serve as the foundation to create an institute in the capital city for helping disabled people who couldn't afford treatment.

McGee believes his education at UNA provided him with the skills needed to work for the Peace Corps after college.

"One of my favorite professors always reminded me that a university teaches you how to think," he said. "I believe that the education I got at the University of North Alabama was one that prepared me to be able to excel in my career. I had professors who cared about me, talked to me and spent time with me as a person and not just simply as a student."

McGee later went on to open a business in Panama with his wife, who works now as an international telecommunications consultant. They also began a project to help disabled civil war victims, ex-combatants,

refugees, their families and all military personnel in Central America.

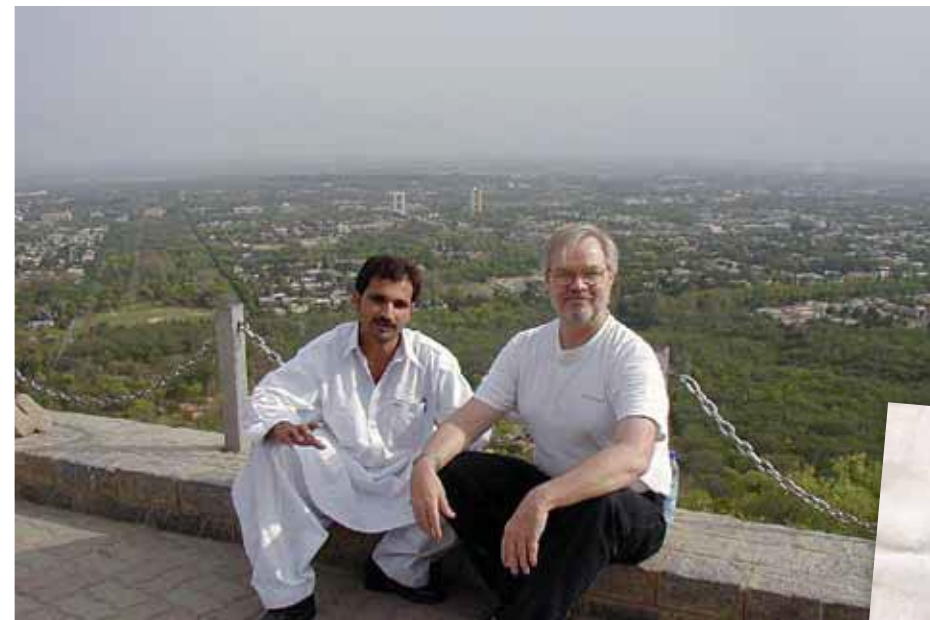
In 1993, he joined the Foreign Commercial Service as an officer. Since that time, he has served in Mexico, Argentina, Miami, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, and San Salvador.

McGee has faced highs and lows in his position with the Foreign Service. One of McGee's roughest times was when he was at a 2003 U.S. business conference and a bombing occurred in a residential compound in Saudi Arabia.

He was blocked from re-entering Saudi Arabia, where his family, belongings, house, and car were. His family had been evacuated out of the



In native costume with friends and staff in Lagos, Nigeria



With a Pakistani man the day that a church was bombed in Islamabad, Pakistan, where two US Embassy family members were killed by a suicide bomber and many USG officials and family members were injured.

country following the bombing, but he was never able to return to live there again. He was allowed to briefly return to Saudi Arabia to pack his entire house but forced to leave the premises quickly.

"I didn't get to say goodbye to any of my contacts or friends," he said. "It was a very abrupt and traumatic experience."

In January, McGee spoke to Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Tim Collins' constitutional law class about his background, job roles, life experiences, advice and aspirations for the future.

McGee said one of his favorite parts of working overseas has been to serve the U.S.

"Being able to represent the United States, the American people, and our government is such an honor that means so much to me," he said. "It's been the greatest honor being able to serve the American people and represent the U.S. overseas to other countries, governments, and people."



With UNA Professors Dr. Claudia Vance and Dr. Richard Hudiburg during visit to Wesleyan Hall



Story from a Saudi newspaper

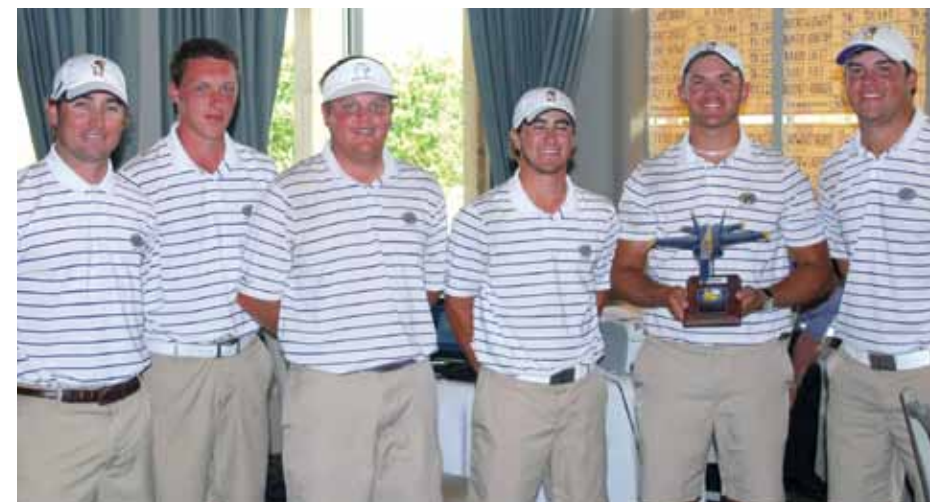




## SENIOR CLASS

The 2011 UNA Women's Soccer Team won the first Gulf South Conference title in the program's 15-year history and made a third straight trip to the NCAA South Regional Tournament.

The team included six four-year lettermen who helped alter the program's history. Stephanie Bradshaw, Hollie Loud, Alex McLay, Beth Spurr, Adrienne Aragon and Jamie Takala joined a UNA program in 2008 that was coming off three straight losing seasons. Over their four-year careers they posted a combined 60-23-3 record that included the first national ranking in the program's history, the first NCAA post-season appearance and the first GSC title.



## SENIOR CLASS

Prior to 2009, the UNA men's golf team had never won a Gulf South Conference championship. The UNA golf team senior class of 2012 took care of that, winning three crowns in their four years at the school. Seniors Jake Greer and Ty Chandler were members of GSC championship teams in 2009, 2010 and

2012 and were part of a 2012 team that won five of the six spring tournaments it played and had a 65-6 head-to-head record. That squad (above) includes head coach Stuart Clark, Blaise Wilson, Greer, Tyler Ekenberg, Chandler and Ricky Stimets.



## SENIOR CLASS

The 2011 UNA football team finished with a 9-3 record and competed in the NCAA playoffs for a seventh straight season. That team included three seniors who spent five years together in the UNA program: Robbie Burdine, Jamie Dixon and Thomas Glenn. During their time as

part of the UNA football team, the Lions were nationally ranked 51 times, spent 45 weeks in the Top 10 and five weeks at No. 1. The trio was a part of one Gulf South Conference championship team and four straight NCAA playoff squads.

## NO. 1

The 2012 UNA baseball team achieved the first No. 1 national ranking in the program's history on March 26 when the Lions were ranked first in the NCAA Division II by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

## NO. 1

The 2011 UNA football team was ranked No. 1 in the nation in Division II for two weeks. It marks the sixth different season in which the Lions have achieved a No. 1 national ranking.



# COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU



## 21 FORMER LIONS CURRENTLY PLAYING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

If you want to see a former University of North Alabama football player in action in a professional football league, you shouldn't have to travel far.

There are currently 21 former Lions on teams in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Former UNA cornerback Janoris Jenkins was drafted in the second round of the 2012 NFL draft by the St. Louis Rams. A native of Pahokee, Fla., he was the 39th overall pick in the 2012 draft after playing his senior season at North Alabama.

Jenkins is the 14th all-time UNA player taken in the NFL draft but is the first since Tyrone Bell was drafted by the San Diego Chargers in 1999.

Two other former Lions recently signed free agent contracts with National Football League teams as well.

The late Lewis Billups, also a cornerback at UNA, was the 38th overall pick in the 1986 draft by the Cincinnati Bengals to rank as the highest drafted player in school history.

Marcus Dowtin, an Upper Marlboro, Md., native who played linebacker for the Lions in 2011, has signed with the New York Jets. He led UNA with 115 tackles last season and had four sacks and eight tackles for loss.

Will Batson, a Killen, Ala., native and former All-American punter for the Lions in 2009, has signed with the Tennessee Titans. He averaged 41.9 yards per punt as a senior.

There are another 17 former UNA players also currently in professional football.

Jarmon Fortson, Brent Vinson, and Michael Johnson are all members of Canadian League teams.

There are 13 Lions playing indoor football, on teams in the Arena Football League, the Indoor Football League and the Professional Indoor Football League.

Former UNA running back Wes Holland is playing in Europe as part of the Italian Football League's Catania Elephants.

### National Football League

Janoris Jenkins (DB) – Los Angeles Rams  
Marcus Dowtin (LB) – New York Jets  
Will Batson (P) – Tennessee Titans  
Preston Parker (WR) – Tampa Bay Buccaneers

### Canadian Football League

Jarmon Fortson (WR) – Toronto Argonauts  
Michael Johnson (LB) – Toronto Argonauts  
Brent Vinson (DB) – Calgary Stampeders

### Arena Football League

Antron Dillon (DL) – Arizona Rattlers  
Courtney Harris (DL) – Chicago Rush  
Domini Pittman (DL) – Pittsburgh Power  
Kenny Spencer (P-PK) – Spokane Shock  
Deivon Tate (DB) – Milwaukee Mustangs

### Indoor Football League

D'Arcy Coleman (DL) – Reading Express

### Professional Indoor Football League

Darren Dampier (DB) – Alabama Hammers  
Charles McClain (WR) – Alabama Hammers  
Mico McSwain (WR) – Alabama Hammers  
Kem Oti (OL) – Alabama Hammers  
Nicholas Walker (LB) – Alabama Hammers  
Anthony Merritt (WR) – Columbus Lions  
Jason Messing (WR) – Knoxville Nighthawks

### Italian Football League

Wes Holland (RB) – Catania Elephants




## FORMER LION JOSH WILLINGHAM EARNS AMERICAN LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE WEEK AWARD



Just months after signing a three-year, \$21 million contract with the Minnesota Twins, former University of North Alabama All-American Josh Willingham began making an immediate impact with his new club, earning American League Player of the Week honors for April 16.

A Florence native who played for the Lions from 1998-2000, Willingham hit .455 (10-for-22) with a double, three home runs, four RBIs and

three walks. The three home runs came in three straight games over four days against the Angels.

Willingham also hit safely in his first 15 games with the Twins, tying a franchise record set by Kirby Puckett for the longest hitting streak by a Twin to start the season. Puckett accomplished the feat in 1994. Willingham set a new mark for longest hitting streak by a player to start his career with Minnesota.



## VOTE FOR WILLINGHAM ON 2012 AMERICAN LEAGUE ALL-STAR BALLOT

Former UNA All-American and current hot-hitting Minnesota Twins outfielder Josh Willingham is on this year's American League All-Star ballot. Fans can cast their votes for starters up to 25 times at MLB.com and all 30 club sites—online or using a mobile device—using the 2012 All-Star Game MLB.com Ballot until Thursday, June 28, at 10:59 p.m. CT.

Willingham began the season with a 15-game hitting streak and continues to lead the Twins in virtually every offensive category.





## message from the Alumni President



Hello UNA Alumni,

Wow! Spring has sprung and summer is on its way! And it's great to be a UNA Lion!

The Alumni board hosted the second annual UNA Leadership Summit and I am happy to say it was a huge success. A special thank you to University faculty and staff including **Dennis Balch ('71)**, **Melody Stewart, ('06)**, Melissa Medlin, **Patricia Sanders ('82**

**& '94)**, **Russ Darracort ('09 & '10)**, Lee Hurren, Vince Brewton, and Celia Reynolds, who were presenters giving updates and information on their programs and how alumni can help them. The alumni that participated in the summit were able and eager to work on the Alumni Association's new strategic plan which will move our organization in a new and exciting direction! The group also heard from head football coach Bobby Wallace. He talked about the direction in which he will lead the UNA football team, told of the massive number of people that it takes to field a successful team, and related how we as alumni can be better team leaders by encouraging participation and giving back to the University.

During the spring and summer there are more opportunities than ever to get involved on campus and with your local UNA alumni club. Please check the Alumni website as well as the local club Facebook pages for upcoming events! Groups are hosting everything from baseball games to events during the W.C. Handy Festival. All these events are fun and a good way to get connected to local alumni.

Now is also a good time to think about giving back in the form of scholarships to students. I was recently able to attend the scholarship recipient dinner held on campus. Here students and recipients of scholarships were able to visit and dine with the generous individuals that gave back to the University and helped them afford a college education. It reminded me that if possible we all are responsible to pay it forward and leave a lasting legacy as we help these students and our future better themselves so they can be leaders in their communities.

As your president, I encourage you all to get involved, and give back and support the University of North Alabama in any way you can. It is our duty as alumni to do so, and please encourage others and future generations to do the same!

Roar Lions!

**Sarah Beth Alexander '04**

*UNA Alumni Association President*

### UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Sarah Beth Alexander ('04), *President*  
Pat Burney ('88), *President Elect*  
Rod Sheppard ('98, '04 & '07), *Vice President*  
Larry Softley ('89), *2nd Vice President*  
Linda Vaughan ('70), *Secretary*  
Lucy Trousdale ('89), *Treasurer*  
Heath Trousdale ('88), *Legal Counsel*  
Reeda Lee ('74), *Chapter Advisor*  
Pat Roden ('77), *Faculty Advisor*  
William Smith ('89), *President Advisor*  
Brad Holmes ('02), *Past President*  
Jan Ingle ('85), *Public Relations*  
Carol Lyles ('70), *Director of Alumni Relations*

### UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Ausborn ('98), *Florence*  
Bucky Beaver ('64), *Florence*  
Andy Betterton ('75), *Florence*  
Clint ('00) and Rebecca Carter ('02), *Huntsville*  
Derrick Chatman ('08), *Chattanooga*  
Kay Davis ('73), *Muscle Shoals*  
Nikki Durr ('00), *Atlanta*  
Jeff ('64) and Pam Edwards ('65), *Birmingham*  
Janie ('57) and Ernest ('58) Haygood, *Florence*  
Douglas Hargett ('02), *Florence*  
Greg Law ('86), *Suwanee, GA*  
Brenda Mayes ('86), *Muscle Shoals*  
Jonathan McKinney ('02), *Florence*  
Christa Raney ('97), *Florence*  
Bart ('96) and Shannon Rickard ('04), *Tusculumbia*  
Justin Sizemore ('03), *Florence*  
Elaine Softley ('88), *Tusculumbia*  
Robert Steen ('60), *Florence*  
Amanda Terry ('00), *Chattanooga*  
Ron Tyler ('96), *Muscle Shoals*  
Maria ('00) and Brad ('00) Warren, *Killen*  
Cheron White ('98), *Florence*  
Charles Winters ('86), *Huntsville*  
Don York ('60), *Muscle Shoals*

### UNA ALUMNI CLUB LEADERS

**Alabama**  
Holly Hollman ('96), *Athens*  
Elaine Witt ('76), *Colbert County*  
Eve Rhea ('02), *Greater Birmingham Area*  
Patrick Johnson ('99), *Decatur*  
Ryan ('01) and Lisa ('00) Clayton, *Florence*  
Tom Greenhaw ('60), *Gadsden*  
Tommy Whitten ('77) *Huntsville*  
Nicky Ray ('96), *Marion County*  
Josh McFall ('07) *Greater Montgomery Area*  
Clayton Grider ('08), *Mountain Lakes*

#### DC Area

Will Hodges ('10)

#### Florida

Maury Shipper ('78), *Jacksonville*  
Lawrence Davis ('80), *Orlando*

#### Georgia

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

#### Mississippi

Amanda Everett ('74), *Jackson*

#### Tennessee

John Haeger ('99) *Greater Nashville*  
Mac Brown ('72) *South Central Tennessee*  
Bobby Clemons ('70), *Knoxville/East Tennessee*

#### Texas

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

#### International

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

#### Departmental

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



Josh Woods and Eve Rhea ('02)



Mike Curtis ('77), Will Hodges ('10) & Barry Morris



Levon Humphrey ('93) & Rod Sheppard ('98, '04 & '07)



Lee Hurren and Bill and Linda Kirby Vaughan ('70)



Melody Stewart ('06), Cheron Pitts White ('98), Christa Higgins Raney ('97), Lisa Holley Clayton ('00, & '02)



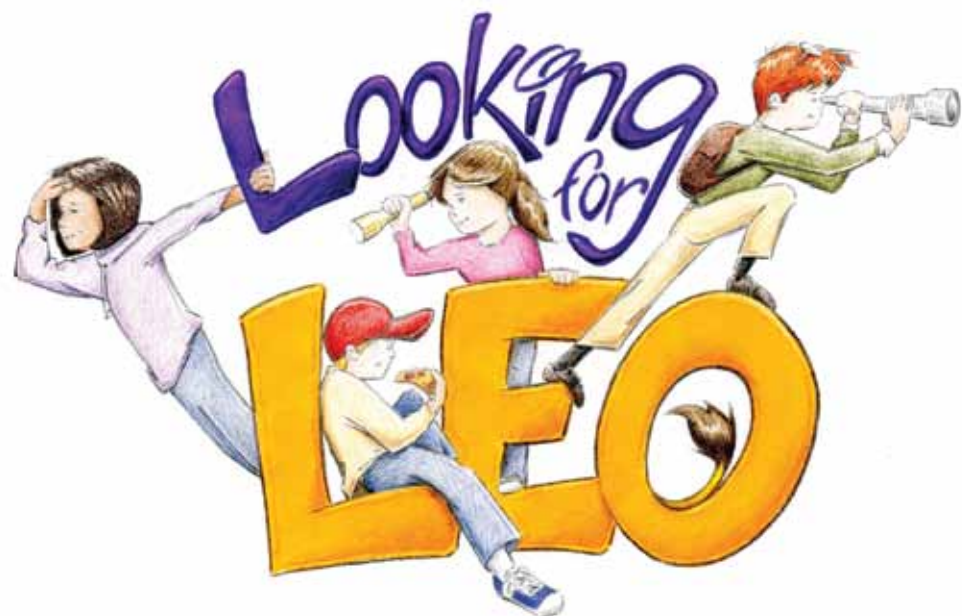
Derrick Chatman ('08), Larry Softley ('89 & '08), and Randal ('77) & Pat Williams Roden ('75 & '77)



Jan Turner Ingle ('85) and Brian Ingle







## UNIVERSITY UNVEILS NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

By Shelly Hellums ('06)  
Kilby Media Specialist/6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Kilby parent



"Hi, everybody!" Una said to the group of kids gathered outside Kilby School. "Is Leo here?"

On April 20<sup>th</sup> Kilby students and visiting UNA students sat mesmerized in the auditorium as they watched and listened to **Dalen Keys** ('80), UNA alumnus, Kilby alumnus, and author of *Looking for Leo*, begin to read his children's book. Una even showed up to help Dalen read the story.

The book was written about Kilby students on a quest through UNA's campus to find the beloved mascot. As part of the university, the Kilby Cubs felt even more ingrained in the campus culture as they saw characters and landmarks that they are familiar with such as the Keenum Sundial, the practice fields beside Flowers Hall, and the amphitheater come to life in the pages of the published book.

The illustrator even enlisted the help of four Kilby students to help illustrate a page of the book. At the story's end author Keys and illustrator and UNA alumnus, **Walt Vandiver** ('01) answered questions from the students and faculty and reminisced about their times at Kilby and UNA. Students were amused when Keys explained how a scar still remained on his knee from a kickball



game on Kilby's playground years ago. The students could also relate to Keys' memory of crossing Pine Street while his principal waved a white handkerchief to caution traffic, as they too make that same walk to cross Pine Street for UNA events.

In fact, the Kilby family made the walk just three days later to join other Leo and Una supporters for the 9th annual birthday bash. The author and illustrator visit just launched the beginning of the festivities. April 23<sup>rd</sup> had been embedded into the minds of Kilby students for weeks in advance because they so look forward to the party every April.

The students arrived at Harrison Plaza and gathered around the Lion Habitat. After a brief ceremony, the



6<sup>th</sup> grade class led the party-goers in a chorus of Happy Birthday then held to tradition as they called three times for the lions. Once the crowd called for Leo and Una for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, the lions entered the observation area of the habitat as if they knew it was their big day. The Kilby students cheered and applauded enthusiastically to see their mascots and personally wish them happy birthday.

The attention of the Kilby students then turned to the student-athlete booths set up around the plaza. With birthday cake-smears faces Kilby students stood in line to have their faces painted, and grab balloon animals shaped like lions. The fun jump bouncer was a big hit and the kids had a chance to speak one-on-one with Dalen and Walt as they signed copies of *Looking for Leo*. The two sold and signed well over one hundred copies of the books to Kilby Cubs.

When the celebration was over, the exhausted but beaming students made the short walk back to their home at Kilby, already making plans to celebrate the 10th birthday of Leo and Una next April.



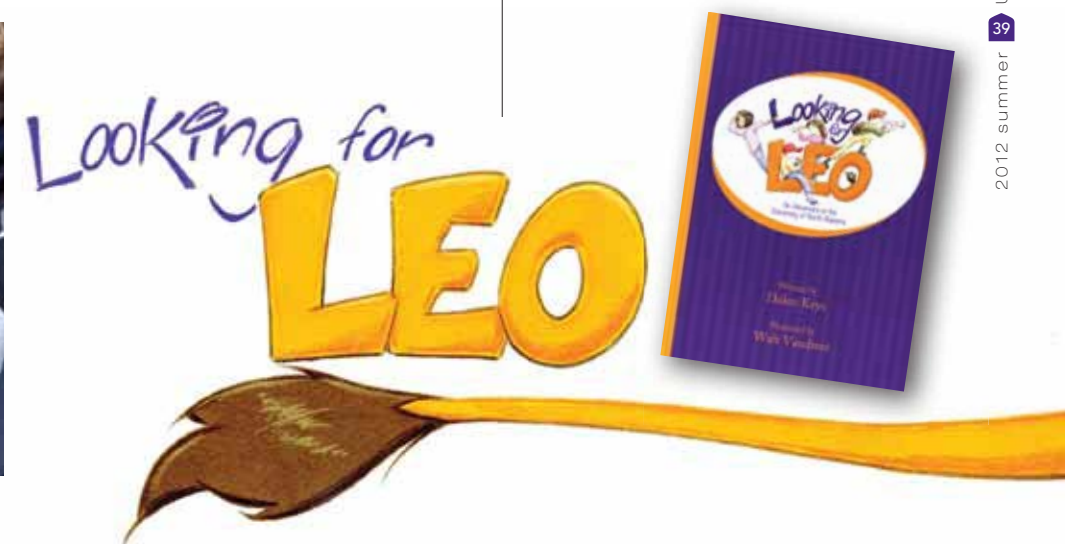
A children's book created for friends of the lions by alums of the university, *Looking for Leo* is now available as a hardcover edition for \$10 each. Proceeds will help support the lions and George H. Carroll Lion Habitat.

**UNA Advancement Office**  
Rogers Hall UNA Campus / M-F 8:00-4:30

**University Bookstore**  
Guillot University Center / in store and online

**B-A-M**  
Birmingham • Huntsville  
Decatur • Florence

**Lion Habitat**  
Weekends







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## ALUMNI CLUB DECATUR AND MORGAN COUNTY



Heather Thompson ('02) and Beth Tutwiler ('91), Ashley Thompson, Patrick ('99) and Vanessa Johnson, Cory Wilbanks ('99), and Steve Pirkle ('79)



Heath ('99 & '04) and Amy Grimes ('98)



Mickey ('72) and Charles Taylor ('71)



Alan Watkins ('94)



Terry ('01) and Amber James ('05)



Marcilla Weems ('61 & '77)



Bruce Jones ('87) and Coach Bobby Wallace



## ALUMNI PRIDE LAUDERDALE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Ronnie Lewey ('73, '79 & '99), Inductee with Rod Sheppard ('98, '04, & '07)



Ronnie Pannell ('78), Inductee



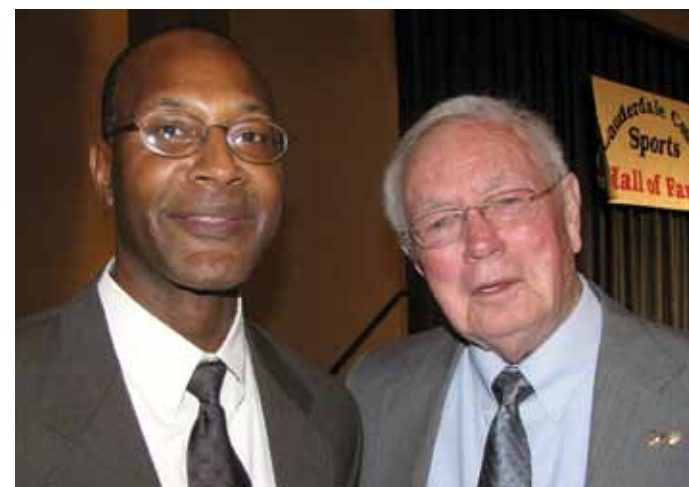
Steve Harrison ('75), Inductee and Master of Ceremonies



Ikey Fowler ('78), Inductee



Rickie Putman ('84 & '88), Inductee



Otis Boddie with Grady Liles, Inductee



## LEGACY GIFT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

**Aubrey and Hettie Butler Terry ('48)** are making plans NOW for a legacy gift. As they plan for their future, they also have in mind the future of a lot of the students who will graduate from Russellville High School. Dr. Terry, a medical doctor, and his wife Hettie spent more than fifty years serving and sharing a love for the Russellville Community. Now they want part of their legacy to be helping the next generation secure successful and fulfilling futures.

The Terrys have executed a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, which pays them an annuity for the rest of their lives and then, with the trust residuum, funds the Aubrey and Hettie Butler Terry Endowed Scholarship which will provide scholarships to graduates of Russellville High School who enroll as freshmen at UNA. Endowed funds are special in many ways, one of which is that they will provide scholarships to UNA students in perpetuity. What a wonderful way to "plant trees under whose shade you may never sit!"

*You, too, can show your support for UNA and plan for your own future at the same time. Interested in making a planned gift to the University of North Alabama?*



### CONTACT

Dr. Barry Morris, *Director of Planned Giving*  
256-765-4861 • [bkmorris@una.edu](mailto:bkmorris@una.edu)





Joel Williamson ('02), Jason Whiddon ('04) and Kwoya and Marcus Maples ('02) in Birmingham



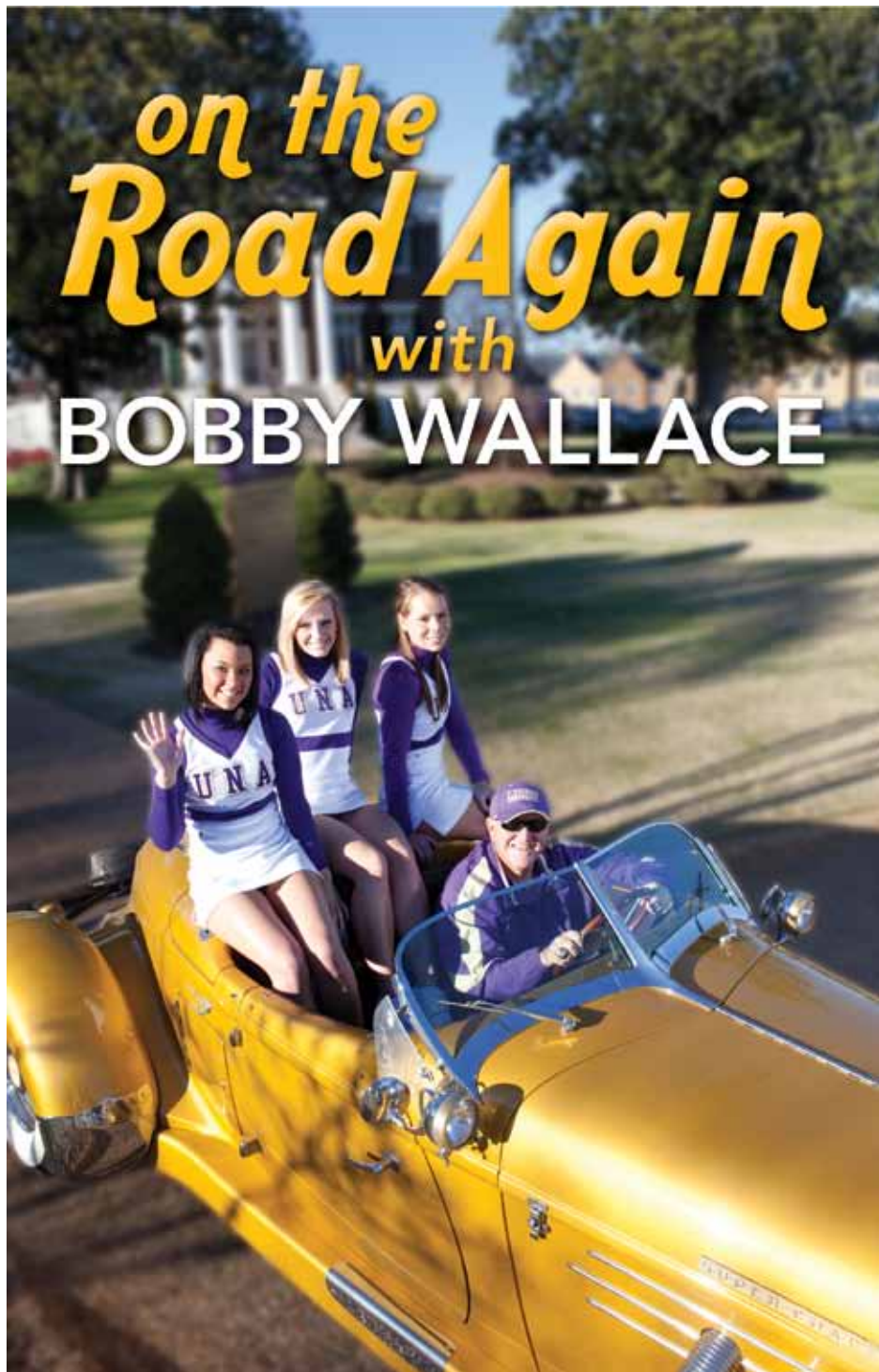
Alan Medders and Elaine Witt ('76) in Colbert County



Bill ('58) and Jerry Godsey ('58) in Huntsville



Dave Kirkland ('78), Coach Wallace, John Battcher ('65) in Huntsville



Trish and Scott Montgomery with Coach Wallace in Russellville



Karen and Louis Thiry, Philippe and Donna Mahieux and with Coach Wallace in Huntsville



Eve Rhea ('02) and Tom York ('50) in Birmingham



Christopher ('02) and Robin Burrell in Birmingham



Rick ('78) and Leigh ('77) Haley in Birmingham



James ('50) and Marjorie Kimbrell in Mobile



Jeff Edwards ('64), Lynn Cogburn ('87), and Vincent Saylor ('05) in Birmingham



Marcene Emmett ('80) and Johnny Simpson ('90) in Mobile



David ('84) and Joanne Horton ('74) with Coach Wallace in Mobile



Fred ('82) and Susan Riley in Mobile



Troy Oliver ('65) in Russellville



Larry ('89) and Elaine ('88) Softley in Colbert County



## LION KING

Can you feel the love tonight? Coach Bobby Wallace's "On the Road Again" caravan to alumni clubs and speaking engagements everywhere reinforced his love for UNA, Florence, coaching, and his players. Former players (some coaches themselves now) and fans shared the emotion and the electricity that prevailed as Coach Wallace reminisced and planned for the future of UNA football.

Wallace said, "It takes a team of more than 130 people to successfully play a game each week. I give credit to the trainers, coaches, and athletics staff as well as team members and dedicated community and fans. Working together, we are building the pride at the university. We need you on our team."

Make your plans to be a vital, active part of the perfect harmony when the coach comes to your town and make advance preparations to be present as the 2012 season begins on September 2.



Russ Blackwell ('66), Patsy ('96) and Steve Johnson in Colbert County



Coach Bobby and Sharon Wallace with Jackie Ferguson ('66) in Colbert County



Coach Smothers, Billy Witt ('87), Coach Wallace and Michael Jackson ('92) in Russellville



Matt ('97) and Greta ('96) Cooper and children with Miss UNA Anne-Marie Hall in Russellville





## CLASS NOTES

### FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Grady Liles** was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He was the Southeastern Golden Gloves boxing champion in 1947 and North Alabama Lightweight champion three times. He joined the U.S. Marines and became one of the top boxers in the service. He was the ringleader in bringing NCAA Division II National Championship football game to Florence. He was inducted into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1998.

### 1940s

**Hettie Butler Terry ('48)** visited campus recently. She was accompanied by her husband, Dr. Aubrey Terry. The Terrys live in Jacksonville, Fla. with their children after living most of their lives in Russellville. Mrs. Terry was a member of the UNA Alumni Association.

### 1950s

**James Kimbrell ('50)** and his wife Marjorie attended the Mobile UNA Alumni meeting with Coach Bobby Wallace. Kimbrell retired after a life-long career in education. They live in Chickasaw, Ala.

**Tom York ('50)** lives in Birmingham with his wife Helen. York was the official host at Alabama Sports Hall of Fame when Coach Bobby Wallace addressed the Greater Birmingham Area Alumni Club. His plaque hangs in the ASHOF with other UNA greats Harlon Hill, George Lindsey, Hal Self, Wimp Sanderson, Ronald McKinnon, and Bobby Wallace. In 1969, York began his association with the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, where he hosted its yearly awards banquet. York wrote, produced, and was the Master of Ceremonies for the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame induction

banquet from 1971-1995. In addition, his voice is heard throughout the Hall of Fame at the various video stations.

**Maggie Jones Marchant ('53)** lives in Tallahassee, Fla. She is a retired music educator and is currently a volunteer at the UMC and member of choir and Senior Chimes Ringers; the Woman's Club of Tallahassee past Education Chairman; the Leon-Wakulla Retired Educators Corresponding Secretary; and a member of Tallahassee Symphony Society, Tallahassee Music Guild, T-Apple Group and Tallahassee Film Society, and the Tallahassee Genealogical Society Nominations Committee.

### 1960s

**Judge Ed Gosa ('62)** was the featured speaker at the spring Endowed Scholarship Appreciation Dinner at the University of North Alabama. Gosa and his wife have established the Gosa-Lindley Endowed Scholarship for students who pursue a degree in education. He and **Carolyn ('62)** live in Vernon, Ala.

**Gene Hamby ('65)** lives in Muscle Shoals with his wife Judy. Hamby is an active member of the Colbert County Alumni Club. He initiated a program to educate those interested about the many creative ways to support your church, university, and school system. The program presenters included Dr. Alan Medders and Dr. Barry Morris from UNA, who discussed the ways in which these institutions, you, and your loved ones all benefit at the same time. The program was at Sheffield High School.

**Faye Hunter Torstrick ('65)** served as an executive board member of the UNA Alumni Association while she was living in Florence from 2008. Bob and Faye have purchased a condo in Louisville, Ky., Bob's hometown. They have

two sons, one daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters living in Louisville. They said, "We would never follow our children; we will follow our grandchildren anywhere."

### 1970s

**Dennis R. Balch ('71)**, was winner of the UNA College of Business Faculty Teaching Award. He is an Associate Professor of Management. In collaboration with Dr. John Crabtree, he designed an orientation course for the MBA program. Summer 2011 provided him the opportunity to teach a course on Chinese province-level economies—in China. From 1977 to 2001, he worked through both boom and bust years in the computer industry—as a technical writer, a programmer, a quality assurance manager, a software development manager, and a senior executive. Balch and his wife **Betty ('69)** live in Killen.

**JoAnne Horton ('74)** and her husband **David ('84)** attended the Mobile UNA Alumni meeting with Coach Bobby Wallace. JoAnne retired from administration at Foley Elementary School and David currently works as Manager, Public Affairs and CATV for Riviera Utilities. They live in Foley, Ala.

**Steve Harrison ('75)** was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball at Brooks High School as the school began its athletic programs. Harrison has been the public address announcer for 20 years at UNA, 31 years at Braly Stadium and 25 years for the Division II National Championship Game. He has been the emcee for the Harlon Hill Trophy banquet for 20 years. He is the founder and president of the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame.

**Ikey Fowler ('78)** was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame.

He was a varsity letterman at Central, in basketball, football and baseball. He started at shortstop and first base for UNA, where he won the Gold Glove award for his .981 fielding percentage in 1978. He also hit .282 with nine home runs and 63 RBIs in his career with the Lions. He was the defensive coordinator at UNA and head football coach at Central from 1994-2005.

**Ronnie Pannell ('78)** was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He lettered in baseball and football at Coffee. He was softball coach at Mars Hill for 15 years, leading his team to six sectional tournaments, four state tournaments, and one state runner-up. He is now in his 28th year as a broadcaster. He broadcast UNA football, basketball, and baseball games over a six-year period, and has broadcast Bradshaw games and Shoals Area Football Games of the Week. Pannell has broadcast more than 1,000 Mars Hill basketball games.

**Joel Raney ('78)** is the current owner of Chicago music production, Catfish Music. He also serves as Artist-in-Residence at the First Presbyterian Church in River Forest, Ill.

**Jack White ('78)** was the food stylist for the film "The Hunger Games." He has been the food stylist for more than 75 major motion pictures and television shows since 1992.

### 1980s

**Lawrence Davis ('80)** and his wife Rebecca live in Orlando, Fla. Davis is Senior Information Technology expert with Lockheed Martin Corporation in Orlando. He is the President of the Orlando Area UNA Alumni Club. They met recently at Dubsdread Country Club with **Becky Morris ('82), Frank Bush ('75), Mark and Eve Yeates ('81), Martha Robbins Cooper ('62), Beverly Ware**

**Wisner ('65), and Maury and Diane Shipper ('78).**

**Marcene Emmett ('80)** lives in Mobile with his wife **Sabrina ('80)**. He works in Human Resource management with Australia-based shipbuilder Austal. Emmett attended the Mobile UNA Alumni meeting.

**Ronnie Lewey ('82)** was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He was a letterman in football and baseball and wrestling at Coffee. As a senior, he made All-Area, All-Tennessee Valley Conference, All-North Alabama and All-State teams, and was chosen MVP of the Quad Cities. He signed with UNA and helped the Lions to their first Gulf South Conference football championship in 1980. He was a successful football, baseball, track, and golf coach at Bradshaw for more than 10 years. Lewey also led Bradshaw to a Class 5A state golf championship in 1999.

**Fred Riley ('82)** is football coach and Athletic Director at Davidson High School in Mobile. Riley and his wife Susan attended the Mobile UNA Alumni meeting with Coach Bobby Wallace.

**Rick Putman ('84)** was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He lettered in football, baseball and basketball at Lexington High School. He hit .377 with 13 home runs for UNA from 1982-83. He coached at Rogers, East Lawrence, Colbert County, and Lexington and led Rogers High School to state baseball championships in 1990 and 1991. He led Lexington to baseball state finals in 2009 and was named Birmingham News State 3A Coach of the Year.

**David Edwards ('85)** was the featured speaker on campus for the spring induction ceremony for Sigma Pi Sigma, the Physics Honor Society. Edwards is a Material Engineer for NASA at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. His discussion centered on solar sails.

**Jan Ingle ('85)** was awarded the Chairman's Award at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce

at the 2012 Annual Meeting. Active in the community, Jan served as director of CASA, sings with the Florence Camerata, an accomplished community chorus and serves on the UNA Alumni Board. She was a featured speaker at the Career Planning and Development Dream Job panel this spring. Jan is a purchasing agent at SBS Electric Supply Co., Inc., in Florence.

**Jacqueline Scott ('85)** has been promoted as a BB&T banking officer. Scott, who joined the bank in 2011, is a financial center leader and small business advisor in BB&T's Village at Sandhill office in Columbia, S.C.

**Kevin Naumann ('86)** is the Marketing Director/Corporate of NAFECO in Decatur, Ala. He serves on the board of the Decatur Morgan County Alumni Club. Kevin and his wife **Carrie ('83)** live in Decatur.

**Gail Moore ('88)** has been named Jackson County Market President of Regions Bank. She is an active member of the Mountain Lakes UNA Alumni Club.

### 1990s

**Gwen Elder ('91)** was named the new principal at A&M Consolidated High School. She has been serving as the school's interim principal since February 2, 2012. Elder's entire professional career has been at AMCHS. Prior to her role as interim principal, Elder served stints as the school's associate principal, assistant principal, business education teacher, girls basketball coach and girls track coach. She was named the 2007-2008 AMCHS Teacher of the Year.

**Scott Augustin ('94)** has been welcomed to the Hiscall Team and will be representing Southern Middle Tennessee.

**Jason Rich ('98)** is the county executive for Wayne County, Tennessee, and is the highest elected official. He was a featured speaker at the Career Planning and Development Dream Job panel this spring.

**Rod Sheppard ('98, '04 & '07)** was a featured speaker at the Career Planning and Development Dream Job panel this spring.

**Patrick Johnson ('99)** is a State Farm Agent in Decatur, Ala. He is the President of the Decatur Morgan County Alumni Club.

### 2000s

**Nesha Donaldson ('00)** is the chief financial officer for Cullman Regional Medical Center. Donaldson has been CRMC's Controller since 2004. Prior to that, she worked as an accounting executive for Cullman Electric Cooperative and Drummond Company.

**Sarah Beth Vandiver Alexander ('04)** is the President of the UNA Alumni Association. She and her husband Ben live in Florence. Ben is an Alfa insurance agent in Muscle Shoals.

**Leigh Anne Willingham ('04)** received awards this spring as distinguished educator and teacher of the year in Giles County, Tenn.

The UNA Department of Accounting & Business Law has welcomed **Rebecca Hamm ('04 & '05)** as an Instructor of Accounting. Rebecca previously worked as a CPA in public accounting. Rebecca spends time with her three young children and can often be spotted with them at local activities including UNA athletic events. She is a part of Tanzania Christian Services Foundation, which is a medical missionary team based out of Florence that spends 10 months of every year in Arusha, Tanzania. Utilizing her accounting background, Rebecca functions as Comptroller of this group. While she currently supports the organization from Alabama, she hopes to visit and experience the work firsthand when her children get a little older.

**Kimberly Gean Lawson ('05)** has been promoted from TVA Credit Union Loan Officer to Branch Manager of the Dr. Hicks locations in Florence.

Kimberly has been with the TVACU Loan Department since 2006.

**Gale Satchel ('05)** a graduate of the Ed.S program at UNA, recently finished all requirements for a doctoral degree in educational leadership with Nova Southeastern University. Dr. Satchel is currently Director of Federal Programs/Academic Competitions with Colbert County Schools.

**Tommy Coblentz ('06)** is President of Regions branches in Athens and Decatur. Prior to his current responsibilities, Tommy served as a credit analyst and commercial relationship manager. He is active in the Athens community and currently served on the board of directors for the Athens State University Foundation and the Limestone County Economic Development Authority.

**Melody Stewart ('06)** is the athletic development officer for UNA. She was a featured speaker at the Career Planning and Development Dream Job panel this spring.

**Josh McFall ('07)** is the Education Director and Media Specialist for the Alabama Association of Realtors headquarters in Montgomery, Ala. Josh is the current president of the Southeast Alabama UNA Alumni Club.

### 2010s

Former North Alabama punter **Will Batson ('10)** is among 15 free agents that have signed with the Tennessee Titans. Will, who last punted for UNA during the 2009 season, ranked among the Division II leaders that year with a 41.9 yard per punt average. He was All-GSC, All-Region and All-American in 2008 and was a first-team All-GSC pick again in 2009.

**Staci Gatlin ('11)** has joined the accounting and assurance department in a staff position at Lattimore, Black, Morgan and Cain (LBMC) in the Nashville area.



# TRAVELING with the PRIDE in 2013

Take the opportunity to travel with fellow alumni and friends and share these unforgettable experiences. Invite your reunion groups to experience a memorable trip of a lifetime. For more details...VISIT our website at [alumni.una.edu](http://alumni.una.edu) or telephone the Alumni Office at 256-765-4201.



ANTEBELLUM SOUTH - AMERICAN QUEEN  
New Orleans to Memphis (9-10 nights) • June 7-16, 2013  
From \$2,295



ALASKAN ADVENTURES - OCEANIA CRUISES  
Seattle to Vancouver (7 nights) • August 5-12, 2013 - Regatta  
From \$1,999 per person, double occupancy (including airfare)



ITALIAN INSPIRATION - OCEANIA CRUISES  
Rome to Venice (7 nights) • October 17-25, 2013 - Riviera  
From \$2,199 per person, double occupancy (including airfare)



## ALUMNI CLUB Florida



Rebecca Davis, Carol Lyles ('70), Mark ('81) and Eve Engel Yeates ('81),  
Lawrence Davis ('80), Frank Bush ('75), Beverly Ware Wisner ('65), and  
Martha Robbins Cooper ('62) in Orlando, Fla.



Maury ('78) and Diane Shipper ('78), Janet ('77) and Buddy Price ('75) and  
Shirley ('70) and Jimmie Wilson ('71) in Jacksonville, Fla.

## Career Planning and Development DREAM JOB CAREER PANEL



Rod Sheppard ('98, '04, & '07), Jan Ingle ('85), Jason Rich ('98) and  
Melody Stewart ('06) were guest speakers for the Career Planning and  
Development Dream Job Career Panel on the campus during the spring.



## IN MEMORY

### 1940s

**Mary Ann "Tot" McMurry ('41)** was a retired school teacher, she was active in the Mississippi and Tupelo Retired Teachers Associations and the TVA Retirees Association.

**Willie Mae Bailey ('49)** was a dedicated teacher for 30 years at Lexington High School.

### 1950s

**George Farris ('58)** served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. He taught at Lynn school for several years. He started working for Southern Railroad after 43 years.

### 1960s

**LTC William Larry Johnson ('62)** served in the United States Army for 25 years. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery in May 1962. He served overseas in Korea and Germany and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel in 1987. His awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and the Vietnam Campaign and Service Medal. After retiring from the Army, he worked in defense contracting for BDM, TRW, Northrop Grumman; culminating as the Senior Systems Engineer for Sentar.

**William Staggs ('62)** worked as a computer scientist contractor for NASA, including supporting the Apollo and Skylab missions. He received the Space Flight Awareness Program Honoree award for outstanding work in human spaceflight

mission success. The S.F.A.P. award is one of the highest honors presented to NASA employees. Staggs was a founding member of the Huntsville Folk Musicians' Association and a long-time member of the Huntsville Community Chorus, Muscle Shoals Sailing Club, the Huntsville Canoe Club, the Huntsville Ski Club, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

**Leland Box Jones ('66)** of Charlotte, N.C. was a CPA in the manufacturing industry until he retired in 2008. He served in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War. He is the husband of **Glenda Hollingsworth Jones ('65)**.

**Kay Kirk ('69)** worked as a media specialist at Eastway School for 25 years.

**Mary Sue Smith Johnsey ('69)** held a Master of Library Science from Vanderbilt University and also held a degree of Elementary Education from Florence State University. She was the owner of Golden Eagle Publishing Company which she helped establish.

### 1970s

**Laurena Thirlkill ('72, '78)** was retired from the Sheffield City School system.

### 1980s

**Abraham Martinez ('80)** served his country in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years before retiring. He went to work for Glassrock, which is now Muscle Shoals Minerals in the position of vice president of international sales. He retired from Muscle Shoals Minerals in 1999. Joe then opened his own company, which is Lincoln Bee International Trading, Inc. He has been a consultant

and salesman for Magnelec, a plant in Saltillo, Mexico.

### 1990s

**Jimmie Sue Campbell ('91)** was awarded her masters in special education in 1991. She taught special education at Sheffield High School.

### FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**George Manush** served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He had a 50-year career in radio broadcasting and was the voice of the Lions with Florence State University and the University of North Alabama. He was a sports broadcaster for many of the area schools and radio stations and was a member of the inaugural class of the Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame.

### NON-GRAD

**Mark Hale** recently passed away. He resided in Nashville, Tenn.

**Joseph Hooks** attended Donnelly Medical School in Kansas after attending UNA. As an entrepreneur, he owned several businesses.

### FACULTY/ STAFF

**Robert Stephenson** spent his life in education as a teacher, coach, and principal. His last 20 years were served as a professor at the University of North Alabama in the education department. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 20 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel.



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UNA Alumni Association board member **Dr. Sandra Behel ('77)** from Birmingham died in March. Sandra's dedication to her work, her alma mater and the local clubs (Montgomery and Birmingham, and the UNA Alumni Board), the ACCR, the Higher Ed Partnership, Democratic Women of Alabama endeared her to all. She was knowledgeable and showed a larger than life strength and energy in all she believed in. Behel worked as the Energen Corporation as the Information Technology and Corporate Records Department Manager, and was editor and co-author of *Energen Corporation* published in 2002.



Dr. Sandra Behel

Sandra, a ten-year employee, got involved in Energen's annual art competition, *The Wonders of Alabama Art*, when she arrived in Birmingham and served as director of the competition the last six or seven years. Her art competition duties were in addition to her every day job of leading the corporate records department. She loved working on the art competition and being the leader of the Energen art committee.

Energen CEO James McManus remarked at the closing reception of the Energen Art Competition on March 25, "This year the Energen Art Competition has been without Sandra Behel, who has helped make the Energen Art Show what it is today. Many of you came to know Sandra's passion for this effort. The Art Show Committee has continued Sandra's focus on producing an extraordinary show, and has found a very appropriate way to honor Sandra. Because Sandra received excellent treatment at UAB, and because of the care she received and her love of Alabama art, Energen has purchased 'The Blessing' by Lee Wilson. It will hang in the main infusion therapy suite at the Kirklin Clinic with a plaque that indicates that we donated this piece in honor of Sandra." Dr. Jennifer De Los Santos from UAB and Alabama artist Lee Wilson attended the presentation.

Additionally, Sandra was instrumental in starting a Greater Birmingham Area UNA Alumni Scholarship for students from the counties of Jefferson and Shelby Counties to attend UNA. Donations are currently being accepted for that scholarship.

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## Alumni Information Update

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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- ☐ Local Club Development
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- ☐ Alumni Committee Assignment
- ☐ Mentoring
- ☐ Athletic Events
- ☐ Board Member
- ☐ Recruit Students
- ☐ Reunions

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

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