



# UNA Magazine

SPRING 2016 • VOL 24 • NUMBER 1

University of NORTH ALABAMA

For the Alumni and Friends of the University of North Alabama



*'Build the Pride'*

Campaign Co-chairs

Dr. Donald and Laura Harrison '55

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# Magazine

for alumni and friends of the University of North Alabama

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Kenneth D. Kitts

our students for successful careers in engineering and manufacturing. We also have a new major in the Master of Professional Studies (MPrS) program. Beginning this summer, graduate students will be able to take courses in Higher Education Administration as part of the MPrS degree.

Another measure of academic progress is the number of program accreditations received or in progress at UNA. This past year that number increased from eleven to thirteen with accreditation of programs in communications (ACEJMC) and interior design (CIDA). In addition, our College of Business just hosted a visiting team from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

Welcome to the Spring 2016 UNA Magazine. Spring is an amazing time to be on the beautiful campus of the University of North Alabama. Plants and flowers are in bloom, Harrison Plaza is packed with people out enjoying the warm weather, and, for our seniors, graduation is only a short few weeks away.

Spring is also known as a time of growth. This is a timely and important theme, for in the past year UNA has seen significant progress in areas ranging from enrollment to facilities to academic programs. Our fall headcount increased to over 7,000 students and was followed by an equally strong showing in the spring term. Enrollment indicators are pointing toward another increase in the upcoming academic year.

The appearance of campus has been enhanced with the opening of the Science and Technology Building and two new residence halls, the last of which opened for student occupancy in January. Still more recently, our Board of Trustees approved the purchase of the Keystone Business Centre in downtown Florence, which will be the new home of the Department of Human Environmental Sciences (HES). We are also taking steps to add over 300 new parking spaces, most of which will be located off of Circular Road in the area formerly occupied by married student housing.

Our academic programs continue to expand and thrive. Dr. Peter Rim has joined us from Virginia Tech to help start a new four-year program in engineering technology. This new major will prepare

We intend to meet this new goal by

thinking strategically and creatively about opportunities to enhance educational opportunities for our students. As a case in point, our music program is second to none, but the facilities for that program are no longer adequate. We need a new recital hall to promote faculty and student performances and to strengthen the ties between campus and community. We need to raise funds to build out the new major in engineering technology as quickly as possible. Graduates from that program will be highly competitive in the job market and will drive economic change across north Alabama. We need to create an endowed Honors College to replace the existing Honors program that has served generations of high-achieving students at UNA. This step is essential if we are to compete for the best and brightest students from our service area and beyond.

Extracurricular activities must also be part of our vision. We need to think more systematically about the role private dollars can play in supporting faculty and student research, travel, and other scholarly endeavors. In athletics, our coaches and students are representing us well and competing at a championship level. But many of our athletic facilities are showing the signs of age. Learning is not confined to the classroom, and all of these activities help increase the visibility of UNA on the larger stage.

In closing, this publication marks a special time for the Kitts family as we wrap up our first year as members of the UNA family. We feel blessed to be here and have grown very fond of the Shoals and this amazing university we call home. Our furry neighbors are pretty cool as well.

From our family to yours, we wish you all the best and thank you for your continuing support of the University of North Alabama. Roar Lions!

Ken Kitts



## UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA STARTS NEW TRADITION WITH 'LIGHT THE FOUNTAIN'

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

With the warm temperatures, it

feels as if spring has sprung on the University of North Alabama campus. But to officially kick off the season the UNA Student Government Association (SGA) decided to start a new campus tradition, "Light the Fountain."

Harrison Fountain has become a signature piece on UNA's already gorgeous campus. Each year, when the fountain is turned on, students and visitors alike know that warmer weather is on the way; and because of that, the SGA decided to make the event a new tradition that will last for

years to come.

For the inaugural lighting ceremony, **Dr. Donald and Laura Harrison ('55)**, the patrons who provided the university with the fountain, were in attendance to turn on the water and lights and kick off the new tradition.

David Shields, UNA vice president for Student Affairs, said the event makes an excellent tradition on UNA's campus. "Tradition is a big thing when it comes to universities, and we already have some really neat ones at the University of North Alabama

like dipping your pencil in the fountain at the beginning of the year for good grades! 'Lighting the Fountain' will fit in perfectly with what we always try to do here, and that's to provide a truly unique and comprehensive student experience and this just adds to that."

Shields said having the Harrisons in attendance for the inaugural event made it even more memorable.



Dr. Donald and Laura Harrison '55

# BUILD THE PRIDE

The Campaign for

# UNA

University of NORTH ALABAMA



Dr. Deborah Shaw '82



Dr. Donald and Laura Harrison '55

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The University of North Alabama announced this spring that over \$25 million has been raised on the way to a goal of \$35 million for UNA's campaign, "Build the Pride."

Officials with UNA's Office of Advancement held a campaign gala to announce the start of the campaign's public phase. The event included a live

performance from UNA alumnus **Dillon Hodges ('12)** (Firekid). But the biggest performers of the night were UNA's donors, who have already helped the university raise \$25,421,784 during the silent phase.

UNA is well on its way to reaching the \$35 million goal after it was announced that \$5.5 million has been given to the College of Nursing. Campaign co-chairs **Dr. Donald** and **Laura Harrison ('55)** announced that they have contributed \$2.5 million to name the new nursing building. The additional \$3 million will be coming from the Anderson family of Florence, Alabama.

"The gifts from the Harrisons and the Andersons are monumental for this institution and for Nursing," said UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts. "We're amazed and so grateful for their generosity and we know that others will want to join with them as we take UNA to the next level."

The Harrisons were in attendance at the gala and during their remarks noted that the new nursing building will



Dillon Hodges '12 (Firekid)

UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts



officially be known as Harrison Hall.

"We think our nursing program is the best in the state and one of the best in the country, and our facilities should reflect that," Dr. Harrison said. "Our gift will go toward a state-of-the-art facility with equipped classrooms and modern laboratories. Harrison Hall will allow our faculty members and students to receive the finest training possible so that when

they leave and conquer the world, they'll be bringing a little bit of UNA with them."

Nursing is not the only beneficiary of the "Build the Pride" campaign. During her remarks, **Dr. Judy Jackson ('91 & '02)**, interim vice president for University Advancement, discussed how the \$25 million committed at this point has been designated. Approximately 30 percent

is for scholarships, 48 percent will go to capital projects, 14 percent will go toward academic programs and 8 percent will go to athletics.

Jackson said additional projects include the construction of a new performing arts center, a heavier emphasis on programs like engineering technology and the entertainment industry/music, and enhancing the overall UNA student

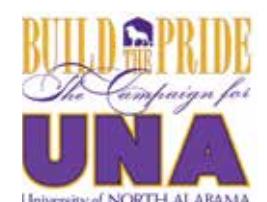


Ken and Dena Kitts

experience. Additionally, UNA will embark on a new journey to transition from the current Honors Program to a more prestigious Honors College.

"What we're setting out to accomplish is massive in terms of this institution and this region," said **Dr. Deborah Shaw ('82)**, UNA alumna and Foundation Board member. "We believe this campaign will not only advance UNA to a point of national recognition, but it will also be a benefit for the area we call home, the Shoals. We have a great relationship with our surrounding area and if we benefit and grow, the area does as well. It's a win-win for our students and residents," she said.

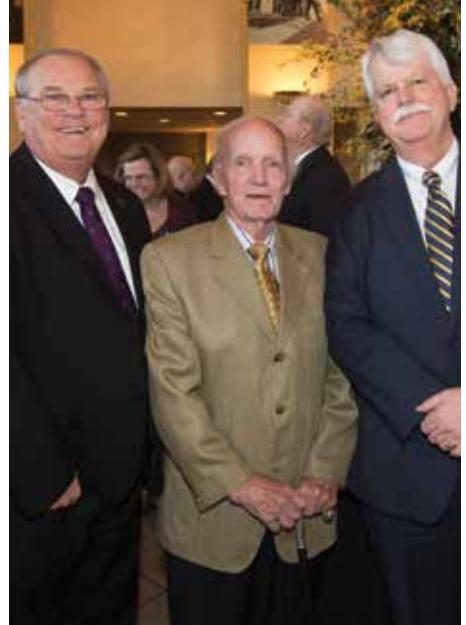
The relationship between the university and the surrounding communities is a very important one for Dr. Ken Kitts, UNA president. Kitts said at the event that his main goals are to celebrate the Shoals, provide an extraordinary experience for students, and to tell UNA's story.



For more information on "Build the Pride" the Campaign for UNA: [www.una.edu/campaign](http://www.una.edu/campaign).



UNA Jazz Ensemble



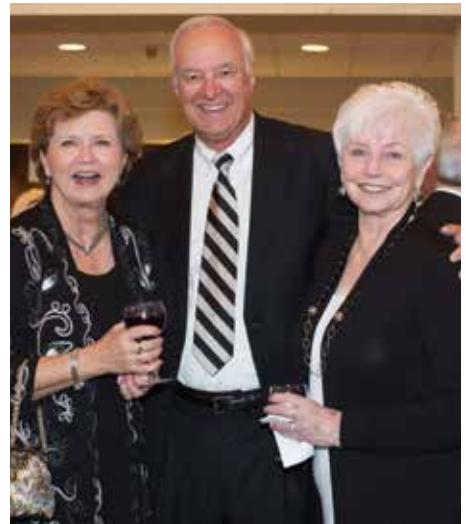
Mayor Mickey Haddock, Alan Flowers, and Andy Betterton '75



Dr. Eric Kirkman '97 &amp; '00 and Dr. Tera Kirkman '98



Dr. Nelda '69 and Harry McCabe



Kay Davis '73 with Al and Glenda Ford



Jack Counts and Fran Nunnley





## UNA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES FINDS NEW HOME FOR HES

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

After an extensive process, you might say the University of North Alabama College of Education and Human Sciences (COEHS) is a little like Goldilocks. After some sampling, they found the building that's just right! Officials with the University announced that the Keystone building located on South Seminary Street in Florence will be the new home of the COEHS's Department of Human Environmental Sciences (HES).

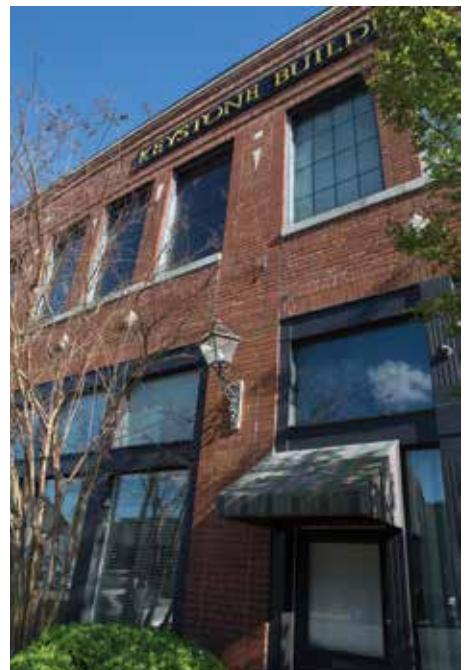
HES had been looking for a new location ever since the announcement was made that Floyd Hall would be coming down to make room for a new College of Nursing building. Floyd currently houses parts of the HES department, including child development, interior design, and merchandising, while the culinary arts, nutrition, and hospitality management programs are housed at UNA's East campus location.

With the addition of this new building, the department of HES will now have room to include the culinary arts program in the Keystone building as well.

Dr. Donna Lefort, dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences, said the idea has always been to get everybody in HES together under one roof.

"We've always wanted to provide our students with a space that fits their needs," Lefort said. "The Keystone building will be a perfect fit for us. The building is full of character, the location is amazing, and we're sure that it will serve as an ideal creative space for students and faculty alike. Additionally, it will be a draw for incoming students when we show them their future work space in the heart of downtown Florence."

The Keystone Building, built in 1917, was renovated in the early 2000s, but additional renovations will be needed to create classrooms and other spaces conducive to learning. Officials said they expect to begin moving into the Keystone building in January 2017, with the demolition of Floyd Hall expected to take place in February or March 2017.



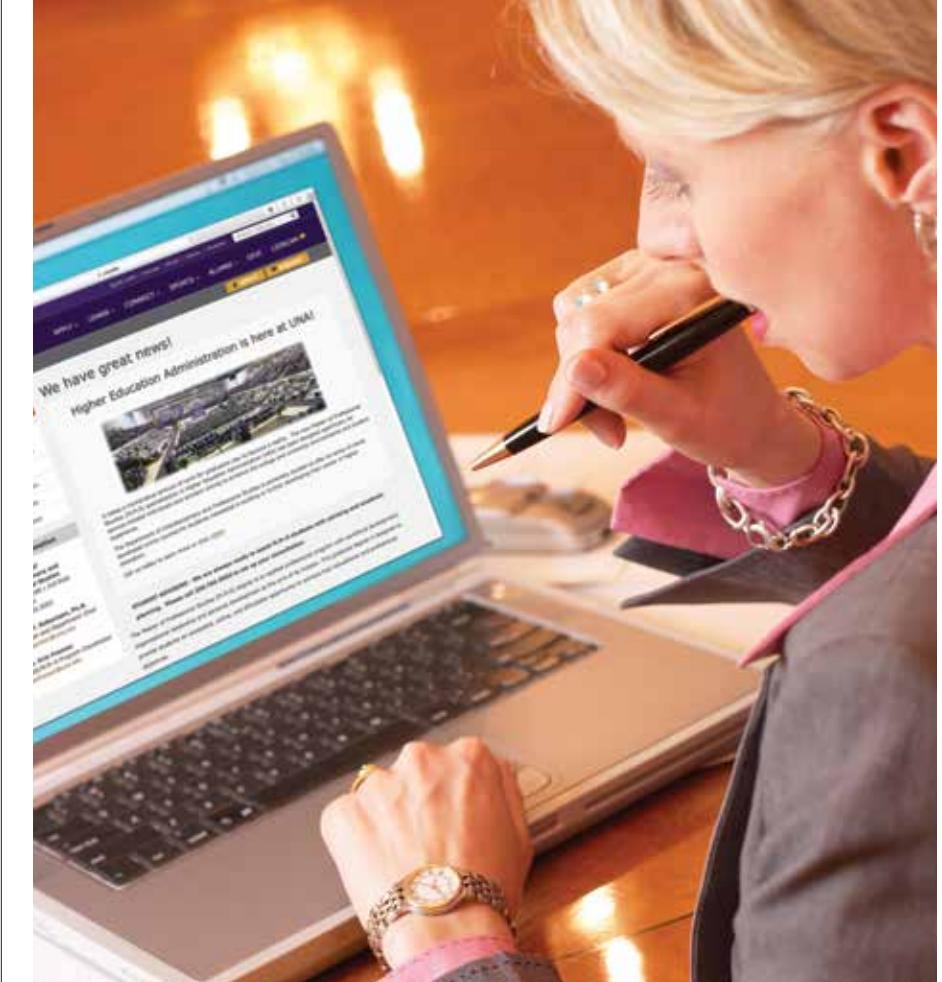
## UNA's UPC BRINGS ICE RINK TO CAMPUS

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

Ice skating outdoors in Alabama isn't a very common occurrence, but it did take place on the University of North Alabama campus this past February in the GUC parking lot.

Members of UNA's University Program Council (UPC) are responsible for bringing the ice rink to campus. UNA Director of Student Engagement Tyler Thompson said the rink was part of a series of events titled "Snow Days."

"The SGA University Program Council formed a special committee to create a series of special events to combat the winter slump," Thompson said. "One of the ideas was to bring something really unique to campus. The committee did some research and discovered a company that would set up an Ice Rink on campus. When this was brought up to the different branches of Student Government, each time there was an overwhelming gasp of excitement, so it seemed that this event had truly struck a chord with students."



## UNA's MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM OFFERS CONCENTRATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

UNA has added a new specialization to the existing Master of Professional Studies program (MPrS). Beginning this summer, graduate students will be able to take courses in Higher Education Administration as part of the MPrS degree.

The new specialization focuses on students whose chosen career path will lead them to the American two- or four-year systems of higher education. The concentration will feature courses that focus on key aspects of higher education such as student development and student affairs, enrollment management and institutional marketing, NCAA athletics, contemporary and legal issues, administrative organization, budgetary planning, institutional evaluation, and the community college system.

Dr. Craig Robertson, chair of the Interdisciplinary and Professional Studies Department, said the beauty of the

higher education specialization and the MPrS degree in general is flexibility.

"Students can choose which higher education administration course they want and all courses are taught online by seasoned higher education professionals. Core classes in the MPrS program are also available for students that prefer to attend actual physical classes," said Robertson. "Because of that and the affordability of graduate studies at UNA, this concentration is ideal for those currently employed in higher education, who see higher education as part of a career move, or undergraduate students who are looking to excel in a college or university setting."

UNA's Master of Professional Studies degree is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The program is a 33- to 36-credit-hour graduate degree program with a thesis or non-thesis option.

# UNA HOSTS MLK DAY COMMEMORATION AND SERVICE

By Joan Williams, *Office of Diversity and Institutional Equity*

The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the focus of a community gathering at the University of North Alabama this past January.

UNA faculty, staff, students, and the community packed 30,000 meals that were given to local food banks in conjunction with the MLK March and Remembrance.

Participants marched from the GUC to the UNA Baptist Campus Ministries where the commemoration was concluded with a short program and lunch.

This year's theme was "Making a Difference in the 21st Century" and featured the Rev. Alvelyn Sanders, producer and director of *Foot Soldiers: Class of 1964* and pastor of Greater St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Florence.

The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement, Leadership and Volunteerism and the Office of Diversity and Institutional Equity.



## UNA's KIRCH ANNOUNCED AS FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*



Dr. Lisa Kirch is quick to point out that she is a professor and doesn't know why she should be interviewed. The fact of the matter

is that Kirch is more than a professor in the art department at UNA; she is now among the elite who call themselves Fulbright Scholars.

Officials with the Institute of International Education (IIE) recently contacted Kirch to let her know that she was selected for a Fulbright Award to Germany. But Kirch said she still feels like it's unreal. "I keep thinking it's going to be like Miss Universe; they're going to write back and say oops!"

That's certainly not the case, as Kirch simply needs to complete a few more steps before she is able to head overseas to Germany, where she'll learn more about collecting and display.

"That is, where did museums come from? We know where they came from, but there is this little piece of time for which we don't have concrete information, and I know of a document that provides that. So that's what I'm going to be working on."

Kirch said that document is an inventory of a room in Germany that could be considered a personal museum. Kirch said that she and a team of other researchers hope to publish an edition of the inventory of that room.

"Basically what you have is someone in 1557 going into a room and writing down everything in that room. There are paintings in there, books, astronomical instruments, stuffed fish that the document said were hanging from the ceiling," said Kirch. "There's all this stuff

that was in there and our project is to get people together who have different specialties."

Once the research is completed, Kirch said the team will publish their edition in German with an English translation. In addition, they will also publish the essays that come out of the papers associated with a conference she is co-organizing. The real goal, according to Kirch, is to bring people together.

And while Kirch isn't quick to toot her own horn, here are some stats related to being accepted into the Fulbright Program. As a Fulbright grantee, Kirch will join the ranks of heads of state, judges, ambassadors, cabinet ministers, CEOs and university presidents, as well as leading journalists, artists, scientists and teachers. Participants in the program have been awarded 53 Nobel Prizes; and since its beginnings in 1946, more than 360,000 Fulbrighters have participated in the program. Kirch will leave for Germany in January 2017.

## UNA'S INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM NOW CIDA ACCREDITED

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

According to the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), the University of North Alabama has met the standards required to become an accredited program. Students can now receive a Bachelor of Science in Human Environmental Sciences with a concentration in Interior Design.

This achievement sets UNA apart, as the university is one of only four institutions of higher education in the state to offer the degree.

"Here at UNA, it's huge," said Jane Wilson, chair of Human Environmental Sciences at UNA. "Every time I think about it I get chill bumps, and it should put us on the map throughout the state," she said.

According to CIDA, the accreditation ensures that the institution's interior design education prepares students to be responsible, well-informed, skilled professionals who make beautiful, safe, and comfortable spaces that also

respect the earth and its resources. This is done by setting the standards for postsecondary education, evaluation of that education, and then outreach and collaboration with stakeholders in the interior design community.

College of Education and Human Sciences Dean Dr. Donna Lefort said that when you look at the other institutions that also have the CIDA accreditation, it shows just how committed UNA was to providing this caliber of program.

"Comparatively speaking, if you look at Auburn or Samford, or some of these other schools that have much larger programs as far as enrollment resources, facilities etc., we were able to accomplish so much at UNA in Florence," she said. "What's amazing is that the institution has been so supportive of our endeavors, and so much so that we were able to overcome what some might consider obstacles: our size, our location, our resources in order to secure



# The Flor-Ala



## RANKS AMONG TOP STUDENT NEWSPAPERS

By Scott Morris, *Student Media Adviser*

The Flor-Ala and The Roar-Ala ranked among the top five student publications in the region at the 2016 Southeast Journalism Conference at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee.

The two student-led publications at the University of North Alabama competed against 35 colleges and 441 entries in the SEJC's annual Best of the South competition.

The Roar-Ala magazine, which The Flor-Ala staff produces and distributes annually to incoming students through the university's Student Orientation Advisement and Registration program (SOAR), ranked fourth for Best College Magazine.

The Flor-Ala ranked fifth for Best College Newspaper.

The following Flor-Ala student staff members also received honors at the SEJC awards banquet:

- Former Page Designer **SHILO CUPPLES**, Best Newspaper Page Layout Designer, first
- Editor-in-Chief **KALI DANIEL**, Best News Graphic Designer, second
- Former Associate Sports Editor **KADIN POUNDERS**, Best Sports Writer, third
- Managing Editor **JASMINE FLEMING**, Best Opinion/Editorial Writer, eighth



## PRIDE OF DIXIE BAND

### RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

By Carole Maynard, *UNA Department of Music*

The University of North Alabama "Pride of Dixie" Marching Band has received recognition from the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) as an exemplary collegiate marching program. **Dr. Lloyd Jones '92 & '98**, director of bands at UNA, was invited to present a video of the band and speak about the processes and procedures used by the "Pride of Dixie" at the CBDNA conference.

"This is indeed a great honor to be recognized by others in the collegiate band ranks as one of the best," said Jones. "Our students work diligently to produce a quality product that represents UNA in the finest manner. I am very proud for our students to receive this recognition. This would not be possible without the support of our alumni, administrators, and faculty."

University marching band programs from across the Southeast were invited to submit videos of their performances to the CBDNA committee for consideration.

"The committee had a very difficult time in making the selections. All of the ensembles were incredible," said Randall Coleman, associate director of bands at the University of Alabama and member of the CBDNA committee.

Of all the programs submitted, the UNA "Pride of Dixie" was the only NCAA Division II band selected to be highlighted at the conference, which was held in Charleston, South Carolina. Receiving this national recognition is not only important for the band program, but also for the university as a whole.

"This is a wonderful commentary on Dr. Jones and our students, and it represents great exposure for UNA as well," said UNA President Ken Kitts.

This isn't the first time the "Pride of Dixie" has received national recognition. The band has performed at many state, regional, and national venues in recent years, including two appearances at the Bands of America Southeast Super Regional in the Atlanta Georgia Dome and two appearances at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana, where the band performed for more than 20,000 spectators in Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts.



## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS OFFERS TWO NEW MBA CONCENTRATIONS AND RECEIVES "MOST AFFORDABLE" RANKING

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The University of North Alabama College of Business now offers two new concentrations in its MBA program, which is also considered one of the most affordable programs in the country. Students can now receive a graduate degree in Human Resources or Innovation Economic Development.

In addition to the concentration in Human Resources, starting this spring UNA students will have the opportunity to receive an MBA with an emphasis in Innovative Economic Development. The program equips economic development professionals with a deep understanding of the role of innovation and how it enhances economic growth. Students in the program will learn how to craft strategies, policies, and platforms that will support the acceleration of innovation and economic growth and the quality-of-life improvements that result when communities and regions create vibrant innovation ecosystems.

And to make the program more appealing, UNA was recently singled out by BestMastersDegrees.com as having one of the most affordable online MBA programs in the country.

Each college on the list was evaluated on its accredited programs that received high rankings from a number of credible organizations. Tuition data gathered from the NCES College Navigator database was also factored in. The University of North Alabama ranked fifth.

BestMastersDegrees.com editors noted that UNA offered an accredited online MBA program designed for students who want to expedite earning a graduate business degree.

## UNA HOSTS INAUGURAL LAWRENCE J. NELSON LECTURE TO HONOR LATE PROFESSOR

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*

The University of North Alabama Department of History honored the late professor Dr. Lawrence J. Nelson with a memorial lecture series. The inaugural event took place in the Communications Building on campus.

The first lecture featured speaker Edward Ayers, a renowned historian of the American South, former president of the University of Richmond, recipient of the National Humanities Medal in 2013, and current co-host of NPR's *Backstory with the American History Guys*. Ayers' talk is titled "The Mystery of the Civil War."

**Dr. Matthew Schoenbachler '89**, a professor in the University of North Alabama Department of History, said that Nelson, who was a professor at UNA for 30 years, had a profound impact on many students and colleagues during that time, and that's why they wanted to honor him with a lecture series.

"He had an enormous effect on many people, including myself," said Schoenbachler. "When I came to UNA in the mid-80s, I was a music major. But I wandered into Dr. Nelson's class and was blown away. I became a history major because of that, and I guess you could say the rest is history."



# ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

## CAGRI BAGIOGLU

Coming from a city like Istanbul with a population in the tens of millions (more than the entire state of Alabama), **Cagri Bagioglu '99 & '00** knew that life in the Shoals area would be different. He was introduced to a system that really prides itself on the personalized attention provided by faculty and staff. As a transfer student, he was a little older than most freshmen, and the pace of life and the warm hospitality of Florence residents put him at ease. A combination of all of these factors—the people, the campus, the quality of education, safety, and even the climate—made his decision to come to UNA very easy. Fast-forward 15 years and meet UNA's first international student to receive the Alumni of the Year Award.

Bagcioglu said, "UNA has had such an influence on what I do now, really on who I am. I know there are parts of me that were shaped by the experience of entering as an international student, then working to serve and to bring international students to UNA. UNA was my first full-time job, and it was where I developed my passion for higher education and the difference it can make in people's lives. Working for President Potts and Dr. Howard was an amazing experience which I give thanks for every single day."

Bagcioglu moved back to Istanbul with his wife, Cindy and son, Jonathon. It has been seven years since they moved; their daughter Adelia was born in Istanbul six years ago. They attend Turkish schools and are learning Turkish, and Jon just started with German this year. The whole family is active in Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts. They are tourists in their own city, visiting the historical sights, museums, and just walking by the water.

Bagcioglu is a member of the Board of Trustees at Istanbul Bilgi University, the only Turkish member of the Laureate International Universities since 2006. In this position, he serves

as the Chief Operating Officer for the University, which has over 16,000 students, 20,000 alumni, 1,500 employees, and close to a 100 million USD operating budget. Bagcioglu previously was the Secretary General of the University, where he was primarily responsible for business development, marketing and campus operations. He played a key role, during which enrollment was doubled, over 50 new degree programs added, and international accreditation/quality projects were initiated.

Bagcioglu said, "Being involved in a fast-paced and ever changing system I get to see how higher education touches the lives of not only the students who attend our school, our faculty and staff, but their families. Knowing that these students will go on to shape the future of Turkey and their home countries is a great feeling. As a part of my job I not only work with academicians, regulators, global partners, and accreditors but a variety of stakeholders, which allows me to learn something new every day and continue to develop myself."

He said, "I was so excited to return for Homecoming. As we approached Florence, after almost 10 years away, I really was flooded with all the memories of this place that is so dear to my heart. The alumni banquet, the Homecoming parade, the game, but more importantly, seeing old friends—being with my Alabama family was priceless. Walking the halls where I took classes, or Rogers Hall where I first worked, Powers Hall which we transformed into the Center for International Programs, I had the joy of seeing some of my favorite people. The campus looks more beautiful than ever but the biggest surprise of all was when Leo III and Una recognized me. I was a Lion Crew member and I spent many hours helping to care for them when they first arrived, up through my departure. They, too, are part of my extended family, my UNA family."





# ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

## STAN PATTERSON

**Stan Patterson** ('89) returned to Florence and the University of North Alabama to celebrate an Alumni of the Year award with his family, friends, and fraternity brothers. Raised in Florence, growing up he was influenced by his grandfather William Patterson from Sheffield and his parents Eddie and Ingrid Patterson, he intended to play football when he entered UNA but because of an injury was unable to reach that goal. Today he gives thanks for his athletic department experience, and acknowledges his appreciation for his influences in the HPER department, his fraternity brothers in Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and his family.

Patterson is a nationally recognized inventor, certified prosthetist, and founder of Prosthetic & Orthotic Associates (POA), and is known for his revolutionary strides in prosthetic design. He graduated from UNA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education, and earned his certification in prosthetics from the American Board for Certification in 1994. He has founded and managed several prosthetic patient care facilities since 1997. In 1999, Patterson founded POA of Central Florida in the Orlando area.

POA employs the most advanced techniques known in the precision fitting and fabrication of prostheses. A highly respected speaker at national prosthetic and orthotic conferences, Patterson has served as an adjunct professor for Otto Bock Healthcare and TEC Interface Systems. He was honored by the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists as the recipient of the 2007 Clinical Commitment Award at their 33rd Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Calif. In July 2012, Patterson was elected, by unanimous consent, to a three-year term as a member of

the Orlando Science Center Board of Trustees. He works with Wounded Warriors and the Department of Defense.

Patterson likes to take a "whole body" approach to patient care, which is why they offer a fully equipped fitness center, a golf training center, and a traverse rock climbing wall. Another asset POA's expansive building offers is the chance for patients to share experiences and encourage each other. Walking into the facility you see a virtual who's who on the over-sized photographic wall of fame success stories. His heart is in helping others, and POA sees patients of all ages and activity levels. Whether you are in need of a prosthesis that will simply allow you to move around your home, or one that will make running a 26.2 mile marathon possible, they will find the perfect fit. The staff is truly committed to ensuring that each patient is able to live his or her life without limits, achieving this with unrivaled patient care and innovative technologies.

It's through Patterson that his patients have come to believe the philosophy, too. When he founded POA, he made himself a promise. He would never turn anyone away because of the inability to pay. "We put the patients' needs first," he said. "We do not set compensation as our main goal. We do what is right, and the compensation follows."

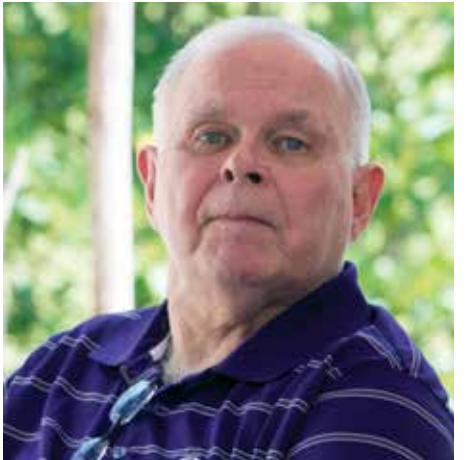
"Everyone is treated like family — staff and patients alike — and once a patient becomes established here, they pay it forward by welcoming and making new patients comfortable."

Patterson lives in Orlando, Fla., with his wife, **Beth Patterson** ('88) and their three canine children - Kopa, Sarabi, and "Z."



# HOMECOMING AWARDS 2015

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT



**Dr. Mitch Burford ('51)** began his service to the University in 1947 as a member of the Pride of Dixie Band, Collegiate Singers, and Student Government Association. He was named to Who's Who among Students and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science with a double major in biology and chemistry minoring in mathematics. Dr. Burford chose to pursue his doctorate of medicine from the University of Tennessee in 1957. In his work as a career pathologist for Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, Dr. Burford contributed to the betterment of this community and to the improvement of individual health and well being. Dr. Burford's commitment to his undergraduate alma mater has led to his involvement in the UNA President's Cabinet for former President Robert Potts and countless monetary donations towards the improvement of university facilities as well as the lion mascots.

In particular, Dr. Burford has expressed particular commitment to the music and science departments at UNA. His name is on the biology wing of UNA's new science and technology building and he funded the purchase of the nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer (NMR) equipment—use of this equipment is integral to the university's mission of teaching and research.

## FRIEND OF THE UNIVERSITY



**Ben Baker ('98)** is from Martin, Tenn., where he was well-rounded as both a good athlete and a good academic student. After graduating from Martin High School and attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, he joined his father in one of the local banks. Ben rose from teller to Chief Executive Officer of the City State Bank in nine years. He eventually worked for almost twenty years in banking. Then President Robert L. Potts gave Ben an opportunity in 1994 to join the financial aid office at UNA. At UNA, he saw many students who had not enjoyed the abilities or opportunities he had enjoyed as a West Tennessee teenager. Many of the UNA students coming to Ben's office were either academically challenged or financially challenged, or both. Ben made it his mission to help UNA students in any way possible.

**Brenda Baker**, a native of southern middle Tennessee, spent 20 years in the banking industry before coming to Florence. After graduating from the Tennessee Bankers School at Vanderbilt University, she thought she would finish her entire working career in banking, and then she met Ben. Banking is what brought Ben and Brenda to Florence. Then President Robert Potts hired her in 1993, and now 23 years later, Brenda has enjoyed working in the President's Office with five presidents including two interim presidents. Many changes have taken place since she stepped foot on campus, but one thing has remained constant, and that is her love for the students, faculty, and staff. Over the years she has formed relationships that will last a lifetime. The reward for Brenda has been the satisfaction of knowing that she has been able to help students, faculty, and staff members, even if, as she modestly says, only in some small way.



**Josh Willingham** is from Florence where he played high school baseball and basketball at Mars Hill Bible School before enrolling at UNA. He played shortstop and was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference selection (1999, 2000) and a two-time American Baseball Coaches Association All American. He is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, Eta Rho Chapter. He played Major League Baseball for the Florida Marlins, Washington Nationals, and Oakland Athletics, and he retired last year from a pinnacle year with the Kansas City Royals culminating his baseball career with a trip to the World Series. Josh and wife Ginger make their home in the Shoals, along with their three sons, Rhett, Ryder and Rogan. Committed to giving back to the community they love, Josh and Ginger launched The Josh Willingham Foundation as a way to organize those efforts. The primary purpose is to (1) provide support, education, clothing and other assistance to at-risk children; (2) educate the public and professionals about at-risk children and the actions that can be taken to help at-risk children; and (3) provide support to charitable organizations that combat child abuse, provide educational support to children, and help research cures to childhood diseases and assist children with such diseases.

## EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



**Kathy Hays ('78 and '86)** has dedicated her life to serving her community through her ability to teach as well as write. Ms. Hays received her Bachelor of Science in Education from UNA in 1978, focusing primarily on majors in both English and sociology. She has been employed with Colbert County Schools for over thirty years, teaching classes in English, drama, sociology, and psychology at Cherokee High School. Ms. Hays has made it a point to pursue additional accreditations and training throughout her career, including Advanced Placement English training and qualification specialist training in education from the State of Alabama Department of Education. Her long list of achievements and accomplishments include recognition from the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, service as Colbert County Commissioner, member of Cherokee Lions' Club, being named Alabama Teacher of the Year for her district, and several others. She gives back to her school and her community by advising clubs and organizations such as the SACS School Leadership (serving as chair), class sponsor, and Random Acts of Kindness Society. In addition to her career in education, she has served for the past fifteen years as a feature writer for the Times Daily as well as a contributor for the Colbert County Reporter. Ms. Hays says of her time in the Colbert County School System: "My small contributions have allowed me to give my time and energy to students who are dedicated to learning and preparing for a better tomorrow. My only desire is to help them reach their goals and fulfill their potential."



**Marsha McCluskey Carter ('84)** pursued many other passions before striving to educate others on Family and Consumer Sciences. In May of 1984, Marsha received her Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Fashion Merchandising from the university. After graduating, she went to work for Rogers, Inc., as a buyer, budgeter, sales project, and marketer for major sales and events. After five years of service for Rogers, Inc., she went on to become president of Travel Unlimited, Inc., managing traveling agents and coordinating marketing, outside sales, personnel bookkeeping, and major marketing practices. Ms. Carter's career in education did not fully begin until she received her degree in secondary education, family and consumer sciences from UNA in 2003. Shortly thereafter, she began to tutor at-risk students at the Lauderdale County Extension Service in Florence. Since then, she has held several positions, including Family and Consumer Science intern at Sheffield High School, tutor for Lauderdale County Schools, and department chair for Family and Consumer Science at Bob Jones High School. Since 2007, she has served as instructor for the Hospitality and Culinary Arts program and FCCLA co-advisor at Florence High School. Ms. Carter has participated in several activities outside of her educational career, including a published feature in the Times Daily, membership in the American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences, and ServSafe Educator. She has been honored as National Teacher of the Year for the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences and Secondary Education Teacher of the Year for Florence City Schools.



**Wayne Higgins ('71 & '76)** graduated from UNA with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, and with a master's degree in school administration and supervision of instruction. Mr. Higgins served as director of the Wheeler Rifles Drill and Ceremony Team, founded in 1976 to connect fifth to eighth grade students with area veterans groups and to promote patriotism through community service. During his time with Florence City Schools, he was honored three times as Florence City Teacher of the Year and received over 30 awards on the local, state, and national levels. He was the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year in 2001 for the State of Alabama, as well as the Governor's Volunteer Award in Education and the Outstanding Service Recipient for the State House of Representatives. Higgins has served his community on the Florence Historical Board for 20 years as the project officer for the Pope's Tavern Museum. Currently, he is working with the Florence Department of Arts and Museums as a curator for the Pope's Tavern Museum. He also serves as a military history consultant for several museums in Alabama and Tennessee, and works with the Northwest Alabama Korean War Veterans Association presenting the "Tell America" programs in area schools. Higgins and his wife Ann have three daughters and one granddaughter.

# HOMECOMING AWARDS 2015

## COMMUNITY SERVICE



**Susie Martin ('81)** has served her community and the university since her time here as a student at UNA. As a student, Ms. Martin served as a SOAR Counselor, a Golden Girl (or Ambassador), an Athletic Hostess, and a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She was First Runner up to Miss UNA. She attends Edgemont United Methodist Church and serves on many committees, including chair of the Witness/Nurture Team and Administrative Council. She worked for 23 years at Rogers Parker Insurance Agency as a licensed insurance agent, and at Muscle Shoals Minerals and Reynolds Metals. Presently she works as an Executive Assistant for Bank Independent. Her most recent service to the university includes her participation in UNA Derby Days and her work as an advisor for Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Her community service work is as far reaching as it is impressive, including volunteer work for Big Brothers/Big Sisters for five and a half years. In 2014, she was named Big Sister of the Year for the State of Alabama as a result of her work with the organization. Susie is an active volunteer for Shoals Soup Kitchen and Meals on Wheels, as well as a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk participant and Florence Animal Shelter volunteer. Recently she was named as a Top 5 Finalist for Shoals Woman of the Year.

**Stephen A. Pirkle ('79)** is an active UNA alum serving the Decatur Area for over thirty years. He completed his MBA with an accounting and finance emphasis from Alabama A&M University. Mr. Pirkle has been employed with Decatur Utilities since 2003, a company which generates almost 140 million dollars in revenue from residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the Decatur area. In this position he serves as Chief Financial Officer, and is responsible for all accounting, billing, and purchasing functions. His service to the community includes involvement in the Kiwanis Club of Decatur, the Boys and Girls Club of Morgan and Lawrence Counties, and Junior Achievement of North Alabama. Pirkle has made it a point to serve in leadership roles in almost everything he dedicates his services to, particularly in the Kiwanis Club of Decatur as New Member Orientation chairman and in the Junior Achievement Organization as former vice president. He also serves Central Park Baptist Church as treasurer, deacon, and volunteer assistant to the Minister of Music; he also serves as Youth Bus driver and chaperone, and as a member of the Missions Committee. His service to the UNA Alumni Association includes roles as founder, past president, and current member of the Morgan County Alumni Association, and a past member of the National Alumni Board for the University.

**Johnny Simpson ('90)** began attending UNA in 1981 and pursued his degree in accounting. He accepted a position as an auditor with the Inspector General's Office of the United States Department of Agriculture in Atlanta, Ga. After two years of service to the department, he followed the advice of one of his professors, Dr. Royal Knight, and opened his own location for Simpson's Collision Repair in Florence. His family business has grown to three locations in the Shoals area, and Simpson's Wrecker Service has grown to a fleet of 12 trucks. This year, Mr. Simpson will begin his fourth year as president of the UNA Sportsman's Club, of which he has been a member since 1993. He is also a member of the Muscle Shoals Chapter of Institute of Management Accountants, Circle of Champions, and Wood Avenue Church of Christ; he is an alumni of Sigma Chi fraternity and a supporter of Mars Hill Bible School. Simpson is especially proud to have restored the Duesenberg car that transports UNA celebrities for parade appearances. His wife Suzanne is also a UNA nursing graduate, and their oldest daughter, Savannah, is currently enrolled at UNA while his other two children, Olivia and Sophie, attend Mars Hill Bible School.

## POLITICAL SERVICE



**David Black ('80)** is an instructor of economics at the University of North Alabama and the director of UNA's Small Business Development Center. His political career is highlighted by his appointment as political chairman of the Colbert County Commission, becoming the first Republican elected in Colbert County in 138 years. Mr. Black is a former White House staff member under President George H.W. Bush as well as a former Special Assistant to the Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is also former chairman of the Colbert County Republican Party. Currently Mr. Black is president of the Shoals Symphony at UNA as well as the chairman of the Colbert County Tourism Board of Directors and is a board member of the UNA Sportsman's Club. He lives in Muscle Shoals.

**Steve Stanley ('78)** graduated from the University in 1978 with a degree in business management. An active civic volunteer, Stanley is on the board of directors for several organizations, including the Shoals Symphony at UNA, Riverbend Center for Mental Health, and Tuscumbia Landing Museum and Archives. A member of the Sheffield City Council, he has served as chairman for Sheffield Redevelopment Authority since 2005 and represents Sheffield on the Commission. He is chairman of the Riverbend Foundation and past president of Sheffield Kiwanis.

## PROMISING ALUMNI



**Patrick "Cullen" Akin** is a management major with an innovation engineering minor from Florence. A member of Sigma Chi Fraternity and Interfraternity Council president, he was named Greek Man of the Year in 2014.



**Vincent Chiriaco**, originally from Rainbow City, Ala., will graduate with a degree in computer science/mathematics. His activities on campus include involvement in the Honors Program, Navigators, College of Business Ambassadors, and Theatre.



**Miracle Osborne** has a double major in accounting and Spanish and is from Decatur, Ala. She is a College of Arts and Sciences Ambassador, past member of UNA Navigators and LaGrange Society, and a Language Partner and Conversational English Instructor for Northwest Alabama Reading Aides.

# HOMECOMING AWARDS 2015

## FACULTY / STAFF SERVICE



**Dr. Dennis Balch ('71)** has served as a UNA faculty member since 2003. He received his bachelor's degree in English from the University in 1971. He pursued both his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Arizona and several years later, completed his MBA here at UNA. He has served since 2007 as a professor of management in UNA's College of Business. Dr. Balch has achieved success in his field through his publications and intellectual contributions such as peer-reviewed articles and seminars. His peer-reviewed publications include features in *The Value Examiner*, *Academy of Educational Leadership Journal*, and *Journal of Business Ethics*. He holds membership in several honor societies including Delta Mu Delta, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Kappa. Most notable in his efforts to improve student experiences is his teaching effectiveness feedback. Balch has worked to improve student experience in his courses and has raised his student feedback evaluations with integrated experiential learning and enhanced teamwork models. He and his wife Betty live in Killen.

**Dr. Larry Bates ('92)**, associate professor of psychology, was born and raised in Red Bay, Ala. He arrived at UNA as a nontraditional student, returning to school at age 30. He received his bachelor's in psychology in 1992 before completing his master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology at Auburn University. This included an internship at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine and was followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at UAB's School of Medicine. Dr. Bates accepted a psychology professorship at UNA in 1999, returning to his undergraduate home. He was appointed by former Gov. Bob Riley to two terms on the State Board of Examiners in psychology and served as chair of that board. He also served as president of the UNA Faculty Senate, and has served on countless committees benefitting the university community as a whole. He is a published author of research articles, often with UNA undergraduate students, and has published two book chapters on panic disorder and the teaching of psychology. Larry's recreational passions include UNA football, bluegrass fiddle, and long-distance hiking. He and his wife Missy reside in Muscle Shoals.

**Dr. Joan B. Parris ('74 & '76)** has recently retired as professor in Computer Information Systems. In 1974, she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education with a minor in economics. She then acquired her master's in secondary education and business education in 1976 before completing her Ed.S. in Business Education from the University of West Georgia. Dr. Parris has been a UNA faculty member since 2001 and became a professor in CIS in 2010. She earned her doctorate in instructional leadership from the University of Alabama, and since has acquired several certifications including Professional Education and Microsoft Specialist. Her service to the university has been shown through her work on committees such as Student Financial Services Committee, College of Business Faculty and Staff Awards Committee, and Library Services Strategies Planning, among others. Students benefit from her leadership as an advisor to Delta Mu Delta, a business student honor society, as well as her role as advisor to Phi Beta Lambda, a business student organization. Community wide she is known for her work as a representative for the Shoals Economic Development Authority Executive Committee as Board Chair in 2010-2011, as well as her work for the Methodist Church of Tuscumbia. She is married to **Joel Parris ('76)** and lives in Tuscumbia. They are enjoying retirement with their children and grandchildren.

## MILITARY SERVICE



**Col. Buddy Brook ('91)** completed his basic training in 1976 at Ft. Sill, Okla. Col. Brook has pursued a successful career in both military and professional endeavors, including multiple awards, trainings, and certifications. From 1976-1985, Col. Brook was enlisted in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 82 Airborne Division, before becoming a platoon leader. He remained in this position until 1998, while acting as Founder of Responsible Real Estate Investments. Brook graduated from UNA with a Bachelor of Science degree in History. He has pursued several higher education degrees, including a master's in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. and a master's in Strategic Intelligence, Middle Eastern Studies, in 2010. His esteemed and honorable trainings in the U.S. Military include U.S. University of Foreign Military and Cultural Studies, Human Terrain Systems, Peace Operations Training Center, and a United Kingdom Joint Operations Planning Course in 2012. Col. Brooks is a recipient of over 20 U.S. Military honors including a Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Services Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. His roles as a Colonel include most recently Battalion Operations Officer, Battalion Executive, Battalion Commander, Operations and Training Officer, and since 2014 he has served as Contract Oversight Team (COT) Chief over Aviation and Missile Command in Kuwait. Col. Brook is married to Sharon and they have two children, Barret and Sydney, and three grandchildren.

## PROMISING ALUMNI



**Sarah Schiavone** has a double major in psychology and social work and is from Gurley, Ala. She is a College of Arts and Sciences Student Ambassador, vice president of the Psychology Club, and president of the Secular Student Alliance.



**Brooke Hornfeck** is a marketing major from Huntsville. Her involvement includes a position as student assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, SOAR Counselor 2015, and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha.



**Nick Lang** is SGA president and a sociology major with a concentration in criminal justice. Originally from Arab, Ala., he has been vice president of Senate, a LaGrange Society member, and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. He was Homecoming King in 2014.



**Rachel Wammack** is an English major with a minor in professional writing from Muscle Shoals. As Miss UNA at the Miss Alabama pageant, she was awarded Miss Congeniality, Talent Winner, and winner of the Shasta Parker Memorial Scholarship.



**Luke Wingo** is a management major from Tuscaloosa, Ala. He was quarterback of the football team, and his honors include 2013 and 2014 All Gulf South Conference Academic Team Member, Offensive Player of the Year, and two-time GSC Player of the Week.

**UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

Douglas Hargett '02, President  
 Michelle Eubanks '96, President Elect  
 Aaron Irons '99, Vice President  
 Derrick Chatman '08, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
 Linda Vaughan '10, Secretary  
 Lucy Trousdale '89, Treasurer  
 Pat Burney '88, Club Advisor  
 Pat Roden '77, Faculty Advisor  
 Jan Ingl '85, Public Relations  
 Larry '89 & '08 and Elaine '86 Softley, Past President  
 Carol Lyles '70, Director of Alumni Relations

**UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Gloria Aday '70  
 Ben Alexander  
 Bishop Alexander '09  
 Laurentis Barnett '03  
 Bucky Beaver '64  
 Bart Black '95  
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 Anna Wilson Burnley '97  
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 Kim West '08  
 Cheron White '98

**UNA ALUMNI CLUB LEADERS****ALABAMA**

Holly Hollman '96, Athens  
 Elaine Witt '76, Colbert County  
 Christopher Burrell '02, Greater Birmingham Area  
 Patrick Johnson '98, Decatur/Morgan County  
 Heath Daily, Russellville  
 Stan Mannon '85, Mountain Lakes  
 Jim Page '01, Tuscaloosa  
 April Curtis Hartsfield '00, Montgomery  
 Jim Langcuster '82, Auburn

**FLORIDA**

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

**GEORGIA**

Carnette Johnson '83, Greater Atlanta Area

**MISSISSIPPI**

Patty '80 and Mike Byers '79, Greater Jackson  
 Leigh '03 & John '00 Prince, Northeast Mississippi  
 Michael Thorn '82, East Central Mississippi  
 Rita Becallo Buckley '85, Southern Mississippi

**TENNESSEE**

Katie Todd '10, Greater Nashville Area  
 Coleman Barron '14, Memphis

**TEXAS**

Charles Inman '71, West Texas  
 Tommy McNeill '69, Houston  
 Paul Smith '66, Dallas Metroplex

**DEPARTMENTAL**

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

## message from the **ALUMNI PRESIDENT**



Douglas Hargett '02

"It takes 10 million failures to find the right stuff." The late, great UNA alum **George Lindsey** ('52) found his passion and worked tirelessly to succeed in the entertainment business. Why do I mention his words and remind you about his history? Every alumnus of our University has something in their lives they love, they identify with, and they are passionate about. None of us earned a degree without a drive to fulfill our academic obligations, and we then transitioned to the next phase of our lives to leave our marks on the world. While the roads that each of us have taken since graduation are undoubtedly different, we all have one thing in common: We are proud graduates of a great public university in the heart of the Shoals – the University of North Alabama.

The University helped shape us. We not only received a first-class education, but our time here also helped us grow socially and make long-lasting friendships. When we were on campus as students we bought into this philosophy. It was easy to do so. We were physically on campus, attending some combination of classes, athletic events, and social activities on a regular basis. We were invested for two reasons: We wanted to be involved and soak in the full college experience, and, secondarily, it was easy to be active and stay connected because we were already on campus. Fast forward to graduation. It was the end of each of our respective journeys as students at UNA. We'd earned the right to be called alumni. After the post-graduation parties, some of us stayed in the Shoals, while others moved out of the city, state, or country. While we all love UNA, it became much more difficult to be invested in the University primarily because we were no longer on campus every day. Our continued education, careers, families, and many other things in our lives filled our time. UNA became a great memory but, for many, staying active was not something we could do on a regular basis. I get it. We all do.

I want to challenge you to find a way to get back on campus and re-ignite the passion that made you love UNA in the first place. UNA gave something special to each of us. I want this to be the time that each of us pays it forward. I am not asking you to write a check to the University. That would be great if you are able and want to do that, but that is not what I am talking about. I want each of us to find a way to get back on campus in-person once, twice, or dozens of times in 2016. Come back to baseball, softball, basketball, football, volleyball, soccer, and other games to support our teams that are competitive on the national level every season of the year; come back to speak or teach in a class in your field of expertise; come back for special events like Homecoming, Derby Day, Lions Under the Lights, Front Porch Storytelling Festival, and concerts; come back to visit and help your fraternity, sorority, band, campus ministries and local churches, and other university groups that you were involved in as a student; come back to visit a professor, coach, mentor, or advisor you have lost touch with over the years. Whatever your passion, however you can pay it forward, **come back!**

Being on UNA's campus is good for your soul, and it will be good for the current students to see you paying it forward to the next generation of Lions. You may even have a young Lion in your family that one day decides to follow in your steps and enroll as a student at our University. Let your kids and grandkids see first-hand why you have so much pride in the purple and gold. On behalf of the UNA Alumni Association, I want you to know that you are **welcome** and **wanted** on our campus. We will see you soon.

### Roar Lions!

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

# ALUMNI PRIDE



Homecoming Queen Lauren Hulsey and King Maurice Mull



Class of 1965 Reunion



Ethan Cagle '13, Amy Bishop '06, Bishop Alexander '09 & '12, Emilee Mansell '11, Will Mansell, and Haley Brink '08



Alex DeJarnett '94, Kerrick Morgan '84, Kelvin Prince '92, James Fields '93, Melvin Baldwin, Jr. '88, and Larry Softley, Jr. '89 & '08

## Lions Under the Lights



Jack White '78 and Nancy Trowbridge



Jeff Bibbee and Sarah Franklin



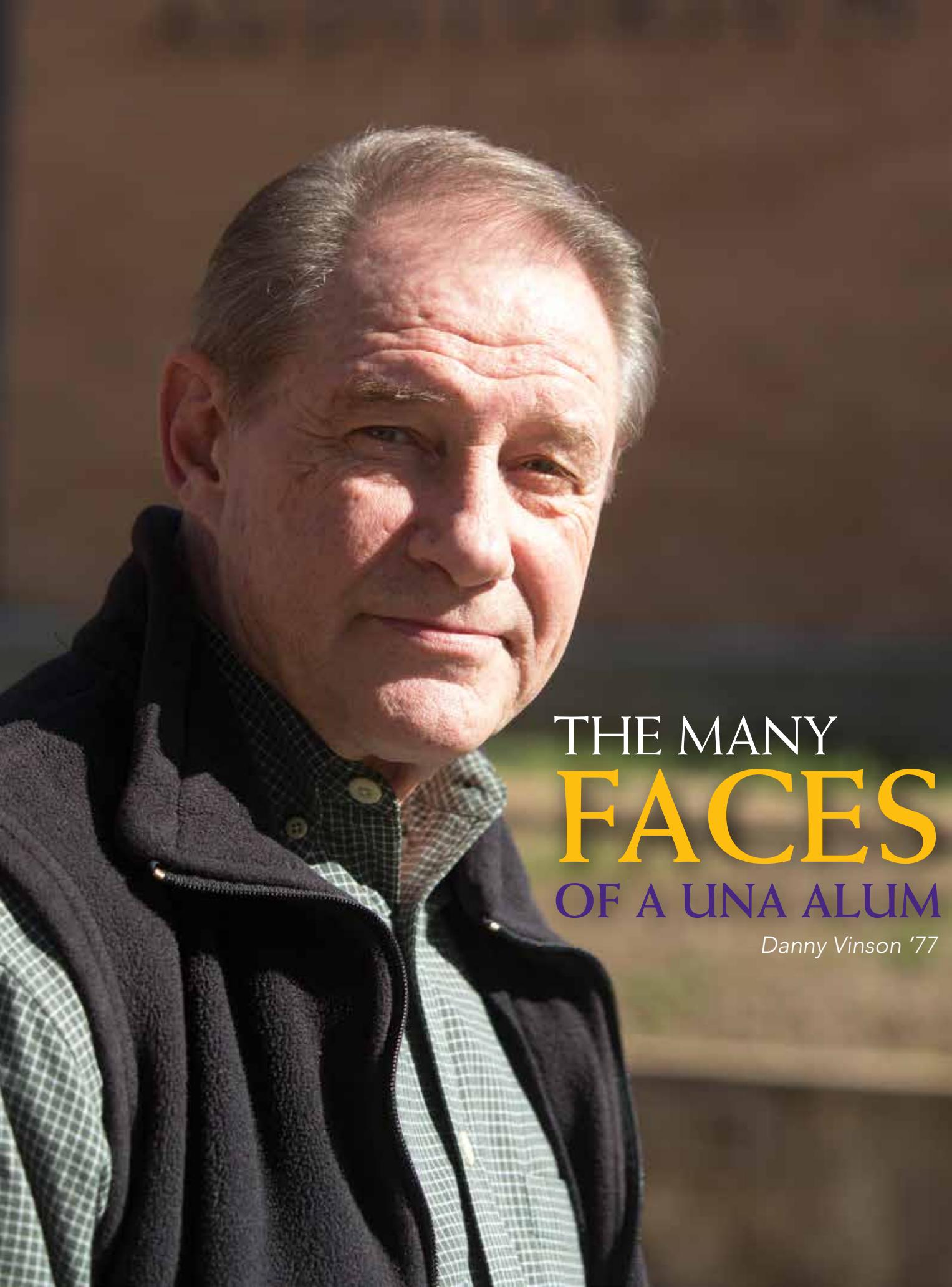
## The Shoals Dragon Boat Festival



Carmen Burkhalter, Dean of Arts and Sciences



President Ken Kitts



## THE MANY FACES OF A UNA ALUM

Danny Vinson '77



UNA Alum **Danny Vinson '77** is a favorite truly Southern character actor in a career that started in 1994. He wears many faces and is seen on the big screen, on television, and in commercials with some of our favorite leading stars. With a major in marketing and management and minors in economics, finance and dramatic arts, his studies at UNA were as varied as his career. After graduation Danny spent eighteen years working for three Fortune 500 companies before becoming a full time actor.

His film career is in full swing and he has worked opposite some of the biggest names in Hollywood, after beginning his acting career in a UNA theatre production of *My Three Angels* with Sal Mineo, Broderick Crawford, and Peter Breck. Some of his film work includes: *Walk the Line*, *Talladega Nights*, *the Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, *U.S. Marshalls*, *When I Find the Ocean*, *Honeydripper*, *Leatherheads*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *East Bound & Down*, *Astronauts Wives Club*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *42*, *Neyland*, *Yella Wood*, *Nashville*, *The Longest Ride*, *Woodlawn*, *Army Wives*, *The Walking Dead*, and *Get Low*.

These days as the natural Southern accent seems to give way to a "Hollywood hick" accent, Vinson's voice and genuine charm will keep this boy from Alabama giving reality to viable roles in productions set below the Mason-Dixon line. His rugged looks have cast him in blockbuster and award-winning films, and his diverse talent defies type casting as he

portrays cowboys, lawyers, FBI agents, priests, coaches, cab drivers, soldiers, senators, and more. With a timeless look and multiple dialects, Danny easily slips into any era and continues to showcase his skill on great productions. According to his résumé his special skills include: crying on cue, rappelling, horseback riding, roping, guitar playing, wagon driving, working with a teleprompter, working with firearms, and water and snow skiing.

Danny loves UNA and credits much of his success as an actor to his start at UNA and the mentoring of faculty in the theater department. Danny's achievements in the field of acting, his character and his contributions have brought many positive accolades to the university. Vinson said, "I am not unlike any other actor; I enjoy playing characters. The theatre work I got to do inside UNA's Norton Auditorium was where that first happened in front of an audience. The instruction I received from the drama department, particularly from Robert Allen Holder and the late Jim Davis, provided knowledge, support, and confidence that I still depend on today for my work!"

Danny has for many years played a role as an active volunteer with the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival committee. He is a frequent presenter and speaker at the annual Film Festival, having judged, entered films, presented awards, taught workshops, worked on panels, and emceed the Awards Show.



*The Vampire Diaries* - TV



*Astronauts Wives Club* - TV



*Heaven Bound* - Movie



*Leatherheads* - Movie



42: *The Jackie Robinson Story* - Movie



Royd Haston '96

## ALUMNI RETURNS WITH PIRATES

The "Pirates of the Caribbean" made a big splash on the Norton Stage when the Shoals Symphony at UNA provided the sounds and intersected with the sights of the full-length Disney production. The joint endeavor with the community, alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the University showcased a magical experience for the sold-out Norton Auditorium crowd.

Dr. Daniel Stevens, music director and conductor, said, "Having performed Pirates of the Caribbean in my past career as a full-time orchestral musician, I knew that this would be an excellent show to energize the Shoals and help our community see the Shoals Symphony at UNA as a must-see event. As I reached out to Disney to contract the rights to the show, **Royd Haston '96** got on the line and said, 'The University of North Alabama?!? That is my alma mater, and I would love to bring Pirates to my home. It has been 20 years since I was back with my host family, working hard on my musical skills in the music building practice rooms. Let's see what we can do to bring Disney to Florence...'"

"It was my honor to work with Royd over the past year to bring Pirates of the Caribbean to Florence with the Shoals Symphony at UNA," said Dr. Stevens. "He inspired countless volunteers, musicians, donors, board members, faculty, and UNA students to reach for a dream unachievable by one person alone. He embraces the vision to bring people together in unity to celebrate our bright musical heritage and prove that the arts are

thriving in the Shoals."

Along with the musicians of the Shoals Symphony at UNA, a men's chorus made up of UNA vocal students (under the direction of Dr. Ian Loeppky), a dedicated keyboard with musical cues, and an SFX sound effects package from Disney provided a genuine, complete soundtrack.

This unique concert experience came to the Shoals in large part thanks to UNA graduate Royd Haston, a commercial music major while at UNA, who went to Los Angeles 20 years ago for a two-month internship with Leiber and Stoller Music Publishing and has served the music industry in California ever since.

Haston is the music manager for the Disney Music Group, the music production arm of the Walt Disney Company. His job involves putting together major orchestral concerts that perform all over the world. His latest projects have traveled to major performing venues in Paris and London, and major orchestral halls around the U.S.

Royd said, "Being back on campus after two decades was a surreal experience. There were so many things that were familiar. But the campus and in fact the entire town was dotted with so much new. I mourned the fact that I couldn't go to Court Street Café or Biscuit Village but was blown away by the variety and 'hipness' of all the new restaurants that were downtown. There is definitely a cool vibe there."

"Walking on campus was a blast of nostalgia mixed with a lot of 'when did that get here?' I enjoyed going into the choir room and seeing students gathered around the piano working on their parts and I enjoyed going into the old practice rooms and remembering that feeling of 'I've got to finish getting that song memorized before my jury!' But the new student building was so cool. And yes I did enjoy my chicken sandwich!"

Royd continued, "I was so impressed with the Entertainment Industry Center (EIC). The students have access to so much. The Mane Room, the staff, the studio being in the Shoals Area and the proximity to Nashville really has to make that program a beacon to any aspiring musician or entertainment career-minded

students. And that has to be for not only those in close proximity to the university but for anyone in the entire state."

He was pleased with the show. "And I can't say enough about the Shoals Symphony at UNA and their performance of Pirates of the Caribbean. What a great show. Everything went so well. The sound, the professionalism of the musicians and the choir as well as the stage workers really made the night seem effortless and easy. I was very impressed. It was really easy to brag to my co-workers once I got back to Disney Studios about what you guys did."

Royd will definitely be returning to his alma mater. "It was an amazing trip and I look forward to seeing you all again at the next Disney performance."

## MOVE BRINGS UNEXPECTED BLESSING

By Ann McCutcheon

We met Royd through our son, Mark. They were in a band that was just getting started and their landlord wanted to move them out so he could live there. So, Mark moved back home and asked if Royd could move in as well. We had three empty bedrooms so we said "yes." We agreed on an amount which almost paid for the many showers, food, etc., and we got the bonus of having the band rehearse in our basement!

Royd was no problem but became a part of the family. We had a lot of new friends who would end up around our dining table...either eating, or playing cards or board games, or just hanging out. It was a very enjoyable time for us.

Royd had lost his father in an automobile accident before he came to UNA. His mother was an invalid and had nurses around the clock. During the time he lived with us, she died. Mark went down to Mobile with him for the funeral and we realized at that time why God had moved him in with us. That's why we call him our adopted son. But he was more blessing to us than we could have been to him.



# From FSTC to UNA . . . KIDS IN THE PRESIDENT'S HOME



Since its construction in 1939, only two sets of children have had the unique experience of living in the President's Home here on campus. Up until May of last year, the campus had only been "home" to the children of Dr. Ethelbert B. Norton. However, the inauguration of our new President, Dr. Kenneth Kitts, has welcomed home two new young residents to the campus.

Mack, Betty, and Bert Norton resided primarily in the President's Home until Betty married in 1959. Betty, the youngest of the Norton children, attended Kilby School from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. She remembers attending gymnastics classes and participating in other activities: "Kilby at that time was behind Wesleyan Hall, in what later became the math building." Betty also remembers playing the role of a "little hostess" at dinners and receptions hosted at the President's home.

"Somehow my brothers never seemed to attend these gatherings, but I sat through many guest dinners," she said. "Every fall there was a reception for incoming freshmen at the President's Home, as well as one for the outgoing seniors in the spring. There were no hotels or motels in those days, so if a commencement speaker or any other such guest came from any distance, they usually spent the night in our guest room."

While Bert was college-aged for most of his father's presidential career, he often reminisces on fond memories of the President's Home. In particular, he remarks on how much the layout

of the campus has changed since he resided here. "To the north of our house was the home of Mr. R. C. Fuller, who was Florence State Teacher's College treasurer at the time. This property is now Leo and Una's habitat. To the south where the visitor's parking lot is now there were two wooden structures: Stripling Hall was faculty apartments and Florence Hall was a boy's dorm," Bert said.

Holidays in the President's Home also proved to be quite festive. "Mother loved to decorate and bake cookies, especially at Christmas," said Betty. Both Norton children remember hosting family reunions at the President's Home, stating their cousins still bring up memories of the house when they get together today. Friends of Betty's from those days often mention spending time in the large front yard and "bunny hopping" around the house.

The Norton children also attended a multitude of campus events and ceremonies. "So far as I know, we never missed a play, concert, commencement, or convocation. We also attended all the recitals and home football and basketball games," Betty said.

Bert particularly remembers the athletic events hosted on campus. "The college had no active football program until Dad got it started about 1949. Once the program began I attended almost every home game. I also attended most of the basketball games in the old gymnasium on campus and some of the baseball games on a field that I think was in North Florence."



All the Norton children recall being allowed to use the indoor pool year-round, which was quite a unique commodity in the area. They also enjoyed riding bikes and skates around the campus and downtown areas. Bert would often ride all the way down to the river, the old Florence Canal, and what was called the "little dam," long before the TVA renovations in the 1950s.

Colin and Corbin Kitts moved into the President's Home in May of 2015, making them the youngest children to ever live in the home, and the first children to live there since the youngest of the Norton children left in 1958. Both Colin and Corbin attend Kilby School, with Colin in the fourth grade and Corbin enrolled in the kindergarten class. Their experience at Kilby, along with their time spent on campus, has made for a wonderful first year in the President's Home.

The Kitts boys have enjoyed the opportunity to host student groups in their new home alongside their parents. Groups include the LaGrange Society Ambassadors, SGA, Interior Design students, and others.

In beginning new traditions in their home, the Kitts enjoyed their first Christmas here on campus with "Elfie," the boys' Elf on the Shelf. The added tradition helped to make the season bright "and messy, at times!" said their mother, Dena Kitts. Colin and Corbin also enjoy having friends over for slumber parties and to play in the large front yard: playing ball, sword fighting with sticks, and chasing squirrels. The boys and their friends often use the large magnolia tree off the left of the house as a fort.

"The campus is always alive when the students are around, and the boys enjoy watching them walk to class or wait for the shuttle," Dena said. Occasionally, students passing by will stop to



speak to the boys or even join in on a game of football. Colin and Corbin can also be seen on campus riding their bicycles. "They race around Harrison Plaza and speed down the walkways near the GUC. Corbin is still on training wheels, so many times, spectators get a glimpse of me running behind him, holding onto the back of his shirt to prevent a wipe-out!"

Colin and Corbin particularly enjoy campus events, including the Shoals Symphony at UNA's Pirates of the Caribbean. Corbin actually began to emulate Dr. Daniel Stevens' conducting. They enjoyed the UNA's percussion concert. "One piece featured playing a conch shell. Both boys were in awe of that!" Dena said. They also have enjoyed several multicultural events with international students. This past summer, the boys enjoyed getting to meet a group of students from China, and even prepared to greet them with phrases such as "Nice to meet you!" in Chinese.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of having the boys on campus this past year. "It's fun to walk around campus and see them riding their bikes or throwing the football around," said Anna Long, a junior nursing student and LaGrange Ambassador. "Their being here is just another thing to add to the list of what makes this university so unique."





## UNA NURSING ALUM FINDS CALLING WITH OPTIMCOMFORT MEDICAL CHAIR

By Bryan Rachal, *University Communications*



Angela Howard '07 and Dr. Vicki G. Pierce, UNA's Dean of Nursing

University of North Alabama College of Nursing alumna **Angela Howard '07** actually began her journey at a different institution, Itawamba Community College. Howard graduated with an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Nursing while working as a nursing assistant and raising 2-year-old identical twins.

Howard, a first-generation college student, enrolled in UNA's Bachelor of Nursing program in 2006, with the desire to further her nursing education.

"I did complete the degree entirely online," said Howard. "I had divorced in January 2004, so while I was completing the program at UNA I was a single mother with no support from my family. I also held a full-time weekend position as RN Supervisor at a residential psychiatric treatment facility for adolescents and two part-time jobs during the week."

Howard managed to find success in the program despite her hectic schedule and was able to apply for a job that required a BSN. Her job was to assist in creating life care plans for individuals with chronic illnesses and traumatic personal injuries. "I worked with a wide variety of patients, including burn victims,

amputees, traumatic brain injuries, and spinal cord injuries," said Howard.

With that experience under her belt, Howard went on to complete the certification process in 2009, passing the international boards as a Certified Life Care Planner (CLCP).

"Being a single mother, I continued to work three jobs," she said. "I began working as a life care planner and continued my case management jobs with hospice and the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation. I also did short-term travel assignments, working as a case manager on the heart and lung transplant floor at Temple University in Philadelphia and as a psychiatric nurse in Modesto, California."

It was during this time that Howard said she initially began thinking of the medical chair that would change her life. Howard had grown up with a great aunt who was born with severe cerebral palsy and at a young age Howard learned how to lift her out of an upright chair that she described as "very rigid and very institutional looking."

Howard said she had always felt sorry for her great aunt, as the chair looked very uncomfortable.

"In my work as a nurse, I continued to lift my patients just as I had learned to lift my great aunt," she said. "Most of my patients suffered from severe musculoskeletal impairments, so the full weight of their bodies would often rest in my arms. I would also often walk into a patient's home or hospital room to find them sitting in a slumped position."

Howard said she began educating patients' family members on the risks of placing pillows around their loved ones to keep them propped up since this can often increase the risk for pressure sores. It was during that time that she said she had an epiphany of sorts, what if there were a chair that could be designed to support the trunk/core of the body? Howard said she thought this type of chair might "alleviate some of these problems and help patients maintain a more proper body alignment."

But when Howard searched to find a chair to fit these needs, there wasn't one to be found.

Howard's best friend's mother became one of her hospice patients. The woman was a stroke/dementia patient and had declined to the point where she no longer had the ability to sit in a straightly aligned position in her chair.

"One day I entered her room as her nurse and found my friend standing at her mother's side in tears," said Howard. "Her mother sat extremely slumped over and had aspirated shortly after lunch due to improper positioning. Knowing my friend as I did, I knew that she would do whatever was necessary to provide the best for mom."

Howard said she decided then, with the help of her friend, to take the next step and design a chair that they could have specially built. Howard said she purchased poster board and sketched her chair, the chair that would eventually become the OptimComfort Medical Chair.

Howard and her friend then filed for a patent. Within six months they had two separate pending patents, and in late 2014 they were granted two official patents for the OptimComfort chair.

"One patent was granted for the custom design of the back of the chair and the other for positioning aids that allow individuals with the most extreme disabilities the comfort of sitting in a



standard piece of furniture versus being confined to a wheelchair," she said.

The specially designed chair back is what makes it work, according to Howard. "It's a concave shape and has customized lumbar support which," she said, "allows individuals to be able to sit in a more upright position, helping to alleviate pressure on the entire spine."

The chair also has a pillow that is weighted in a special way, making it easily adjustable for the individual user.

"The OptimComfort chair is also the only chair on the market that is not composed of blown fiber," Howard said. "Our chair is constructed with a solid wood frame and dense poly foam that is cut on a contouring machine so that it does not lose its shape. The poly is covered with the highest quality memory foam so that it conforms to the body of each individual user."

The original chair was designed with two motors to allow for infinite positioning, including sitting, reclining, flat lying, Trendelenburg, and a lift position. However, the simple comfort and contemporary style of the chair brought demand for a non-powered recliner for individuals who just wanted comfort. This led to the design of a typical furniture model manufactured with Howard's patented back.

But Howard's work with the chair didn't stop with her design; she decided to manufacture the chair as well. "My business partner and I agreed to lease an unoccupied manufacturing facility that was already set up and took only a small amount of work to move into."

Howard said they began dealing directly with suppliers and found their own employees and now Howard and her business partner own the manufacturing facility. Their official production start date was Feb. 9, 2015, and she said they've already surpassed their conservative business plan and look forward to more growth in the coming years.

"I credit the University of North Alabama in large part for the sense of empowerment that took me to the levels of my career that led to the development of OptimComfort," said Howard. "The flexibility of being able to complete the RN-to-BSN program entirely online was the only way I could have achieved this degree—I had no choice but to work multiple jobs while solely raising my children. The superior quality of the administration and nursing faculty at UNA forced me to be my best."



## VISIONARY GIFTS

### REPRESENT DONOR WISHES FOR ULTIMATE AWARDS

#### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

Endowed funds differ from others in that they are truly the gift that keeps giving. Instead of the gift being spent outright, the total amount of the gift is invested. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of establishing an endowment is that it allows you to directly accomplish your philanthropic goals while helping the university. The reasons for creating a named endowment are varied: the satisfaction of supporting academic excellence; the pleasure of honoring a spouse, family member, or colleague in a way that is meaningful to him or her; or the comfort of memorializing a loved one with a living legacy. Additionally, creating an endowment may result in tax savings and other financial benefits that may enable you to give more than you might have thought possible.

A minimum of \$25,000 is required to endow a scholarship within the University of North Alabama Foundation. Before the endowment reaches the minimum of \$25,000, all gifts are added to the principal. After the endowment reaches the minimum of \$25,000, only a portion of the invested income earned each year is spent while the remainder is added to the principal. An endowment is a perpetual gift because only a portion of the

earnings is used to support the intended purpose while the principal continuously grows.

In compliance with the university's endowment spending plan, earnings from the endowment will be used to fund the scholarship award in the name of the donor.

The \$25,000 can be given over a three – five year period or in one lump sum. Once funds are endowed, they cannot be retrieved from an endowment. If the donor is unable to reach the \$25,000 minimum over five years, the endowment will transfer into a general endowment pool, thus losing its identity with the donor.

The process for creating a scholarship is as follows:

- Contact the Office of Advancement where the scholarship coordinator will work with the donor and the appropriate gift office and dean to create an agreement for the scholarship.
- Once all parties have approved the draft, the final agreement is printed in triplicate and signed by the donor, the Office of University Advancement, and University President.

#### RECENT ENDOWMENTS TO THE UNA FOUNDATION

**Nelda Hicks McCabe ('69)** in honor of her parents started the *Herman and Mary Will Hicks Endowed Scholarship* for an incoming freshman who has a 3.0 GPA, is a first generation student demonstrating financial need, and is pursuing a degree in the College of Education.

**Jerry Streater Godsey ('58)** established the *William "Bill" Godsey, Sr., Endowed Scholarship* for a student who is in his/her fifth year as a student athlete, with first preference given to a football player and second preference given to a baseball player. If neither can be identified then any fifth-year athlete may be awarded the scholarship.

**The Marilyn Tallman Family** endowed the *Marilyn Broman Tallman Visual and Performing Arts Endowed Scholarship*. Preference will be given to a second year student who has a minimum 2.75 GPA and is pursuing a degree in visual or performing arts.

**JoAnn Harrison ('50)** of Decatur left a legacy gift in her will to contribute to the Decatur Morgan County Alumni club fund to establish the *Decatur/Morgan County Alumni Endowed Scholarship in Memory of Thomas, Alline and JoAnn Harrison*. Scholarships will be awarded to students who are incoming freshmen who have declared a major in the College of Education and Human Sciences, are graduates of a Morgan County High School, and demonstrate financial need based on the current and future need-based guidelines of the university.

**Harry ('64) and Beth ('67) Smith** have chosen to honor *Roy S. Stevens and Lawrence H. Conwill College of Business Endowed Scholarship*. Preference for this endowment will be given to students who are pursuing a degree in the College of Business.

**James and Sandra Loew** have started the *Loew Family Clinical Mental Health Program Endowed Scholarship*. First priority shall be given to graduate students who are in the Clinical Mental Health Program in the Department of Counselor Education and have a 3.75 GPA; second priority shall be given to graduate students in the Clinical Mental Health Program in the Department of Counselor Education and have a 3.50 GPA.

**Dr. Debbie Shaw ('82)** has pledged to establish the *Deborah Lee Shaw Alumni Endowed Scholarship*. This scholarship is to be awarded to an incoming freshman who is a son or daughter of a UNA graduate. He/she needs to have a minimum of a "B" average and an ACT score of 22. Preference shall be given first to a student from Hardin County High School in Savannah, Tenn.

**James T. and Sharon E. Harris ('83)** recently signed a bequest agreement to honor their son, **Daniel Harris ('98)**. The *Harris Family Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Daniel C. Harris* gives first preference to a student pursuing a degree in music performance (vocal); second preference is given to a student pursuing a degree in music performance (instrumental). If there are no incoming freshmen that meet this criteria, then any student obtaining their degree in music performance will be considered.



James and Sandra Loew with UNA President Ken Kitts



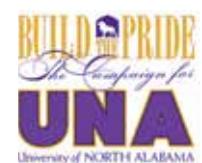
Dr. Debbie Shaw '82



JoAnn Harrison '50



James T. and Sharon E. Harris '83 with family



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



## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTS

FEARS, JONES, OGLESBY and SLOAN as Class of 2015



Chris Fears '02, Evan Oglesby '07, Doris 'D.J.' Jones '84 and Alex Sloan's Family

The twenty-sixth class of inductees for the University of North Alabama Athletic Hall of Fame included baseball All-American Chris Fears, volleyball standout Doris Jones who helped lead the Lions to three Gulf South Conference Championships, football All-American and National Football League veteran Evan Oglesby and the late Alex Sloan, who began the school's highly successful men's golf program in 1958 and coached the Lions for 16 years.

The 2015 induction class brings the total number of inductees into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame to 122.

**Chris Fears ('02)**, a native of Ozark, Mo., lettered two years in baseball for the Lions and was a two-year starter in the outfield in 1999 and 2000. He helped lead UNA to a combined 81-

28-1 record in his two seasons with the Lions, including the 1999 Gulf South Conference Championship, an NCAA South Region Championship and a berth in the Division II World Series. The Lions were ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation in 1999 and No. 8 in 2000. Fears spent three years in the minor leagues before graduating from UNA with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree and adding a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from UNA in New Venture Management. He is currently a Senior Business Development Executive at Infosys BPO in Dallas.

**Doris 'D.J.' Jones ('84)** earned All-Gulf South Conference honors in both volleyball (1982, 1983, 1984) and softball (1984) at UNA while helping lead the Lions to three GSC



Chris Fears '02



Doris 'D.J.' Jones '



Evan Oglesby '07



Alex Sloan

Championships. A Houston, Texas native, Jones was a three-year standout in volleyball at UNA from 1982-84 and was also a two-year starter in softball in 1983 and 1984. She is one of just five UNA athletes to ever be named All-GSC in two different sports. UNA had a 91-29 record during her three years in the volleyball program, winning GSC titles in 1982 and 1984. She was team MVP three straight years. The Lions also won the 1983 GSC Softball Championship. She earned a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from UNA and has added a Master of Education degree as well as Project Management Professional Certification. She is employed as Director of Medicaid Programs for Telligen in Austin, Texas.

A four-year football letterman at UNA from 2001-04, **Evan Oglesby ('07)** earned All-GSC and All-American honors as a defensive back with the Lions before spending six seasons in the National Football League. Oglesby was selected All-GSC and All-American as a junior

in 2003 and helped lead the Lions to a 13-1 record that included the first perfect 11-0 regular-season in school history, a GSC championship and a spot in the semifinals of the Division II playoffs. As a senior in 2004, he was selected All-GSC, All-South Region and All-American and played in the Cactus Bowl Division II All-Star Game. A native of Toccoa, Ga., he originally signed as a free agent with the Buffalo Bills before playing with the Baltimore Ravens from 2005-06, the Dallas Cowboys in 2007, Baltimore again in 2008 and the Miami Dolphins from 2009-10. In all he played in 38 career NFL games. He currently develops athletic performance programs for youth, focusing primarily on speed training.

The late **Alex Sloan** started the men's golf program at UNA in 1958 and served as the team's coach for 16 years, through the 1973 season. Sloan not only laid the foundation for what today is one of the school's most successful programs, but also led the Lions to great successes.

In 1962 UNA golfer Greg Lewis qualified for the NAIA National Tournament as an individual. The Lions won Alabama Collegiate Conference Championships under Sloan in 1961 and 1962.

The Lions finished with a 17-1 record in 1969, winning the ACC and NAIA District 27 championships. The Lions had a combined 64-11-2 match record from 1967-70. In addition to his work with the Lions golf program, Sloan was appointed as the Head Professional at Florence Country Club in 1957 and later accepted the position of Head Professional at the Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club. In all, Sloan spent more than fifty years teaching golf to players of all skill levels.



Former University of North Alabama end David Thomas '64 (left) with current UNA back Hayden Henderson in front of Henderson's locker that bears Thomas' name as a Locker Legacy member. Thomas played at UNA from 1960-63 and was a teammate of Hayden's grandfather, Jimmy Henderson, in 1960.

## UNA FOOTBALL LOCKER LEGACY

All University of North Alabama football alumni are invited to participate in the Locker Legacy program, which provides annual support for the UNA football team's equipment and capital needs.

In 2015, with the help of the Locker Legacy program, new meeting rooms for the football team were built in Self Field House. These meeting rooms were much needed and have proved to be of great benefit to the program.

As a former UNA football player, you created a legacy when you played for the Lions and we would like for you to leave your legacy each year with the current football team.

For \$120 a year you can have your name, position, number, and years of play inscribed and mounted on the locker of a current UNA football player. You will have the opportunity to renew your plaque each year. This not only shows your past commitment to the program, but also your current support of UNA Lion Football.

We want to enhance the experience of our current student athletes, and with your help, we can continue to make this happen.

This year, all money raised from Locker Legacy will go towards the purchase of new football uniforms for our team.

To participate in the Locker Legacy program, contact Megan Lovelace at [smlovelace@una.edu](mailto:smlovelace@una.edu) or at (256) 765-4615.



## WINGO WAS FINALIST FOR 2015 HARLON HILL TROPHY

University of North Alabama senior quarterback Luke Wingo of Tuscaloosa, Ala., finished sixth in the voting for the 2015 Harlon Hill Trophy as the NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year. Wingo received five first-place votes and 33 total points in the voting by the Division II sports information directors. Ferris State (Mich.) University senior quarterback Jason Vander Laan claimed the Harlon Hill Trophy for the second straight year with 217 total points.

Wingo led UNA to a 9-3 record and into the second round of the Division II Playoffs this season. He is sixth nationally in passing efficiency with a 162.8 rating after throwing for 3,203 yards and 25 touchdowns. He completed 231 of 343 passes and also rushed for eight touchdowns.

A four-year starter at UNA, Wingo led UNA to a share of three consecutive Gulf South Conference Championships and was previously selected first-team All-GSC and as the GSC Offensive Player of the Year.

He is UNA's all-time leader in total offense (9,532) and most touchdowns responsible for (94) and is second in career passing yards (8,374), career touchdown passes (60), and career pass completions (598). He is also tied for fourth in UNA history in career rushing touchdowns (34).

Wingo's selection marked the 10th time that a North Alabama student-athlete has been a finalist for the Hill Trophy, named for the UNA alumnus. The Lions' **Ronald McKinnon '09** won the Hill Trophy in 1995, as did **Will Hall '04** in 2003. The most recent UNA finalist was quarterback **Lee Chapple '11** in 2011.

## LIONS EARN THREE GSC TITLES IN THE FALL

For the first time in Gulf South Conference history, one school claimed the league's championships in football, women's soccer, and volleyball in the same fall season as the University of North Alabama laid claim to all three in 2015. The UNA football team went 9-3 and earned a tie with West Georgia for the 2015 GSC title. It was UNA's 12th football title, which is the most by any program in league history. In women's soccer, the Lions went 15-3-2 and claimed both the GSC regular-season and tournament championships. In volleyball, UNA was 26-8 and downed West Florida 3-2 in the GSC Tournament championship match. It was the Lions' 17th GSC volleyball crown, which is 11 more than any other program in conference history.



## MAYHALL IS ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA, AGAIN

University of North Alabama junior wide receiver Lee Mayhall of Jackson, Tenn., has been named to the 2015 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America® Division II Football Team for the second straight year.

Mayhall, who has a 3.97 cumulative grade point average in Industrial Hygiene, is one of just 24 players from the 168 Division II schools to be named first-team Academic All-America®.

A first-team All-Gulf South Conference selection this season, Mayhall had 49 pass receptions in 2015 for 539 yards and three touchdowns. He closed his career at UNA with 131 catches for 1,580 yards and ranks fifth in school history in pass receptions and ninth in receiving yards. A four-year letterman and three-year starter, Mayhall was a member of three consecutive Gulf South Conference Championship teams and the Lions advanced to the NCAA Division II Playoffs in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

A second-team All-GSC pick as a junior, Mayhall is also a two-time Academic All-Gulf South Conference and CoSIDA Academic All-District pick as well.





# UNA WALLACE WIN RECORD RECOGNIZED



With a 34-12 win at Valdosta State on October 3, 2015, University of North Alabama Head Football Coach Bobby Wallace passed Hal Self to become the winningest football coach in school history. Self won 109 games over 21 seasons with the Lions from 1949-69 and Wallace earned his 110th win against the Blazers last season.

Wallace was recognized for the accomplishment in a ceremony prior to UNA's 2015 Homecoming game that included representatives

of both the Self and Wallace families.

Wallace now has 115 wins in just 14 seasons at UNA and has led the Lions to six Gulf South Conference Championships, nine NCAA Division II Playoff appearances and three national championships. Wallace also ranks as the winningest football coach in Gulf South Conference history with 141 wins in 19 seasons in the league.



## FOOTBALL LIONS TO OPEN 2016 SEASON AT JACKSONVILLE STATE

The University of North Alabama will open its 2016 football season on the road on Thursday night, September 1, against the 2015 Football Championship Subdivision national runner-up Jacksonville State to kick off a 10-game schedule for the Lions.

UNA, coming off a 9-3 season that saw the Lions win a share of a third straight Gulf South Conference Championship and advance to the NCAA Division II Playoffs for a third straight year, will face its oldest rival in a JSU team that went 13-2 a year ago, losing to Auburn in double-overtime and to North Dakota State in the FCS Championship Game.

The UNA-JSU rivalry dates back to the first game of the Lions' modern football era in 1949 and continued until the Gamecocks left Division II following the 1992 season. The two schools have only met twice since then, with UNA taking a 28-16 win in 2003 and JSU winning 24-21 in two overtimes in 2013. The 2013 game drew a crowd of almost 21,000.

This year's game will kickoff at 6 p.m. at Burgess-Snow Field at JSU Stadium in Jacksonville.

UNA returns 43 lettermen, including 17 starters and eight All-GSC performers from last season. The 2016 Lion squad will include 27 seniors.

The Division II portion of North Alabama's 2016 schedule includes five home dates and four GSC road games. UNA's first five opponents all won at least seven games last season and three advanced to the playoffs. Overall, seven of UNA's 2016 opponents had winning records a year ago.

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Sept. 1	Thu	at Jacksonville State	6:00
Sept. 17	Sat	* VALDOSTA STATE	6:00
Sept. 24	Sat	* at West Alabama	6:00
Oct. 1	Sat	* WEST GEORGIA	6:00
Oct. 8	Sat	* at Florida Tech	6:00
Oct. 15	Sat	* SHORTER • HOMECOMING	6:00
Oct. 22	Sat	NORTH GREENVILLE	6:00
Oct. 29	Sat	* at Delta State	2:00
Nov. 5	Sat	* WEST FLORIDA	1:30
Nov. 12	Sat	* at Mississippi College	2:00
Nov. 19	Sat	NCAA Division II Playoffs	TBA
Nov. 26	Sat	NCAA Division II Playoffs	TBA
Dec. 3	Sat	NCAA Division II Playoffs	TBA
Dec. 10	Sat	NCAA Division II Playoffs	TBA
Dec. 17	Sat	NCAA Division II Playoffs	TBA



# CLASS NOTES

## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Megan Ingram** has been chosen as January's Teacher of the Month for Pell City Schools by the Kiwanis Club. Ingram is the 9th grade world history teacher at Pell City High School. She is currently in her eighth year of teaching. She and her husband, Floyd, have a son.

**Delvin Sullivan** has recently been named to the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame. Sullivan played for the University's National Championship Team in 1992 before completing his degree at Alabama A&M.

## 1950s

**Dr. Clifford and Millie Campbell ('51)** currently reside in La Center, Wash., where they serve in their church and community. Dr. Campbell received his undergraduate degree in psychology from the FSTC in 1951, while his wife, Millie, received a degree in education the same year.

## 1960s

**Jack Richter ('68)** currently resides in Virginia. He has worked for 42 years in math and operations for the U.S. military and various other organizations. He has conducted research in the U.S., Saudi Arabia, and Germany.

## 1980s

**Myron Fanning ('81)** joined NANA Management

Services as security manager for NMS Security. He retired in 2015 from the Anchorage Police Department (APD) as Deputy Chief of Police after 23 years of service. Before his career in law enforcement, Fanning served almost 10 years as an Infantry Officer in the U.S. Army and has completed police and military training programs. APD twice awarded him the Medal of Valor and recognized him with a Leadership Award.

**Ben West ('82)** has been accepted to Johns Hopkins University for a Masters in bioinformatics. West is also pursuing a certification in community college teaching from California State University Dominguez Hills.

**Joyce Caputo ('83)** resides in Mill Valley, Calif., and has recently published a book titled "Extraordinary Leadership During Extraordinary Times."

**Kevin Crowley ('84)** continued his education at Florida Institute of Technology where he received a Master of Science degree in Management. Mr. Crowley has recently been announced as chief executive officer and vice-president, Digital Aviation, for Boeing.

**Dr. Susan Burrow ('85)** was recently named president of Central Alabama Community College. Prior to being hired at CACC, she served in several roles across the state including campus dean for Bevill State Community College - Hamilton Campus, and dean of Academic transfer programs for BSCC.

**Dr. Leigh Ann Wilson ('93)** has been selected as Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year for College of Arts and Sciences at Brandman University in Irvine, Calif. Wilson grew up in the Shoals

**Chris Shaw ('87)** is the principal at Sparkman High School in Huntsville. At his previous job, he raised the graduation rate 27 points and was recognized as Georgia's principal of the year.

**Mark ('88) and Amanda ('89) Miwhee** reside in San Diego, Calif. Mark graduated from UNA with a degree in Social Work and currently works for Del Cerro Baptist Church as a pastor. Amanda received her degree in Elementary Education and works for Lifeway as a sales associate. Their daughters, Rebekah and Rachel, are currently enrolled at UNA. Mark recently published a book entitled "Encouragement from the Heart of a Shepherd."

**Sarah D. Nafziger, M.D. ('96)**, associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has become one of the first 195 physicians in the nation and the first at UAB to be board-certified in Emergency Medical Services. Nafziger is the assistant state EMS medical director for the Alabama Department of Public Health and the director of the UAB Office of EMS.

**Alan Rogers ('93)** currently resides in Salem, Oregon, and works for the Oregon Employment Department. He is currently the Chair for the Oregon Game Project Challenge, which inspires students to learn and develop skills in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

**Lori Eastep ('00)** served as the Director of Public Relations for Heritage Christian University before becoming

area, received her Master's from Kansas State University, and then earned her Ph.D. from the University of Memphis. She served as the editor-in-chief of the recently published Volume XIX, *Journal of Muscle Shoals History*.

**Angela Dawson Terry ('94)** pursued a law degree from Cumberland School of Law at Samford University. She passed the bar exam in 1998 and practiced criminal defense for a firm in Florence. She is now the first female judge in Lawrence County. In her time as district judge she has earned a positive reputation for being fair and thorough.

**Thomas Hagood ('04)** works for the University of Georgia leading faculty programming that impacts faculty efficacy and student learning. He also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and UGA's students-at-risk program.

**James Boyett ('05, '09)** was recently hired as the band director for Thomasville High School after playing for the Pride of Dixie marching band, Concert Band, Wind Symphony, brass ensemble, trombone quartet, and the Shoals Symphony Orchestra.

**Chip Long ('06)** joined the University of Memphis as offensive coordinator. Long has been recognized as one of the Top 25 Recruiters in the nation by Rivals and 247Sports in 2015. During his time at the University, Long played

the Assistant to the President for Scheduling and Events for UNA President Ken Kitts. She participated in the Leadership Shoals Class of 2012-2013, is a marketing committee member for Singing River Sculptures, and serves as assistant director for TITUS Camp for Teens.

**Michael Krause ('00)** is currently employed by South San Francisco USD as a Chief Business Official. He is currently enrolled in a doctoral program and resides with his wife and children in Victorville, Calif.

**Stephen McNair ('03)**, who played for the UNA golf team, won the 2015 Links club championship playing for the NASA golf league. He has been a NASA contractor at Marshall Space Flight Center since 2006.

**Josh McFall ('07)** is the Chief Executive Officer of the Huntsville Area Association of Realtors (HAAR). Prior to joining HAAR, McFall was vice president of strategic development at the Alabama Association of Realtors where he managed education and professional development programs, digital media including alabamarealtors.com, publications, and leadership development programming. McFall has spent his career in nonprofit management and higher education. He also served on the faculty at Auburn University-Montgomery teaching courses in communication studies.

During his tenure at the Alabama Association of Realtors, McFall was named to a two-term chairmanship of the National Association of Realtors State Education Director's Advisory Committee and to the National Association of Realtors Professional Development Committee.

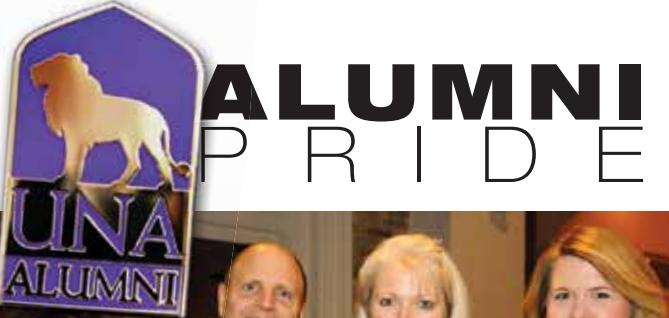
wide receiver and tight end and earned All-Gulf South Conference All-American Honors in 2005.

**Gale Satchel ('06)** graduated with a degree in Educational Administration and serves in the community as a board member for Children's Museum of the Shoals, Camp Courage, and American Cancer Society Relay for Life. She was elected as the Superintendent of Education for Colbert County. Satchel serves on the UNA Alumni Board.

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John Lasiter, Daryl Woods '95, and Mary Gist '83



## CLASS NOTES

**Danielle Gibson ('09)** has been named the director of the Hartselle Chamber of Commerce. She has worked with Alfa Insurance in Hartselle since 2013. Gibson also serves her community as the Hartselle Dixie Youth baseball treasurer and secretary of the F.E. Burleson Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization.

### 2010s

**Brent ('09) and Lauren ('10) Sams** reside in Lodi, Calif. The two met at a UNA Geography Alumni

Conference in 2009 and pursued master's degrees from Virginia Tech. They both work in the wine industry for E&J Gallo Winery using GIS and plant science techniques to build the vineyard of the future.

**Alexander Lindley ('13)** was recently named managing editor for the Moberly Monitor-Index. Lindley has also been recognized on the state and national levels for reporting and editing by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Southeastern Journalism Conference.

**Zack Miskel ('13)** resides in Calistoga, Calif., where he owns his own business, "Vinome and Spicey Vines."

**Vieira Bruna ('14)** is originally from Brazil. She was involved in the UNA Tennis Team as well as the Association for Information Systems. She received her undergraduate degree in Computer Information Systems, and currently works for 2Plus2 Partners as a Web Developer in Pleasanton, Calif.

**John Moseley ('15)** was named the Curator of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame. Mr. Moseley has a bachelor's degree in Marketing and acquired valuable experience in Information Technology, Digital Communication, and Visitor Center Resource Management at the Florence/Lauderdale Tourism Bureau.

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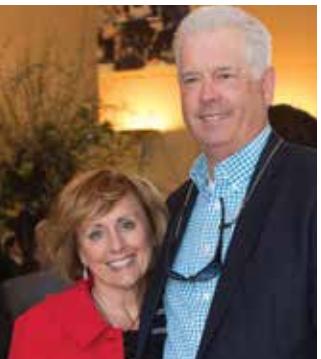
\*tax deductible as per IRS regulations



Harold and Tricia Lewis



Berniece and Charles Moore



Dr. Wendy '84 and Bruce Darby '81



Nicole Gallups and Ethan Cagle '13



Dr. Bill and Rachel Strong '75



Dr. Frances Koti and Margaret Tama '05



Deanne Douthill '59 with Bill and Sue Raines

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May 7-15, 2016

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June 30 - July 9, 2016

MEDITERRANEAN CROSSROADS  
June 25 - July 3, 2016



MAGICAL RINE & MOSELLE  
October 8-16, 2016

CANADIAN ROCKIES BY TRAIN  
May 21 - 29, 2016





# IN MEMORY

## FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Dr. Mary Maxey** graduated from Wood Junior College before attending Florence State Teacher College. She postponed her education until she accepted a teaching position in New Albany while earning her teaching degree at Blue Mountain College, where she later taught. Governor William Winter appointed Dr. Maxey to the Mississippi Textbook Procurement Commission.

**Dr. Frank Malonée, Jr.** received his Bachelor of Science degree and master's degree in Political Science from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He received his doctorate from Emory University. Dr. Malonée spent his entire career as a political science and history professor at the University of North Alabama. During his time teaching he received the Outstanding Service Award and recently the Lifetime Achievement Award.

## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Kenneth L. (Coach) LeGrande** attended the University before joining the U.S. Army Security Agency. After serving four years he graduated from Auburn University. He taught and coached at Stone Middle School and Whitesburg in Madison County in Alabama.

**Noble H. Yocom, Sr.** was a native of Lauderdale County and was a graduate of the University of North Alabama and Gupton-Jones Mortuary

College. He was a Veteran of World War II and served four terms as Etowah County Coroner.

**Sarah L. Foote** from Morgan County graduated from Danville High School and attended FSTC. She worked for the L&N Railroad until marrying her husband, Gurnie Foote. The couple moved to Gadsden where Sarah was an active partner in their furniture business.

## 1940s

**Travis Ray Carter ('49)** passed away in Tuscaloosa. He was a veteran of World War II where he served 23 months with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army in Europe. His career was in insurance sales.

## 1950s

**Milton M. Morgan, Jr. ('50)** passed away in Dallas, Texas. He served in the Army Air Corps in World War II in the Pacific as ground control. He married Ruth M. Basinger and began a long career in aviation, first with California Eastern Aviation in Columbus, Miss., which took his family to McAllen, Texas. In 1959 he began his career with the Federal Aviation Administration and retired in 1988.

**Dr. Robert Harold Freeman ('51)** served the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. His tours of duty took him through North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and central Europe. Dr. Freeman received his doctorate in Dentistry in 1955. He and his family lived in Hoover.

**Dr. L.G. Sanford ('57)** received his undergraduate

**Carrie Dillard Garner ('53)** received her teaching degree from the FSTC. She and her family had resided in Gulfport, Miss., since the early 1960s.

**Robert Luther Thompson, Sr. ('54)** earned his master's in European history from Duke University, and later received his doctorate in education from Duke before serving Duke as director of financial aid. He transferred to Duke's medical center as the executive secretary of the Committee of Admissions.

Thompson left Duke and took on the directorship of the Division of Academic Information at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in Washington, D.C., where he joined the UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine and became the first dean of student services.

**Doyle Hawkins ('55)** graduated with a teaching degree in History and English from Florence State Teacher's College.

**James William "Bill" Bendall ('57)** of Memphis served for two years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. His business career included positions in purchasing with Reynolds Aluminum, Firestone Rubber Company, and purchasing manager for Kellogg Company. During his career he was active in the National Purchasing Association and participated in Minority Purchasing Council. He was involved in the Memphis Rotary Club and an active Paul Harris Fellow.

**Dr. L.G. Sanford ('57)** received his undergraduate

degree from FSTC and his master's degree and Ph.D. in biology from Auburn University. He served the United States Army during the Korean War. He taught at several area high schools and Auburn University before accepting a position in the Biology Department at Jacksonville State University. During his tenure he served as the University Liaison Marine Sciences Program at Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

**Jimmie Neil Williams ('58)** from Hamilton grew up in Russellville. She was librarian at Fairview High School in Cullman County, later at the University of Montevallo in Shelby County, and finally at Jacksonville State University when she retired.

## 1960s

**Howard Ransom Kitchens ('60)** from Logan served in the U.S. Army from 1955-57. Mr. Kitchens was a retired basketball coach, school teacher, and principal.

**Phillip Lee Gordon ('63)** played baseball at FSC. Upon graduating he taught in several school systems across the county and received his master's degree from Cal Poly State University in California. He settled in Montana and established his own business, 3-D Excavation. He ended his working career upon retiring a few years later from Flathead Indian Irrigation Project.

**Kathryn Walker Maddox ('64)** of Cullman, Alabama taught at Eva, Brewer, Hanceville, and Holly Pond High Schools. She also was an instructor at

Wallace State Community College and Alabama A & M University. After retiring, Kathryn remained active in the Beta Delta Teachers' Sorority, Relay for Life, and Cullman Educators Retirees Association.

**Paula Mitnzer Burrow ('69)** graduated with her degree in Secretarial Science in 1969. During her time as a student she was a Lionette for the UNA Pride of Dixie Marching Band.

## 1970s

**Rev. David W. Warren ('79)** attended seminary at Asbury Theological Seminary, where he received his Masters of Divinity. He was a minister in the Alabama West Florence Conference for 42 years.

**Anthony "Tony" Wayne Clanton ('90)** played basketball at the University as well as at David Lipscomb University. He was employed for over 20 years with UST, Inc., living in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

## Verna Deen Hegler ('80)

received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. She served the Shoals area as a registered nurse and was an active member of First Baptist Church in Tuscumbia, Ala.

## Dr. David G. Yokley ('74)

proudly served in the U.S. Navy. He earned a bachelor's degree at UNA, then a DMD at UAB. Dr. Yokley first practiced in Gadsden, then worked 30 years in Huntsville and Madison with his partner, Dr. Donald G. Porch, Jr. He moved to Lake Guntersville in 2012 and retired in 2014.

## Lydia Webb Smith ('75)

received her master's in American Studies from the University of Alabama and began working with Community News in Sumiton, Ala. She and her husband met through her work at Community News, and later moved to Adamsville, Ala., and then to Homewood. In 1985, they moved to Tuscaloosa, where she worked at the University of Alabama for 20 years.

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**Shotgun Start**

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**Location**

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Muscle Shoals, AL**

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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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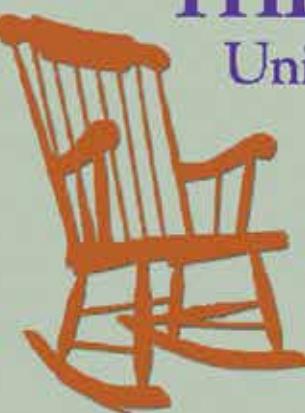
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**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 20 and 21**

STORIES, SONGS, AND THE SINGING RIVER

**9:00am—4:30pm**

Guillot University Center, University of North Alabama

**6:00pm—9:00pm**

McFarland Park - under tent

Rain location: Norton Auditorium, UNA Campus



**Thursday, May 19**  
9:00am and 1:00pm  
\$25.00

### SHOALS HISTORICAL TOUR

This tour will include Ivy Green—the birthplace of Helen Keller, the Rosenbaum House—designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and Tom's Wall—a Native American memorial, noted as one of the top 10 environmental arts in the United States.

**10:00am**  
GUC Performance Center  
\$5.00 (Cost included for Tour Ticket holders)

### Kathryn: The Story of a Teller

A private showing of a documentary about world renowned Kathryn Tucker Windham.

**7:30pm**, GUC Performance Center — **FREE**  
Featuring Walt Aldridge, Kate Campbell, Donny Lowery and Mark Nar more

### SINGING RIVER SONGWRITERS' ROUND

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