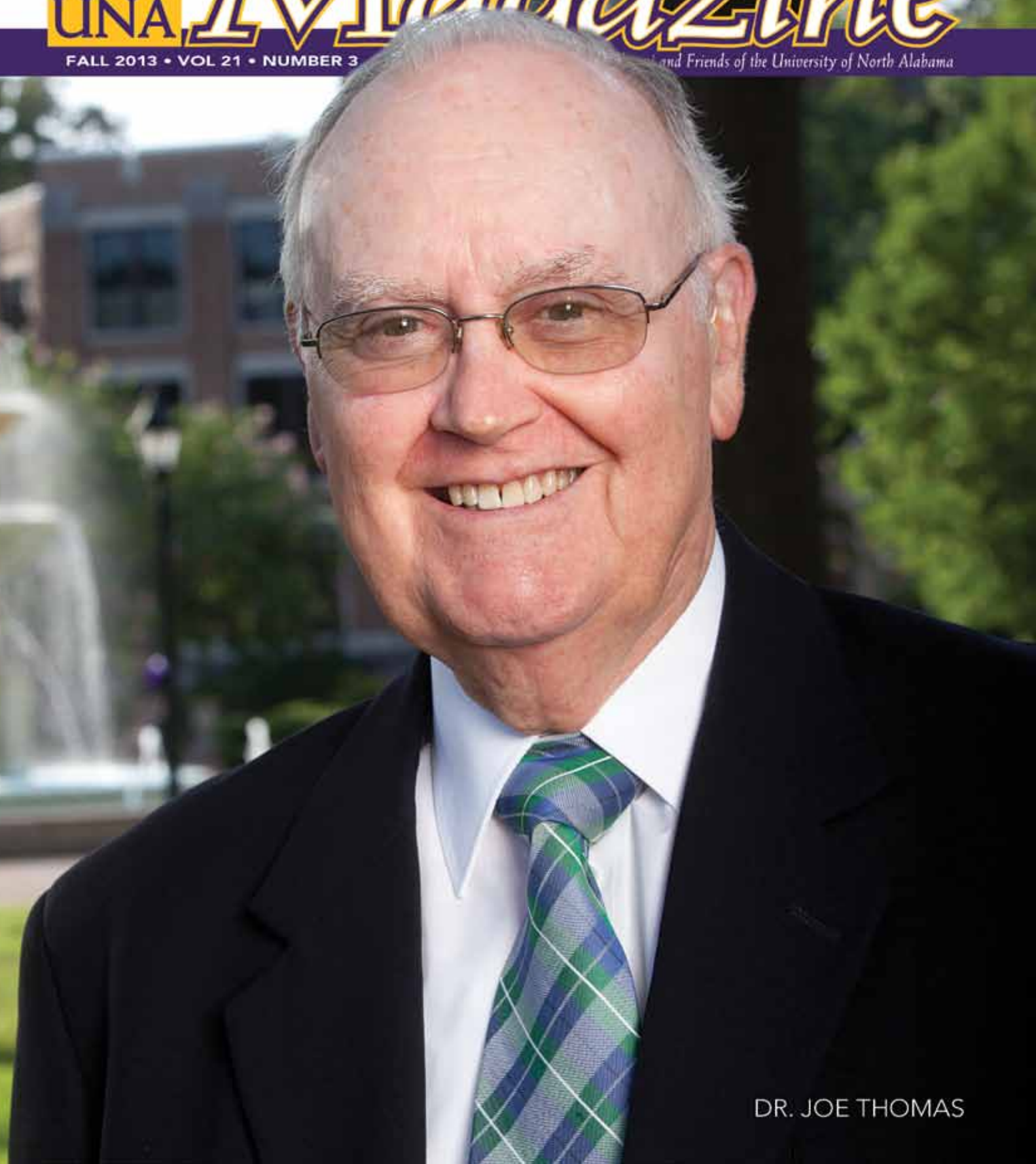




# Madazine

FALL 2013 • VOL 21 • NUMBER 3

and Friends of the University of North Alabama



DR. JOE THOMAS



UNA graphic designer **Chuck Craig '79** created this striking illustration envisioning UNA's new Science and Technology Building from its foundational stage (captured in an image by UNA Photographer **Shannon Wells '05**) to the final erection of the \$39.7 million facility. The building will house UNA's academic programs in biology, chemistry and industrial hygiene, and physics and earth science, plus a proposed new program in engineering technology.

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William G. Cale, Jr.

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

Going back twenty years or so, a major national agenda for institutions of higher learning was access, the creation of opportunities to allow greater numbers of students to attend college. Much of the discussion centered on the lack of economic opportunity for otherwise bright students, and much of that was connected to place and circumstance. In short, many African American, Hispanic and other members of minority groups were not accorded access to the American dream that white Americans had enjoyed for decades.

The laws to remedy this, and the proactive efforts of all of higher education, have been so successful that the pendulum has completed its arc, and the Supreme Court now describes what is possible in language so arcane it is not in anyone's vocabulary. But my point here is not the Court, but where we have come. Access is no longer discussed; most of what we hoped to achieve is in place. Diversity is a core value, embraced throughout higher education, and stands as one of the five overarching principles in UNA's strategic plan. All seemed fine, and then I had a conversation with my good friend and UNA alumnus, **Weldon Cole '60**.

Weldon likes to ask me questions. The questions always seem simple, but they are invariably profound. So the question to me was: What does UNA mean when it says it values diversity? I answered. Then he said the obvious, which isn't so obvious

at all: In order to answer my question, you had to put people into categories before you could get to the real answer, which is being inclusive. Diversity creates categories; inclusion doesn't care about categories, only about people. He went on to explain that his church has ceased to talk about being a diverse community, preferring instead to be an inclusive community where everyone is welcome, where everyone is encouraged to come, where everyone's voice is heard. It is a powerful thought, one that twenty years have prepared higher education to espouse, one that is right for us all.

As UNA continues to build international partnerships, sending and receiving students the world over, we take the steps we can to foster a world community. Young people will learn history, but their focus is the future, filled with hope and optimism. At home and abroad, we owe it to them to create a campus community and a path to global outreach that are centered on the ideals of inclusion. It's true to say we live in a diverse world, but boundaries are blurring, ideas are spreading, prejudice is disappearing and collaboration is what will build a successful tomorrow.

All my best,  
Bill Cale



## CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION NAMES UNA ONE OF 2013'S 'GREAT COLLEGES TO WORK FOR'

By Terry Pace '85, '04, UNA Communications and Marketing

The University of North Alabama has been named one of America's "Great Colleges to Work For in 2013" by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, the nation's premier publication for professionals in the academic world.

In its sixth annual survey of faculty and staff, the Washington, D.C.-based journal recognized UNA and 96 other colleges based on employee responses in 12 categories of evaluation.

"Taking pride in one's university is reflected in the quality of everyone's work," UNA President William G. Cale remarked. "Students are the great beneficiaries of attending a school such as UNA because when we all care about what we do, the learning environment, the service environment and the extracurricular environment are the best they can be. I am the greatest champion of this university because I so deeply believe in the talented people who excel every day in what they do."

UNA earned high marks in five categories: Collaborative Governance, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Job Satisfaction, Professional/Career Development Programs and Work/Life Balance. Through *The Chronicle's*

volunteer survey, faculty and staff at each participating college agree or disagree with survey statements related to each specific category.

"Our faculty and staff enjoy their work at the university largely due to the freedom they feel to pursue their professional and career goals," noted Catherine White, UNA's director of human resources. "Our university has over 180 years of history, and our setting in northwest Alabama offers an unsurpassed quality of life. Our employees love the university, so there is a shared sense of commitment to it which makes for a great working environment."

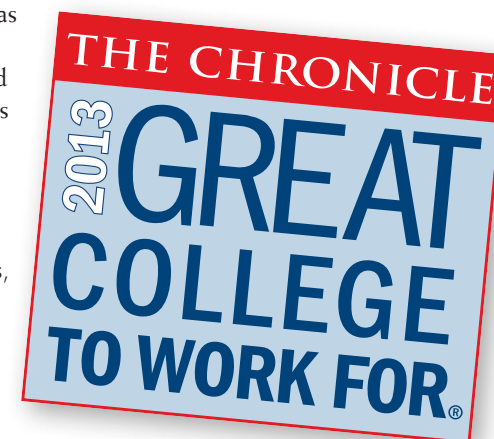
Colleges are grouped in the survey as either four-year or two-year institutions, and by enrollment size. UNA is included in the category of medium-sized colleges with an enrollment of 7,128 students.

"Both our faculty and staff are supported in their professional and career endeavors through encouraged participation in professional conferences, research opportunities, and through our generous Tuition Remission program," added **Kari-Kay Cassady '05**, human-resources coordinator for UNA. "Our faculty and staff are also provided with

expert assistance in applying for and receiving grants for various professional research and activities."

UNA previously participated in *The Chronicle* survey in 2010, when the school also ranked high in Shared Governance, Job Satisfaction and other key areas.

"UNA has an extremely effective governance structure that fosters open communication and gives all employees the opportunity to be fully informed, to voice concerns and to seek change," Cale believes. "When individuals know that their voice is heard and respected, a university is on its way to being a great place to work."







Dr. William G. Cale, Jr., president of the University of North Alabama, and Dr. Robert K. Glenn, president of Athens State University

## UNA PARTNERS WITH ATHENS STATE FOR NEW MASTER'S PROGRAM IN K-6 EDUCATION

By Elise Cofield, *Student Writer*

Since its inception in 1872 as Florence Normal School, the University of North Alabama has been founded on the central mission of "giving aspiring educators the support, guidance and instruction to be the best teachers they can," says Donna Lefort, dean of the UNA College of Education and Human Sciences.

That mission continues to broaden in scope this fall, as UNA teams up with the College of Education at Athens State University to offer a Master of Arts in Education (MAED) graduate program at ASU's campus in Limestone County. The program was developed in response to a request made by ASU that the two regionally connected schools collaborate.

The MAED program will provide a means for K-6 educators to earn a master's degree on a schedule that does not interfere

with the traditional workday, with classes offered in the late afternoons and evenings.

UNA has offered an identical master's degree in an online format for two years, but the courses that are part of the new partnership will be offered in what Lefort explains is a "hybrid format," combining online class time with classroom-setting instruction.

"The entry-level bachelor's teacher leaves with the basic knowledge and skill set necessary to lead a classroom," said Dr. Vicky Hulsey, chair of the UNA Department of Elementary Education. "The master's degree adds to that the application, understanding and research-based focus, taking it to a higher level."

Beyond the professional advantage that a master's degree provides educators, Lefort added that master's certification is

one of the most common ways to renew a teaching license, not to mention the benefit of the automatic pay increases the State of Alabama offers to educators who hold higher-level degrees.

"There is some value in the face-to-face, personal interaction element of teacher education," Lefort said. "Bringing our program to (ASU) gives students the opportunity to enhance their skill sets. (ASU) has a very large undergraduate population studying teacher education, so we're trying to collaborate rather than compete."

Based on positive feedback from a June 18 interest meeting in Athens, Lefort said all is on track for the first two courses to be offered this fall. The program has already accepted a number of students and will remain open.

Lefort and Hulsey expect the typical MAED student to already have a full-time teaching position, but they say the program can be just as beneficial to those who have obtained an undergraduate degree.

To inquire about enrollment in the UNA/ASU MAED program, contact Russ Darracott, assistant director of UNA Graduate Admissions and Services, at 256-765-4447, or by email at [graduate@una.edu](mailto:graduate@una.edu), or contact Vicky Hulsey at 256-765-4251 or [vwhulsey@una.edu](mailto:vwhulsey@una.edu).



UNA alumni gather on the Athens State campus to celebrate a new partnership between the two schools.

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS NOW OFFERS MBA ON THE ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

By Dr. Greg Carnes, *Dean and Professor of Accounting, UNA College of Business*

The College of Business prides itself on being a leader in providing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) program with several concentrations and program delivery options. Our MBA delivers outstanding quality and a highly relevant curriculum through instructional excellence at an exceptional value with extraordinary convenience. The MBA is highly respected for enriching undergraduate study in science and engineering, liberal arts and the social and behavioral sciences, and for adding depth to the traditional undergraduate business disciplines.

In addition to offering the MBA in the traditional and online formats, the College of Business is proud to announce its newest delivery option. A new hybrid option is now available both on the UNA campus and on the campus at Athens State University.

This option offers UNA students all the core MBA requirements and the courses required for the accounting concentration on both campuses using hybrid delivery. This format allows students to choose either the UNA or ASU campus for attending their face-to-face classes every other week. In alternating weeks, these students will access their hybrid courses via the Internet, where they will participate in the live classroom without actually attending either campus. While all required accounting courses are available in this format, students choosing other traditional concentrations will be able to complete their three required elective courses online.

Students with undergraduate degrees in business and those from non-business disciplines are equally encouraged to apply.

Students entering the MBA program with undergraduate degrees in business from an accredited business school should meet all prerequisite requirements. For such students, the MBA program will consist of 34 semester hours. The following concentrations are available: accounting, finance, health-care management, information systems, international business, professional, project management and ERP Systems using SAP.

An executive concentration is also available for students in the online program and the MBA program in Asia. Admission to the MBA Executive concentration substitutes business experience for the GMAT/GRE test that is required for all other concentrations.

For students without previous undergraduate study in business, the prerequisites for graduate study include academic preparation or competency in the following areas: principles of financial and managerial accounting, principles of macroeconomics and microeconomics, principles of management, principles of marketing, financial management and statistics. These prerequisites may be satisfied by taking the appropriate undergraduate classes, successfully completing either the appropriate non-credit competency-based courses or by passing challenge examinations which are offered through our Office of Continuing Studies and Outreach.

For additional information regarding UNA's MBA program, visit our website at <http://www.una.edu/mba-requirements/index.html>. You can also contact the MBA office at 256-765-4154, or at [unamba@una.edu](mailto:unamba@una.edu).





Lauren Schifano

## UNA STUDENT UNICYCLES ACROSS ALABAMA TO HELP END CHILDHOOD OBESITY

By Elise Cofield, *Student Writer*

University of North Alabama student Lauren Schifano recently hit the road with the goal of putting an end to childhood obesity, and she did it on one wheel.

On Aug. 1, Schifano began a 400-mile tour across the state of Alabama on unicycle, along with a small support crew, educating those in her path about the prevalence of childhood obesity. The funding she raised will go to Louie's Kids, a non-profit organization based out of Charleston, S.C., that works to combat childhood obesity and educate children about nutritional concepts.

Alabama has the sixth highest rate of overweight and obese children, according to a 2007 report conducted by the National Initiative for Children's

Healthcare Quality and the Child Policy Research Center.

Schifano was accompanied at all times by a "driver" transporting food and supplies, and by Wieland Claes, a longtime friend she met while studying abroad in Austria, who supported the cause by bicycling alongside her.

"The only thing I was a little concerned about it road safety," she said. "Alabama is not exactly known for bicycle friendliness or sharing the road. I'm getting in touch with the League of American Bicyclists, and hopefully making that a mini-platform along the way."

Schifano, 25, has earned two degrees from UNA – one in history and one in German – and is currently working



towards her third, majoring in health, physical education and recreation, with a concentration in exercise science.

"My problem is, I get excited about too many things," she said. "I really love unicycling, and I'm really passionate about keeping a clean environment, and also I'm in the health, physical education and recreation department, so I'm really conscientious about health and helping people to be able to keep themselves healthy."

Louie Yuhasz, founder of Louie's Kids, expressed his gratitude for Schifano and her initiative.

"The courage something like this ride takes is just as amazing as the courage it takes a lot of the kids who need us to even ask for help," Yuhasz said. "Lauren's effort is more than awareness, more than fundraising – it's quite simply bravery, and it's what more of our kids need to see on their behalf."

Dane Trelles, a recent UNA geography graduate, volunteered to plan Schifano's route using GPS technology. In preparation, Schifano practiced 20-25 miles per day to build up to her goal of covering 40 miles each day of her journey. She arrived at her destination in Gulf Shores on Aug. 17, finishing her final



Lauren Schifano and Wieland Claes

few miles in the rain as she wheeled into Gulf Coast State Park.

"Driving this route is one thing, I can't imagine being on one wheel the whole time," Trelles said. "I think it's pretty impressive. I felt confident that she would succeed."





Peter Oylo, Charlton James and Myk Watford

## THEATRE STUDENTS WORK WITH PROFESSIONALS ON SUMMER SHOW

By Bobby Bozeman, *TimesDaily Staff Writer*



Haley Prestridge

Despite the University of North Alabama Summer Theatre's 2013 production of *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* using professional actors and directors, the students involved aren't expected to take a back seat.

Haley Prestridge and Summer Akers, both UNA seniors majoring in theatre, proved to be just as crucial as their professional counterparts.

Prestridge played the part of Hank Williams' wife, Audrey. Akers portrayed the waitress who provides narration for the shows. Both were understudies in 2012, when the UNA Summer Theatre program did *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Now they have major roles.

"Last year we watched them, but we rehearsed on our own," Akers said of her and Prestridge's experience as understudies. "This year we're getting

to be a part of it, actually acting beside them."

Prestridge said most of the other *Lost Highway* actors have already done the play.

"So we have to learn what they've already done, but it's great because they're all like big brothers," Prestridge said. "And they're like, 'No, it's OK, you can do it like this,' and they want to help us out."

Part of the professionalism Prestridge and Akers are experiencing is working with actors who are members of Actors' Equity Association.

"You have to take breaks at a certain time; there are a lot more rules," Prestridge said. "When you're working with students and professors, you can get off track really easily. But if you have a stage manager keeping you on Equity rules time-wise ... that's really cool because as a student that's something we haven't seen before."



Mississippi Charles Bevel and Peter Oylo

And it's also getting these students used to those rules, because Prestridge and Akers said they both hope to be working under those professional rules in the future.

"I'm glad that we're using students here because that's what it should be," said *Lost Highway* director Randal Myler, who also co-wrote the show with Mark Harelik. "We're not just a company that comes in and does a show. There should be some of the kids involved when you can."



Kim Caron



Randy Moore



Drew Perkins



Summer Akers





Will Riley

## UNA CLASSES SPAN THE GLOBE TO OFFER NEW EXPERIENCES

By Hannah Mask, *Student Writer*

It's no surprise that the number of UNA students who study abroad is higher than both the national and state average. At this university, going to another country to take required classes isn't seen as an extravagance. Instead, it's recognized as a vital part of the collegiate experience.

Dr. Chunsheng Zhang, vice provost for International Affairs at UNA, called studying abroad an integral part of the university experience. He said were it not for UNA President William G. Cale allocating \$60,000 in student scholarship funds, all Study Abroad programs, not only the programs in China, would see a drop in student participation.

"Under Dr. Cale's leadership, in the past five years the university has really strengthened its internationalization efforts," Zhang said. "One of the ways it's done that is to bring international students here, but another way is to

provide high-quality, affordable Study Abroad opportunities. Studying Abroad is the key factor that distinguishes students who graduate nowadays in the U.S."

When students decide to study abroad, they may apply for an \$800 scholarship to offset some of the traveling costs. For example, Zhang said the roundtrip airfare alone to China could easily total \$1,500 or \$2,000. With the scholarship fund currently at \$60,000, 120 scholarships are available.

Will Riley served as the 2012-13 Student Government Association president and graduated right before he boarded a plane to study business in China this summer.

"If I did not receive funding from UNA staff, faculty and alumni, then I would not have been able to attend," Riley said. "I strongly encourage alumni to donate, so UNA students can change



Mark Cornwell in Machu



Payton Ayers, Candace Williamson and Max Raybon at the Great Wall of China

the world. Being globally aware is quintessential for my generation. There are more opportunities now than when my parents were my age, and we need to take advantage and see the planet. Our time is short-lived, so why not see the world?"

Other students who studied abroad in China were studying communications and theatre, with one group performing Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* for a group of Chinese students.



Rob Weaver, Emily Smith, Whitney Stephenson and Kerrie Holloway in London

Forrest Harlan, a UNA theatre student, said the experience was one of a kind.

"I hold this opportunity to be one of the most life-changing and greatest experiences of my life," he said. "The Study Abroad program is one of many great services that the University of North Alabama provides to its students, and I would encourage any student to take advantage of an opportunity to be a part of the program."

Students like Leila Turbeville worked on English or history research projects in London during the July term. Turbeville's project focused on race and religion in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*.

"If I would have taken on this research project in the States, my project wouldn't have over half the sources it did," she said. "Through this project, I was able to access the world's knowledge without boundaries. It is a completely different, and amazing, experience."

Dr. Lesley Peterson, an English professor at the university who accompanied students to London, said

when the trip was winding down, one student told her that studying abroad helped him understand why he was in school.

"The experience of travelling is transformative in itself," Peterson said. "Most students have never been in a city as big as London, but by the time we've been there three or four days, the students really own it."

Another group of students who were studying Spanish visited Costa Rica this summer. Dr. Claudia Polo Vance, chair of the Department of Foreign Languages, said those students had an opportunity to not only enhance their language skills and earn class credit, but also to live with host families, explore the rainforest and zipline and bungee jump.

Olivia Melvin, a UNA student who blogged throughout her experience, wrote that getting to study in Costa Rica was like a dream.

"This is my first time being outside of the country," she wrote, "but I think that this is a perfect first because I will be going to a school and living with a host family."



Dr. Claudia Polo Vance in Costa Rica





Maurice Mull, Mackenzie Kimbrough and Pamela Lasell

## HANDY FESTIVAL UNVEILS SPECIAL POSTAL CACHET FEATURING DESIGN WORK BY UNA STUDENTS

By Amanda Abernathy, *Student Writer*

The design work of two University of North Alabama undergraduate students was spotlighted when the Florence Post Office offered a special postal cachet in honor of the 32nd W.C. Handy Music Festival.

The cachet – unveiled during the annual “Music on the Lawn” festival event July 25 at the downtown post office – depicts the historic W.C. Handy Home (where the “Father of the Blues” was born in 1873) and the official 2013 festival design. The winning design was created by UNA students Mackenzie Kimbrough of Tusculumbia and Maurice Mull of Tanner.

“It’s kind of mind-blowing that a design that started off as a poster for a contest is now worthy to be put on an envelope,” Mull remarked. “It’s a real blessing to be part of something like that.”

Mull is a human-resource management major and a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. Kimbrough is a marketing major with a minor in family studies. Both students are members of the UNA Honors Program. Their design was created as a class assignment for an honors computing course taught by Ron Davis, an assistant professor of computing information systems at UNA. Students from that course have also submitted winning images for the three previous festivals.

“I am really pleased with Mackenzie and Maurice’s design,” Davis noted, “and I am also very proud of the effort that all of the students in this class made.”

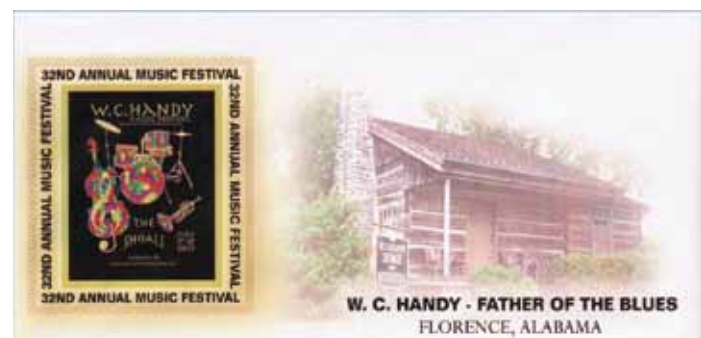
Postal cachets typically print a design or inscription on an envelope to commemorate a historic occasion or special event. The unveiling of the cachet at the Florence Post Office brought the Handy history full circle – back to a historic building in the heart of Handy’s hometown.

“This is a terrific example of the way our community comes together to share in the commemoration of a musical legend,” Florence City Council President Dick Jordan explained, “and to reflect on the community as we celebrate its history.”

According to Florence Postmaster Pamela Lasell, 2013 marks several milestones for Handy’s native city, including the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Florence Post Office and the 140th anniversary of Handy’s birth. By the time the building opened, Handy (who died in 1958) had moved the year before to Memphis, Tennessee, in order to further his musical career. It was during that same period (1913-1918) that he and Harry Pace operated the Pace & Handy Music Co. and published some of Handy’s most famous songs, including the composer’s signature tune, “St. Louis Blues.”

By 1970, Handy’s log-cabin birthplace in Florence had been moved from its original location on Beale Street and Cherokee Street, then reassembled at its present location, 620 W. College St., across from Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital and Riverbend Center for Mental Health. A musical celebration marked the opening of the museum. A decade later, renowned jazz musician and Sheffield native Willie Ruff suggested to a group of local citizens that a celebration be developed in honor of Handy’s musical heritage.

“Then we decided, ‘Why not have a festival?’” recalled Peggy Steele Clay, one of the festival’s founders. “From there, the idea was hatched for the formation of a group called the Music Preservation Society.”



Kimberly Gean Lawson '05, BBA in finance, and Parquida Williams, senior majoring in finance

## ODIE LAUNCHES ALUMNI MENTORING PROGRAM AT UNA

Starting August 2013, UNA’s Office of Diversity and Institutional Equity (ODIE) launched a Mentoring Program. The program – a collaboration between ODIE, Alumni Relations and Career Planning and Development – is designed to engage students and alumni in mentoring relationships to help students determine how their current academic paths coincide with career aspirations. One objective of the program is to foster an exchange of career-related ideas, friendship and expertise.

“The program will be composed of events that help to facilitate students’ understanding of life beyond UNA,” says Joan Williams, ODIE director at UNA. “The alumni volunteer initiative will match UNA freshman with UNA upperclassmen with alumni professionals who provide career advice. The program will identify UNA alumni who would like to volunteer to mentor UNA students, primarily to help the protégés navigate their career decisions and make professional connections in their field of interest. Mentors and protégés will be matched on a range of criteria, including shared academic interests and experiences, career fields, even shared student activities or alumni groups.”

The mentors and their protégés will be encouraged to talk, email or meet on their own times. Mentors may choose to host their protégé for a job-shadowing day, so that the student has a chance to gain an inside look at their career field and the roles they will play.

“Apart from the one-on-one mentoring,” Williams added, “the program will host program-wide events to meet other mentoring pairs and share in discussion of career topics.”

The program hopes to attract mentors from across the country, sometimes setting them up with a student for Skype-mentoring or pairing them with a protégé who plans to live in their area after graduation.

The alumni component of the program will start January 2014. If you are interested in the development of UNA’s future leaders by participating in the program, e-mail Williams at [odie@una.edu](mailto:odie@una.edu), phone 256-765-6344 or visit [www.una.edu/diversity](http://www.una.edu/diversity).

## UNA STUDENT JOURNALISTS WIN FIRST PLACE NATIONAL AWARD FOR NEWSPAPER REPORTING

By Elise Cofield, *Student Writer*



Alex Lindley



Matt Wilson

Two student journalists from the University of North Alabama, Alex Lindley and Matt Wilson, have won the top award in their national division for news reporting.

The award was presented for a series of stories Lindley and Wilson wrote for *The Flor-Ala* following an alleged rape reported on campus last semester. The series received first place in the Region 3 Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) competition before moving on to compete at the national level.

Lindley and Wilson conducted all interviews, research and writing for the series.

First-place winners move on to the national Mark of Excellence competition among category winners from all 12 SPJ regions, according to the SPJ website, [www.spj.org](http://www.spj.org).

Lindley wrote a series of stories about the UNA police investigation of an alleged rape. He said the entire *Flor-Ala* staff should take pride in the award.

“The award showcases the collective efforts of our great staff this year,” Lindley said. “We worked really well together all year, so when something big happened, we were able to get the news out quickly in a responsible, informative way. I’m so proud of what we as a staff accomplished, and I see our awards as validation of *The Flor-Ala* as the best source for UNA news.”

Wilson’s story, “Officials shop for surveillance cameras,” examined the way university officials responded to crime occurring in the campus parking deck.

“The professional experience I gained from working for *The Flor-Ala* is valuable,” Wilson said, “but to be recognized at the national level for covering a story honestly and earnestly is a bonus.”

Recent UNA graduate Josh Skaggs, who served as executive editor of the student newspaper during the 2012-13 school year, said his staff reporters were not expecting to receive an award for their writing; they were simply doing their jobs to the best of their ability.

“I think, as far as Matt and Alex’s work goes, it shows that they are very committed to safety on campus and covering the campus in a way that *The Flor-Ala* has never done before,” Skaggs said. “The recognition of SPJ shows that our editors and writers are top-notch.”





Dr. Joseph Thomas and his wife, Elisabeth

When Dr. Joseph Thomas was interviewed for the position of chemistry instructor in 1961, plans for a new science building were on display.

"There was a model of Floyd (Science Building) in Bibb Graves," Thomas said. "That's where the science department was then. To come in when the university was building a new facility was great."

Fifty-two years later, construction on Floyd Science Building's 160,000-square-foot replacement is in full swing, thanks in part to Thomas and his wife, Elisabeth. The new Science and Technology Building will feature a specialty chemistry classroom named in Thomas' honor, as the couple decided to donate to the project to give back to a place they love and to help the project advance. As it stands, approximately \$2.5 million of the project's total cost of \$39.7 million has yet to be secured.

UNA President Dr. William G. Cale said the university was turning to its friends and supporters to bridge the final gap.

"Working together, we can help UNA to reach an even higher plane of achievement and become an ever greater resource to the Shoals, to the state, and to all the students who study here and dream," Cale said.

Gifts will be perpetually remembered, he also pointed out. Barbie Terry, college development officer for UNA's Office of University Advancement, called the impression "everlasting."

"With several levels of naming opportunities available, you can leave your legacy, honor a loved one, or even recognize a professor that saw your potential when you were a student," she said.



## AFTER 37-YEAR EDUCATION CAREER, ADMINISTRATOR DR. JOSEPH THOMAS STILL 'PAYING IT FORWARD'

By Hannah Mask, *Student Writer*

For the Thomases, donating to the Science and Technology Building simply made sense.

"I always enjoyed being in the classroom, and (donating to the building) was one of the best ways to pay it forward," Thomas said. "I hope it will be enjoyed by the students. I know it will be enjoyed by the faculty."

Elisabeth Thomas said she and her husband had been considering a way to give back to the university for some time.

"We also thought about setting up endowed scholarships, and we may do that yet," she said. "We wanted to do something to give back to UNA, because it's been awfully good to us."

No longer an interviewee for an instructor's position, Thomas retired in 1998 from the position of vice president of academic affairs and provost after 37

years at the university. The path he took from instructor to the University's "second in command" was anything but winding – he held nearly every "in between" position along the way.

"I'm one of those rare cases who went through all of the phases," he laughed. "I had something to do with everything."

After two years of working as an instructor, Thomas was promoted to head of the science department when the position was vacated by Dr. Homer H. Floyd. The department title is no misnomer, as it was the singular home for all disciplines.

For 10 years, Thomas stayed on as head of the science department, and it was during that time that Florence State College became Florence State University in 1967. When the departments were broken down into smaller divisions in 1973, Thomas was named chairman of the division of natural sciences and mathematics for the 1973-74 school year. All the while, he continued teaching classes, but the classes he taught depended upon his title.

"I taught some general chemistry courses and organic chemistry courses, but not all at the same time," he said. "I also taught the chemistry for the nursing students later on, then physical science classes when I was chairman of the (natural sciences) department."

As the spring semester ended in 1974, Thomas said UNA President Robert Guillot decided it was time to separate the divisions further, so that the disciplines such as chemistry, biology and physical science would form individual departments. This meant some of the faculty Thomas had appointed as chairs would remain with their disciplines, but simply be given a new title. Thomas, however, had a division that was separated.

"We had people I had appointed and (Dr. Guillot) had approved as department heads," Thomas said. "He said, 'You pick (a department) you want to be head of,' and I didn't think that was fair. I said if that was the way it was going to be, I'd always liked the classroom and I could go back to teaching, so I taught."



The first year Thomas went back to being in the classroom full-time (1974), Florence State University became the University of North Alabama, which meant the university was divided into colleges. At the time, Thomas couldn't have known how serendipitous that would prove to be. However, just five years later he was tapped to be the associate dean of the UNA College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1981, Thomas became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, when Dr. Frank McArthur, the previous dean, took a job at Delta State University. In 1987, Thomas was named dean of faculty and instruction. The second title was changed to "vice president of academic affairs." The title "provost" was added when University President Robert Potts took office in 1990, though Thomas said he'd held all of the same duties beginning in 1987.

Elisabeth Thomas said the best way to describe her husband's career would be to say he was "married to UNA." In many ways, though, she said the university faculty became the Thomases' family.

"We were always having picnics with watermelon cuttings and gathering at different people's houses," she said. "There were a lot of people who didn't have family nearby, so they knew that at Thanksgiving and Christmas, our house was always open."

The fact that families were far away may have had something to do with the fact that Thomas was so good at his job.



As a case in point, Elisabeth Thomas pointed out that her husband was not only skilled at recruiting professors from highly regarded Northern universities, but he was also good at getting them to stay at UNA once they'd arrived. Thomas said he hopes his track record in recruiting is something that was remembered when he received promotions in administrative positions.

"I like to think the work I did in the classroom, and particularly what I did in terms of hiring some of the outstanding faculty members got attention," he said. "They laughed and they said, 'You'll get them here, but they won't stay.'"

Thomas received attention for all the right reasons, and his name will forever be remembered in the Science and Technology Building. But for the Thomases, the best part is not a name plaque on a door. It's simply the fact that the Science and Technology Building is being constructed. Having spent 52 years in Florence, Elisabeth Thomas welcomes changes.

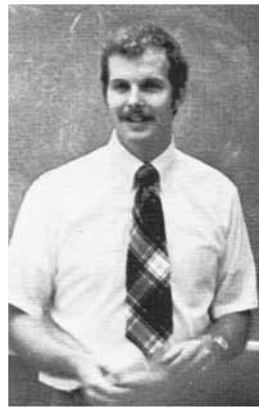
"It's really been delightful to see Florence change and to see UNA change, both the facilities and faculty," she said.

Thomas, never one to take a winding path, gets to the point: "It's expanding, and that's great."

Naming opportunities are still available for the Science and Technology Building. For more information, contact development officer Barbie Terry at 256-765-5082 or 256-483-5495, or e-mail bterry5@una.edu.



## UNA's RICH TRADITION IN SCIENCE



Dr. Michael Moeller



Donna Howard and Dr. Jack Moore

**Dr. Jack Moore**, who was part of the Southern Research Institute Team that developed drugs for treating cancer, joined UNA as an associate professor of biology in 1972, teaching mostly general biology classes, but later, microbiology and bacteriology. In 1979, he was named chair of the biology department, and in 1987, he became dean of the UNA College of Arts and Sciences. He held that position until he retired in 1998.

Moore said there are many aspects of his career that he's extremely proud of, and the work he did with the Southern Research Institute, his first job after receiving his master's degree, is certainly one of them.

"In the very beginning, we developed procedures for treating cancer in animals first," he said. "Gradually, we moved up to human treatments. We had quite a bit of success in treating leukemia in children, in particular. Some of the protocols that

we used and developed there are still being used in Memphis."

Of course, the work he did as UNA's dean of arts and sciences is also at the top of his list of accomplishments. As dean, Moore was in charge of 16 academic departments and more than 170 faculty members.

"I was proud to be able to do that," he said. "I worked with Dr. (Joseph) Thomas and some other very good people. I just enjoyed every aspect of it, because I started out in the classroom and then I was an administrator. Then I was an administrator in the dean's office. Every seven or eight years, I was able to advance in expertise and in responsibilities."

Since retiring, Moore has moved to Auburn, where he received his doctorate degree.

"I've been very lucky and very blessed during my time," Moore said.

**Dr. Michael Moeller** has been teaching chemistry at the university since 1975.

He was chairman of the UNA Department of Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene from 1996-2003 and from 2004-2009, when he decided to step down. From 2003-2004, Moeller served as the interim dean of the UNA College of Arts and Sciences.

One of the biggest changes Moeller has observed in his 38 years at UNA is an increased amount of research activity in the sciences.

"Having a genuine research experience at the undergraduate level is valuable for learning a problem-solving skill-set not encountered in the classroom, nor in the standard academic laboratories," Moeller said. "Because of the degree of personal attention students receive, UNA is a particularly good place for learning how to conduct research."

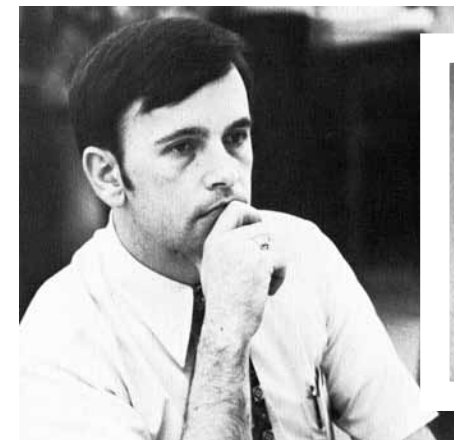
Not one to shy away from practicing what he preaches, Moeller has directed a research project for 33 students. He said a few of the students were interested in conducting the project because they thought they wanted to attend a professional school after graduating from UNA, but later changed their minds and went to graduate school. With research projects, he has also seen the opposite happen. He said in either case, he believes the research experience was important and will guide the students' career paths.

One of the aspects of his career Moeller said he's most proud of is the fact that he was chair of the UNA Department of Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene when it became accredited.

"I've done quite a lot and had a lot of great experiences," he said. "I've seen a program start from nothing and be developed into a really superb program and a big part of the university."



Seated:  
Dr. Raymond Isbell,  
Dr. Michael Moeller,  
Standing:  
Dr. Charles "Bud" Richmond,  
Dr. William Richie '54,  
Dr. Joseph Thomas,  
Dr. Robert Gaunder and  
Dr. Tom Murray



Dr. Charles "Bud" Richmond

**Dr. Charles "Bud" Richmond** came to the university as an associate chemistry professor in 1969. After three years, he was made full professor. Richmond retired in 2000, going on to participate in the Isbell Scholars Program.

But because of a fishing trip, he nearly missed being hired at all.

"I'd come down from Nashville to see if I could get a job, and I'd talked with Dr. (Joseph) Thomas and he said they didn't have anything available," Richmond said. "That spring, I came to Florence to go

fishing. In the meantime, Dr. Thomas was calling Nashville saying they had a position open."

Richmond said it always gives him a sense of pride to drive around town and see hosts of dentists, doctors and nurses who are his former students.

"I'm proud that they came to UNA and were successful and went on to medical school," he said.

"Students that we produced went on to medical school or dental school. We as a chemistry department are proud of that."

Even in retirement, the people he worked with during his tenure with UNA's chemistry department are some of his dearest friends.

"I think the chemistry department as a whole, those 30 or 35 years, really did a good job in educating the students that we had," he said. "We were a really close-knit group, and we still are. Many of us

are retired, but we still feel that closeness. It's something that a lot of schools maybe don't have, but it was always helpful to us, and it made us want to push each other along as much as possible."

Like others who have spent time in Floyd Science Building, Richmond is looking forward to the completion of the new Science and Technology Building. He said he wasn't sure it would happen until he saw construction getting started.

"I'm really glad they're getting the new building and will have a good place to work," he said. "I know they'll be grateful for it."





Dr. Raymond Isbell '53



Dr. Jack Kent '58



Dr. Paul Yokley



Kathy Kent Kelly '81, Dr. Gayle Kent '60, Kriston Kent '80 and Dr. Jack Kent '58



Mike Isbell '79, Dr. Raymond Isbell '53 and Joni Isbell Presley

**Dr. Raymond Isbell '53**, who started the Isbell Scholars Program when he retired in 1997, began teaching chemistry at UNA in 1965 after receiving the assurance that the chemistry department would immediately begin pursuing certification from the American Chemical Society.

"We had talked about this maybe three or four years earlier, and then in 1965 Dr. (Joseph) Thomas came and spoke to me and said they had a change of mind, or maybe heart, and that was something that was very appealing to me," Isbell said. "I would not have come on board if they had not been planning to seek certification."

Isbell was coordinator for the department's certification, which it received in 1973 — the same year Isbell became head of the chemistry department. He counts the certification as the greatest achievement of his career, making sure to point out he didn't do it on his own.

"I thought it was important enough that I was willing to devote a lifetime to

getting it — luckily it didn't take that," he said.

Isbell also said the university adding industrial hygiene as a major in the early 1980s was an aspect of his tenure that he considers a great success.

"Sometime along the end of the '70s and beginning of the '80s, chemistry was not nearly as popular as it was during the Sputnik Era," he said. "We were having trouble having enough students to justify a good, strong chemistry major."

Since industrial hygiene requires students to take all of the same courses that are required for a major in chemistry, adding the industrial hygiene major essentially saved the chemistry department.

"It relieved the chemistry department from being cut out or severely curtailed," Isbell said. "I didn't do all of this myself, but I feel had we not done this, chemistry would be in a really sad shape right now. It would have been a very hard thing to maintain the faculty."

**Dr. Jack Kent '58** joined UNA in 1963 as a biology professor and continued teaching until he retired in 1983.

Kent said the students he taught made every day of his job worthwhile, whether he was teaching general biology and microbiology or standing in for someone to teach zoology.

He said he can recall two or three students who have gone on to become doctors, and one student in particular stands out in his mind. The student had played football but was quitting the team and was going to leave school. Kent said he talked to the student and asked him to reconsider. The student stayed, and has since gone on to medical school and is now a successful plastic surgeon.

"Every day of teaching that I ever did, I enjoyed the students," he said. "I thought I'd miss it, but I'm so involved in so many other things."

Kent and his wife, **Dr. Gayle Kent '60**, who also taught at UNA for 22 years in the math department, have been traveling for the last 30 years since retiring to Florida. They have been to all 50 states, to every continent, to all provinces of Canada, and they visit Europe every summer. Kent said in every place he visits, he finds himself talking to college-age students about what they're majoring in and giving them advice about their future careers.

Even with the joys of travelling, Kent said the greatest joy and accomplishment in his life is the fact that his daughter, **Kathy Kent Kelly '81**, and son, **Kriston Kent '80**, both went to UNA and received their educations and now have successful careers. Kriston is a plastic surgeon in Naples, Florida, and Kelly is a software engineer in Tampa.

"That's the highlight of our lives," Kent said.



Dr. Paul Yokley

**Dr. Paul Yokley** taught biology at UNA from 1950 to 1993, when he retired as head of the biology department, a position he had held since 1987. However, retiring didn't mean he has stopped working.

In 1953, Yokley founded UNA's chapter of Beta Beta Beta, an honor society for undergraduate biology students. In 1976, he was named national vice president of Tri Beta, a position he still holds today.

Yokley has remained active in environmental research since 1958. For example, he said, when a bridge needs to be replaced across a stream that endangered species might inhabit, he is called upon to search the water for various species to ensure that no endangered or threatened species are harmed. Though he specializes in mussels — and it was by balancing teaching full time with his weekend research on endangered mussel species and the host fish on which they develop that he earned his Ph.D. in 1968 — his research isn't limited. For everything he researches, the method varies.

"If it's mussels (I'm researching), I look for the evidence of mussel in the stream by wading, or in the past, if the stream was too deep, I would look for them by diving," he said. "For fish, I use fish nets to look for endangered species, and I look for habitats that I know they occupy. For bats, I look for nesting sites. For birds, I look with binoculars for their nests or other places where they might be."

With insects, amphibians and reptiles, Yokley said he employs various methods of capture.

"There are different ways of determining whether they happen to be present at the sites where they might be altered or not," he said.



Kathryn Rice and William G. Cale Jr.



Dr. John Rice

## THE RICES: HELPING THEIR HOMETOWN

Kathryn Rice said her husband — the late Dr. John Rice, a family practice physician in Florence — realized the value of education, and he even had a bit of a teaching background. While he was in school at Birmingham Southern College, he instructed biology. Dr. Rice was also extremely vested in the construction of UNA's Science and Technology Building. He believed the U.S. was in danger of falling further behind other countries in science education, and one way to combat that deficiency is to provide students with adequate learning facilities.

Growing up as the son of a minister who moved around often, Mrs. Rice said her husband also wanted to contribute to a place that felt the most like home. For him, that was the Shoals.

It was for these reasons that, before his death in 2011, Dr. Rice decided to leave a contribution to the Science and Technology Building's construction fund, which Mrs. Rice has donated in his name. When the building is completed, thanks in part to his generous donation, the

lobby of the new facility — now under construction on the west side of Pine Street, between Kilby School and Flowers Hall — will be named in Dr. Rice's honor.

Kathryn Rice said she, too, cares deeply for the development of UNA, as well as for education. Though she received her degree at a different college, Kathryn Rice has taken art classes at UNA, and she feels it's important to help smaller, regional universities advance. She added that Dr. Rice might have left funds for Tulane University School of Medicine, since he received his education there, but it didn't make sense to him to do so because its school is endowed. Since the couple both grew up in the Shoals, she said they decided they were more interested in seeing both UNA and the area continue to grow.

"We saw the area when it didn't have anything," she said. "We're both Depression-era children, and we realized that something like that might happen again."





Dr. Greg Gaston and students

## GASTON BUILDING GLOBAL BRIDGES BETWEEN UNA, TANZANIA WITH PRESTIGIOUS FULBRIGHT HONOR

By Terry Pace '85 and '04, *Communications and Marketing*

Dr. Greg Gaston believes in building broader minds and developing deeper, richer experiences.

The UNA geography professor leaves this fall for East Africa, where he will spend the 2013-14 school year representing UNA, the United States and the Fulbright Scholars program as a visiting professor at the University of Dar es salaam (UDSM) in Tanzania. Gaston received a 2013 Fulbright fellowship – one of the most prestigious and competitive academic honors in the world – that allows him to share his geography expertise with students and fellow professors in Tanzania.

"I think it came about, in part, because I asked," says Gaston, who joined the UNA Department of Geography in 1992. "Like a lot of things in life, if you don't ask and go and try, then you don't make it. This career as a professor is a great career, and I love it – but I wanted to do something more."

Gaston and fellow professor Dr. Francis Koti, who chairs the UNA geography department, made previous trips to Tanzania in 2011 and 2012. The philosophy of the Fulbright program – established by Arkansas

Sen. William Fulbright in 1946, the year after the end of World War II – encourages positive, peaceful means of bringing international cultures together. Gaston believes the Fulbright committee considered his previous experience with both the country and the school.

"I know the folks there, I've given a guest lecture and my students have met their students," Gaston noted. "So I had the background, plus I have a plan to continue this bridge-building between UDSM and UNA. I'd like our students to go and offer a GIS workshop for students there, and I would like – in a succeeding semester – to put international geography teams together made up of our students and their students. So I'm not coming in like a blank slate. I'm going there as part of a relationship."

Gaston says the geography program at UDSM, once affiliated with the University of London, is still lecture-based and solely theoretical. When he and Koti first arrived in Tanzania, they were shocked to discover that the school's geography lab was simply a room full of tables, with no computers, no Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software

and no Global Positioning System (GPS) devices.

"One of the things that UNA does very well – in geography especially – is that we do problem-based learning," Gaston explained. "We teach by making people do. I don't feel that you learn it until you've done it. UDSM is still suffering under the British system, which is mostly a professor sitting in a chair reading notes. So, if you put problem-based learning in front of them, they're going to eat it up. Then, if you put our kids with their kids, it's going to be a cross-cultural experience. Put them in a room and they'll start talking to each other. Then put them together as a team, working on a project. If you build it that way – and we can – it will be extraordinary."

During his two semesters teaching in Tanzania as a Fulbright Scholar, Gaston hopes to establish the groundwork for that collaborative program. The plan calls for a team of UNA geography students to travel back to UDSM in 2014 or 2015 to conduct workshops for the Tanzanian students. The UNA team would also deliver laptops, GIS software and GPS devices that would remain in the GIS lab at UDSM. Students would then continue working together online, and through field visits back-and-forth between the two countries.

"What I hope to do is to start to inculcate in that department the idea that GIS is hands-on – that we *do* GIS," Gaston stressed. "When we go back with our team of UNA students, we'll have them actually teaching – because when you teach it, you know it so much better. They're doing GIS in Tanzania, with Tanzanian problems,



Dr. Greg Gaston in the field

with Tanzanian data, with Tanzanian students. They're working on a global level. So that's the plan. That's the mission. That's the vision. I don't think you can touch that in terms of experience. And if it works at UDSM, you could take it to Zambia. You could take it to Cuba. You could take it any place – any university on the planet."

Gaston and Koti share the philosophy that hands-on teaching in the field – moving beyond traditional textbook exercises – remains the most effective and, as Gaston calls it, "life-changing" approach to geography education. In order to launch the exchange program with UDSM, they hope to raise \$60,000 to purchase laptops and GPS devices and pay expenses for UNA students to travel to Tanzania. Donations can be made by calling Barbie Terry, development officer in UNA's Office of University Advancement, at 256-765-5082, or e-mailing her at bterry5@una.edu.

"We can teach about spatial variation, we can teach about cultural and

human factors, and students sit and listen, read and can reproduce that material," Koti explained. "But really, unless they immerse themselves in the physical and cultural environment, they don't quite get it. We look at ourselves as an applied discipline. So, by taking our students out, it gives them an opportunity to see what they learn in the classroom. So that is a huge focus for us."

As a Fulbright Scholar, Gaston follows a distinguished and honorable tradition of merit-based grants awarded to scholars, scientists and artists,

including 43 Nobel Prize winners and 78 Pulitzer Prize winners.

"I do hope to be an agent of change," Gaston concluded, "to cause them to look at the world differently after this crazy 'mzungu' goes away. That's the word I'm sure they'll use – 'mzungu kichaa,' a Swahili term that means 'crazy white guy.' I suspect some of them are going to say, 'Oh, my goodness – he's nuts!' But some of them are going to buy into what I have to say, and they're going to say, 'We should do it this way.' That's what I hope."



Dr. Greg Gaston



Dr. Francis Koti and Dr. Greg Gaston



Dr. Francis Koti and students



## SARAH L. FRANKLIN

Assistant Professor of History, B.A., 1999, History, Auburn University, M.A., 2003, Ph.D., 2006, History, Florida State University.



### RECIPIENT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH

*"Reading furnishes the mind only with materials of knowledge, it is thinking that makes what we read ours." —John Locke*

In 2010, Sarah Franklin returned to her native Alabama after a decade away. Growing up in Selma, Franklin early on discovered that the books in her local public library could take her far beyond the confines of a small Southern town. As an assistant professor of history, she shares her love of books and the knowledge within them with the students she is lucky enough to teach.

Franklin's study of history began at Auburn University, which awarded her a B.A. in History in 1999, and then continued at Florida State University where she earned an M.A. and completed her Ph.D. in 2006. Long a student of race and gender, it was in graduate school that she focused on the issues unique to women in slave societies. Her dissertation examined the multiple ways in which life for women changed following the explosion of slavery in Cuba in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Following revisions, the University of Rochester Press published her book, *Women and Slavery in Nineteenth-Century Colonial Cuba*, in 2012. Based on research conducted in Cuba, Spain and the United States, that book argued that as Cuba's population of slaves grew dramatically, and Cubans had to ensure the maintenance of their society through tighter control of slaves, so too did they place women under tighter control. She specifically investigated marriage, motherhood, religion, education and charity in order to prove her thesis. In sum, the male elites of Cuba worked diligently and methodically to exercise greater dominance over all not of their group, not just slaves, and that dominance extended to women as well.

Franklin has presented her research at a number of different conferences, domestically and abroad, including the American Historical Association, the Latin American Studies Association and the Southern Historical Association. She considers herself

most fortunate to have been the recipient of a great deal of support aimed at furthering her research, including an Arts and Sciences Faculty Research Grant, awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Alabama and an American Fellowship awarded by the American Association of University Women. She currently serves as a UNA Faculty Senator and as Vice-President/President-Elect of the Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association.

Franklin accepted her current position at UNA in 2010 with great pleasure at coming home to Alabama and enjoys teaching students at all levels, from freshmen to graduate students. She routinely teaches courses on U.S. History, Latin American History, Caribbean History, History of Mexico and History of Slavery. When not campus, reading or working in her yard, she can often be found at the YMCA of the Shoals.



## VICKI G. PIERCE

Assistant Professor of Nursing, B.S.N., 1984, University of North Alabama, M.S.N., 1996, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Ed.D., 2011, University of Alabama.

### RECIPIENT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING

*"There are obviously two educations. One should teach us how to make a living, and the other how to live". — James Truslow Adams*  
*"Who dares to teach must never cease to learn." — John Cotton Dana*

Vicki Pierce's teaching philosophy is based on the idea that good teachers never stop learning and they model this behavior for their students. By example, they create a passion for learning and encourage their students to become life-long learners. Vicki has been blessed to have many great teachers in her life.

When she graduated from Hamilton High School, Vicki knew that she wanted to be a nurse like her mother. However, her plans for a career changed slightly during nursing school at the University of North Alabama. The wonderful teachers she encountered at UNA helped her discover she had a love for nursing and teaching; therefore, what she truly wanted was to become a nurse educator. After graduating from UNA in 1984, she began to work as a registered nurse at Marion County Hospital; however, her hope for a future as a nurse educator was never far away. She began to work part-time as an adjunct instructor in a licensed practical nursing program and was eventually employed full time at Bevill State Community College.

She moved with her family to Florence in 1995 and shortly thereafter completed a Master of Science in Nursing degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 1996, her career path changed when she began to work as a certified family nurse practitioner in a pediatric clinic. While working as a nurse practitioner, she often combined her love for nursing and teaching by using every opportunity to teach her patients and their families about their health-care needs.

In 2006, she accepted a position in the College of Nursing and Allied Health at UNA. Soon after, she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Alabama and earned an Ed. D. in Instructional Leadership-Nurse Educator specialization in 2011. She often shares professional and educational experiences with her students at UNA. Personal experiences have taught her that the nursing profession is full of endless possibilities. She

believes a career in nursing is a wise choice for many young men and women. Vicki is grateful for the many teachers and mentors who helped her make career decisions and she attempts to repay them by encouraging her students to plan their future in the nursing profession.

Vicki has been blessed to receive two educations. Her teachers taught her how to make a living and her Christian parents taught her how to live. She has been married over thirty years to her husband Dan, who is also an alumnus of UNA. They have two children, Elizabeth Pierce Boone, a registered nurse and UNA graduate, and Nicholas Pierce, a graduate of the University of Alabama with a Master of Arts in Applied Economics.



## CELIA R. REYNOLDS

*Professor, Librarian, Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Accreditation, Accreditation Liaison. B.A., 1976, Hendrix College; M.L.S., 1979, Louisiana State University; Ed.S., 1988, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.*



### RECIPIENT: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

*"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." — Albert Schweitzer*

When Celia Reynolds began her studies at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, she had little idea what direction her life would take. Early on, her background of working with children (babysitter, children's choir pianist, camp counselor, Girl Scouts) drew her into teacher education. But a longtime fascination with libraries exerted a stronger lure, one that eventually guided her into the study of library and information science. Following initial post-baccalaureate studies at the University of Arkansas, Celia pursued graduate library degrees, first at LSU and later at the University of Alabama. What a continuing joy she has found in work where she can learn something new every day!

As she grew up the third of four children in rural southeastern Arkansas, Celia's parents instilled a lifelong love of learning. Holding high expectations for their children, Guy and Faye Robinson fostered appreciation for the value of each individual and modeled a pattern of quiet service and encouragement. Celia's childhood memories include riding along as her physician father made house calls out in the country after completing appointments at his clinic and finishing hospital rounds. Her mother was her anchor, always providing a listening ear and wise counsel. Both parents set a strong example of service, filling leadership roles in church, Scouts, school board, and civic organizations, and by encouraging each of their children in their individual pursuits.

After receiving her Master of Library Science degree in 1979, Celia began her library career at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, where she guided reference services and library instruction for eight years. In 1988, while completing the Educational Specialist degree, she accepted a position as assistant professor, librarian, at the University of North Alabama. The ensuing years

have provided numerous twists and turns in Celia's career, including promotions to associate and later full professor and coordination of the library's reference and interlibrary loan services. Her position at UNA has yielded many opportunities for service—countless committees (search committees, promotion and tenure committees, institutional effectiveness, distance learning, presidential inauguration, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, to name a few), Faculty Senate, Phi Kappa Phi, and more, but a distinct thread throughout her tenure has been support for the university's accreditation efforts.

Soon after her arrival, Celia began service on the Steering Committee for UNA's 1990-92 Self-Study in preparation for accreditation renewal by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Ten years later, Celia served in a similar capacity for the 2000-02 decennial study and co-directed the follow-up report. Building upon those experiences Celia assumed the role of SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison in 2008 and directed the university's multi-year preparation for reevaluation in 2012. It was indeed a proud moment when UNA was successfully re-affirmed with no recommendations and no follow-up reports required. It took a great team effort and much hard work to bring about that happy achievement.

Celia insists that none of this would have been possible without the support of her loving husband of 28 years, Samuel Reynolds, the assistance of dedicated administrators and colleagues (especially the "Dream Team") and the support of her wonderful family and friends. "Many people—too numerous to name—have encouraged me along my way," Celia says. "If I can help others achieve or build toward their own dreams, it is indeed an honor."



## MICHAEL PRETES

*Professor of Geography, B.A., University of California, Berkeley, 1984; M.A. Northwestern University, 1986; Ph.D., Australian National University, 2006.*

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

*"If you want to build a ship, don't gather people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea." — Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*

Growing up in cosmopolitan San Francisco, the descendant of recent Spanish and Slovak immigrants, Michael Pretes was exposed to global culture at an early age. Yet when he enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley, he chose political science as his major, not knowing that it was possible to major in geography. He then attended Northwestern University, completing an M.A., also in political science, as well as a graduate certificate in African Studies (which required the study of an African language—he chose Amharic, the principal language of Ethiopia).

Pretes's career as a geographer was still some way off. With M.A. in hand, he moved to Calgary, Alberta, in Canada, and taught political science at the University of Calgary, and also became a research associate of the Arctic Institute of North America. While in Canada he developed his interest in Polar Regions, focusing on economic development, natural resources and indigenous peoples' issues.

After three years in Canada, he moved to the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge in England for six months before taking up a position as researcher at the Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland, located right on the Arctic Circle (he likes to point out that his job title, *Erikoistutkija*, can be translated both as "senior researcher" as well as "special investigator"). During the five years he spent in Finland he witnessed at close hand the collapse of the Soviet Union, and was one of the first foreign scholars permitted to travel in the Soviet Union's northern regions. During his time in Finland Pretes worked with many geographers and finally figured out that he was really one of them. From that point on it was geography all the way.

Returning to the United States, he sought sunshine and warmer weather working at Stanford University and the University of New Mexico before deciding to pursue a Ph.D. in geography. He chose the Australian National University, located in Canberra, Australia, where he spent four years, carrying out dissertation field work in Australia and six Pacific Island countries. After one-year teaching stints at the University of Hawaii—Hilo and the University of Central Missouri, he arrived at UNA in 2006. At UNA he teaches a variety of courses, among them world regional geography, economic geography, business geography and history and philosophy of geography. In addition, he has developed a number of new courses, including geopolitics, war in Afghanistan, and mountain and desert environments. He has taught field courses in the American West as well as in China and Peru. His field research in such exotic locales as Tuvalu, Nauru, Bolivia, Uganda, Iceland, Indonesia and Alaska informs his teaching (and allows for some impressive slide shows.).

Pretes loves the teaching environment at UNA and the opportunities it provides to help students learn more about the world around them. He especially enjoys taking students into the field, and is currently in the process of developing a Study Abroad program to Australia and the Pacific.





Jason Stephenson, Luke Hanlon Stephenson, Jennifer Stephenson, Davis Anne Stephenson, Rosalie Stephenson and Mike Keehn

## STEPHENSON FAMILY DONATION REVITALIZES BASEBALL FACILITY

By Jeff Hodges '82,  
*Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Communication*

In recognition of the late Dr. Robert E. "Bob" Stephenson's love and support of the UNA baseball program, the Stephenson family made a significant donation to the university that provided funds to renovate and upgrade the press box and reserved seating area at Mike D. Lane Field.

Dr. Stephenson, who passed away in March 2012, spent his life in education as a teacher, coach and principal. He served 20 years of his teaching career as a professor in the education department at UNA. In addition to his professional duties with the university, he was a great supporter of the athletic programs, serving two different terms as the Faculty Athletic Representative.

"We are humbled by the generous gift from the Stephenson family," said UNA Head Baseball Coach Mike Keehn. "Bob was not just a great fan, but a true friend who supported the baseball team and coaching staff. "This gift is greatly appreciated by the UNA baseball program."

The Stephensons' gift helped revitalize a portion of the

baseball facility that had seen little change since it was built in 1984.

The interior press box was renovated with new flooring and counter tops and new heating and air-conditioning units. There is new lighting along with expansion of both existing radio booths, and closets will be removed to open up additional space in the press box area. The interior walls and ceiling were also be repaired and painted.

On the outside of the press box there are new sliding windows and new siding along the front and sides. A new umpire's dressing room was also created below the press box.



Rosalie Stephenson; son, Jason Stephenson and daughter-in-law, Jennifer Stephenson; grandchildren, Davis Anne Stephenson and Luke Hanlon Stephenson



## TIBER NAMED HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT NORTH ALABAMA

With 18 years of collegiate coaching experience, including 12 seasons as a collegiate head coach, Melissa "Missy" Tiber has been tabbed as the new head women's basketball coach at UNA.

Tiber comes to UNA after serving as the head women's basketball coach at NCAA Division I Southern Illinois University from 2009-13. She also has 14 years of experience at the NCAA Division II level at West Liberty State College, Belmont Abbey College and Tusculum College.

"We are excited to have Missy join our UNA athletics department," said UNA Athletic Director Mark Linder. "She is a person of high character and has great passion for the game of basketball. She will be a great fit for UNA and the Shoals community. I know our student-athletes are excited to start working with her and preparing for the 2013-14 season."

Tiber becomes the eighth head women's basketball coach in the history of the UNA program. She follows Terry Fowler, who posted a 115-97 record over seven seasons at the school with two NCAA Tournament appearances.

"I couldn't be more excited to be a member of the UNA athletic program and to represent the Lions as the head women's basketball coach," Tiber said. "This is an unbelievable opportunity to come in and take over a program that has already had a lot of success. I am looking forward to continuing that tradition and taking the next step."

From 2005-2009, Tiber was the head women's basketball coach at Tusculum, where she took a program at the bottom of the South Atlantic Conference and compiled a record of 86-34 and a conference mark of 40-20. Over her last two seasons there, Tusculum was 52-11 overall and 26-4 in conference play,

winning back-to-back conference championships and twice playing in the NCAA Tournament. The NCAA Tournament appearance (2008) was the first in school history. The team's first NCAA Tournament victory in 2009 was also a landmark for the Pioneer women's basketball program.

Prior to her time at Tusculum, Tiber spent four seasons as the head coach at NCAA DII Belmont Abbey College. During that time, her teams compiled an overall record of 81-36 and a conference mark of 61-19. Under her leadership, the 2001-2002 team posted a 22-8 record, won the Carolinas Virginia Athletic Conference Regular Season Championship and the Carolinas Virginia Tournament Championship and advanced to participate in the NCAA Division II Tournament.

Tiber began her coaching career as an assistant women's basketball coach at her alma mater, West Liberty (W.V.) State College. During her six years as an assistant, West Liberty was one of the most successful Division II basketball programs in the East Region. The Hilltoppers won four West Virginia Conference Tournament Championships, three West Virginia regular season championships and participated in four NCAA Division II Tournaments. West Liberty averaged over 20 wins per season during her time there.

During her coaching career, Tiber has coached numerous players who have received conference, regional and national awards, and every player that has exhausted their eligibility playing for her has gone on to earn their degree.

Tiber is a 1994 graduate of West Liberty State with a bachelor of science degree. She also has a master's degree in sport leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Melissa "Missy" Tiber

## COZART NAMED HEAD SOFTBALL COACH AT NORTH ALABAMA

After winning more than 81 percent of her games as head coach at the NAIA level, Ashley McCool Cozart has been named head softball coach at UNA. Cozart comes to UNA from Lindsey Wilson College, where she guided the Blue Raiders to the NAIA national tournament four straight seasons. In four years, she compiled a 191-45 record, including a 50-10 mark during the 2013 campaign.

"We are very excited to have Ashley join the UNA athletics staff," said UNA Athletics Director Mark Linder. "During her interview, she had an instant connection with our staff and brings recruiting experience in the State of Alabama. We are looking forward to her leading our softball program."

Under Cozart, Lindsey Wilson won four straight Mid-South

Conference regular season and tournament titles. She was also a three-time MSC Coach of the Year from 2010-12.

After being hired at LWC in 2009, Cozart had an immediate impact on the program as the Blue Raiders increased their win total from 26 the previous season to 47 during the 2010 campaign.

Lindsey Wilson advanced to pool play in the NAIA national tournament three straight seasons before reaching bracket play last year, ending the season with a 5-1 loss to No. 1 Auburn-Montgomery. LWC set a school record for wins in a season and produced seven all-conference selections, including the MSC Pitcher of the Year.

During Cozart's tenure, the Blue Raiders were consistently ranked in the NAIA Top 25 poll, including their highest ranking of No. 12 in the final regular-



Ashley McCool Cozart

season poll of the 2013 season. Overall, LWC has been ranked in the Top 25 for 15 consecutive weeks dating back to the middle of the 2012 season. The team also produced an 86-18 record in conference games.

Individual player honors at the conference and national levels were also abundant at Lindsey Wilson during Cozart's time at the helm of the program. Over the last four years, the Blue Raiders produced one MSC Player of the Year, four Pitchers of the Year and 17 first team all-conference selections. LWC also had six NAIA All-Americans.

"I am very honored to be named the head softball coach at UNA," said Cozart. "I am very thankful for everything Lindsey Wilson has done for me. They gave me the support to be successful, and they will always hold a special place in my heart. I am excited about the future of UNA softball and hope to continue my success there. I want to thank Mark Linder for the opportunity and all the wonderful hospitality I have already experienced."

Prior to arriving at Lindsey Wilson, Cozart served one season as the assistant coach at Lee University. The Flames produced a 39-14 record and a share of the Southern States Athletic Conference regular-season championship in 2009. Prior to Lee, Cozart spent two seasons as the head coach at Antioch High School.

As a student-athlete, Cozart helped Trevecca Nazarene University to a pair of top-five finishes at the NAIA Softball World Series. She was selected as the TranSouth Conference Freshman of the Year in 2004 and went on to be a four-time all-conference and all-region selection. She broke the school career record for hits and doubles and is ranked in the program's top five in runs batted in, home runs, batting average and runs scored.

She graduated from Trevecca in 2007 and is married to Shaun Cozart. The two have a son, Cooper.



## UNA TO BREAK GROUND ON NEW STRENGTH FACILITY

UNA will soon be breaking ground on a new strength facility that will serve all 14 Lion athletic teams and will more than double the existing space for strength and conditioning.

"This was a critical need for our department," said UNA Athletic Director Mark Linder. "The construction of a strength facility will significantly expand our current footprint. It will also allow our teams to be able to work out together and not have to split up into small groups. We believe this will enhance our team chemistry and develop closer-knit squads."

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

"We truly thank our state legislators for assisting us in this project," Linder said. "It will have a tremendous, positive impact on our ability to graduate champions."

Groundbreaking will take place prior to the start of the 2013 fall semester, and the project should be completed prior to the start of the 2014 spring semester.







## 2013 - 14 LION ALLIANCE CORPORATE PARTNERS

### CAR SALES/SERVICE

Bentley Automotive  
Jerry Damson Honda  
Jim Bishop Toyota  
Ray Miller Buick-GMC  
T & G Auto Sales

### FINANCIAL

CB&S Bank  
First Metro Bank  
Listerhill Credit Union  
Progress Bank & Trust  
Raymond James  
SunTrust  
TVA Community Credit Union

### GROCERIES

Big Star  
Coca-Cola

### LODGING

Comfort Suites  
Hampton Inn & Suites Downtown  
Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa  
Residence Inn by Marriott

### MEDIA

Comcast  
Courier Journal  
TimesDaily  
WHDF Ch15 "The Valley's CW"  
Yellowbook

### MEDICAL/INSURANCE

Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Dr. Martin Barnes, DMD  
ECM  
Express Med  
Garrett Chiropractic  
Helen Keller Hospital  
Hospice of North Alabama  
Leighton Pharmacy and Logan Pharmacy  
Massey Drugs  
Milner Rushing  
North Alabama Bone & Joint  
Tomsik Eyecare

### RECREATIONAL

Anytime Fitness  
Courthouse Racquet Club  
Geronimo Gymnastics  
Robert Trent Jones  
TNT

### RESTAURANT

Bojangle's  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
Burger King  
Dish Café, LLC  
Domino's Pizza  
FrostBite/Montagu's  
Honey Baked Ham

Jack's  
Legends Steakhouse  
Lenny's Sub Shop  
Olive Garden  
Ricatoni's  
Rosie's Cantina  
Sam's Sports Grill  
Sbarro  
Sodexo  
Taco Bell  
Texas Roadhouse

### SERVICE

Allstate - Teresa Rogers & Jesse Wisdom  
Anchor Tours  
B Electric  
Big Bee Steel  
Cintas  
CrossPoint Church of Christ  
Dixie Signs  
E.A. Nelson Company  
Florence Recycling  
Florence Utilities  
Follett Bookstore  
Framing by Bonnie  
Fuller Heating & Air  
Grades First  
Harrison Insulation  
Highland Baptist of Florence  
Hunter Benefits Group, Inc.  
IBEW Local 558  
ICS  
Martin's  
Mayhall's Benchmaster Jewelers  
Murk's Pest Control  
North Alabama Gas District  
North American Lighting  
Oakley / Napa Auto Parts  
Oakley Equipment & Mahindra  
Off-Campus Bookstore  
Pawn Max  
Printers & Stationers, Inc. (PSI)  
Pumpkin Rhodes Auctions  
Renaissance Imaging  
Robert Smith Attorney  
Russell Sporting Goods  
SBS Electric  
Shoals Democratic Club  
Shoals MPE  
Shoals Web  
Simpson's Collision Repair  
State Farm  
The Home Depot  
TMC "Total Maintenance Center"  
TVA  
United Rental  
Verizon  
Wesson's Signs  
Williams Cleaners  
Wise Alloys



## University of NORTH ALABAMA BUILDING THE PRIDE

### AN EVERLASTING IMPRESSION

It is such an exciting time here at the University of North Alabama.

We are quickly moving into a new chapter in the history of UNA, and it is an honor to be a part of something so much bigger than ourselves.

For more than 180 years, UNA has played an essential role in preparing our students for lives of personal and professional achievement. With the potential to build on our distinguished past, the years ahead of us offer opportunities greater than we have ever seen at UNA.

The realization of this statement inspires me to ask you to be a part of this monumental era. I hope that you will consider being our partner in helping us to preserve our cherished traditions while advancing in the world of technology.

With several levels of naming opportunities available, you can leave your legacy, honor a loved one, or even recognize a professor that saw your potential when you were a student.

By supporting our new state-of-the-art Science and Technology Building, you can leave an everlasting impression on the UNA campus.



BARBIE TERRY

*College Development Officer, University Advancement*

P: 256-765-5082 | C: 256-483-5495 | bterry5@una.edu | www.una.edu



#### UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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

#### UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bucky Beaver '64  
 Andy Betterton '75  
 Derrick Chatman '08  
 Kay Davis '73  
 Debra Dombrowski '02  
 Pam ('65) and Jeff Edwards '64  
 Janie '57 and Ernest Haygood '58  
 Brad Holmes '02  
 Levon Humphrey '93  
 Aaron Irons '99  
 Gregory Law '92  
 Andy Mann '92  
 Jean McIntyre '65  
 Jonathan McKinney '02  
 Joey Mecke '88  
 Christa Raney '97  
 Shannon '04 and Bart Rickard '96  
 Karen Beaver Ritter '86  
 Elaine Softley '88  
 Kin Taylor '94  
 Amanda Terry '00  
 Ron Tyler '96  
 Maria and Brad Warren '00  
 Cheron White '98

#### UNA ALUMNI CLUB LEADERS

##### Alabama

Holly Hollman '96, *Athens*  
 Elaine Witt '76, *Colbert County*  
 Eve Rhea '02, *Greater Birmingham Area*  
 Patrick Johnson '99, *Decatur*  
 Ryan '01 and Lisa '00 Clayton, *Florence*  
 Tom Greenhaw '60, *Gadsden*  
 Charles Winters '86, *Huntsville*  
 Nicky Ray '96, *Marion County*  
 Lindsay Ronilo '06, *Greater Montgomery Area*  
 Stan Mannon '85, *Mountain Lakes*  
 Jim Page '01, *Tuscaloosa*

##### D.C. Area

Will Hodges '10

##### Florida

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

##### Georgia

Carnette Johnson '83, *Atlanta*  
 Toby Davis '80, *South Georgia*

##### Mississippi

Amanda Everett '74, *Jackson*  
 Leigh '03 & John Prince '00, *Tupelo*

##### Tennessee

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

##### Texas

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

##### International

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

##### Departmental

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



## message from the ALUMNI PRESIDENT

It has been my privilege to work on your behalf and to represent our widespread alumni family during my term as President of the UNA Alumni Association. Time passed more quickly than I imagined when I first wrote, "What a beginning to a very exciting year at the University of North Alabama."

There is more excitement yet to come with a new science building under construction, the opening of the new academic center and student commons building, continued recognition of our students and faculty for their

award-winning studies and research – so many things that make me proud of our university. Isn't it great to be a UNA Lion?

Speaking of the Lions, make your plans to return to campus for Homecoming this year, but expect to enjoy an extended celebration which will include welcoming activities within each of our colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Sciences and Nursing and Allied Health. Visit with classmates and professors while you see just how much has changed since you sat in that desk or worked in that lab! Homecoming this year promises to deliver a number of different opportunities to connect and renew friendships and to celebrate being a member of the UNA Alumni Family.

I'd like to thank the executive board and the board-at-large members for their support and continued excitement about promoting UNA locally, nationally and internationally. We could not have accomplished so much this year without the able guidance and tireless work from Carol Lyles '70, Alumni Relations Director, and Rhonda Derrick, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Office of Alumni Relations. I encourage you to visit the alumni office whenever you are on campus or whenever you need to have your Lion spirit recharged!

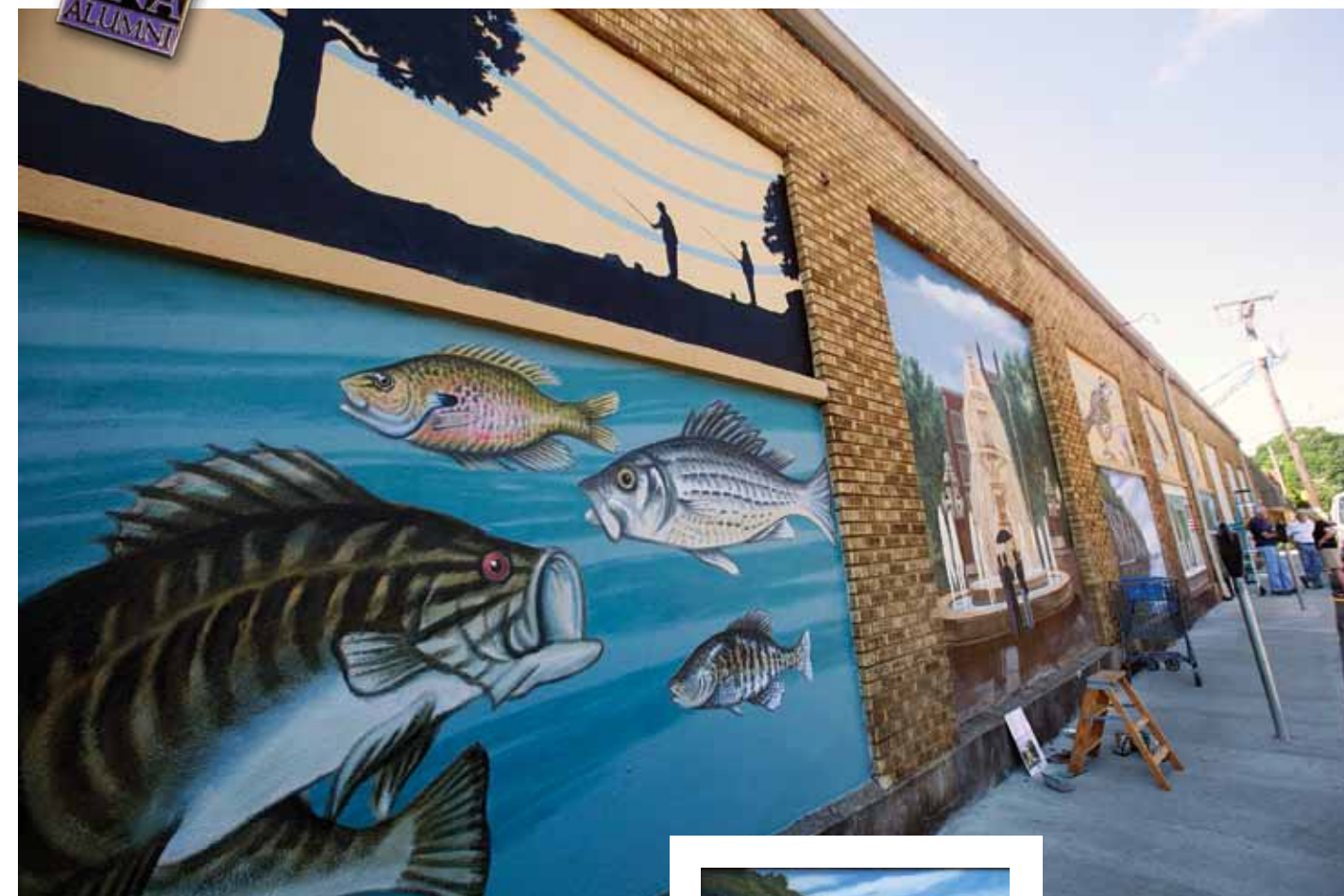
Your UNA Alumni Association president moves through the ranks before taking the leadership position as president, and I made those moves. However, seeing the alumni association from the president's viewpoint helped me understand more completely the importance of giving back to the university in whatever way possible. Giving back to UNA is one way we can ensure that our university will be able to provide scholarships for future generations. In closing my letter and my term as UNA Alumni Association president, let me encourage you to give back to the university so others can have the opportunity to achieve their goals and to become part of our alumni family.

#### ROAR LIONS!

Pat Burney '88, *UNA Alumni Association President*



# ALUMNI PRIDE



## TIM STEVENSON



The Florence Main Street Program has teamed up with professional artist Tim Stevenson '73 to create a stunning, eye-catching mural on the Tuscaloosa Street side of Fred's Super Dollar in downtown Florence.





Sylvia and Dr. Robert Ferguson

## FOUNDATION STRENGTHENS BONDS BETWEEN TISHOMINGO AND FLORENCE

By Hannah Mask, *Student Writer*

Just as Dr. Robert Ferguson and his wife Sylvia were settling into retirement in 1999, after years of working in education, they discovered a way to not only benefit the economy in their area – Tishomingo County, Mississippi – but to also help students receive their education.

Using the proceeds from their non-profit business, the Fergusons created the Tri State Foundation, which provides the Tri State Scholarship. To date, more than \$550,000 in scholarship funds have gone to UNA, which waives out-of-state tuition for students from Tishomingo County due to its close proximity. Currently, 46

students at the university attend using Tri State funding.

In August, a group of those students joined university faculty and UNA alumni who teach at Tishomingo County High School for a luncheon at the school in honor of the Fergusons.

Dr. John G. Thornell, UNA's vice-president for academic affairs and provost, thanked the Fergusons for supporting the university, and he encouraged students to express their gratitude as well.

Kaycee Burcham, a UNA senior and Tishomingo County native, is a recipient of the Tri State Scholarship. She said after



Tishomingo County High School faculty and administrators and UNA's Dr. John Thornell and Dr. Dan Hendricks with current and former students who were beneficiaries of Tri State Foundation scholarships supported by Dr. and Mrs. Ferguson.

every semester, she's made sure to send the Fergusons a "thank you" card, but she also took the opportunity to express her appreciation in person, letting the Fergusons know that with their continued help, she has been accepted into medical school.

"In Tishomingo County, Tri State is one of those things you grow up knowing about, and you make the grades to prepare to apply for it," she said. "(The Fergusons) make it very easy for any student to apply."

Kristie McCabe, whose oldest daughter graduated from Tishomingo County High School and UNA, is now attending UNA herself. McCabe said she and her daughter are both Tri State recipients.

"I couldn't afford to go without Tri State," McCabe said. "It pays half of my tuition. It doesn't matter your age – they still help."

In Robert Ferguson's opinion, the Tri State Foundation is a blessing in his life simply because he enjoys helping.

"At first, we had no interest in getting involved with anything that would tie us down, since it was just a year or two after retirement," he said. "But the more we thought about it and the more we prayed about it, it seemed like right thing to do."

He also pointed out that the Tri State Foundation does more than provide scholarships for college students. For example, the foundation has awarded grants to support students' field trips, as well as educational community activities and training for firemen. Sylvia Ferguson noted that the cost of child care often can

be a burden for young mothers who are students, and the foundation has awarded grants to offset that cost, as well as the cost of gas money.

"The money goes to any person or educational institution or any entity that truly needs it," she said. "I think it's just the most fun thing in the world to be able to give these kids enough money to make a difference."

The Fergusons said some priority is given to the people of Tishomingo County.

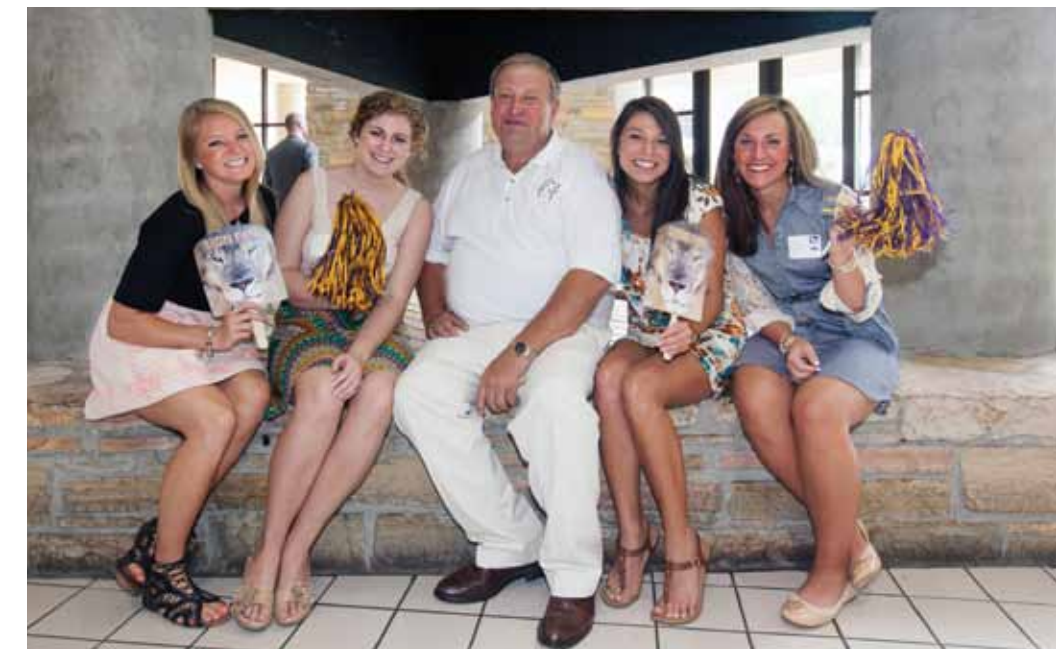
Reneé Fowler, a 1981 UNA graduate who teaches at Tishomingo County High School, said everything the foundation

gives to the high school is definitely noticed.

"When this school was established, it wasn't long after Tri State started," she said. "They've always helped us. They really give us a lot, and we really appreciate it."

Robert Ferguson said there are no set limitations as to what the money can be used for —the foundation is governed by a five-member board, and together, they make decisions about the best ways to allocate funds.

"We're always looking for ways we can help," he said. "If I've missed a way, I'm still looking."



Jill Glover, Kaycee Burcham, Dr. Eddie Britton '74 & '75, Destany Martinez, Ali Cohn





Barb and Dr. Dan Hendricks

## UNA NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT HENDRICKS ENJOYS BEING EMBRACED BY NEW EXTENDED FAMILY AT UNA

By Hannah Mask, *Student Writer*

Dr. Dan Hendricks arrived on campus in October 2012. But the pride he has in UNA and the fondness with which he speaks of it are qualities of a person who has worked at the university for years.

"UNA has the best student experience in the state, without exception," he said.

Hendricks said he likes to think of the university as a type of an extended family: The student experience doesn't end at graduation, and it is instead enriched by distance as students turn into engaged alumni. Everyone from students, faculty and alumni to the surrounding community helps the university flourish, and Hendricks said his purpose all year was to meet his extended family — the people who truly make UNA a special place.

"Universities succeed because of people," he said. "The University of North Alabama succeeds because we have great teachers; the university succeeds because we have

wonderfully talented students; and the university succeeds because of alumni who form that extended family."

UNA President William G. Cale praised Hendricks' first months in office in his annual report to the Board of Trustees in June.

"Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Dan Hendricks, the Division of University Advancement, in just eight months, has taken itself and the University to a new level of excellence," Cale said. "Dan has assembled a strong team of professionals and has taken on three challenges with equal verve: to put into place an action plan for the future, to inaugurate new initiatives and to resolve problems from the past. We can all look toward a dynamic future with an expectation of success exceeding expectations."

So far, Hendricks has created a blueprint for marshaling resources for UNA, and the campaign will be launched in 2014.

While he certainly stays busy at the university, Hendricks also finds the time to write novels under the pen name Chloé Canterbury, a name he chose after he saw it listed on his family tree under the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. He loved the ways "Chloé" and "Canterbury" looked and sounded together — one name sounding more French, the last sounding more Anglo-Saxon.

He said his first novel, *Tobee and the Amazing Bird Choir*, is an environmental fantasy tale based on the true story of the California House Finch, which was illegally trapped, taken to the East Coast and sold for its song. When authorities stopped the sales and the birds were released, they began migrating back home.

*Tobee and the Amazing Bird Choir* was published in 2000, and Hendricks said his second novel, *The Last Days of My Father's Kingdom*, will be published in December. The novel is the story of a Sufi mystic, and it focuses on the last days of the Islamic empire in Andalusia, Spain, in 1491, before the Crusades pushed Islam out of Spain.

While his second novel is based in Spain, Hendricks studied in Switzerland at the University of Geneva for a graduate fellowship. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from Duke University, and his undergraduate degree from DePauw University.

Before accepting the position at UNA, Hendricks served as vice chancellor for advancement at Purdue University Calumet, in Hammond, Indiana. He has also held similar positions at Western Illinois University, Louisiana State University, the University of Kentucky and Hanover College, a private liberal arts college in Indiana.

Having studied and worked at universities of various sizes, both public and private, means Hendricks comes equipped with the sense of the relative scales of the programs and knows that "essential focus is critical in smaller university programs, because you don't have the resources to do everything you like."

Under Hendricks' leadership, philanthropy projects will be built to UNA's scale.



## BARB HENDRICKS PUTS PASSIONS, EXPERTISE TO WORK IN NEW HOME

By Hannah Mask, *Student Writer*

Barb Hendricks' husband, UNA Vice President for Advancement Dr. Dan Hendricks, isn't the only one in the family who works in academia. Barb Hendricks, who has a master's degree in reading and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education, spent two days in July teaching continuing education workshops. Some of them incorporated her two greatest passions: reading and the arts.

Her philosophy is to start reading to children when they are tiny, which is exactly what she did over the summer when two of her four grandchildren visited. She said she makes sure to choose literature that's both award-winning and fun.

As for getting accustomed to her new home, Barb Hendricks said the Shoals has proved to be a wonderful place to live. Since she and her husband moved to the area from Indiana last fall, she has been asked to serve on the board of directors for the Shoals Symphony at UNA. She's also a member of the UNA chapter of the American Association of University Women, and she's considering getting involved with some of the local schools to use her degree to help in whatever ways she's needed.

A large community of artists, art groups to join and of course, First Fridays, are a few attributes of the Shoals that someone who enjoys making jewelry and drawing and designing Christmas cards would be particularly fond of, and Barb Hendricks fits that description.

As a lifelong thespian, she also spent time this summer preparing for her role as Willa Mae in the Center Stage Community Theatre production of *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, a comedy directed by Darren Butler and Katie Dalrymple at the Ritz Theatre. Since Willa Mae reads palms and tea leaves, Barb Hendricks said she channeled Professor Treelawney from the Harry Potter series in order to get into character.

Overall, Barb Hendricks said, the transition from Indiana to Alabama has been a smooth one.

"I love being here, and I love how people are so involved," she said. "People are so caring and so gracious, and they have made us feel so very welcomed."







Will Foster '88, Anne Foster, Tammy Irons '86 and Melissa Foster '87

## KEEPING THE TRADITION GOING: STORYTELLING FESTIVAL REMEMBERS DR. BILL FOSTER

By Brenda Wilson '80, *Coordinator of Distance Learning, Educational Technology Services*

The third annual UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival in May was a bittersweet triumph for the university family. Patrons from around the nation came to hear nationally known storytellers, but the occasion was marked by the absence of one of the founders of the festival, UNA Professor Emeritus of English Dr. Bill Foster. Dr. Foster, who had been part of the university family for more than 40 years, passed away in September 2012, at the age of 73.

Although Dr. Foster was not physically present, his spirit was very much in evidence, said his daughter, **Melissa Foster '87**. Melissa was the host for the 2013 festival, a role her father had filled the previous two years.

"I was filled with so much pride as I stepped into Dad's shoes as the host of the storytelling festival," Melissa said. "I was giddy with excitement to be asked to host

the festival, and I hope it is a tradition that continues well into the future. Dr. Bill Foster would like that."

The 2013 storytelling festival was truly a family affair: Melissa's mother, Anne, worked with promoting the event, doing everything from hand-addressing brochures for mailing to distributing promotional materials at area businesses.

"We had enjoyed the festival so much together as a family," Melissa said.

"Dr. Foster would have been delighted to see his family continue working with the storytelling festival," said **Debbie Chaffin '80 & '82**, festival director.

State Senator **Tammy Irons '86** opened the festival, introduced by **Terry Pace '85 & '04**, director of the university's communications and marketing office and a longtime friend and associate of Dr. Foster. Irons had



Anne Foster and Melissa Foster '87

sponsored a resolution in the Alabama Senate honoring Dr. Foster and presented a copy of the resolution to his family. The opening ceremonies also featured a video tribute put together by Brian Ford, the university's digital-media specialist.

And there was one very poignant reminder of Dr. Foster on display throughout the festival – his well-worn and much beloved hat.

"Everyone who knew Bill Foster knew that if he were around, there would be a hat," Melissa Foster said. "I decided to bring the hat to the festival to wear in his honor. I took it off and it hung on the back of one of the rocking chairs for the entire festival."

This year's festival – which took place Friday and Saturday, May 17-18 – featured storytellers Donald Davis, Diane Ferlatte, Dolores Hydock, Bil Lepp and Barbara McBride-Smith, with a special appearance by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Bragg. In addition to appearing onstage at the Performance Center, the tellers made appearances in the days before the festival at area schools and libraries. The festival also featured free workshops taught by Hydock and UNA professor Bill Huddleston.

Chaffin said she hopes the event will continue to grow each year. Next year's UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, 2014.



Terry Pace '85 &amp; '04



## DISTINGUISHED Event Series

### COMING ATTRACTIONS IN THE **DISTINGUISHED EVENTS SERIES**

The UNA Distinguished Events Series has a calendar of exceptionally fine performances for the 2013-14 season.

Admission is free to all DES events except for the UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival.

#### **Earth to Sky Lecture and Book Tour**

Michael "Nick" Nichols, National Geographic Photographer  
Friday, October 18, 2013 • 7:30 p.m. • Norton Auditorium

#### **A Sweet Strangeness Thrills My Heart: The World of Sallie Independence Foster, 1861-1887**

Dolores Hydock's show (with music by Bobby Horton) based on the diaries of Sallie Independence Foster, who lived in what is now Rogers Hall on the UNA campus.

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 • 7:00 p.m. • Norton Auditorium

#### **Fourth Annual UNA Front Porch Storytelling Festival**

Featuring Nationally and Internationally Known Storytellers, including the

"Dean of Storytelling," Donald Davis

Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17, 2014 • 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Performance Center

#### **OTHER EVENTS**

Sponsored by Alabama Humanities Foundation, Shoals Interfaith Council, and The Department of History and Political Science

#### **"Eddie," The Play**

Featuring Marvin Starkman in a one-man show about Eddie Jacobson, whose friendship with President Harry Truman changed history

With Preshow lecture by Dr. Tom Osborne, professor emeritus of history:

"1947-48: The Domestic and International Political Moment Between Hot War and Cold War"

Sunday, September 22, 2013 • 2:00 p.m. • Performance Center

(lecture begins, with play to follow)





# INTRODUCING UNA GIFT BAY

The University of North Alabama is launching a new series of donation pages on the website with the goal of making donations to the university an easier and more exciting process.

The new site, called **UNA Gift Bay**, will give donors a chance to help the University reach a level of national excellence through the web without having to buy a stamp or make a phone call.

While many are familiar with UNA's current online annual-giving opportunities, **UNA Gift Bay** will allow a potential donor to concentrate his or her giving in a specialized area that focuses on individual College or Program needs.

Choices in **UNA Gift Bay** range from providing equipment (such as microscopes for a biology lab or computer software for a business course) to providing support for a student to participate in a Study Abroad experience or providing resources to purchase new print or online periodical subscriptions for Collier Library.

**UNA Gift Bay** will provide donors with an exciting new hands-on donation experience that allows them to designate an amount they wish to give toward a cause they are passionate about and wish to support.

We look forward to unveiling these new **Gift Bay** pages on our website, [www.una.edu](http://www.una.edu), in October 2013.

# ALUMNI PRIDE



Kwoya and Marcus Maples '02 with twin daughters



Phillip Inman '75 and Mike Lewallen



Luther Bivens '80 and Mary Bivens



Mary Caroline and Lee Lesley '90



Misty Griggs '03 and Bianca Hill '01



Sam Thigpen '11, Lindsey Rogers '12, Autumn '10 and Kyle Conrad '10



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## UNA PARTNERS WITH HARRIS CONNECT FOR ALUMNI DIRECTORY

According to **Carol Lyles '70**, alumni director for the University of North Alabama, UNA graduates change e-mails, jobs and locations so often that it is hard to keep up with them. A new project is now underway that will help remedy this "information disconnect."

The UNA Office of Alumni Relations is partnering with Harris Connect to produce *University of North Alabama Alumni Today* — a print directory scheduled for publication in the spring of 2014. The print directory is another useful tool offered by the university to keep alumni connected.

Now, the easiest and fastest way to track down an old school friend is through the *Alumni Today* publication with its up-to-date contact information, Lyles said.

"You will be able to reconnect with classmates," she said, "and the publication will feature an introduction with full color pictures, prominent UNA personalities and a preview of the state of the university."

Over the next several months, UNA alumni will receive postcards, e-mails or phone calls from Harris asking for updated contact information. Lyles requests that everyone participate in this effort to collect the most current, up-to-date information.

"We would appreciate your cooperation in updating your contact information," she said. "All updates are returned to the university so that our database remains current."

Harris Connect will only collect information for the directory, and personal information will not be released to third parties.

Those who participate decide whether or not to have their personal information published in the directory.

"Make your wishes clear to the representative with whom you speak," Lyles said. "It is a great way to stay connected to the Lion community."

For details about the directory, visit the UNA Office of Alumni Relations website, [alumni.una.edu](http://alumni.una.edu).



# ALUMNI PRIDE



Dick Collier '67, David '84 and Joanne Horton '74, and Ann Collier



Eve Rhea '02 and Melody Stewart '06 & '13



Fred '82 and Susan Riley



Joanne '74 and David Horton '84



Leigh '82 and David Marcus



Jackie '88, Stephen and D. J. Thomas '82 & '88



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# ALUMNI PRIDE



Gaye Choat '81, Eddie '06 and Lindsay '06 Renilo with Jack, and Steve Choat '81



Marcia and Johnny Newman '69



Billy Joe Camp '60 with daughters, Melanie and Melinda



Martha Calvert '69



Jack Moore and Paul Majerick '70



Ron Wright '70 with Skip and Jamie Martin

# CLASS NOTES

## YEARS UNIDENTIFIED

**Marvin Taylor** was inducted into the 2013 Morgan County Sports Hall of Fame. He was a leading rusher at Florence State Teachers College, now the University of North Alabama, before enlisting in the military. He was instrumental in the formation of youth football leagues in Decatur in the 1950s and 1960s. Taylor helped organize the Austin High Booster Club and served as its first president.

American Bank. Belew and his wife, Karen, have three children.

**Steven Latimer ('74)** recently retired from his private practice of family dentistry. He practiced for 34 years in New Albany, Indiana. He lives in Corydon, Indiana, and is married to the former **Marcia Moore ('74)**.

**Larry D. Smith ('79)** of Orlando, Florida, won the American Bar Association diversity award. After almost 30<sup>th</sup> year of practicing law, he received the peer recognition by the 400,000 lawyers of the ABA and the 96,000 fellow members of the Florida Bar of having changed the perception of the profession when it comes to diversity, inclusiveness and respecting all qualified individuals in their efforts to become or succeed as lawyers. Smith received an American flag flown in a combat mission on July 4th by a Marine for whose fighter group his law firm had collected and sent supplies to Afghanistan. When the tornadoes struck Alabama, his Orlando law firm was the Central Florida collection site and, in partnership with other community leaders, sent an entire truck load of food and supplies to Tuscaloosa and cash contributions to a small north Alabama high school band.

## 1960s

**Jim Grant ('69)** was appointed the senior vice president of military programs at Beechcraft Corporation. In this role, Grant is responsible for the new business initiatives of the company's three military organizations – trainer/attack, special mission and global mission support. A former Command Pilot with the USAF, he has more than 5,000 flight hours. Following his retirement from the Air Force, he was hired by Lockheed Martin, where he has held a number of leadership positions with the company over the past 17 years.

## 1970s

**Don Belew ('72)** was appointed president and CEO at First National Bank of Talladega, the city's oldest continuously operated bank. Belew had 40 years banking experience, beginning with the Banking Department in Montgomery, and then launched a 26-year career with SouthTrust Bank and First

## 1980s

**Stan Mannon ('80)** is the new director for the IMPACT Learning Center in Scottsboro. Mannon is president of the Mountain Lakes UNA Alumni Club.



# **CLASS NOTES**

## **1990s**

**Bill Erwin ('94)** has been selected as Chief of Strategic Communication for U.S. Army Pacific Headquarters at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Erwin worked for WHNT-TV and several Shoals area radio stations for more than three decades. In his new position, Erwin oversees communication synchronization for the U.S. Army's Pacific Theater.

**Lisa Biley Berry ('95)** has been named the Hewitt-Trussville Middle School principal. She served as a teacher and assistant principal at Hewitt-Trussville Middle School before becoming assistant principal at Hewitt-Trussville High School. Berry was a science teacher for 12 years before becoming an administrator.

**Garth Garris ('98)** has been in education for 22 years and he is the principal at Elkmont High School. Garris taught social science and physical education and has coached boys basketball at Elkmont since 2010. Prior to teaching at Elkmont, he was principal at Madison County High School, assistant principal and athletic director at Hazel Green High School, assistant principal at Monrovia Elementary School and a teacher and boys basketball coach at East Limestone High School.

## **2000s**

**Robby Parker ('00)**, principal of Bob Jones High School, will lead sessions at his school on programs that were recently recognized for excellence by a statewide school administrators organization. The Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS) award for Bob Jones High School recognized how the school marries its rigorous honors and advanced-placement courses with the relevance of Alabama's refined Career Tech Education clusters by making learning more meaningful and communicating co-dependence of core academic skills to real world situations. Parker has been the principal at Bob Jones since 2005. He also was principal at Discovery Middle School, assistant principal at BJHS and a teacher at BJHS.

**William Smoak ('00)** has been selected as Teacher of the Year at Rainbow Elementary School in Madison. He is a sixth-grade instructor who taught a reading class and two math classes, but will be teaching fifth-grade next year. He previously taught at Athens Elementary School before his work with Madison City Schools.

**Keith Anderson ('01)** was selected as Teacher of the Year at James Clemens in Madison. Anderson teaches

marching and symphonic band students, percussion and advanced-placement music theory. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education at UNA. He has held National Board Certified Teacher status since November 2011. In May, Anderson started serving as chairman of music educators in Alabama District One. He and wife, Emily, are parents of three boys.

**Tommy Davis ('01)** has been promoted from assistant principal to principal at Cedar Ridge Middle School in Decatur, Ala. He came to Cedar Ridge as band director in 1999 and was promoted to assistant principal six years later. He is a member of Kiwanis International and serves as minister of music at New Canaan Baptist Church. He and wife, Shannon, have two sons.

**Marcus Maples ('02)** has been named a shareholder in the law firm of Sirote & Permutt, P.C., where he represents clients in general business and commercial litigation matters. Maples works with life, health, disability and long-term care insurance companies in issues related to bad faith and ERISA, and he also represents shareholders, officers and directors in shareholder derivative claims. Maples serves on the executive committee of the Young Lawyers Section

of the Alabama State Bar, is an active member of the Defense Research Institute (DRI) and serves on the board of trustees for Farrah Law Society. He and his wife, Kwoya, have twin daughters.

**Nicholas McDaniel ('04)** is on an annual list of the *Wall Street Journal* that honors the 1,000 best-performing real estate agents and teams in the U.S. McDaniel, of Century 21 in Decatur, ranked No. 56 in Top 250 Sales Professionals by Transactions Sides category for closing 260 sides. He ranked No. 84 last year after closing 252 transactions and bringing in \$17.5 million for his company in 2011.

**Wesley Hester ('05 & '07)** was named principal of Montevallo High School. Hester has served in education for 11 years. He was assistant principal at Columbiana Middle School for four years and principal at Thompson Sixth Grade Center for more than one year. Prior to that, he served six years as a teacher and coach at Belgreen High School. He and his wife, Maridy, live in Chelsea with their two children.

**Scott Sutton ('06)** is the principal of Athens Elementary School. He began his teaching career 17 years ago at Harvest Elementary and his administrative career at Madison Cross Roads in 2007. Sutton and his wife, Stephanie, have two children.

### **Cassie Wisdom ('08)**

accepted the coaching position for the Vina softball team in 2013. The program has strengthened in the year she has coached, and she is working to continue the progression for the next season.

**Jeremy Woods ('09)** is currently in Partnership Development with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Once he has the financial partnerships needed, he will be moving to France as a Communications Specialist with Wycliffe France.

## **2010s**

**Chris Lucas ('10)** is assistant director of student life at the University of South Carolina Aiken.

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February 12 - 22, aboard the Riviera



CANADA AND NEW ENGLAND  
September 16 - 28, aboard the Regatta



IRELAND  
September 19 - 27





# IN MEMORY

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Jim Ringnell** attended UNA and was retired from Reynolds Metals Company. He was a member of the UNA Sportsman's Club and North Wood United Methodist Church. He loved watching UNA, Auburn and Alabama football and the Atlanta Braves and also enjoyed listening to jazz music and attending the W.C. Handy Music Festival.

## NON-GRAD

**Peggy Holt** was active in the Garden Club of Waynewood, PTA and the Officers' Wives Club and served as President of the Washington, D.C., area Military Police Officers' Wives Club.

**Caroline Morgan Neisler** won back-to-back state championships in volleyball at Jacksonville High School in 2007 and 2008, being named to the All-State teams both years. Upon graduation from JHS in 2010, Caroline accepted a volleyball scholarship to UNA. After playing three years at UNA, she transferred to Samford University. Over the years, Caroline made four mission trips to Honduras with her church and her family.

**Kathleen Romine** taught in county schools for several years and was employed at McCorkle's Furniture for 25 years.

## 1940s

**Bernice Posey Land ('43)** was a retired NASA engineer who worked at Redstone Arsenal for 53 years. Land was TVA's first female engineer. Later she became the first female engineer employed with the

U.S. Army Guided Missile Division at Redstone Arsenal. Land worked on the Mercury-Redstone, Gemini-Titan, Saturn 1B and Saturn V launch vehicle programs while at Marshall Space Flight Center. She was recognized as one of the UNA Alumni of the Year in 2001.

## 1950s

**Effie Waldrep Nichols ('56)** was posthumously inducted into the 2013 Lawrence County Sports Hall of Fame. She played basketball at Town Creek High School. In 1924, Nichols and her team were the first local team to play in the state tournament. Nichols taught at Wolf Springs and Hatton schools and retired as principal at Moulton Elementary. While teaching, she also served as basketball coach for the boys team at Lagrange in Colbert County and coached both the Town Creek and Hatton girls teams at the state tournament. She married Grady Nichols and they had six children. Ms. Nichols died in 1995, at the age of 88.

**Joe Shults ('50)** was enshrined in the Cullman and Lawrence County Sports Halls of Fame. He continued his education at St. Bernard College, where he played baseball, basketball and football. He was captain of his baseball team, batting over .400 in both seasons before transferring to Florence State Teachers College, where he finished off a career on the baseball diamond. He began his coaching career at Hatton High School in 1951 and became head coach for the Fairview basketball team. Shults spent 15 seasons with the Aggies, and in that time

he led them to six Cullman County basketball titles, three area titles, two regional titles and two trips to the state tournament in 1964 and 1967. He finished his career with an even 400 victories, never once tallying a losing season. Since 1978, the Joe Shults Award has been presented annually to the most outstanding basketball player in Cullman County. A second Joe Shults Award is annually given to Fairview's best overall player. The Fairview High gymnasium was named in his honor.

**Wayne Nichols ('51)** became a contract administrator with Vitro Corporation. He moved to California and accepted a job as a subcontract negotiator and administrator with Douglas Aircraft, El Segundo, on the A3D and A4D fighter bomber aircraft. He accepted a procurement position with Peter Kiewitt & Sons, prime contractor on the second largest nuclear facility in the country. Nichols began his 35 year civil-service career at Brookley Air Force Base in Mobile. He transferred to the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency in Huntsville and began his employment at Marshall Space Flight Center. In 1976, he accepted employment at Kennedy Space Center with responsibility for the negotiations and administration of the first KSC contract for test, launch and operations of the Shuttle Orbiter Vehicle. He was Chief of Shuttle Processing and Support Contracts. Nichols received performance awards from USAF (Vandenberg), MSFC and KSC. After retirement from KSC, he established a business consulting firm before accepting employment with Lockheed Corp. He worked

in the Program Office at KSC and was assigned to a small task group responsible for formulating and implementing joint ventures between Lockheed and Rockwell, United Space Alliance, to manage the shuttle program. He retired in 1999.

**Bobbi McKee Pritchett ('52)** graduated from UNA, where she was a majorette. After college, she taught junior high English and math in Gadsden. She was a former member of the Muscle Shoals District Service League and the Colbert County Medical Auxiliary.

**Charles Paulk ('53)** retired from the United States Army in 1973. He was a civil engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers and decorated Master Army Aviator, serving two tours in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, flying over 800 combat hours. Paulk spent many years as a land developer and custom home builder in Tennessee and Florida. He was a life member of the Military Officers Association of America, a Roman Catholic and parishioner at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Leesburg, Florida.

**Mary Jane Knowles Gibson ('54)** was employed by the Huntsville City Schools and spent the majority of her career teaching first grade at Jones Valley Elementary School from its opening in 1963 until her retirement.

## 1960s

**Gerald "Tuffy" Hudson ('61)** lettered in football and was co-captain of the team, a member of the F Club and P.E. Club. He was on the

1960 Florence State College Football team that claimed the first conference championship in school history. He was later inducted into UNA's Athletic Hall of Fame and the Colbert County Athletic Hall of Fame. He was named to the offensive line of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1949-1999) UNA Football Team. Hudson worked at the Huntsville Boys Club and was director of the Port Authority of Florence. He served 40 years in the 115th Signal Battalion, Alabama National Guard and was also a volunteer Florence policeman. He was a past president of the UNA Alumni Association and chairman of the UNA Jack Karnes Memorial Golf Tournament. The tournament raises funds for the Jack Karnes Endowed Scholarship as well as athletic current-use scholarships. The current-use fund has been renamed the Tuffy Hudson Current Use Scholarship Fund. He was given the YMCA Spirit Award in 1996, was voted UNA Fan of the Year and also received a UNA Community Service Award. He enjoyed golf, gardening and supporting UNA athletic events and was an usher at church.

**John King Moon ('63)** enlisted in the Alabama National Guard at the age of 15 and later graduated from Florence State College. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army in 1963 and began a thirty-year career of service, which included command assignments that sent him all over the world. Notable among these was a tour of duty in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, his time at the British Military Staff College in Camberley, England, and his final overseas assignment as the Defense

Attaché in Dublin, Ireland, prior to his retirement in Huntsville in 1993.

**Lenda Beard ('69)** taught at Itawamba Junior College, Central, Waterloo, Brooks and Wilson High Schools in Lauderdale County. Her civic activities included the Red Cross, Cancer Association, Greenpeace and theatre. She served on the committee that organized and began the first production of *The Miracle Worker* production and played the role of Anne Sullivan. Lenda also helped to acquire the first Leo the Lion at UNA.

## 1970s

**Julia "Judy" Moore Sockwell Boling ('73)** helped start a new church, was a member of the service league, acted in plays, sang and danced in the Follies. She also started college for the first time in her 40s and graduated from UNA with the Keller Key for the highest academic average in her class.

**Randal Holland ('74)** served as artist-in-residence at Sheffield High School and other Alabama schools and exhibited his art throughout the South. He worked as a resident potter in Branson, Missouri. His passion was working with small children while teaching them basic pottery techniques. He was a volunteer on Highland Park Baptist Church's mission team to Guatemala.

**Nena Annette Cockrell ('77)** moved to Baytown, Texas, and began her career as a teacher at Channelview High School High School. She spent most her career working at ExxonMobil as a

Process Operator and Training Coordinator.

## 1980s

**Steven P. Sparks ('84)** passed away July 6, 2013, at his residence in Knoxville, Tennessee. While at UNA and a student in Dr. Edward Foote's film class, he was one of the directors of the short film *She Had Hair Like his Sister's*, based on a T.S. Stribling short story first published in 1933 in a British publication called *The Delineator*. The film won a student Emmy and national recognition for the university's film program. Most recently, Steve was a lecturer at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and a talented poet

whose work was published in many distinguished literary journals.

## 1990s

**Michael Reynolds ('97)** became involved in the theater program at UNA and graduated with a degree in theatre and communication. Joining Local 900 IATSE in Huntsville and Local 78 IATSE in Birmingham, he began his career in the live entertainment industry, mainly in backstage production.

**Christopher Graham ('98)** was a graduate with a degree in physics. He was a counselor at Petra Camp and a youth minister at Liberty United Methodist Church.

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## ALUMNI INFORMATION UPDATE

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Events        | <input type="checkbox"/> Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit Students            | <input type="checkbox"/> Reunions  |

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# EARTH TO SKY



BY MICHAEL NICHOLS, EDITOR-AT-LARGE, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

UNA alumnus Michael "Nick" Nichols joined the photography staff of National Geographic in 1996 and now serves as editor-at-large.

Nick has published seven books, including *Brutal Kinship* with Jane Goodall. He has won four World Press Photo Awards and has been named Wildlife Photographer of the Year. In 2012, he lectured at World Press Photo Awards Days in Amsterdam.

OCTOBER EIGHTEENTH 2013

SEVEN-THIRTY P.M.

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MILES  
COLLEGE

SEPT. 14  
7:00 p.m.  
AWAY



JACKSONVILLE  
STATE

SEPT. 21  
6:00 p.m.  
HOME



DELTA  
STATE

OCT. 5  
12:30 p.m.  
AWAY



SHORTER

OCT. 12  
6:00 p.m.  
HOME



WEST  
GEORGIA

OCT. 19  
6:00 p.m.  
HOME



TEXAS A&M  
KINGSVILLE

OCT. 26  
1:00 p.m.  
AWAY



VALDOSTA  
STATE

NOV. 2  
6:00 p.m.  
HOME



WEST  
ALABAMA

NOV. 9  
5:00 p.m.  
AWAY



FLORIDA  
TECH

NOV. 16  
2:00 p.m.  
AWAY



TARLETON  
STATE