

# UNA magazine

for alumni and friends of the University of North Alabama

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# In this Issue

In this issue...you will read about teams, partnerships, students, and alumni who demonstrate the spirit of UNA. The *best and brightest* students come to UNA. They come



in many shapes and with many talents and dreams. They come from various backgrounds and study a diverse curriculum. Some are early scholars from the outstanding high schools in our area, some are from other countries, and some are home-schooled. Students, as alumni, become productive and outstanding citizens in our society. The students enlighten

and define our campus community. We are pleased to share stories of their successes.

Partnerships thrive as they walk hand-in-hand sharing a common goal. The University of North Alabama and the Foundation for Mental Health of the Shoals brought a class act to town in April when they sponsored a benefit concert with folk singer Judy Collins. What an evening! Next year, we will once again partner for a common goal. Join us. You will experience an unbelievable evening.

“Graduating Champions” is the newest buzzword in the athletic department. Not only do our student athletes stand out on campus with stellar grade point averages, but they also break records and make unforgettable memories traveling together around the country. They share a bond that redefines the term “team.”

Our alumni excel in their career choices. Professionally, they compete and perform around the world. When they retire they receive accolades from their peers. We are always excited when they “strut their stuff” on the hometown stage. We are forever grateful as they bring their talents home, archive collected memorabilia, and remember UNA as a stepping stone.

The Alumni Giving Pride Program established in 2008 has exceeded our expectations. Alumni donor percentages (monetary and in-kind) must increase in order for the university to compete in the marketplace as we search out grants and corporate donations. A very special thank you to those who have joined. If you have not, you may check off the alumni pride program box located in the business reply envelope in this publication. Your \$50 minimum contribution helps to support student scholarships and alumni chapters in your community.

Please update your records when you relocate, change email addresses, or change telephone numbers. Very soon, we will be offering a UNA on-line network to expedite these changes.

Contact your Alumni Office:

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# message from the Alumni President

## Greetings fellow Alumni!

Once again, I have the opportunity to address you and encourage you to support your Alma Mater. Many of you are scattered throughout the United States and are employed by some of the major corporations. Some of you are in positions of influence and can encourage your human resources office to recruit from the University of North Alabama. Tell them about your University and urge them to come to the campus during job recruiting days. Our graduates are highly qualified and have been prepared to enter the workforce with enthusiasm. Two of our major goals are to raise scholarship support for students and to help graduates with job placement and career networking. A large number of you are retired and still have connections with your former employers. They remember your contributions to their companies, and a recommendation from you carries weight in their hiring of new employees.

You have been receiving increased correspondence from UNA concerning opportunities for giving financial support. A lot of positive changes are being made by the Office of Advancement to increase giving and also to increase the amount of each scholarship awarded. Without these scholarships, many students would not be able to attend the University. I was very impressed at the annual

banquet honoring scholarship winners for the incoming freshman. I could see the eagerness and pride on the faces of both students and parents. I took the opportunity to talk with many of the parents who are alumni of UNA. One family had just enrolled their seventh child. The mother of the family is an alumna and certainly has done her part in supporting UNA. Hopefully, that tradition will continue with her children.

The University has hired a new Web master and improvements are being made to the UNA Web site. I encourage you to visit [www.una.edu](http://www.una.edu) and preview the various quick links to what is happening on campus. New benefits are being given with the new Alumni Pride Giving Program and you need to check them out. Donating online is available and is a quick way to participate in the giving program of the University. As always, thank you for your support of this institution. Also, thank you, Executive Board and Board-at-Large for all your encouragement and support this year.

Go Lions!

**Jerry White ('60)**

President, UNA National Alumni Association

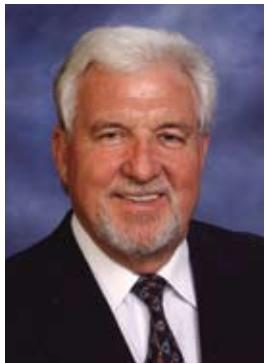


*Jerry White ('60), Barbara White, and Judy Collins*

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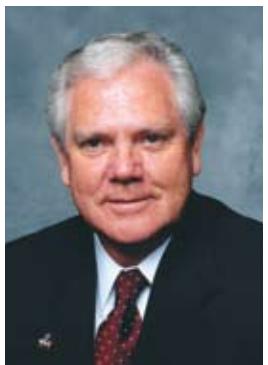
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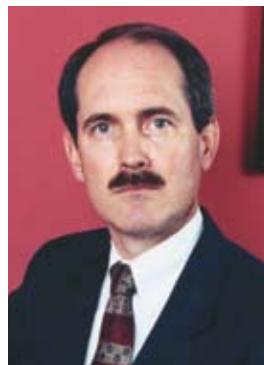
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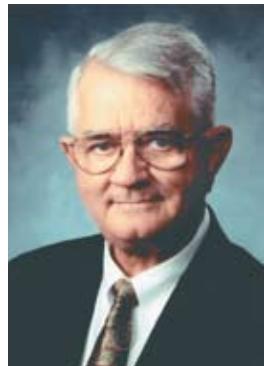
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As this issue goes to press we will have two new trustees on board at the University. They are **Rodney Howard ('76)**, President and CEO of First Metro Bank and **Richard H. Cater ('67)**, General Counsel Alabama Department of Finance. Both bring influence and resources needed to move UNA to the next level. In the next issue we will do in-depth profiles on both of these gentlemen. Today, I would like to talk about the two men who are leaving the board, **Dr. Allen Long ('75)** and David Abramson. I want to personally thank them for their time and all they have done for this University. Over the years I have served with them on the board, they have spent countless hours for the betterment of UNA.

First, Allen Long, one of the busiest men in the Shoals with his medical practice, is always there for UNA. Many times he has juggled his schedule to be at our meetings. He was very much a leader, always thinking things through and analyzing every detail before making a decision. His analytical mind helped us all look past the surface of issues and made us all better trustees.

Secondly, David Abramson, one of the most successful businessmen I have known. David brought to the board that success in running his own company to our meetings; however, I think his political influence was even more important. In today's University environment, being able to call on individual legislators and persons of influence in Montgomery is vital. David could pick up a phone and personally contact these people he has known for many years and lobby UNA's case. Many times, because of David's influence, we got our message across, and without his help that wouldn't have happened.

Again, thanks to these gentlemen, the University of North Alabama is a better University because of you and the legacy you both leave.

**Steve F. Pierce ('75)**  
President Pro-Tempore, UNA Board of Trustees



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# president's message

## William G. Cale, Jr.

Spring semester 2008 was another demonstration of how strong we are in so many ways. I'd like to start off by recognizing our student athletes. The UNA men's basketball team came together with a record not enjoyed in over a decade, taking us to the Elite Eight tournament in Springfield, Massachusetts, in late March. Coach Bobby Champagne and this talented group of athletes represented us so well, and I am very proud of their accomplishments. The UNA Board of Trustees rededicated the UNA baseball field as the Mike D. Lane Field, honoring our coach for his many years of service, building a fine program, and graduating outstanding student athletes. Mike recently captured his 1000<sup>th</sup> career win and his 900<sup>th</sup> win at UNA. As I write, our tennis teams are having an outstanding season, as are our golf and softball teams. Roar Lions!

One of the signature programs at UNA is our Center for International Programs (CIP). Dr. Evan Ward is our new director and UNA alumna, **Jacque Behrens ('65)**, has joined his administrative team. Evan is expanding our outreach to South America and China

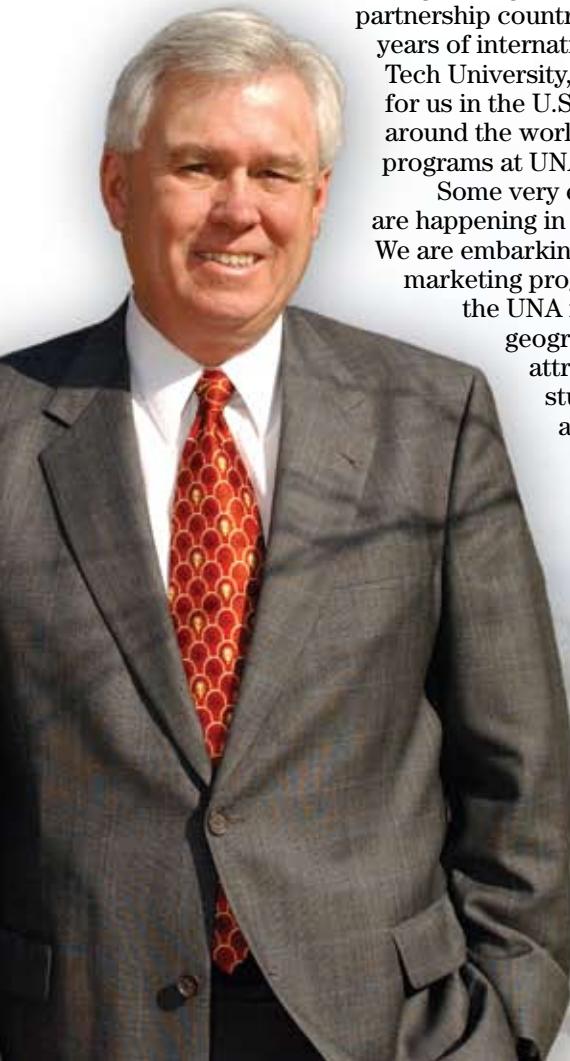
and strengthening our ties to Japan, India, and other partnership countries. Jacque brings nearly 30 years of international experience from Texas Tech University, and is opening new doors for us in the U.S. government as well as around the world. The future of international programs at UNA is in very good hands.

Some very exciting changes on campus are happening in our Advancement Division. We are embarking on a comprehensive marketing program that will help us carry the UNA message to a far greater geographic region. My hope is to attract even more highly qualified students to take a look at us, and one way to reach them is to share our message in the places where they live. One element of this outreach is through the World Wide Web, and to that end, we have employed our first-ever Web master. An exciting new scholarship program encourages donors to create endowments (or enhance existing endowments) at the \$25,000 dollar level and above. Proceeds from such endowment gifts will be matched by the university,

effectively allowing donors to double the impact of their gift for our students. And this lovely magazine now is being published three times each year, with a fourth publication, the Annual President's Report, to be mailed each December. The credit for these exciting changes goes to Dr. Alan Medders, our Vice President for University Advancement, and his team of dedicated professionals. Be sure to read Alan's article in this issue.

One of UNA's goals is to continue to strengthen relationships with the city of Florence and the greater Shoals area. We are in the first year of implementation of a plan developed by a special task force appointed by Mayor Bobby Irons and myself. Fruits of that plan this first year include creation of a new intramural field on campus, the building of a varsity soccer field, and a new football practice facility. Both facilities will be open for community enjoyment when not in use by UNA teams and programs. The highly successful George Lindsey UNA Film Festival took advantage of the Ritz Theater in Sheffield this year for the annual awards presentation. And a new partnership was born this spring as UNA and the Foundation for Mental Health of the Shoals brought Grammy award-winning singer Judy Collins to the Marriott Shoals Conference Center for a benefit concert. It was a wonderful evening with all proceeds supporting scholarships offered by both organizations. Finally, look for summer theater to return to UNA this year. UNA alumnus, **Will Stutts ('70)**, a distinguished actor and producer, is putting together a season that will include performances with Vicki Lawrence, Will as Mark Twain, and the fabulous musical production *Stand By Your Man*.

I am very happy to report that your university continues to move forward with a sense of pride and optimism. Please visit us soon. I look forward to seeing you on campus.



As a member of the UNA admissions and recruiting team, I have the privilege and honor of talking to hundreds of prospective students each year. The relationships that are established with these amazing young adults constantly provide motivation to recruit the *best and brightest* year after year. There is such a sense of accomplishment each fall when these students arrive on our campus. Once again, UNA is transformed into an institution full of energy, enthusiasm, and excitement...a land of opportunity where dreams are fulfilled. For many, there is an adrenaline rush that occurs as we begin transforming lives!

When asked to describe a "typical" UNA student, I always have a difficult time responding, because to me, there is no "typical" UNA student. Each student is unique in his or her own special way. From academic interests and preparedness to skills and talents, UNA students bring with them a variety of strengths, abilities, dreams, and life experiences. Therefore, as an institution, we are given the opportunity and challenge to further develop these individual attributes. To use the words of one of our deans, "UNA grows students." And, that is exactly what we do! By taking what is already "good," we strive to make it the best and by taking what is already "shining," we strive to make it the brightest.

Therefore, UNA has many of today's *best and brightest* students right here on our campus. Needless to say,

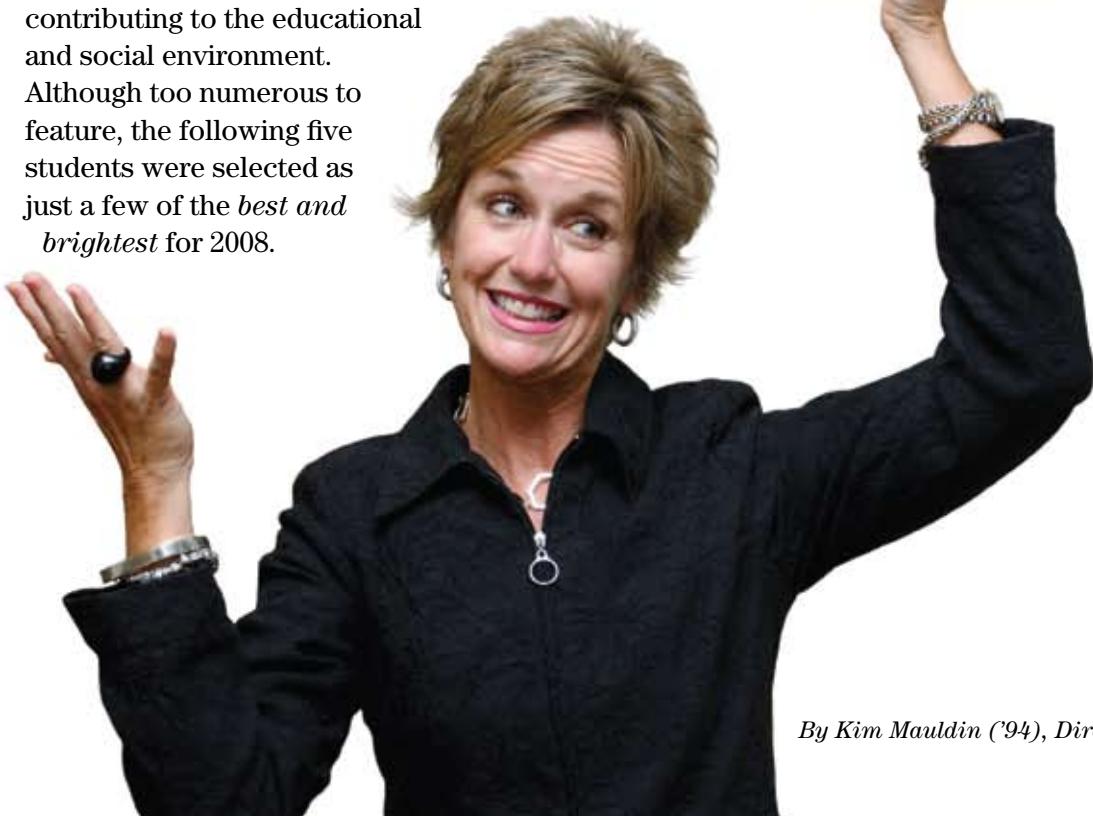
many of our students could have chosen to attend a number of colleges/universities; however, they chose us...UNA! And, for that choice, we are grateful and honored. These students are giving UNA the opportunity to contribute to their intellectual and personal development while they are individually contributing to the educational and social environment.

Although too numerous to feature, the following five students were selected as just a few of the *best and brightest* for 2008.



A woman with short blonde hair, wearing a black zip-up jacket, is smiling and holding a large yellow lightbulb in her right hand. The lightbulb is brightly lit, casting a glow. To the right of the lightbulb, the text "UNA's Best & Brightest" is written in a stylized font. The word "UNA's" is in purple, "Best" is in black, and "& Brightest" is in yellow. The ampersand is a stylized ampersand.

**UNA's** *Best & Brightest*



*By Kim Mauldin ('94), Director of Admissions*



## Caleb Banks

I love writing about the pleasantly different people of this world, those seemingly rare individuals who wear their quirks with pride. My experiences have led me to see these unique people as very kind, extremely honest, and surprisingly humble. They try their hardest to do well in whatever they do, but they don't brag about their accomplishments. They aren't trying to earn praise or awards, just a smile that says, "You did well."

Caleb Banks happens to be a good example of these unique people. The fact that he is being featured in this article proves that he stands out from the crowd. As of the time I interviewed him in April, he had not even graduated from Rogers High School in Greenhill, Alabama, but he was still chosen to stand as an equal beside four of UNA's *best and brightest*. However, instead of boasting about this achievement, he prefers to focus on the truer parts of who he is.

We spoke of how he loves to perform and sing, whether that is in a musical, in the school band, or in the puppet ministry at his church. We spoke of his favorite books, his favorite movies, his faith, who he would like to meet, and of the characters he would like to play when he makes it to the stages of Broadway. We spoke of his friends, who have described him as being "well-rounded," "entertaining," "outgoing," and as an "old soul." We also spoke of his "very supportive" parents, who have "been amazing." After all the speaking was finished, I thought to myself that this is definitely the kind of person this world needs, the kind of person who is always himself.

All we ask of Caleb is that he never forgets to be that person because that is what makes him one of UNA's *best and brightest*.



## **Casey Guinn**

Finding a good role model for young women is a difficult thing to do in this age. Fortunately, this article happens to feature profiles on three worthy examples: Casey Guinn, Natalie Holland, and Kendra Ransom. While we invite you to get to know each of them, let's give a few moments worth of focus to Miss Casey Guinn.

After graduating from Alabama's Belgreen High School in 2005, Casey came to UNA to pursue a degree in Secondary Education, with a focus on English and Language Arts. She hopes that one day she will be able to use this degree to become a school principal or teach at the collegiate level.

When she isn't studying, Casey enjoys hanging out with her friends in Alpha Gamma Delta, participating in UNA's intramural sports programs, watching movies, reading, and listening to music. She has also been seen performing at both "Step Sing" and "Step Show."

During her time at UNA, Casey has earned membership in LaGrange Society, Freshman Forum, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Eta Sigma, Gamma Beta Phi, Delta Epsilon Iota, Kappa Delta Pi, and the Secondary Education Association. She has also been a student worker in the offices of UNA's management/marketing department.

Casey would like to thank her boyfriend, Cain Yarbrough, and her parents, James and Ginger Guinn, who have, "always pushed me to do my best all through school." Both of Casey's parents, as well as her brother, Braxton, and her sister, Ashley, are alumni of UNA. Congratulations Casey for successfully continuing a proud legacy.



## Natalie Holland



Natalie Holland's life story is exactly where it should be, in a state of limbo. The 2007 graduate of Tupelo High School is only in her second semester at UNA, and it would be surprising if she knew more about where her future is leading. But don't think, even for one instant, that her uncertainty will keep her from moving forward. The fact that she is being featured in this article proves that she has so much more in her than idle potential. In her short time at UNA, she has earned a 4.0 grade point average, and has become a member of the following groups and honor societies: UNA Honors Program, Freshman Forum, Delta Tau Alpha, Phi Eta Sigma, and Alpha Lambda Delta. She will join the ranks of those already in LaGrange Society.

As for hints about Natalie's future, she suggests that her passion for the outdoors will have a big influence in her career choice. "I want to incorporate my love of the outdoors and environment into a career someday." She recently declared geography as her major and hopes that her classes might guide her to the type of job she wants.

Natalie hinted that her plans also include traveling (possibly to South America), getting married, and possibly raising a family. If she ends up having children, she hopes to raise them in the atmosphere of a small town where everyone is involved in the community. Wherever Natalie's final destination might be, it is certain that this young woman, who has been described as being both "optimistic" and "positive," will arrive with a smile on her face.

## Kendra Ransom

It has always been my opinion that the best nurses are the ones who are sure of not only what they do, but also of who they are. Without confidence in either themselves or their knowledge, they can't properly perform their duties. Fortunately, Kendra Ransom, who is in her sophomore year at UNA, and is about to enter our nursing program, doesn't seem to lack confidence in either category.

Kendra came to UNA in August, 2006, shortly after graduating from Alabama's J.O. Johnson High School in Huntsville. Since joining our proud University, Kendra has made it a point to involve herself in many of our student organizations. Some of these organizations and honor societies include: the Presidential Mentors Academy, Leadership UNA, Student Nursing Association, Project Open (a scholarship program for minority nursing students), Alpha Kappa Alpha, Phi Eta Sigma, Delta Epsilon Iota, and Alpha Lambda Delta.

Kendra enjoys "the simple and little things in life," and says that, "I absolutely love a good laugh." She strikes me as the kind of person who uses her "very bubbly and cheerful personality" to bring joy into the lives of others.

Kendra would like to thank God and her family for being such great blessings in her life. "Family and God are the two most important things in my life. I attribute God to the accomplishments I have made, for without him none of them would be possible. I also thank my wonderful loving parents, Jeanette Ransom Johnson and Marcell Johnson, for their guidance and encouragement that has always kept me focused and on the right path."

We congratulate Kendra, as well as our other *best and brightest* students, and hope that all her works truly honor those who worked so hard to give her the opportunities she has been given.

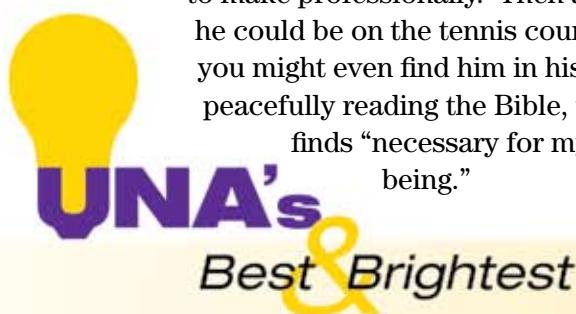
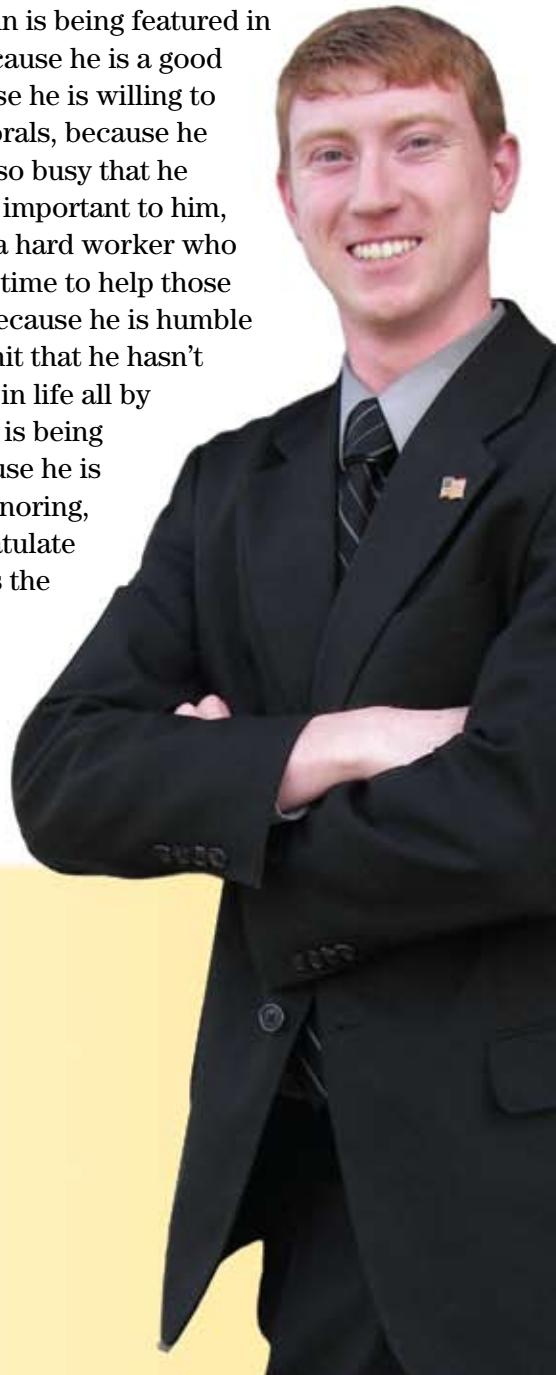


## Winn Brewer

Winn Brewer reminds me of the kind of characters Jimmy Stewart used to play. Winn, who spent most of his youth in Collinwood, Tennessee, is a man of faith, of laughter, and of generosity. He finds pleasure in the company of friends and family; he finds enjoyment by listening to the stories of those he meets; he finds relaxation by wandering through creeks in search of rocks; and he finds reasons to be thankful regardless of the circumstances. He perfectly fits the description of a southern gentleman and he is just an all-around likeable person, but he also happens to be an all-around busy person.

Trying to find Winn can be pretty difficult unless you just happen to be at the right place at the right time. When he isn't tackling his homework, which is a substantial amount since he is working on a double major in Communication Arts and Geology, he is most likely making rounds as the Student Government President, a Resident Advisor in Lafayette Hall, or he is possibly working with UNA's newest fraternity, Delta Chi. However, it's just as possible that you may find him behind a camera as he works on a nature movie, which is the type of film he would love to make professionally. Then again, he could be on the tennis court, or you might even find him in his room, peacefully reading the Bible, which he finds "necessary for my well-being."

It would be very easy to let this article focus on Winn's 3.886 grade point average, or his membership in two honor societies (Gamma Beta Phi and Phi Kappa Phi) and in UNA's Honor's Program, or even on how he plans to work for Disney and *National Geographic*, but those aren't the reasons Winn made it to our list of UNA's *best and brightest*. Winn is being featured in this article because he is a good person, because he is willing to stick to his morals, because he refuses to get so busy that he forgets who is important to him, because he is a hard worker who always makes time to help those in need, and because he is humble enough to admit that he hasn't gotten this far in life all by himself. Winn is being honored because he is truly worth honoring, and we congratulate him, as well as the many people who helped Winn become who he is today.



# Seven Scholarshipped Smiths

By Cheryl N. Schmidt, contributing writer

Imagine facing the costs of sending seven children to college in a nine-year time span.

When their youngest son begins his freshman year at UNA this fall, Bob and Joy Smith ('73) of Tuscumbia will have met that challenge, and in a most remarkable way.

All seven of their children – ages 18 to 27 – have attended, or are attending UNA on academic scholarships that cover the costs of tuition and books. They could have had room and board covered too, but the Smith children attend UNA while living at home.

As easy and successful as their knack for getting scholarships appears, the Smiths did need a strategy. And they have intelligent children willing to study hard and practice, practice, practice.

During a recent interview in the family's five-bedroom home off Highway 43, Bob and Joy and their three youngest children talked about the commitment they all made to education and to each other.

In 1994, Bob retired from an accounting job at the Tennessee Valley Authority and he and Joy, who had also worked as an accountant, decided to home-school their five boys and two girls. Joy's sister was teaching her six children at home and encouraged them to try it. They joined a home-schooling group from Eva, Alabama, and later organized one at their church, the Muscle Shoals Bible Church.

The Smiths set up a classroom upstairs in their house and Joy taught the lower grades, first through sixth, while Bob took seventh through 12th. As he began preparing them for higher education, they learned the importance of good scores on college entrance exams, like the SAT, PSAT and ACT. And they discovered at nearby UNA, where Joy is an alumna, the higher the ACT score, the more college expenses would be covered.

"We started the kids out early taking those tests and we worked at it," Bob Smith said. They found studying for the tests proved to be a good teaching method. "After a while, we just dropped the SAT and the PSAT

and concentrated on the ACT. And we practiced."

Patrick Smith, 21, a UNA senior and a whiz at chemistry, said the amount of time they would spend practicing for the ACT depended on how close it was to when the official test was given. It would be "once a day close to the test, once a week a month or so out," Patrick said.

Patrick is majoring in Industrial Hygiene and General Chemistry and is the second Smith to show an interest in chemistry. His older sister, Kimberly, graduated from UNA Magna Cum Laude in 2007, with a degree in Professional Chemistry. She is currently attending Vanderbilt University, with help from the prestigious Harold Stirling Fellowship, while pursuing a doctorate in Organic Chemistry.

"I like being in the laboratory," said Patrick, who works part-time as a lab technician at Southern Environmental Testing, Incorporated in Florence.

Bob and Joy apparently passed their love of math on to the three oldest sons, David, William, and James Michael, who studied accounting, mathematics, and computer science. They're not sure how their other children got the chemistry bug.

"Where they got into chemistry really is at UNA; they have a fantastic department over there and it just got our kids really excited about it," said Bob.

Youngest son, Stephen, who just turned 18, has already been taking chemistry and organic chemistry through UNA's Early Scholars' Program and plans to pursue a degree in Industrial Hygiene and Professional Chemistry.

Youngest daughter, Aubrey, 19, has a keen interest in math

and science like her siblings. She combines that with a talent in music and received the Eunice and George Hoffmeister Endowed Scholarship for piano at UNA. She has been accepted into the College of Nursing for the fall. "I just had orientation and I'm excited," Aubrey said, "UNA has a really good nursing program."

Patrick, Aubrey, and Stephen said they considered other colleges, but UNA feels more like home. "You're able to get to know the teachers,"



Stephen, Patrick, Bob, Joy ('73), and Aubrey Smith

Patrick said, and five of the Smith kids were already acquainted with some of the faculty by taking part in the Early Scholars' Program before they officially started at UNA.

"One of the things UNA tells you is that the teachers actually teach the labs and the classes aren't really, really big," said Joy.

"Bob and I have felt truly blessed to have such a wonderful University so close to home. Our children have benefited greatly from the student/teacher relationships they have forged during their years at UNA. There have been so many caring teachers who have helped all of them through their studies and have also helped them with their path to future educational and job opportunities. We appreciate UNA and are truly grateful for our experience there."



# George Lindsey

For more than four decades, **George Lindsey** ('55) has filled hearts with love and laughter through his classic portrayal of dim-witted, good-hearted, filling-station attendant Goober Pyle on television's most treasured sitcom, *The Andy Griffith Show*.

While millions of fans cherish his role as Gomer Pyle's car-fixing cousin, loyal friends at the University of North Alabama understand that Lindsey's influence extends far beyond the mythical bounds of Mayberry, North Carolina.

At UNA, Lindsey is equally appreciated for his off-screen talents as a proud graduate, loyal friend, generous supporter, and tireless humanitarian. This year's George Lindsey UNA Film Festival – an annual testament to his deep commitment to his college alma mater – marked the dedication and official unveiling of the George Lindsey Collection in the Collier Library Archives.

"I had the time of my life when I was in school here," Lindsey remarked, "so I can't think of a better home for all of these tools I used and souvenirs I saved during my career. Seeing all of this together brings back a lot of warm memories."

In addition to the role of Goober – which he reprised on the spinoff series *Mayberry R.F.D.* and the country variety show *Hee-Haw* – Lindsey's credits reveal the versatile career of a multi-talented comic entertainer, as well as a consummate character actor.

"George Lindsey is really the reason I have a movie career," according to Academy Award winner Billy Bob Thornton, who was the special guest for the 2008 film

festival. "Nothing inspired me more than those characters on *The Andy Griffith Show*. I also admire the fact that George hasn't forgotten where he came from – he's still giving back to the people and places that made him who he is."

A native of Jasper, Lindsey played football at UNA (then called Florence State Teachers College) and engaged in amateur dramatics. After a brief teaching career, he followed the impulses of his heart to the Big Apple, graduating with honors from New York's prestigious American Theatre Wing and performing in the hit Broadway musicals *All American* and *Wonderful Town*.

With his sights set on television and movies, Lindsey made his way to Hollywood, where he was quickly cast in *Ensign Pulver*, Josh Logan's movie sequel to *Mister Roberts*. Over the next two years, Lindsey went on to play challenging roles in major television shows ranging from *Gunsmoke* and *The Rifleman*, to Rod Serling's *Twilight Zone* and *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*.

Perhaps his favorite performance – and the one that earned Lindsey his greatest acclaim – was his sad, sympathetic role as backwoods simpleton, Juke Marmer, in the Emmy award-winning *Hitchcock Hour* episode "The Jar," directed by Norman Lloyd and based on a chilling Ray Bradbury horror tale. The highlight of the drama was Juke's haunting, heartbreakingly monologue – which Lindsey mastered in one impeccable take.

"They say that 90 percent of the art of directing lies in casting," Lloyd recalled. "With George Lindsey in



*The Andy Griffith Show*



*Gunsmoke*



*Gomer Pyle USMC*

‘The Jar,’ it was 100 percent. All I had to do was say ‘Action,’ and he gave a moving and beautifully sensitive performance.”

Lindsey made his *Andy Griffith Show* debut on the classic “Fun Girls” episode, introducing Goober’s unique impersonations of Cary Grant, Edward G. Robinson and Chester from *Gunsmoke*. (He could also “sew up his fingers” with the greatest of ease). Lindsey didn’t know it at the time, but he was about to enter the realm of pop-culture immortality.

“That series set the standard for every sitcom to come,” Lindsey believes. “We weren’t trying to be funny. We just tried to serve the characters, and the comedy came out of that.”

Like Dracula to Bela Lugosi, Sherlock Holmes to Basil Rathbone, and Mr. Spock to Leonard Nimoy, the role of Goober became both a blessing and a curse. Lindsey created an iconic character, but he remained so identified with Goober that casting directors often refused to look past his signature role. Still, Lindsey played a wide variety of post-Mayberry roles on television shows ranging from *M\*A\*S\*H* to *NewsRadio*. He also voiced animated characters for Disney’s *The Aristocats*, *Robin Hood* and *The Rescuers*. Most recently, he hosted Turner South’s Emmy-winning series *Liars & Legends* and appeared in the feature film *When I Find the Ocean*.

“I made peace with Goober years ago,” Lindsey says today. “He’s a good guy, and he’s been my friend. How many actors can say they created a character 40 years ago that’s still appearing on television reruns all over the world each and every day? I’ve really been blessed.”

*By Terry Pace, an adjunct instructor of English at UNA who serves on the steering committee for the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival.*





# MUSIC THAT SINGS

*to the heart*

*By Meredith Louise Carr, Student Writer*

After graduating from UNA with his Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education (**'74**) and a Master of Arts degree in Education (**'76**), **Fred Hendon** made an immediate and lasting impact on the Shoals community. After graduation, he was awarded a teaching position at Harlan Elementary School in Florence. After a stellar career, he retired as principal.

Fred is the director of the Shoals Praise and Worship Choir (SPWC), a local choir with over 300 members. It was formed “as a result of the Tony Evans Crusade held at the University of North Alabama in the spring of 1999,” according to the SPWC Web site. This event was organized by a group of multi-denominational ministers who were seeking to bring unity among the churches of the area.

Hendon was asked to organize a choir to sing each night at the Crusade and ended up directing a 300-person choir. The choir loved singing together so much, they decided to continue doing so, and thus, the Shoals Praise and Worship Choir was born.

The SPWC still enjoys singing together every week. “Without Fred, there would be no choir,” said Phyllis Noland, a choir member. “He gives the choir the desire to sing and excites us to want to sing.”

Excitement arises in the Shoals community every time the choir performs a concert. “They must like our music, because they’re always there,” said choir member **Janie Haygood ('57)**. Some of the choir’s concerts are so full, audience



members have had to be turned away at the door so the fire code will not be broken.

Full of patriotism, the choir has had the honor of singing at the deployment and welcome home ceremonies for the 115<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion as they served in Iraq. The members have also had the opportunity to sing at several Veterans Day concerts. "Prayer for our soldiers and our country is a regular part of prayer time for the choir each Tuesday evening before we begin practice," said Linda Goodale, editor of the SPWC newsletter, *Grace Notes*.

Director Fred Hendon is loved by all of the choir members. "I can't think of anyone more suited to the task of leading this huge choir," said Goodale. She went on to describe his innate abilities of directing, organizational and administrative skills, and unifying spirit. Janie Haygood agrees, "...he knows how to handle the crowd, and we all feel like a family! No one ever misses practice unless they are deathly ill!"

With requests from all over the state to sing, the choir enjoys the opportunity to sing for different churches and communities. "The concerts are always full, always overflowing with people," Haygood said. In fact, the choir is already booked for 10 major concerts scheduled throughout the rest of the year.

Some of the songs in the program this year include several "old gospel" favorites, like "How

Great Thou Art," "Amazing Grace," and "Thou, O Lord," a favorite of many choir members.

This year, the Shoals Praise & Worship Choir will be celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the W.C. Handy Festival Celebration Concert. The event will take place July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., in Flowers Hall. Featured soloists include Ivan Parker and Charles Billingsley.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at: <http://www.itickets.com/events/196418.html>



*Shoals Praise & Worship Choir*



# UNA

## Alumni News

**Dear Fellow UNA Alumni,  
I've got some exciting news!**

For many of us – active participants and audience members alike – memories of the Drama program at UNA are among our fondest. We were so much *A Part of It*, and that experience remains something gratifying to remember wherever our lives and careers have taken us. The Summer Theatre program at UNA through most of the '70s was a whirlwind of participation that remains vivid and unique.

Well, the administration at UNA is resurrecting that Summer Theatre program and it starts THIS SUMMER! The month of July will be jam-packed with some fabulous productions, featuring some recognized 'stars' of entertainment. We all want YOU to *Be a Part of It* by being in on the ground floor of bringing Summer Theatre back to UNA!

This summer's performance schedule is located on the inside front cover of this magazine. Students enrolled in the Summer Theatre program will be included in a multitude of theater activities involved in producing all this entertainment. Students will understudy and appear in "Stand by your Man" in ensemble roles, and engage in a series of 'master classes' and seminars on a variety of theater subjects.

We want and need YOU to *Be a Part of It* by becoming a founding member of the Summer Theatre Company. Your contribution now will help underwrite this season, and will also help to ensure an even more ambitious and illustrious season in 2009!

On Saturday evening, July 12, we will be hosting a pre-performance reception at Rogers Hall Alumni House at 6 p.m. so that you will have an opportunity to visit with those you performed with in the UNA Theatre Department. If you were a part of "Elizabeth the Queen" ('70), "The Little Foxes" ('70), "Goodbye, My Fancy" ('71), "There's a Girl in My Soup" ('72), "Affairs of State" ('73), "Born Yesterday" ('74), "My Three Angels" ('75), "Boeing Boeing" ('76), "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" ('77), "What the Butler Saw" ('78) contact the alumni office to assure that your name is on the mailing list as a theatre graduate. They will be sending out invitations to the reunion.

So, join in the excitement...start spreading the news....and *Be a Part of It!*

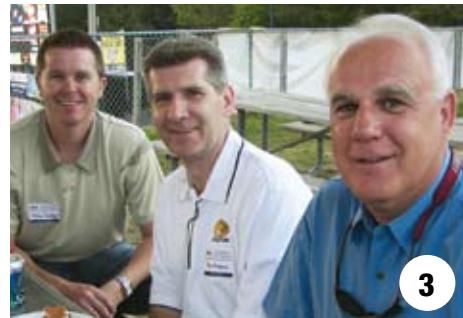
See you at the Theatre,

**Will Stutts ('70)**

*Producing Artistic Director*

*UNA/Summer Theatre*





1. UNA fan with Sandra Behel ('77)
2. Attendees with Bill Cale at Birmingham Barons game
3. Ethan Southern ('98), Alan Medders, Phillip Inman ('75)
4. UNA Choral Director Ian Loeppky during Fine Arts Festival
5. VIP servers enjoy the moment at Fine Arts Festival
6. Patricia Butler ('71) and Mary Bulls ('68) at Rogers Hall
7. UNA alumna Eleanor McClellan ('79), guest soloist at Fine Arts Festival



Join alumni and friends in the **Carolinas and Virginia** on June 13 and 14. For inquiry or to volunteer for chapter development, contact Carl Mathis at 919-846-7875 or the UNA Alumni Office at 256-765-4201.



# **UNA On the Road**

# **Catch us in Your Area**

## **Charlotte, North Carolina • June 13**

All alumni from North and South Carolina are invited to join us at Wachovia Corporate Headquarters for an after-hours reception.

## **Charlottesville, Virginia • June 14**

All UNA Alumni in the state of Virginia are invited to Charlottesville during the Festival of the Photograph. We will host a lunch reception in the atrium of the Omni on Main Street at 12:30 p.m. EST.

## **Gadsden/Anniston, Alabama • July 8**

Come to the Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts and visit with UNA Athletics Director Mark Linder and Coach **Danny Kimble ('73)** AD of Gadsden City High School during The ART of COMPETITION exhibit.

## **Montgomery, Alabama • Shake and Bake • July 18 & 19**

Join alumni for a weekend of fun at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival on Friday evening (West Side Story) and/or a Montgomery Biscuits Baseball game on Saturday evening.

## **Huntsville, Alabama • Stars • August 2**

Alumni and friends from Madison, Morgan, and Limestone County are invited to the Joe Davis Stadium for an evening of picnic, baseball, and fireworks. Come at 6 p.m. and spend the evening.

## **Nashville, Tennessee • Sounds • August 9**

Sounds like a picnic. Sounds like fun! Join UNA Alumni for a night out with the Nashville area alumni and friends. Join us at the Tennessee State Parks Home Run Deck for a picnic beginning at 4:30 p.m., a double-header baseball game, and fireworks.

## **Atlanta, Georgia • Braves • August 26**

On Tuesday Evening, August 26, join UNA Alumni for a hot evening of Major League baseball as the Atlanta Braves versus the Florida Marlins with Josh Willingham (UNA Alumni).

## **UNA Versus Carson Newman @ Jefferson City, Tennessee • September 6**

Alumni and friends are invited to a pre-game party two hours before game time (TBA).

## **Chattanooga, Tennessee • September 7**

Alumni from the Chattanooga tri-state chapter are invited to come by the Hunter Museum at 12:30 p.m.

## **Decade of the '80s Reunion • September 13**

Friends who went to UNA are invited to celebrate an anniversary on campus and at Spirit Hill before the UNA versus Henderson State football game. (Check schedule online)

## **West Georgia @ Carrollton • September 20**

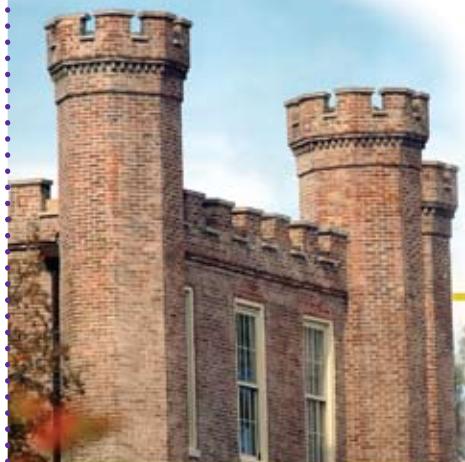
The Georgia Alumni are encouraged to come to the pregame tailgate party two hours before kickoff

## **HOMECOMING • October 24 & 25**

Plan your weekend around the 2008 UNA Homecoming Schedule when UNA hosts Valdosta State.

RSVP to the Office of Alumni Relation at  
**256-765-4201** or go to  
**[www.una.edu/alumni/events](http://www.una.edu/alumni/events)**  
to confirm attendance or  
for additional information





# September 13, 2008

*Schedule and Details TBA*

University of North Alabama

# REUNION

Decade of the '80s

## New UNA Car Tag

Your UNA car tag is available at the Probate Office of any county courthouse when you buy or renew your tags. \$47.50 of the \$50 fee will be directed toward UNA student scholarships. You may also personalize your UNA car tag with up to five characters. Once you've personalized your tag, share your personalized tag at [www.una.edu/cartags](http://www.una.edu/cartags).

**An award for the best personalized tag will be given at Homecoming in October!**



**Make your Alumni Gift to UNA and  
become a card-carrying Alumni Pride Member – receive the following benefits:**

- 10 percent discount at the on-campus University Bookstore
- 10 percent discount on Athletic season tickets (Purchased from the UNA ticket office)
- 10 percent discount on University performances at Norton Auditorium (Purchased at the box office)
  - 10 percent discount on Student Recreation Center fees
  - A brick in the Alumni Victory Garden (with a gift of \$100 or more)
  - On-site use of Collier Library • Charitable Tax Deduction
  - Alumni Pride membership donor card • Alumni Pride lapel pin

**To receive your Alumni Giving membership card make a \$50 minimum gift designated  
to the Support for Alumni Pride Program**

*(you may use the reply envelope in the center of this magazine)*



# Around the Campus

## STUDENT PRESENTS RESEARCH AT NATIONAL MEETING OF AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

By Rebecca Walker, UNA Student Writer

The University of North Alabama was represented at the April meeting of the American Physical Society in St. Louis, Missouri. Lisa Williams, a physics major at UNA, shared research that she and UNA associate physics professor Dr. Brian Thompson have participated in since last June. According to Williams, only 90 of the 1,500 attendees were undergraduates. She was one of 20 students presenting research.



*Lisa Williams ('08)*

such an amazing opportunity is through the [UNA] faculty's dedication to research," Williams said.

In March, Thompson nominated Williams for the Society of Physics Students Outstanding Student Award for Undergraduate Research. If chosen, she will be given an opportunity to travel to Poland to present the research at the International Association of Physics Students' annual meeting. The joint research between Thompson and Williams, titled "Whispering-Gallery-Mode Resonances in Fluorescent Microspheres," focuses on light produced in microscopic particles.

The grants for research are provided by the Research Corporation and the UNA Academic Affairs Grant. The pair took the research to the Alabama Academy of Science in March for the academy's 85th annual student competition. Williams won first place in the math and physics category.

While at the conference, Williams also attended educational workshops dealing with job-search strategies, women in physics, and recruiting students to physics. "The only reason I'm getting

"Most of the students were graduate students. I was one of the few undergrads there," Williams said.

"Lisa has been a joy to work with in the lab," Thompson said. "She has a great combination of intelligence and personality, but I am always surprised by her strong motivation. I shouldn't be; anyone with three nearly grown children who returns to school to study physics must feel very strong motivation."

Williams also serves as vice president for the UNA chapter of the Society of Physics Students. The group travels to local fourth-grade classrooms to show students basic physics experiments in a fun and interesting way.

"Currently, there are fewer than 3,000 undergraduate physics majors who graduate yearly in the U.S.," Williams said. "We need to get more students interested in the field."

Williams, who will graduate in May, is making plans for life after this initial research. She has been employed by Dynetics as a systems analyst in Huntsville.

"For this field, you're going to find the cutting-edge technology in North Alabama because of NASA," she said. "The country needs research because we can't grow technologically without it. People like Dr. Thompson and the UNA faculty make that research possible."



*Ashley Isbell ('08) has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Auburn University on a full Teaching Assistantship award with tuition and fee waiver and a monthly stipend. She plans to study the symbiotic interactions of anemone shrimp and anemones in the Caribbean.*

## Eleanor Gaunder Phi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching Award

Each spring the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi confers The Eleanor Gaunder Phi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching Award on one outstanding UNA professor. In order to choose the winner of this prestigious award, the Honor Society conducts a rigorous selection process which includes evaluating each finalist's curriculum vita and his or her performance in the classroom.

Phi Kappa Phi is proud to announce the 2008 recipient of this award is Dr. Francis Koti. Koti is an exceptional

professor whose humor in the classroom and natural ability to teach capture his students' attention. His use of effective teaching strategies and higher level thinking engage the students in classroom discussions. Koti is an assistant professor of Geography. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi congratulates Professor Koti for his excellence in the classroom!

## Center for Writing Excellence

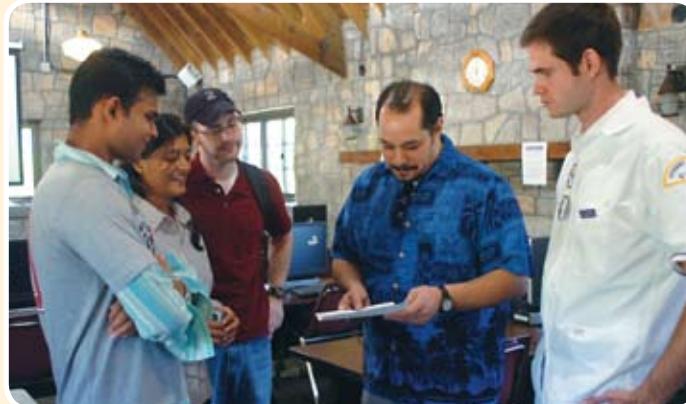
By Dr. Robert T. Koch Jr., Director of the University Writing Center

The University of North Alabama has a brand new resource for students, faculty, and the community. It is called the Center for Writing Excellence (CWE), and it includes three components: the University Writing Center, a Faculty Professional Development Series in Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the Disciplines, and a Community Outreach Program. The goal of the CWE is to develop the writing skills and practices of the university

community and to develop partnerships with community organizations and institutions that will increase community writing and literacy skills.

The central component of the CWE – the University Writing Center – began as a volunteer effort in spring of 2004. English faculty members Dr. Larry Adams, Dr. Nancy Atkinson, Ms. Cynthia Burkhead, Ms. Dianne Dodson, Ms. Anita Garner, Dr. Eleanor Gaunder, Dr. Jean Johnson, Dr. Anna Lott, Dr. Jim Riser, and Dr. Ron Smith served at least one office hour per week in the center. In 2007, the English department received approval and funding to hire a director for the writing center who would develop it as a university-wide resource for students and faculty. The director they hired, Dr. Robert T. Koch Jr., adopted and expanded the department's vision. In the fall of 2007, 595 students visited the University Writing Center 1,603 times in order to work on projects, take breaks between classes, and receive writing tutorial assistance. University Writing Center tutors conducted 426 tutorials, and the director conducted 24 orientations and writing workshops, reaching approximately 489 students. Estimates for spring 2008 attendance show just as much student and faculty interest and use.

In addition to the University Writing Center, the CWE also offers a Faculty Professional Development Series in Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing in the



Dr. Robert T. Koch Jr.

Disciplines. These workshops and resources are intended to help faculty members in every discipline develop, implement, and assess writing assignments more effectively. This program, started in the spring of 2008, has so far offered two presentations: first, faculty members were invited to discuss writing issues they faced in the classroom. Discussion topics included how to improve reading and writing skills, how to develop focused assignments, and how to assess writing. The second presentation, which focused on assessment rubric design, grew from the initial conversation. This Professional Development Series will offer three workshops per semester beginning in the fall of 2008.

Finally, the CWE has begun building relationships with other community literacy organizations and institutions through its community outreach program. This year, we will be supporting Florence-Lauderdale Public Library's inaugural One Book Program, which will take place from August 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>. Community members are encouraged to read this year's book, John Grogan's *Marley & Me*, and participate in discussions and workshops. As part of the program, Dr. Koch and a tutor from the University Writing Center will conduct a six-week memoir writing course on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon, from August 31<sup>st</sup> through October 4<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the One Book Program, the CWE has begun work with teachers and administrators at Florence High School to create the FHS Writing Center. Support materials and training for this program will be provided by the CWE, while the tutors will be FHS's own creative writing students and some of UNA's Language Arts Secondary Education majors.

More information about UNA's Center for Writing Excellence can be found at <http://www.una.edu/writingcenter>.

# UNA's Women's Center

By Dr. Anna Lott, Associate Professor of English

On a chilly January afternoon, UNA students and Shoals community members flocked to UNA's Women's Center to enjoy strong coffee, fortune-telling based on coffee grounds, and Turkish delight. The standing-room-only Turkish Coffee party was one of a series of well-received discussions, workshops, and celebrations that were hosted by the Women's Center throughout the year. The diverse events included a henna party, in which participants received henna "tattoos," traditional in Middle Eastern culture; a "Bead for Life" sale of jewelry made by Ugandan women; a series of brownbag lunches with discussions led by members of Rape Response of the



Shoals; and the state meeting of the American Association for University Women (AAUW).

The Women's Center, located in a small house on Wood Avenue (formerly UNA's International House), was established in 2004, under the auspices of UNA's Women's Studies Program and in collaboration with Rape Response of the Shoals. The Women's Center (coordinated by Dr. Lynne Rieff and Dr. Anna Lott) has quickly become a dynamic campus resource, providing materials for research on gender issues, a space for Women's Studies classes, a forum for speakers, and a meeting place for student groups such as the Women's Studies Association.

The Women's Center offers regular presentations on issues that are central to UNA's Women's Studies program and sponsors national events such as *Equal Pay Day* and *One in Four*, a national men's program that advocates a comprehensive approach to the prevention of rape. The Women's Center also offers free and confidential HIV testing, as well as counseling and medical referrals.

The primary mission of the Women's Center is academic, providing a forum for speakers from other universities and from community organizations such as Safeplace and Rape Response. Several Women's Studies classes are also held in the center, and the center offers academic advisement to Women's Studies students and to other university departments and programs.

Some of the more popular Women's Center events (too large for the space provided by the small house on Wood Avenue) have been held in UNA's Performance Center. These events included a production of *Sex Signals*, an educational comedy about the misunderstandings that often accompany "the dating scene," and performances of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* (with proceeds benefiting Rape Response).

One of this year's highlights was an appearance by Eve Ensler herself, as part of her 20-city *V TO THE 10th* national speaking tour that included stops at campuses such as Vanderbilt, Wellesley, Smith, Bowdoin, Clemson, and UNA. Ensler's tour was in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Ensler's V-Day organization, a global movement to end violence against women and girls, and her visit to UNA was in direct response to a personal invitation from UNA students affiliated with the Women's Center.

As a followup to Ensler's visit to UNA, approximately 15 UNA students and faculty members from the Women's Center traveled to New Orleans to participate with 30,000 other revelers in the spectacular *V TO THE 10th* celebration, held April 11-12, at the New Orleans Arena and Louisiana Superdome.

UNA students, alumni, and community members are always welcome at the Women's Center and at any of our diverse and interesting events.



# The University of North Alabama Awards Gala

at the Marriott Conference Center

The University of North Alabama held a University Awards Gala at the Marriott Conference Center to recognize students, faculty, and staff who have excelled both inside and outside of the classroom and those who have contributed to the growth and success of the University in significant ways. The event was co-sponsored by the Division of Academic Affairs, the Division of Student Affairs, and the Student Government Association. This

event came out of an idea to combine the Student Affairs and Academic Affairs Award ceremonies into a University-wide honors ceremony and celebration.

***Below is a list of the 2008 University Award Recipients.  
Please join us in congratulating these individuals.***

## **Award Name**

## **Recipient Name**

The Lion's Cup.....	Indian Student Organization
Greek Man of the Year.....	Kevin Michael Larson
Greek Woman of the Year.....	Grace Anne Coburn
Daniel R. Leisure Award .....	Phi Gamma Delta
Outstanding Greek Leadership and Service Award.....	Matthew Tyler Axley
Dean's Award for the College of Arts & Sciences.....	Nicolas Trey Canida
Dean's Award for the College of Business.....	Mary Colene Burns
Dean's Award for the College of Education .....	Andrea Leigh Thigpen
Dean's Award for the College of Nursing and Allied Health .....	Teresa Ann Sutton
Hall of Fame Award.....	Kyle William Mangum
Hall of Fame Award.....	Mary Colene Burns
Hall of Fame Award.....	Ashley N. Smith
Hall of Fame Award.....	Melanie Ann Harris
Undergraduate Service Award.....	Winn L. Brewer
Undergraduate Service Award.....	Yuka Kimura
Undergraduate Service Award.....	Holly Michelle Widick
Undergraduate Service Award.....	William Benjamin Hodges
LaGrange Society Rookie of the Year .....	Samuel Clements Thigpen
LaGrange Society Hostess of the Year .....	Bethany Nicole Willingham
LaGrange Society Host of the Year.....	Gregory Tyler Mills
Resident Assistant of the Year 2007-2008 .....	Katherine Adair Ray
University Woman 2008 .....	Kristen Ashley Gist
University Man 2008 .....	Gregory Tyler Mills
W. T. McElheny Award .....	David P. Shields, Jr.
Outstanding Service Award.....	Claudia Heimermann
Eleanor Gauder Phi Kappa Phi Excellence in Teaching Award .....	Dr. Francis T. Koti
Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Scholarship/Research.....	Dr. Valeriy K. Dolmatov
Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Service.....	Cynthia A. Burkhead
Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Teaching.....	Dr. Yi-Min Cai



*Dr. Francis T. Koti*



*Dr. Valeriy K. Dolmatov*



*David P. Shields, Jr.*



*Cynthia A. Burkhead*



*Dr. Yi-Min Cai*

# Dr. Andrew Luna: Happy to Return Home

When Dr. Andrew Luna learned that he would become the new Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment at the University of North Alabama, he knew he would finally realize his life-long dream. He would now be living in the town of his ancestors and working for a college with close ties to his family.

"To me, it was exciting to stand by Wesleyan Hall that was built by my great-great grandfather, look down the cloistered halls of the old Kilby school where my father attended in the 1930s, and walk by buildings where my grandmother once taught and my aunt became a school teacher," Luna said. "Even though I have never lived here, I feel as though I am back home."

Luna's ties to Florence and UNA began when Thomas Blessing came to Florence from Ireland in the 1830s as an engineer for the first lock at the canal. Blessing's daughter, Bridget (Biddy) caught the eye of a gregarious young man named Zebulon P. Morrison while attending services at the First Presbyterian Church. Before long, the two were married.

Morrison came to Florence about 1836 and was an architect and a cabinetmaker. He built his home and other buildings at the corner of Mobile Street and Market Street (Wood Avenue). His home was razed in 1945 to make way for the new Sears and Roebuck (now the Martin Industries lot on Tennessee Street).

"My great-great grandfather was a prominent man in Florence," Luna said. "He owned a construction company, a funeral home, was city clerk, and then became mayor for over 20 years. Although he was an industrious man, he was also a beloved man throughout Florence."

Morrison – referred to as "Uncle Pike" by most in the town – built all of the bridges in the county at that time and many important buildings including Patton School, Wesleyan Hall, the Synodical College, and the Elks Club. As city clerk and mayor, Morrison kept meticulous records of the town and effectively managed a city that was torn apart by the Civil War.

"I was told that Wesleyan Hall looks like a castle because his wife, Biddy, missed looking at the castles in her native Ireland," Luna said. "I was also told by my grandmother that the dormitory of the Synodical College had huge, white columns that were made to resemble the ones at The Forks of Cypress."

Morrison and his wife raised eleven children. One of their daughters, Mary Winona, was born in 1860, and later married into the Blair family.

Andrew Blair came to Florence in the 1840s as a bricklayer. He built his house on the current site of the Shoals Theater. One of his sons, William, became the town sheriff, and was later responsible for tracking down and capturing Mountain Tom Clark, the notorious outlaw, who was tried and hanged for heinous crimes in the area. Another son, James, married Mary Winona and built their house at 401 East Mobile Street. There, they had seven children, but only two daughters survived through childhood. One of these daughters was Adele. According to Luna, his grandmother Adele married Benjamin Curtis Luna, Sr. and raised three children. Luna is the son of Benjamin Curtis Luna, Jr. His grandmother lived in the same house where she was born until she passed away.

"During the '60s and '70s my family would drive to Florence from Tuscaloosa almost every Thanksgiving and Christmas to visit

my grandmother as well as my aunt and uncle, Charles and Biddy Stewart," Luna said. "This was when I was introduced to Florence and these great times are now some of my fondest memories."

While the house is still standing, it is now the home of the Ford Law Office. "I walk by the old house from time to time and actually went inside one day," Luna said. "The Fords have really worked hard to bring the house back to life. My grandmother would be very pleased."

Luna said that he remembered his parents driving him by the UNA campus on Morrison Avenue and showing him Wesleyan Hall and the campus where his grandmother taught and his aunt graduated as a teacher. "My grandmother taught all of us the value of a good education," Luna said. "After she passed away, I received her collection of the Harvard Classics, which is a five-foot shelf of books containing great literary classics of math, English, history, religion and many other areas that were considered, at that time, to be the foundations of a good general education. They actually helped me in my graduate studies."

Although his grandmother is deceased and his aunt and uncle recently moved to Georgia, Luna does not feel alone in Florence. "I can't tell you how many people from the University and Florence communities have come up to me with wonderful stories of my relatives," Luna said. "Even though my immediate family is no longer living here, I believe I have truly found a much larger family in Florence and at UNA."

While Luna recognizes that the campus landscape has significantly changed since the 1970s, the most important aspect of UNA has not changed. "I was always told that UNA was a school with character and excitement," Luna said. "Clearly this is still true today. Our professors are highly qualified and still care about the students. Furthermore, the entire university community is always charged with excitement, but even more so during major events like the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, homecoming, and even when the flame is reignited after a victorious game."

Luna said that, after studying the history of his family, he now has a greater appreciation for his ancestors as well as the city of Florence and UNA. "To me, UNA is the greatest school in the world, and Florence is the best city," Luna said. "While I don't exactly know what my contribution will be to the future of UNA or the community, I want my work to always reflect the continued excellence of our University, and my involvement in the community to help ensure that Florence will always be a vibrant, renaissance city."

Luna earned a doctorate and master's degree in higher education administration, and his master's and baccalaureate degree in journalism, all from the University of Alabama. He has worked in higher education for over 20 years in Alabama, Kentucky, and Georgia. Luna has been married to his wife, Danita, for 23 years. Danita is involved in a music ministry and is excited about connecting to the wonderful music community in the Shoals area. The Luna's also have 10-year-old twins named Jay and Jessica. "Although it is a coincidence that Leo and Una are lion twins," Luna chuckled, "I'm anxious to see which set of twins is the more active."



*– Historical facts based on memories of Dr. Andrew Luna.*



# UNIVERSITY Advancement

I continue to be extremely pleased with our progress toward developing a comprehensive advancement effort for the University. The responses to the numerous new initiatives that have been undertaken have been positively received. In fact, you are looking at one right now, a commitment to three annual editions of your *UNA Magazine*, as well as making the magazine available on-line for continual and easy access. As in the previous magazine, I am pleased to announce three new additions to the Office of Advancement to help serve the University better. Christy Lehnertz has accepted the newly developed position of Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Chris is coming to us after serving as Director of Major Gifts at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana for the past five years. Melody Stewart ('06) is returning to her alma mater to assume the position of Director of Annual Giving. During her four years as a student at UNA, Melody worked in the Offices of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving. And finally, Melissa (Missy) Pettus has been promoted to Coordinator for Endowed Scholarships. Missy has previously worked in the Office of Alumni Relations and most recently as Database Manager in advancement. The staff is almost complete and implementation of our new programs is well under way.

One of the new initiatives that has developed quickly is our commitment to enhance and develop Alumni Chapters throughout the country and host at least one event in each of those chapters during the year. As you will see in the schedule of events on p. 20, Carol Lyles ('70) has put together several events that will move us toward reaching this goal. Over the coming months, you will hear more about a new UNA Alumni Web Community to increase the promotion of such events, as well as allow you the ability to communicate with your fellow alumni more frequently and effectively.

It would be easy to continue writing about the many changes and accomplishments that the Office of Advancement and the UNA Foundation have achieved with your help over the past 10 months; however, let me just put several of them in a simpler format:

- Raised over \$100,000 for the new General Scholarship Fund
- Secured 10 new endowed scholarships
- Over 500 new donors
- Held the first Endowed Scholarship Appreciation Dinner on March 18, 2008. All endowed scholarship donors and the student recipients were invited to this now-annual event.

- Renamed the Planned Giving recognition Legacy Society to Courtview Society
- Developed new Courtview Society Newsletter which is now available on-line at [www.una.edu/foundation/legacy\\_society.html](http://www.una.edu/foundation/legacy_society.html)
- The UNA Foundation President's Cabinet is expanding its membership beyond the previous 100. The President's Cabinet are individuals who contribute a minimum of \$1,000 a year to support the ongoing fundraising efforts for the University. If you would like more information about how to become a member of the President's Cabinet, please contact me.
- The UNA Foundation will provide over \$500,000 in new student scholarships for the academic year 2008-2009.

Let me say, "Thank You" for all each of you do to help continue to make UNA a great institution. We look forward to continuing to find ways to keep you connected back to your alma mater and this institution you have grown to love. Also, I look forward to seeing many of you at the alumni events over the coming months.

Alan Medders  
Vice President for University Advancement  
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[advancement@una.edu](mailto:advancement@una.edu)

## GIVING LEVELS

Pinnacle Society	\$ 1 million and greater
Crest Society	\$750,000 - \$999,999
Fountain Society	\$500,000 - \$749,999
1830 Society	\$250,000 - \$499,999
Centennial Circle	\$100,000 - \$249,999
Founders Circle	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Magnolia Society	\$25,000 - \$49,999
O'Neal Society	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Cypress Club	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Towers Society	\$2,500 - \$4,999
Victory Circle	\$1,000 - \$2,499
Wesleyan Society	\$500 - \$999
LaGrange Circle	\$250 - \$499
Century Club	\$100 - \$249
Gold Club	up to \$99

# UNA GOLF ENDOWMENT HONORS *Burns and Sloan*

As a former University of North Alabama golfer, **Robert Tyree ('85)** couldn't think of a better way to honor two influential men in his life, Chris

Burns and Alex Sloan, than with a golf scholarship. With the support of several of Burns' and Sloan's former players, he recently spearheaded the UNA Golf Program Endowment Fund in honor of the two coaches.

"Thousands of juniors have grown up taking lessons with these two men," Tyree said, "and they have both served their profession far above the call of duty."

Burns, head golf professional for more than 30 years at Florence Golf & Country Club, said he is "truly humbled" by the UNA golf endowment. "It's a great honor, and I really appreciate it."

Burns has been an influential instructor to well over 1,000 juniors and still continues even now in retirement. Among his accomplishments have been two Men's State Amateur Champions, one Women's State Amateur Champion, two Boys' State Amateur Champions, one Girls' State Amateur Champion, more than 50 Boys' College Scholarships, seven Girls' College Scholarships, seven PGA teaching members

and PGA tour professional Stewart Cink. He has also assisted with the golf programs at Bradshaw and Coffee high schools in Florence.

Sloan, who served as head golf professional at Florence Golf & Country Club and then at Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club until retiring in 1994, helped establish the UNA golf team and served as the team's first coach.

"I had fantastic friendships over those 15 years with the young men I worked with at UNA," Sloan said. "It was a life experience I would have never missed for the world."

The new UNA Golf Program Endowment Fund will offer golf scholarships while also providing operating expenses for the UNA golf program.

"Mr. Burns and Mr. Sloan have had a positive impact on thousands of lives, and we're honored that Robert Tyree and others have chosen to honor them by helping touch more lives through the UNA golf program," said Dr. Alan Medders, UNA vice president for advancement.

For more information on making an endowed or planned gift at UNA, contact the Office of Advancement at 256-765-4670.



*Robert Tyree ('85), Dr. William G. Cale, Jr.,  
Chris Burns, Alex Sloan, and Billy Gamble*

## *Planned Giving*

**Make a significant impact on the University of North Alabama's future while providing income and other benefits to yourself and Family.**

***Charitable Remainder Trusts provide a lifetime of rewards:***

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- Avoid capital gains tax on appreciated assets
- Future financial resources for UNA



# Judy Collins BENEFIT

*By Judith T. Jackson ('91 & '02), Director of Major Gifts*

The inaugural partnership between the University of North Alabama and the Foundation for Mental Health of the Shoals came to fruition Tuesday, April 15, when Judy Collins appeared at the Marriott Shoals Conference Center. Judy Collins still has that magic touch. She spoke with strength and a reflective wisdom on mental health issues as she talked candidly about the obstacles she has overcome in her personal life. As she spoke, she intertwined her signature folk songs into her message of hope and freedom from addictions. After a delicious dinner honoring the event sponsors, Judy Collins transported the audience back in time with her melodious, pure voice. Proceeds from the event benefit UNA's general scholarship fund and the Foundation for Mental Health's Impact program, which provides scholarships to individuals with formally diagnosed psychiatric or substance-abuse disorders.

We look forward to continuing this partnership next year with another exciting event to benefit such a worthy cause. You may still make a donation to the event by contacting the UNA Office of Advancement, UNA Box 5059, Florence, Alabama 35632-0001 or by telephoning (256) 765-4670.

## **Sponsors for the event were:**

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*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.*

-Winston Churchill

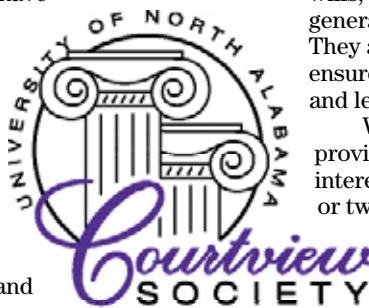
After 34 years of service to UNA, I am leaving the classroom as Professor and Chair of the Economics and Finance Department to take on a new role as Director of Planned Giving. I have been involved with the UNA Foundation since its inception, but only in an advisory capacity. Now I have the opportunity to share with alumni and friends the excitement that is permeating the campus, and I am inviting you to become a part of that excitement.

In 2004, The Legacy Society was established to recognize alumni, faculty, and friends who provide a gift to the university in their financial and estate planning. Last semester, Rogers Hall was completely renovated and dedicated to the Office of Advancement. Built in 1855 by George Washington Foster, an act of the Alabama legislature was required to close the north end of Court Street so that Mr. Foster could build his new home. Standing on the front porch and looking south, it is easy to know why this new home was named Courtview. This stately mansion is the first building you will see as you approach the university from the south on Court Street. It is a fitting symbol of the academic and athletic strength of the University of North Alabama. For 100 years and more, Courtview has invited students, their families, and friends to the campus of UNA. On the National Register of Historic places, Courtview is a nationally recognized symbol of excellence.

In recognition of this image of strength, endurance, and hope, the Legacy Society has been renamed the Courtview Society. The members of the Courtview Society reflect on and celebrate the past glory of UNA, but also look anxiously ahead into the new century. We are living in exciting, yet troubling, times. Knowledge is expanding at a furious rate and we must educate future leaders who are fully equipped to anticipate and respond to any and all challenges.

The Courtview Society will recognize those alumni and friends, who, remembering the role UNA played in their lives, want to ensure that future generations of young people will be similarly blessed. The members of the Courtview Society are individuals, couples, and families who choose to include UNA in their financial and estate plans. Future articles will highlight several gift plans available for you to remember UNA.

By thoughtful planning, you can create legacies that make a difference not just now, but forever. In addition to providing an important source of funds, you are a vital source of inspiration



to those who are just beginning life's journey, as well as to others like you who are now in a position to help young people on their way, some of whom you will never know. Just as the spirit of generosity moved the first members to remember UNA in their wills, trusts, and gifts years ago, these acts now inspire a new generation to use creative planning techniques to remember UNA. They also link our past, present, and future in a common desire to ensure that your university will continue to be a place of growth and learning far into the future.

We will share new stories with you every few months, providing you with news and information we trust you will find interesting and useful. Along the way, if you have a question or two or would like more information, I welcome your call or email. I would also be happy to visit with you in your home or the next time you come to campus. And please, do come by and visit us in Rogers Hall Alumni House whenever you are in town for a football game, concert, or play.

*By Dr. Barry Morris  
Director of Planned Giving*

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# PHONATHON UPDATE

By Judith T. Jackson ('91 & '02), Director of Major Gifts

The Phonathon team continues to do an outstanding job of strengthening relationships with our alumni and friends. The student callers strive to be professional yet friendly when you answer their call. Thanks to your generosity, they raised over \$69,000 during the 2007 Phonathon campaigns.

Beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, we mailed you a Pre-Phonathon card allowing you to make your Annual Fund donation before the students began calling. Your response exceeded our expectations and you donated \$3,730 to our Fall 2007 Pre-Phonathon campaign.

Late last year we made the decision to upgrade our Phonathon system to the next level, so we purchased an automated program called DialVision. Since January of 2008, our students have been calling you directly from a computer screen. As we fine-tune the new process, we look forward to better utilizing our student talent to communicate with you.

In May of this year, we brought **Melody Stewart ('06)**, our new Director of Annual Giving, to Rogers Hall. She is bursting with new strategies and ideas for the Annual Fund Campaign and the Fall 2008 Phonathon. You will enjoy the enthusiasm and talent she brings to the advancement team.

You continue to set the example to all of our students as they perfect their people skills and learn from you how to treat giving as a privilege. Your patience and kindness on the phone mean a lot to the Phonathon Team callers.

For more information, contact:

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Director of Annual Giving  
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[mastewart@una.edu](mailto:mastewart@una.edu)  
[www.una.edu/foundation/annual\\_fund](http://www.una.edu/foundation/annual_fund)



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A donation has been made by Regions to help with the printing of the UNA Magazine.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Mike D. Lane Field Has Been 25 Years in the Works

By Jeff Hedges ('82), Sports Information Director

Shakespeare once posed the question through Juliet, "What's in a name?"

If he were writing about the naming of the University of North Alabama's recently renovated baseball facility, he would have known what the name Mike Lane represents to the Lions' baseball program.

Yes, Lane has led the Lions to more than 900 wins and 25 straight winning seasons since arriving in Florence in 1983. And yes, he has led UNA to five Gulf South Conference titles, 10 NCAA Tournament appearances and a trip to the Division II World Series. But the contributions of Mike Lane to the UNA baseball program go far beyond his on-field accomplishments and begin with the basics of the field itself and the funding of the program.

When Lane interviewed for the UNA baseball head-coaching position in 1984, then co-athletic director Wayne Grubb told him the baseball budget was "bad," the scholarship situation was "not very good" and the baseball field was "worse."

Once Lane assured Grubb that he was still interested in the job, Grubb told him the job and facility "just need the right person to come here and make it better."

Mike Lane was the right person.

Inheriting a field with no press box, permanent outfield fence, or restroom facilities, Lane immediately set out to raise money for

the improvements that needed to be made. It was a process that Lane has used throughout his 25-year career at UNA, combining University funds with corporate and community sponsorship, and donations

of materials and services, to make constant improvements to the Lions' baseball facility.

In the 1980s he was raising \$600 to build a batting cage and screens; in the coming years it was money and support for the

addition of lights, a new scoreboard, improved dugouts, and a locker room.

And over the last two years it was helping raise several hundred thousand dollars for what has culminated in today's baseball facility

that features an elevated grandstand, new gated entrance, new ticket booth, new scoreboard, and new restrooms.

All the while, Lane has seen his student athletes excel on the field and in the classroom and graduate at a high rate.

And that's why on March 14, the University of North Alabama Board of Trustees voted to rename the school's University Field to the Mike D. Lane Field.

Lane said the naming of the field in his honor is a humbling and overwhelming experience. "It's not like other goals you set – to win a championship or to see your players graduate – it's something that has just come by the way, and I could never have enough thanks to go around for everyone who has helped make this possible. There are so many people who have given in so many different ways to help this program, and most did it for nothing in return. They just wanted to be a part of what we're doing."

"I've always felt a great responsibility to the University, to the administration, to my players, and to myself to do things the right way and have a program to be proud of," Lane said. "With this (the naming of the field), I feel an overwhelming sense of responsibility and feel like I have to live up to that."

No worries, Coach Lane, you've been living up to it for the last 25 years.

That's why the UNA baseball team now plays at the MIKE D. LANE FIELD.



# THE ROADS LESS TRAVELED

*By Shane Herrmann ('99), Assistant Sports Information Director*

The University of North Alabama men's basketball team experienced a roller-coaster season in 2007-08. The team endured a 0-2 start to the season, winning streaks of seven and nine straight games, an injury to a key player early in the year, a triple-overtime road win, a heart-breaking home loss to a rival, and winning the Gulf South Conference East Division – and that was just the regular season!

Once the post-season began, UNA again had ups and downs, falling in the semifinals of the Gulf South Conference (GSC) tournament before stringing together

three straight victories to capture the South Region championship in Lakeland, Florida, to earn a trip to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Every time the Lions took the court, they seemed to be in a different position. They played the role of both favorite and underdog. They played teams with good guard play, as well as teams with a strong inside game. They played games in front of crowds of 44 and 17,000 fans. Six different players led the team in scoring during a game.

For two of those six players, the wild season on the court was nothing compared to the road they took to get there. Junior center, Thomas Fraise, and senior guard, Casey Holt, took different paths, but both emerged as leaders on the court, leading the Lions to their best season in 12 years.

Fraise, a 300-pound New Orleans native, has seen his share of life experiences that do not involve basketball. He enrolled in the U.S. Army two weeks after high school graduation and spent two years in Korea and a year in war-torn Iraq. After an honorable discharge in 2004, and an unsuccessful basketball stint at Pearl River Community College, he found himself back close to home at Dillard University.

Things appeared to be getting back to normal for Fraise, who was starting for the Blue Devils. However, his path would soon change again with the arrival of Hurricane Katrina. The category 4 storm tore through New Orleans, displacing Fraise and his family. Following the hurricane, Fraise and his family moved to Michigan, before later returning to New Orleans where he played basketball at Lincoln Trail College. He averaged 16 points and eight rebounds, and helped lead the Statesmen to a Region 24 championship.

While at Lincoln Trail, he was noticed by the UNA coaching staff, and the rest is history. He became the Lions' third-leading scorer, averaging 15.4 points and 7.2 rebounds per game. Playing center, he also hit 42-of-100 three-point attempts, and was a second team All-Gulf South Conference selection.



*Casey Holt*

"To be here is a blessing," said Fraise, who scored 30 points in the regional championship game and was named the South Region Tournament Most Valuable Player. "We worked hard all year through ups and downs. I am proud to be a part of a good team like this."

For Holt, the season that included a deep post-season run and becoming the GSC East Division Player of the Year almost didn't happen. After playing in just five games during his senior season in 2007, the 6'5" guard wasn't sure if he would be eligible to return in 2008.

Head coach Bobby Champagne did not get the final word on Holt's medical redshirt until a few weeks before the start of the regular season. Once he was cleared by the NCAA, the only question that remained was would he be able to produce the same numbers on the court after a year off. The fifth-year senior answered by scoring at least 20 points 12 times and hitting the 30-point plateau five times during the season.

The Culleoka, Tennessee, native continued to make the most of his second chance at a senior season. His 15 points against Bentley at the NCAA Division II Elite Eight gave him 640 points for the year, a new single-season school record. The previous record of 625 was set by Earnest Dabbs in the 1961-62 season and had stood for 46 years. Holt also set a career record by playing in 123 games. He was named GSC East Player of the Week three times and recorded the school's first triple-double in 14 years with 17 points, 11 assists, and 12 rebounds against Carver.

Aside from the first team All-GSC and East Division Player of the Year honors, Holt was also named first team All-South Region and received an All-American honorable mention from the Division II bulletin.

Fraise and Holt spent most of 2007 wondering what the future would hold. One, playing at a community college in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans...the other, wondering if he would ever play college basketball again. Although the two took different paths, they each found themselves as champions on the court and in life.



**Thomas Fraise**

# Elite 8 Destination of a Wonderful Journey

By Coach Bobby Champagne

The journey of the 2007-08 University of North Alabama men's basketball team was one that will be hard to forget. Not because of the 27-9 record, the Gulf South

Conference East Division Championship or the NCAA South Regional Championship, but because of the many players who contributed and were a part of the wonderful journey.

This team came to UNA from four different states and three different continents. They include a fifth-year senior, a 25-year-old junior and a first-year freshman who just turned 19. They are majoring in computer science, psychology, education, and business. They finished fourth in the nation in scoring yet didn't have a player who cared about scoring. Nine different players earned their way into the 11 different starting lineups. Five players averaged double-digit scoring for the season, and eight players scored over 10 points in a game.

Despite all of their different backgrounds, characteristics, and diversities, this team had a chemistry that contributed to one of the best seasons in over a decade at UNA.

Sure, this team had some very good players



Coach Bobby Champagne  
South Region  
Coach of the Year

(Casey Holt, GSC East Division Player of the Year, Quinn Beckwith, 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-GSC, Thomas Fraise, MOP NCAA South Regional Tournament, and Kenny Johnson, NCAA South Regional All-Tourney), but this team also had its fair share of role players. These players contributed to the journey that took UNA fans to Hoosier Land, Disney World, and the Basketball Hall of Fame.

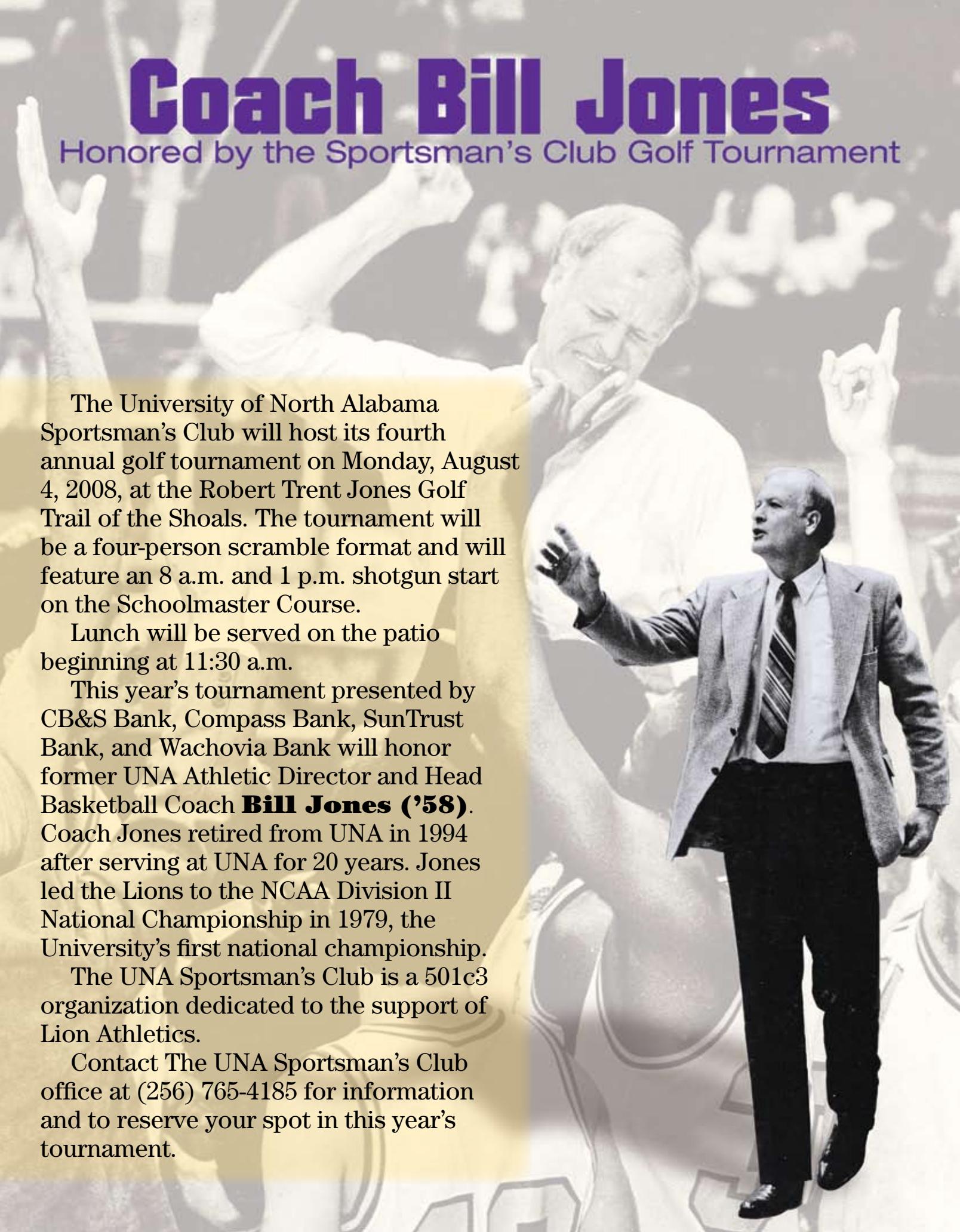
The camaraderie these players displayed both on and off the floor gave UNA fans something to cheer about and brought fans back to Flowers Hall. Many would have us remember the final game (Bentley 102-UNA 92) of the season and would like to highlight the leading scorers and rebounders. I would suggest we focus on the journey and all those, no matter their stature, who made up the wonderful journey.

1	Quinn Beckwith .....	Tuscumbia, Alabama
2	Jeremy Brown .....	Columbia, Tennessee
3	Trent McCants.....	Valley, Alabama
4	Joe Deegan .....	Sheffield, Alabama
5	Isaac Gay.....	Baton Rouge, Louisiana
10	Andrew Chesney .....	Birmingham, Alabama
12	Phil Collins .....	Sydney, Australia
14	Kenny Johnson.....	Plaquemine, Louisiana
15	David Ricks.....	Columbia, Tennessee
21	Thomas Morris .....	Huntsville, Alabama
22	Toby Gamble .....	Birmingham, Alabama
30	Casey Holt.....	Culleoka, Tennessee
32	Dusko Stojnic .....	Gradiska, Bosnia
44	Doug Hunter .....	Bel Air, Maryland
50	Thomas Fraise.....	New Orleans, Louisiana



# Coach Bill Jones

Honored by the Sportsman's Club Golf Tournament



The University of North Alabama Sportsman's Club will host its fourth annual golf tournament on Monday, August 4, 2008, at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail of the Shoals. The tournament will be a four-person scramble format and will feature an 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. shotgun start on the Schoolmaster Course.

Lunch will be served on the patio beginning at 11:30 a.m.

This year's tournament presented by CB&S Bank, Compass Bank, SunTrust Bank, and Wachovia Bank will honor former UNA Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach **Bill Jones ('58)**. Coach Jones retired from UNA in 1994 after serving at UNA for 20 years. Jones led the Lions to the NCAA Division II National Championship in 1979, the University's first national championship.

The UNA Sportsman's Club is a 501c3 organization dedicated to the support of Lion Athletics.

Contact The UNA Sportsman's Club office at (256) 765-4185 for information and to reserve your spot in this year's tournament.

# FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES HUDDLE AT UNA

By Lucia M. Claborn, FCA Staff

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Huddle at UNA continues to touch the lives of countless student athletes and coaches.

"My experience with FCA has been very influential in shaping my personal views on being a student, athlete, and even a husband," says Covington Wright, a UNA football player. "Being a college athlete can be very stressful off the field as well as on the field. FCA meetings and the fellowship with other athletes who share the same experiences are helpful."

FCA provides an incredible opportunity to impact athletes and coaches across the board in the UNA Athletic Department, not only in the area of sports, but building character qualities as well.

"Mr. Boswell does a really good job of making FCA visible to the athletes," says David Hater, a walk-on for the football team and a member of the United States Bobsled Team, who is training to compete in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. "We get real, applicable messages – not just for sports – but for life. We can take his messages to other teammates, the school, and then we can go into the community."

"He has taught the members through his actions," says Wright. "He's become a friend, a counselor, and a guide to the athletes who are involved in FCA, and to those who are not."

"In my three years of being involved at UNA as a student athlete, I can attribute some of the most influential and life-changing experiences to the FCA," says former UNA football player **Martin Huggins ('05)**, Service Programming Director for the Southside Church in 38 Peachtree City, Georgia.

**Dr. Hamp Moore ('82)**, former UNA football player and Northwest Alabama FCA (NWFCA) board member says, "While I was at UNA, my position coach, Mike Hand (currently the offensive coordinator at Florence High School), became my mentor and someone who cared as much about his players' lives as he cared about how we performed on the football field.

"Recalling the tremendous influence FCA had on me made it easy for me to decide to become more involved in the NWFCA. What made my decision even easier was seeing what kind of leader we have here locally in Roger Boswell, UNA FCA Chaplain."

The influence and impact FCA is having on the UNA athletic department can be measured by the number of lives being changed for the better as **Don Smith ('83)**, former UNA football player and NWFCA board member points out.

"We have an opportunity to be involved in the lives of the future leaders of our community and country," says

Smith. "It's a great responsibility that we have to invest in the lives of our young people."

As the UNA Chaplain, Boswell ministers to the hearts of coaches and athletes. Like the UNA coaches, he understands that as a leader, it is his responsibility to not only impart sports-specific knowledge, but to leave a legacy that will last a lifetime.

"FCA has been embraced by the entire athletic department staff because they know the power FCA has to change lives," says Boswell. "If we live by that ideal, I would like to think the families and alumni of UNA would want to invest back into the lives of the very people that love the same University they love themselves."

FCA is the avenue to help athletes and coaches keep that focus.

"As the UNA campus director, I would love to invite you to become a part of the 1000 Club for UNAFCA,"

says Boswell. "You will be receiving more information about this in the near future."



Covington Wright



David Hater



Chaplain Roger Boswell  
with Harrison Bryant

"I'm honored to be part of the Northwest Leadership Board and am excited about what FCA is doing on campus," says **Lisa Patterson ('82)**, Patterson, Prince and Associates. "College poses a critical time in students' lives; however, with FCA's involvement in our coaches' and athletes' lives, FCA and the university are being blessed."

To be a part of changing coaches' and athletes' lives through the UNA 1000 Donors Giving \$100 Club, please make your checks payable to FCA, note on it "UNA" and mail to FCA, ATTN: Roger Boswell, P.O. Box 1559, Florence, AL 35631.

## DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS. . . GRADUATING CHAMPIONS

*A message from the Director of Athletics*

As you know, society has placed athletics in a very prominent position. On the world stage, we have cable networks with 24-hour sports programming, publications dedicated to just sports, and advertisers paying \$2.2 million for a 30-second commercial during the Super Bowl. I know these are extremes. Yet, due to the importance that has been placed on athletics by society, I believe UNA athletics can have a positive impact on important societal issues in the Shoals and our region.

With such a platform and the ability to have an impact, our department understands our responsibility to live up to the Lion Tradition. We are ambassadors of UNA with the responsibility to inspire others to greatness. Our student-athletes, coaches, and staff recognize that athletics is an integral part of the University and we are committed to the overall success of UNA.

For our department to build upon our tradition of excellence and continue "Graduating Champions," we will focus on the following core values.

**Academic Success:** Our student-athletes are representatives of the general student body, with like academic qualifications and educational goals. The individual's rights and pursuit of academic success will not be compromised by the desire to conduct a successful athletic program. Participation in intercollegiate athletics compliments the student's formal education and leads to the total development of a well-rounded, more enlightened individual.

**Athletic Excellence:** Our student-athletes are provided with exemplary leadership, appropriate facilities and services, and the opportunity to compete at the highest level of intercollegiate competition at the NCAA Division II level. We are responsible to provide realistic opportunities for our athletic teams to compete for conference and national championships.

**Community Engagement:** Our department of athletics serves as the front porch for the University of North Alabama. Our relationships with the campus and the Shoals community hinge upon our commitment to be active and engaged citizens. We recognize our obligation to serve as a concerned and committed partner in community life. Many of our staff members serve on local and regional committees, while all of our student-athletes will be involved in community service projects.

**NCAA Rules Compliance:** Integrity and commitment to NCAA rules are essential to intercollegiate athletics. Administrators, coaches, and student-athletes, in concert with all the members of the University community, must share a total commitment to abiding by the rules and regulations of the NCAA. The University of North Alabama takes the position that every individual associated with the Athletics Department should take responsibility for the institution to comply with NCAA rules and regulations. UNA has established and will continue to develop policies and procedures that will ensure adherence to NCAA rules.

In my first eight months, I have learned that UNA is a wonderful place with very special people. I am proud to be the Director of Athletics at the University of North Alabama. As alumni, please know that we will be diligent in representing you with integrity. You have graduated as a champion and you deserve to be represented in a like manner.

Once a Lion, always a Lion. Roar Lions!

**Mark**



## THREE LIONS SHARE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Three University of North Alabama student-athletes have been selected to share the UNA Athlete of the Year awards for 2007-08, with junior men's basketball player Kenny Johnson of Plaquemine, Louisiana, named UNA Male Athlete of the Year and senior volleyball standout Danielle Palasak of Garden City, Michigan, and junior women's basketball standout Amber Rutherford of Hatton, Alabama, sharing the Female Athlete of the Year award. The UNA Athlete of the Year awards were created in 1991 and the winner is chosen annually by athletic department personnel. Selections for 2007-08 were particularly difficult with seven UNA teams advancing to NCAA post-season play. "These student-athletes embody our vision of Graduating Champions," said UNA Athletic Director Mark Linder. "Kenny, Danielle, and Amber, all excel in the classroom and on the court.

They are engaged citizens on campus and in the Shoals community. We are very fortunate to have such quality individuals representing our University and our department." Johnson helped lead the North Alabama basketball team to a 27-9 record that included an NCAA Division II South Region championship and a berth in the Division II Elite Eight Tournament. An All-South Region Tournament pick and a Gulf South Conference Player of the Week recipient, Johnson ranked among the Division II national leaders in assists (195) and assists per game (5.4 avg.). He started all 36 games for UNA this season and averaged 13.8 points and 3.5 rebounds per game. He made 41 three-pointers in 2008 and also led the team with 61 steals. Johnson is a two-time Academic All-Gulf South Conference selection with a 3.46 cumulative grade point average in Computer Information Systems. Johnson is the first UNA men's basketball player to be honored as the school's athlete of the year since Paul Bradley in 2001-02. During the 2007 volleyball season, Palasak was selected honorable mention All-American by the American Volleyball Coaches Association after leading the team and the Gulf South Conference East Division in kills per game with a 4.52 average. During her career at UNA she was a two-time first-team All-GSC selection and four-time conference player of the week honoree. Palasak was also a first-team All-South Central Region pick in 2007, giving the Lions 39 overall selections since 1996. She finished the season with 579 kills, 345 digs and a team-high 30 double-doubles. Her career numbers include 1,333 kills, 818 digs and 133 service aces. During her senior year, she recorded a career-high 30 kills against Rollins, and leaves UNA with the record for most aces in a match with 12 against Albany State during the 2006 season. Rutherford led Division II in free throw percentage for the second straight year, earning a second National Statistical Championship. She shot 93.6 percent from the free throw line in 2007-08 and her career average is on pace to break all existing school, conference and national records. A two-time GSC Player of the Week pick in 2008, Rutherford was named first-team All-GSC for the second straight year. She averaged 15.2 points and 6.7 rebounds per game for the Lions this season, while shooting 53.7 percent from the floor.



*Kenny Johnson*



*Danielle Palasak*



*Amber Rutherford*

# 2008 National Retired Art Educator of the Year

# *Jean Schulman*

*By Pamela Kingsbury, English Instructor*

**Jean Schulman ('75)**, long recognized in the local and state art communities, was honored as the 2008 National Retired Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association. The national organization includes teachers from all levels of schools that include elementary, secondary, high school, museums, and art councils. Fifty states and 66 countries were represented at the awards ceremony, which was held in New Orleans.

Schulman, who calls herself "a product of the Tennessee Valley," earned two degrees at UNA - a Master's degree in Education with a specialization in English in 1975, and an Education Specialist in 1981. Born in Russellville, Alabama, she graduated from Russellville High School and did her undergraduate work in design at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She began her teaching career at Muscle Shoals High School in 1963.

She immediately joined the National Art Education Association and remains active today.

She loved teaching at Muscle Shoals because she had good students and was allowed to develop the arts program. Schulman encouraged her students to participate in contests across the state, as well as nationally. Her goals for her students were "to learn different techniques for design and weaving and to allow them to go in their own direction. I don't think I ever took any of my work to school." She remains in touch with many of her former students, sharing ideas, and visiting back and forth.

Schulman's most recognizable works are of Alabama clays that she turns into batiks. Her discovery of the properties of clay was a "happy accident that changed my life."

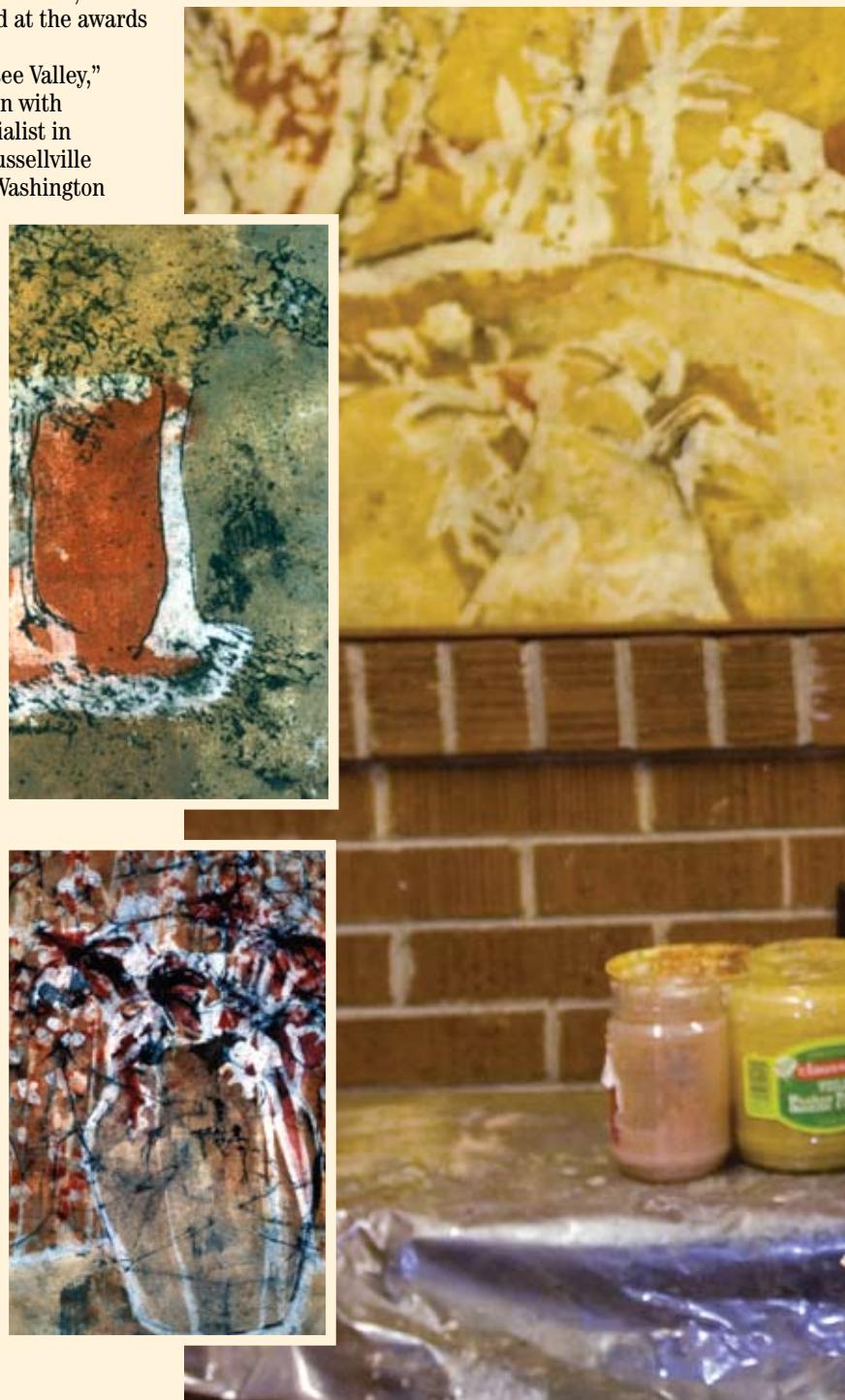
Teaching and guest lecturing has allowed her to spend time within the United States and around the world. She spent time in Japan learning about all facets of the culture, was a visiting artist in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and has sketches from everywhere she has visited.

She has had one-person shows in Washington, D.C., Nashville, Memphis, San Francisco, Birmingham, and Tulsa. She has five works in the Smithsonian Institution Museum of American History's permanent collection, and she's included in the database of National Museum of Women in the Arts, both located in Washington, D.C.

Schulman designed the Governor's Arts Award in 1985 for Alabama Governor and Mrs. George C. Wallace.

She is very proud of her accomplishments, particularly the award she received last summer, because she enjoys "giving back to teachers and students." Even though she's been retired for over 20 years, Schulman still enjoys "making art, traveling, playing bridge, and creative writing."

In recent years, she has lectured at the International Conference of Artists Who Use Clay Dye at Iowa State in Ames, Iowa.





# class notes

## 50s

**William D. Maddox ('58)** is a retired Public Safety Officer.

**Jackie Burney ('59)** is to be inducted into the Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame.

## 60s

**Dr. Mary Ellen Pitts ('60)** is a retired professor of the University of Memphis and Western

Kentucky University. She is currently living in Cordova, Tennessee, and teaching part-time for Dowling College.

**Richard E. Allen ('63)** is the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Corrections. He was recently elected as the 2008 vice chairman of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center Commission. Richard and his family reside in Prattville.

**John Battcher ('65)** was recently installed as a Distinguished Member of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps Regiment, during a regimental review held at Fort Eustis, Virginia. John served 25 years as an Army Transporter and was inducted in recognition of his outstanding achievements, contributions to regimental continuity, traditions, and esprit de corps of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. His wife **Ann Stowe Battcher ('65)** recently retired after 25 years with the U.S. government, serving as an executive assistant to Army general officers and members of the senior executive service. She was a graduate of the Air Force Protocol Training Course and the Department of Defense Joint Services School of Protocol in Washington, D.C. She was awarded the Department of the Army Commander's Award for civilian service and the Department of the Army superior civilian service award. John and Ann are active in the Huntsville/Madison county alumni chapter, UNA Sportsman's Club, and John currently serves on the UNA National Alumni Association executive board as Vice President.

**Iva N. Walls ('65)** works for the state of Georgia, Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Prevention Assistance Division. The division partners with manufacturing, business, and other organizations to reduce

pollution at the source. The engineers and scientists work with clients using cutting-edge technology to achieve amazing results.

**Kelly Cartron ('68)** is a supervisor system programmer/DBA for Clark County IT/Infrastructure. Kelly and wife Sylvia live in Las Vegas, Nevada, and plan to retire within the next couple of years.

**Mary Louise Bingaman ('69)** and husband John recently retired and moved to eastern Washington. They now reside in Chewelah, Washington.

**Frances Vest Rowe ('69)** is a teacher at Falkville High School in Falkville, Alabama. She was recently honored with the Department of Alabama, VFW Citizenship Education Teacher award for the state. She plans to retire in 2008. She and her husband Paul live in Falkville.

## 70s

**Mary E. Snyder ('72)** retired from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in

2005 and now enjoys living in Tennessee after spending the last 33 years in Florida, Ohio, and Minnesota with FDA.

**Steven D. Collier ('73)** has been appointed as the chief executive officer of PureLine Genetics, LLC. Mr. Collier is a 31-year-veteran of the poultry genetic industry, and is a chemical engineer and poultry nutritionist.

**Danny K. Kimble ('73)** was inducted into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007. He is currently athletic director at Gadsden (Alabama) City High School.

**Ronald W. Kelly ('74)** is retiring from the Internal Revenue Service after 32 years.

**Cheryl Moss Tyler ('74)** and husband Michael live in Antioch, Tennessee, where Cheryl is a school counselor for Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools. She recently published a book, *And You Invited Me In*, published by Simon & Schuster companies. It can be purchased at Barnes & Noble, Borders, or through Amazon.com.

**Ronald E. Wicks ('74)** spent 34 years with the Sheffield (Alabama) City School system as a teacher, coach,

assistant principal, and has been a principal for the past nine years.

**Ronald Kidd ('75)** retired from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency in 2005 and began working for the regional organized crime information center. His wife **Sherry Elaine Kidd ('76)** teaches at Station Camp High School in Gallatin, Tennessee. They reside in Hendersonville.

**Billy Miles ('75 & '77)** is a sales representative with Lang's Sporting Goods in Decatur, Alabama. He recently retired from Austin High School after teaching there for 25 years (five years at Deshler High School). He has two children and two grandsons.

**Emily D. Edwards ('76)** is an associate professor in the Department of Broadcasting and Cinema at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She has worked as a television news reporter, producer, copywriter, and television creative services director for NBC and ABC affiliates in Alabama and Tennessee. She has also produced and directed more than fifteen films, published a book, and written several articles. Edwards was a participant in the 2008 George Lindsey UNA Film Festival.

**Steve Pierce ('75)** and wife Shelia are new grandparents. He is a State Farm agent and the president pro tempore of the UNA Board of Trustees. They live in Florence, Alabama.

**Ken Chastain ('76)** has been promoted to GG-14. He is a retired Army officer and is the senior Europe analyst in the Army G-2 foreign intelligence directorate in the Pentagon. He and his wife Anita live in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Natalie Gordon ('76)** is celebrating almost 32 years of employment with Riverbend Center for Mental Health, serving as a site manager in residential services. As a social worker and the site manager for Riverbend Residential Services, Gordon's entire life is built around helping others, generally those with mental and substance abuse issues. According to Gordon, just knowing she has helped someone else is a great accomplishment. She is very visible in her community and is a supporter of university events. Gordon was chosen Shoals Woman of the year in 2006.

**William T. Ledford ('76)** is now retired after 30 years in banking and lives in Columbia, Tennessee. He currently teaches part-time at Columbia State Community College.

**Michael Todd Nix ('76)** was recently appointed to fill the position of director of community services for the City of Florence.

**Cindy Sockwell Shellum ('76)** and husband Paul have five grandchildren and live in Sterrett, Alabama. She is currently in ministerial school.

**Danny Vinson ('77)** is a full-time actor and resides in Madison, Alabama. Some of his film credits include *Walk the Line*, *Talladega Nights*, *The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, and *U.S. Marshals*. He was a participant in the 2008 George Lindsey UNA Film Festival.

**Lester Harris ('78 & '86)** recently started the music program at Saint Bernard Preparatory School and is the band director. He and his wife have four children and three grandchildren.

**Holley Jackson Hatfield ('78)** is the director of operations for Spherion in Huntsville, Alabama. She currently resides in Harvest, Alabama with husband Michael.

**Dr. William L. Ingram V ('78)** lives in Huntsville, Alabama, where he practices general dentistry. He is the president of the Alabama chapter of the Academy of General Dentistry. He is married to **Bobsy ('83)** and they have two daughters, Eliza and Caroline.

## 80s

**Janet Lynne O'Dell Holmes ('81)** lives in Alabaster, Alabama.

She is an 8th grade English teacher at Clay-Chalkville Middle School.

**Jemmy Ann Todd ('81)** manages a vascular access center based in a Fort Worth, Texas hospital and has worked as the RN manager for 11 years. She lives in Crowley, Texas, and plans to retire to the Florence area in about six years.

**Robin Hunt Cregeen ('82)** is an elementary education teacher at New Hope Elementary School and has taught for 10 years. She lives in Columbus, Mississippi.

**Jan Irons Harris ('82)** is the superintendent of Cullman (Alabama) City Schools. Husband Dennis is the ballistic missile system engineer at Red Stone Arsenal in Huntsville. They reside in Cullman.

**John Nicky McCreary ('82)** is pastor of education/Christian training at Calvary in Savannah, Georgia. He and wife Amanda live in Savannah and have two daughters in college.

**Lanita A. Harris ('84)** serves as general counsel for C.A. Murren, a construction contracting and engineering firm that operates a professional training program called Murren Academy. She and her husband reside in Georgia.

**Dr. Lee Godsey Renfroe ('84)** and husband Ben live in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Dr. Renfroe is an assistant professor at UNA in the HPER department. She has three children.

**William Dee Smith ('84)** is a police officer with the Corinth Police Department and lives with wife Pamela in Walnut, Mississippi.

**Terry Pace ('85)** is an award-winning writer, director, actor, and producer. He teaches composition and literature in the UNA Department of English. He also teaches courses on film and music history for UNA's Continuing Studies program. Terry was a participant in the 2008 George Lindsey UNA Film Festival.

**David M. Shelly ('86 & '92)** and wife **Julie Ann Shelly ('90)** live in Oakton, Virginia. David is attending the Johns Hopkins University's Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington, D.C. as a mid-career student to earn a master's in international public policy. David was one of five officers selected by the Army's Information Operations proponent at Fort Leavenworth to apply for advanced civil schooling under a new initiative by General David Petraeus, then Commander of the Army's Combined Arms Center at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Upon completion of the MIPP degree in 2008, the family will move to Stuttgart, Germany, and David will work on the joint staff of U.S. Army Europe, Africa Command.

**Debbie Hallman ('87)** is a kindergarten teacher at Haleyville (Alabama) Elementary School. She was named Teacher of the Year by the state Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. She and husband Gary have one son, 23, who is a senior at the University of Alabama. They reside in Haleyville.

**Tonya Holly ('87)** is the founder of Cypress Moon Productions and is president of the Alabama Filmmakers Association. She was a participant in the 2008 George Lindsey UNA Film Festival and is a member of the festival's steering committee.

**Carole Coil Medley ('87)** is the new district judge in Lauderdale County,

Alabama. She is married to attorney Keith Medley.

**Dee Lucas ('88)** has performed as a jazz musician for several different organizations and well-known music artists. His second solo album, released last year, has received airplay on more than 150 radio stations.

**Greg Reeves ('88)** is an attorney and owns his own legal practice, Reeves Law Firm. With wife Jesslyn he also owns a residential homebuilding company, Albany Home Builders. Greg and Jesslyn have two children and they live in Decatur, Alabama.

**Jocelyn J. Riddle ('88)** is a full-time nurse in the cardiac catheterization lab at Gadsden Regional Medical Center. She and husband John live in Gadsden, Alabama, and have three boys.

# 90s

**Lisa M. Borre ('90 & '94)** works as a counselor at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee. She and husband Billy have been married for 11 years and have one daughter. They live in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

**Greg Burcham ('90)** is an engineering manager for Knight & Hale Game Calls/Carry-Lite Decoys in Decatur, Alabama. He and wife Karla relocated to Alabama in December of 2007 after 11 years of engineering and ministry jobs in Tucson, Dallas, and central Florida.

**Leon J. Harbison ('90)** is the founder/CEO of the information technology and business consulting firm, Harbison Global Business Enterprise Solutions, Inc. He lives in rural Cullman County, Alabama.

**Leah Osborn Wallace Harper ('91)** is an asset manager for Gateway Management Corporation. She and husband Timothy live in Florence, Alabama and have three children.

**Terry Ownby ('91 & '04)** is in his 17th year of teaching instrumental music in the Muscle Shoals school system. He is also active as an adjudicator, arranger, marching band drill designer, and he served as the camp coordinator for the W.C. Handy Jazz Music Camp from 1999-2007. He plays trumpet professionally and has performed with bands such as Alabama and the Oak Ridge Boys. He is the lead trumpet player for the Shoals Area Big Band. He currently serves on the Alabama Bandmasters board of directors as chairman of the Alabama Bandmasters District III. He is a four time member of Who's Who Among American Teachers. He is also the recipient of the National Band Association's "Citation of Excellence" award for his contribution to bands and band music.

**Cindy Davis ('92)** is a professional school counselor at Columbia and Rainbow elementary schools. She is

the first Madison County, Alabama school counselor to earn National Board Certified Teacher. She was named 2006-2007 Alabama Elementary School Counselor of the Year and the first Alabama educator in the Top Ten Counselors in the Nation by the American School Counselor Association.

**Doug Farris ('92)** and wife Jennifer live in Decatur, Alabama. Doug is the band director at Brewer High School. They have two sons, Lawson and Jack.

**Patricia K. Kane ('92)** was promoted to southern director of the ID/DD programs for the Devereux Foundation which house dual diagnosed individuals throughout the United States. She supervises the New Jersey and New York programs and staffs them. She was also appointed to advisory chair for Governor Corzine's round table on budget. She lives in Parlin, New Jersey.

**Anthony Henson ('93)** has been hired as director of North American operations for Heil Environmental.

**Mel Hogan ('93)** is a 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading teacher at Rucker Boulevard Elementary School in Enterprise, Alabama.

**Dana G. Baker ('94)**, a teacher at Winston County (Alabama) High School, has been selected as an Alfa's Teacher of the Month. She will receive \$1,000 from Alfa Insurance, and the high school will receive a matching award from the Alabama Farmers Federation.

**C. Brian Davidson ('95)** has a law practice in Helena, Birmingham, and Russellville, Alabama. He and wife Kimberly have two sons, Taylor and Jackson. Brian is heavily involved with the Boy Scouts of America, serving in local, district, and council level volunteer leadership positions and received the District Award of Merit in 2007.

**Roman McLeod ('95)** has been promoted by Alabama State Treasurer Kay Ivey from the college Savings Division to become the assistant director of the Cash Management Division. He is a member of the Beulah Baptist Church Board of Trustees, Child Protect Board of Directors, Fathers Active in Children's Education, Montgomery area UNA NAA Chapter, and Leadership Montgomery.

**Shannon S. Morris ('96)** worked in data processing at American Family Association in Tupelo, Mississippi. She and husband Keith live in Tupelo, Mississippi, and have a son named Parker.

**Holly Smith ('96)** is a certified nurse-midwife for West Tennessee OB/GYN Services in Jackson, Tennessee. She and husband Mike have three children and live in Medina, Tennessee.

**Ashley Balch ('97)** is in his third season as the assistant general manager for the Huntsville Havoc. He and wife

Amy have two children and reside in Decatur, Alabama.

**Robert Blankenship ('97)** is the new editor of the Daily Corinthian. He and wife Melissa have a 5-year-old son and live in Corinth, Mississippi.

**Duane R. Eliff ('97)** is a teacher at Hardin County (Tennessee) Middle School. He was recently chosen as one of only 14 teachers nationwide as a Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. He and wife Amber live in Crump, Tennessee.

**Camino Everson ('97)** was recently promoted to chief financial officer at Infinity Technology Inc., where he was previously director of finance and accounting. He is a CPA and lives in Madison, Alabama.

**Melissa Hickman Bailey ('98)** is the director of the planning department for the city of Florence. Husband **David Brian Bailey ('96 & '02)** is a math teacher with Sheffield City Schools. They live in Florence, Alabama and have two children.

**Dawn Isbell ('98)** is the technical writer/technology trainer for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She and husband Mark live in Fort Worth, Texas, and have a baby girl.

**Anna Marie Ory Langley ('98)** is the owner/operator of Pieces of Memories in Florence, Alabama. She and her husband Charles recently celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Rhonda Saunders ('98)** is a registered nurse and the administrator at Baldwyn Nursing Facility. She has worked with North Mississippi Medical Center for more than 18 years in various nursing roles. Rhonda and her husband, Tom, live in Tupelo, Mississippi with their two children, Erin and Adam.

**Adam J. Haines ('99)** is a mortgage broker with Platinum Mortgage. He lives in Madison, Alabama.

# 00s

**Gary Chandler ('00)** is leaving Congressman Bud Cramer's office and will join the Alliance, a Corinth/Alcorn County (Mississippi) community and economic development organization.

**Candace Grissom ('00)** is an attorney and resides in Vinemont, Alabama.

**Valerie Moore-Brock ('00)** is an Assistant Professor for Tennessee State University in the college of allied health and health information management department. She and husband Larry live in Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

**Jim Torres ('00)** is an Alabama-based director, writer, producer, and editor. He was a participant in the 2008 George Lindsey UNA Film Festival.

**Anne Beam Lawn ('01)** lives in Charleston, South Carolina. After finishing her master's in bilingual legal interpreting, she started working at the Citadel: The Military College of South Carolina as a Spanish professor. Additionally, Lawn works part-time at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) as a Language Specialist (interpreter and translator) and professor of medical Spanish.

**Nathaniel R. Provencio ('01)** is now in his first year as an assistant principal. He and wife Laura live in Washington, D.C.

**Brian Richardson ('01)** is an associate at Maynard, Cooper, & Gale PC. His practice focuses on general and business litigation.

**Requitta Belcher ('02)** is a Peace Corps volunteer in Choma, Zambia. She is the HIV/AIDS Community Worker.

**Terri B. Craft ('02)** is a college instructor at Bainbridge College in Bainbridge, Georgia.

**Patricia Reed James ('02)** and husband Michael live in Decatur, Alabama. They both are teachers with Decatur City Schools.

**Misty Langston ('02)** teaches physical education at Oakman High School. She is also the head varsity girls basketball coach and junior high volleyball coach. She and husband Chris live in Jasper, Alabama.

**Bonnie W. Pood ('02)** is the manager of employment services, Career Services Office at the University of Southern Mississippi. In January, she passed the certification exam for the PHR (Professional in Human Resources) designation. She lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and is expecting her first grandchild in September.

**Justin Wade Pullum ('02)** and wife **Stephanie Lynn Pullum ('07)** live in Millbrook, Alabama. Justin is a licensed social worker, LBSW at the Department of Human Resources, and Stephanie is in graduate school.

**Narmina Sadikhova ('02)** is the business continuity planning advisor at BP Exploration Caspian Sea Ltd., in Baku, Azerbaijan.

**Cara Bugg ('03)** and husband Kevin live in Raleigh, North Carolina. They have one son, Tyler.

**Laura Holt Dlouhy ('03)** and husband Stephen live in Memphis, Tennessee. Laura is a neuropsychological examiner for The Center for Pediatric Neurology. She also does stand-up and improvisational comedy and took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Funniest Person in Memphis contest. Stephen is an Oncology Researcher at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Chris Miller ('03)** resides in Knoxville, Tennessee. He completed an MBA from the University of Tennessee and finished a term as the 2007 president for the Tennessee Organization of MBAs. He has taken a job as an investment and opportunity analyst for a venture capital fund called Meritus Ventures, L.P.

**Jami Orick ('03)** is a financial analyst with ATK Composites. Husband **Wesley K. Orick ('03)** is a territory manager for Swisher Tobacco. They live in Cherokee, Alabama and have a daughter, Mattie Claire.

**Johnny Sledge, Jr. ('03)** manages seven artists and promotes concerts through the company he started in 2004, CJ Entertainment. He is also music minister at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Courtland, Alabama. He plans to make artist management and gospel concert promotion his full-time job.

**Mollie Baltimore ('04)** is manager of the St. Clair-Blount Economic Development Council. She recently moved from Guntersville to Oneonta in Alabama.

**Kevin Fowler ('04)** was named executive director for the Anniston Housing Authority after 10 previous years with the organization as director of operations and deputy executive director. He and wife Shea live in Oxford, Alabama.

**Brian Jones ('04)** is a regional director with the Alabama Tourism Department and served as project manager for the award-winning Year of Alabama Arts tourism campaign. He also served as contributing editor for the book "Alabama Arts."

**W. Dale Kelly ('04)** is a personal investment officer for Compass Brokerage and specializes in retirement planning. He and wife Kelly live in Sheffield, Alabama.

**Amber Morgan ('04)** is a high school Spanish teacher. Amber and husband **Jeremiah Morgan ('05)** live in Navarre, Florida, with their two children.

**Stephanie Singleton ('04)** has been teaching first grade at Harlan Elementary School, Florence, for four years. She is pursuing a master's degree in education at UNA.

**David Smith ('04)** is a payroll accountant for the Alabama Department of Corrections in Montgomery, Alabama. He will be graduating from Auburn University-Montgomery this month with an MBA-Accounting specialization

degree. He will take the CPA exam during the next year.

**Lindsey R. Hood ('05)** passed the CPA exam. She and husband Heath live in Double Springs, Alabama, with husband Heath.

**John Johnson ('05)** is a teacher at Lawrence County High School. He and wife Taffy live in Town Creek, Alabama.

**Coke Magee ('05)** was assistant principal at Guntown Middle School, and has recently been named principal at Saltillo Elementary School in Mississippi.

**Amanda Brooke Cranford ('06)** recently graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina.

**Chad Mihalek ('06)** is a U.S. Army pilot. He is stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where he serves as the instructional division chief for the FC-12D/N aircraft qualification courses.

**Michelle Youngblood Partain ('06)** and husband **Gaylon Partain ('06)** live in Decatur, Alabama. Michelle is an English teacher at Austin High School and Gaylon is a software developer for Jacobs Technology in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Manuela Tomas ('06)** is a family law paralegal specialist with the law firm of Charles D. Jamieson, P.A. and resides in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

**Bradford J. McGee ('07)** graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina.

**Terri Leighann Wakefield ('07)** is a teacher at East Lawrence (Alabama) High School.

2007 - Benjamin Lee Burford  
2006 - Brittney Nicole Jones  
2005 - Melinda Kibler  
2004 - Deleta Hosch  
2003 - Janet Foote

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## Years Unidentified

**Imogene Kent Dill** taught school at Indian Head Elementary School and Cordova High School during World War II. After the war, she worked as a collection correspondent for Sears, Roebuck, and Company in Birmingham. She was a member of Crestway Baptist Church.

**Louie Leland Wheeler Green** taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade for many years in the Fort Payne Public Schools. She was a member of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club. She was also an active member of the women of her church at First Presbyterian in Fort Payne, Alabama.

**Grace Massey James** lived in Franklin County, Alabama and was a member of First Baptist Church, Russellville. Early in her career as a teacher, she taught in the Franklin County School System.

**Floye Stephens Keller** taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Cold Springs for several years before moving to Homestead Army Air Field, Florida, during World War II to support the war effort. There she worked in aircraft maintenance. In 2003, she moved to Niceville from Eva, Alabama. She was a long-time member of Etha Baptist Church, where she taught children for many years.

**L. A. Murphy, Jr.** worked for Continental Grain as a salesman and retired after 30 years of service. He was a member of Cullman First Methodist Church, Cullman, Alabama and Wesley Sunday School Class.

**James Paschal Reid** was a partner with Gardere Wynne Sewell of Dallas, Texas, and formerly was an associate with Phelps Dunbar of New Orleans, Louisiana. He was a member of Prestonwood Baptist Church of Plano, Texas.

## Faculty

**Mary Jane Adair** was an adjunct instructor at UNA after her retirement from the Muscle Shoals City School System.

**Dr. Ronald DiNella** practiced general surgery privately in the Shoals area until his retirement in 1993. After retiring, he taught health classes for eight years at the UNA Institute for Learning in Retirement.

## 30s

**Col. Glennis O. Rhodes ('35)** was a decorated veteran who served

nearly 30 years in the Army Air Corps and United States Air Force. He was a resident of Montgomery, Alabama.

**Virginia L. Adams ('37)** was a retired school teacher, having taught at Kilby Professional Laboratory. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Sheffield and resided in Sheffield, Alabama.

**Anne Ferguson Hardy ('38)** taught typing, shorthand, and English for over 20 years at Jones Valley High School. She was a member of Shades Crest Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Thomas M. Guerro ('39)** served in the Corps of Engineers in World War II and the Korean Conflict, retiring from the military after 20 years of service. He later worked as a building inspector for the city of Florence. He lived in Florence, Alabama.

**Delma Baker ('46)** was a retired school teacher with the Franklin County (Alabama) Board of Education.

## 40s

**Lorene Lewis Bradford ('49)** was a retired educator who

taught business and office education for 40 years (the last 33 years were at Kate Duncan Smith DAR High School in Grant, Alabama). She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and was Marshall County Retired Teacher of the Year for 2004.

## 50s

**Harold Gill ('50)**, a veteran of the Korean War, was a retired

Huntsville real estate agent. He lived in Guntersville, Alabama, and was a member of the First Christian Church of Huntsville.

**Ruble Shotts ('50)** was a World War II veteran. He retired from Hamilton (Alabama) High School with many years of service for that school.

**Joseph Turbyfill ('54)** served in the 31<sup>st</sup> Division of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After his time in the service, he started his career with Chemstrand in Decatur, which was later acquired by Monsanto. He worked in St. Louis for 30 years before retiring.

**Margaret A. Wright ('54)** was a teacher with the Huntsville (Alabama) City School District. She was also a

member of the Cultura Garden Club and was a certified water safety instructor for the American Red Cross. She lived in Madison.

**James Edward Dunnivant**

('57) was a teacher for 32 years with Santa Rosa City Schools and taught English, journalism, and literature to middle school through graduate level students. He lived in Santa Rosa, California.

**Mae Hayes ('59)** worked with Aerojet in California making rocket fuel, and was retired from the State of Alabama as a chemist. She lived in Tyrone, Georgia.

## 60s

**Don Lee Marsh ('61)** operated

Marsh Tax Service for 40 years. He loved to teach, grow daylilies, spend time with his wife and children, and watch football. He resided in Hillsboro, Alabama.

**Easter R. Massengill ('61)** was a retired teacher of 33 years. She was a member of Killen United Methodist Church, UMW, and outreach circle. She lived in Killen, Alabama.

## 70s

**James "Jim" Henson ('71)**

had been a medical sales representative for the past 30 years, and more recently, owned his own medical equipment company. He lived in Hoover, Alabama.

**Dr. James Edwin "Jim" Lyle, III ('72)** practiced obstetrics-gynecology for 28 years. He retired in 2007, when he was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma. He lived in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Mattie "Lou" Harper Hughes ('74)** retired from the Florence (Alabama) City School System as an advanced English teacher. She also held membership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. as well as several other national, state, and local organizations.

## 80s

**Dwight Lamar Winston ('82)** was a

member of Mount Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Tuscumbia, Alabama. He was the

founder and past director of UNA Ascending Voices and a member of the Music Educators Association. He did many things around the Shoals community to further the study and love of music.

**Harry Thomas Woodis ('82)**

died from injuries received in a vehicle accident. Mr. Woodis was employed by Thompson Tractor Company and was a member of First United Methodist Church in Tuscumbia, Alabama.

**Randolph A. Sanford ('85)**

established Drafting Unlimited, a full service drafting company in Huntsville. In 2002, he created Willford's Ol' English Cheese Crisps, which operated out of the Shoals Culinary Center in Florence.

## 90s

**David Blair Faulkner ('92)**

was a Major in the U.S. Air Force. He was killed after his training aircraft crashed at Columbus Air Force Base in Columbus, Mississippi.



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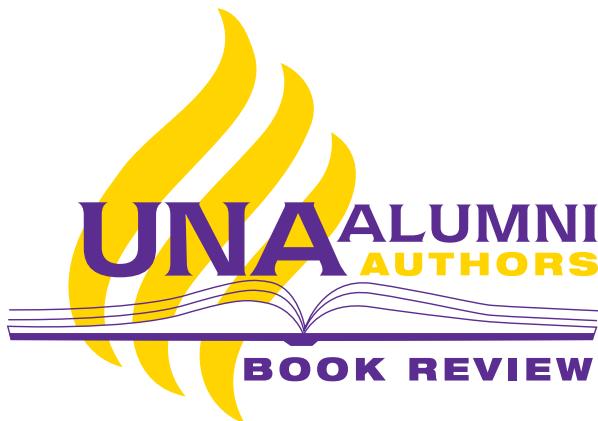
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## Michael Farmer's *Tin Soldiers*

By William Thomas Underwood ('08)

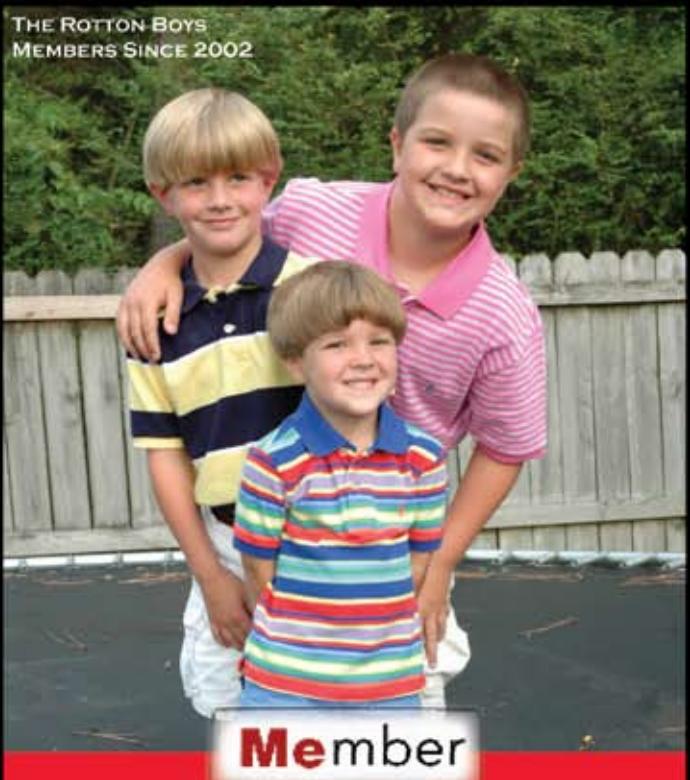
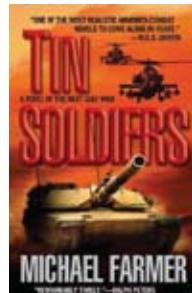
During my years of life, I have had the opportunity to show my appreciation to many types of people. I've thanked mechanics, preachers, strangers, friends, actors, teachers, family members, and artists. However, I can't remember a single instance where I got to personally show my thanks to a writer or a former Major for the U.S. Army. Fortunately, I now have the opportunity to thank someone who happens to be both, and I don't plan on letting this opportunity pass. In this case, I'm giving my thanks to **Michael Farmer ('90)**, who took his wartime experiences and turned them into a series of best-selling novels.

The first of these novels, *Tin Soldiers*, is an amazingly well written story of armored warfare and the soldiers who have to fight such a war in the deserts of the Middle East. One reason I enjoyed the book so much was because Farmer made it so easy to read. I know very little about tanks or military jargon, and even less about the political intricacies of war, but I could still follow the plot. There were some details that I got confused about, particularly when it came to remembering who belonged to which tank platoon, but I never really felt like the writing was over my head, nor did I feel like I was reading a cut-and-dried text book.

*Tin Soldiers'* greatest strength is in its characters, and there are a lot of characters. Some of these characters only made brief appearances, but you cared for them anyway. Their words felt very natural, and it always seemed possible that some of the characters might be someone you'd already met. The only drawback was that some of the villains seemed very stereotypical.

I congratulate Farmer for the fact that he never got overwhelmed by the scope of his story. *Tin Soldiers'* rarely spent too long focused on one event or one group of people. He literally covers an entire war from every side. The reader is allowed to read every news article, to sit with the United States President as he meets with his military advisors, and to watch the enemy tanks as they roll into view; no detail is missed.

*Tin Soldiers* will never be considered the next great American novel, nor will it ever be marveled at by talk show hosts, who were moved to tears by its story, but it isn't meant to be and it is more than worth reading. I fully recommend *Tin Soldiers* to anyone who enjoys political war thrillers with plenty of action, but be forewarned that there is some harsh language.



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Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

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

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State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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Position \_\_\_\_\_

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