

**A MOMENTOUS
JOURNEY**

Berry makes
history as
eighth woman
Secretary of Senate

**BEAUTIFUL.
STRONG.**

Leather goods
pair perfectly
with celebration
of UNA Women

**BUILT IN
HISTORY**

A tour of
sites at UNA
named for
women



Years of UNA Women



For several decades, the International program at UNA has brought students from all over the world to Florence. For the 2019-2020 academic year, 244 students from 67 countries studied at UNA in-person and online. In 2021, there are 212 international students representing 43 countries on campus studying with domestic students.



Telling HerStory

Aaliyah McCary, a junior majoring in political science, stands with a photo of Angela Davis for the Center for Women's Studies' "HerStory" project. The "HerStory" project encourages students to submit a short description of a woman who has inspired them. The students are then photographed with the image of the woman who has been a central figure in her life. The photos and stories are displayed in Collier Library for students and faculty to view. McCary chose Angela Davis as her inspiration.

"She is a Birmingham native like myself," McCary said.

"She saw racism growing up, which influenced her to fight for the cause, which was the Black power movement, and other social issues. ... For decades she has defended Black women, Black prisoners, the Black poor – and all women, all prisoners, and all poor people."



ADMINISTRATION

President
Dr. Kenneth D. Kitts

Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Dr. Ross Alexander

Vice President for
Business and Financial Affairs
Evan Thornton '15

Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Kim Greenway '91

Vice President for University Advancement
Kevin Haslam

Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Ron Patterson

STAFF

PUBLISHER/EDITOR
Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96

COPY EDITOR
B.J. Wilson '80

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Kali Daniel '16

UNIVERSITY VIDEOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Leah Johnson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Abby Folsom
Joe Romans Photography
Shannon Wells '05

FEATURE WRITERS

Anna Beahm '16 Kira Goldenberg
Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee Michelle Eubanks '96
Kali Daniel '16 Gail Allyn Short

QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES:
256-765-4225

ADDRESS CHANGES AND ALUMNI UPDATES:
256-765-4201 or alumni1@una.edu

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Under Title IX and UNA Policy, UNA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in university education programs or activities, including admissions decisions. For internal inquiries about the application of Title IX or the University's nondiscrimination statement on the basis of sex, please contact: UNA Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Administrator, Ms. Kayleigh Baker, UNA Box 5023, 207 Guillot University Center, Florence, AL 35632, (256) 765-4223, kbaker5@una.edu. For external inquiries, please contact: Office for Civil Rights (OCR) U.S. Department of Education • 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-1100 • Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481 • Fax: (202) 453-6012 • TDD#: (877) 521-2172 • Email: OCR@ed.gov • Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

Information contained herein is as it currently exists but is subject to change without prior notice.

Special thanks to Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions, Archives and Special Collections, Follett's UNA Bookstore, and Holtz Leather Co. for their photo and product contributions to this magazine.



COVER STORY

INTRODUCING THE YEAR OF THE WOMAN, PAGES 10-25

LETTERS

- 4 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5 FROM THE EDITOR
- 54 FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

UPDATES

- 26 COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND ENGINEERING
- 30 COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY
- 34 COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES
- 38 ANDERSON COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
- 42 DELORES AND WELDON COLE HONORS COLLEGE
- 46 ATHLETICS

OF NOTE

- 6 LIGHT THE FOUNTAIN
- 8 SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
- 10 THE YEAR OF THE UNA WOMAN
- 18 HOLTZ LEATHER CO.
- 24 HISTORICAL TIMELINE
- 24 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
- 50 WOMEN OF INFLUENCE
- 54 CLASS NOTES
- 56 IN MEMORY

CORRECTION: On page 53 of the Fall 2020 issue of the *UNA Magazine*, Sherry Smith should have been identified as the 1984 UNA Homecoming Queen. Becky Triplett was identified as the 1979 UNA Homecoming Queen with a photo of Teresa White.



FIRST LADY DENA KITTS IS WEARING A ONE-OF-A-KIND PIECE CO-DESIGNED BY HER AND BRANDI HAMMOCK, OWNER OF CREATIVE JEWELERS IN DOWNTOWN FLORENCE. THE NECKLACE WILL BE A FEATURED AUCTION ITEM AT THE NEXT DERBY DAY.

Dear Friends:

We've decided to break with tradition and offer a special joint greeting as president and first lady for this Spring 2021 edition of the *UNA Magazine*. We're doing so in honor of the Year of the UNA Woman. This campus-wide celebration formally commences in June and will run for one year as we mark the sesquicentennial of the admittance of women to our forebear institution, the State Normal School at Florence.

The University of North Alabama continues to thrive as we near the end of the academic year and prepare to add to the alumni ranks with another large group of graduates. We set a new enrollment record this spring, and preliminary data from the Office of Admissions points to additional growth in the coming year. The UNA brand is growing! Students love our campus, they love our people, and they are impressed with our array of affordable degree programs that lead directly to great jobs and satisfying careers.

With regard to the pandemic, the safety protocols we put in place last year are working well. We made it through this semester without any disruptions, and key health indicators for our campus population are very encouraging. Looking ahead to the new academic year, we are hopeful that the pandemic will continue to loosen its grip so that we can make good on our commitment to reinvigorate campus life with an expanded array of activities and events.

One important sign of the return to normalcy is our beautiful new marble fountain. Harrison Plaza has never looked better, and special thanks go to those of you who have made donations through the Legacy Initiative to restore the heart of UNA.

Returning to the theme at hand, we are proud to lead the celebration of the Year of the UNA Woman. From Pauline Gravlee to Laura Harrison, and from Dr. Ernestine Davis to the members of the 2016 National Championship Softball Team, women have played a huge role in making UNA what it is today. Dena's own Women of Influence initiative in Advancement, which she chairs with Dr. Stephanie Teichmiller (UNA '84), draws from that tradition and provides an exciting new platform for women to assist our students and promote the University across our region and beyond.

Thank you for staying engaged with us, and we hope you enjoy this edition of the *UNA Magazine*. Roar Lions!

Ken and Dena Kitts

Ken Kitts

Dena Kitts

For more information about Women of Influence, visit una.edu/woi.

For more information about the Legacy Initiative, visit una.edu/legacy.



Editor's Note



Throughout this edition and the upcoming academic year, you'll note that Una, our beloved lioness, resides in the arch. She represents the thousands of women who have studied at and graduated from UNA since 1872.

Dear Friends,

I tend to write these letters to you on Saturdays; it's when I have an opportunity to slow down enough to gather my thoughts and think only of you, wherever you are, reading this and remembering the University of North Alabama fondly.

I'm fortunate to get to work at UNA, so I'm here mostly during the week. Today, however, I'm on campus, sitting in the Commons with my lunch beside me, having just wrapped up a campus tour for some visitors to the Shoals and remembering my days as a LaGrange Society member. (I haven't done that in a long, long time, so I'm out of practice. Were there this many stairs on campus when I was an undergrad?)

The LaGrange Society is an organization that has its roots in the University Hostess tradition. In the late 1980s, the group expanded to include men. It's one of those organizations I've thought of often throughout these past many months as it's also rooted in women. Women are the focus of this issue and the year ahead – the Year of the UNA Woman – and I couldn't be prouder to serve alongside my friend, Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, as the co-chair of the task force to usher this special celebration through to mid-2022.

This issue of the *UNA Magazine* seemed the perfect launch pad for the Year of the UNA Woman, a celebration of 150 years of being the first co-educational institution of higher learning south of the Ohio River. In these pages, you'll read all about how women have – and continue to – influence the University in myriad ways, from

the history of women in athletics to the alumni who have gone on to have incredible careers on the world stage. It's especially exciting to read about Sonceria "Ann" Berry '78, the first African-American Secretary of the Senate and only the eighth woman in United States history to have that role. She got her start right here at UNA.

More subtly but equally as important to note is that this issue of the *UNA Magazine* was created exclusively by women – from each of the photographs included to the graphic design to the proofreading. President Kitts graciously shared his byline with First Lady Dena Kitts, and Jeffrey provided thoughtful diary entries as part of the cover story.

This year has been part of Jeffrey's life and mine for some time. There have been countless meetings and planning, but now, finally, it's time to let you all in on what may be the worst-kept secret, the Year of the UNA Woman. We invite you to join us for any one of the many events listed in the Calendar of Events or to visit the website (una.edu/unawoman) and to purchase some of the great branded items associated with this celebratory year. You won't want to miss a thing; we promise!

My lunch has gotten a little cold, but I'm thrilled to see the Commons bustling with activity on this late April afternoon. All around are women who are just ready to graduate and leave their mark on the world. It is great to be a UNA Lioness!

Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96

Lighting the Fountain

For the first time in sixteen months, Harrison Fountain was lit for the campus community to enjoy. The fountain was replaced after damage occurred in December 2019, and the plaza received several updates as part of the restoration: trees, new benches, and the opportunity to engrave an item to be placed in the historic plaza are part of the ongoing project known as the Legacy Initiative. Since the fountain has been reconstructed, countless graduation and end-of-semester photos have already been taken in front of it, including a marriage proposal with the help of an engraved brick. At the lighting ceremony, Carol Lyles Reeves '70, flipped the ceremonial switch that lit the fountain with the new UNA purple lights included in the renovation of the fountain. President Kitts remarked that the new fountain, an exact replica of the original, is made of Italian marble and will last for generations of UNA graduates to come.





A momentous journey

By Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96
For the *UNA Magazine*

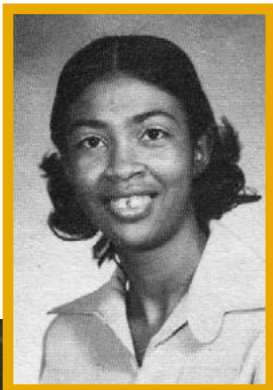
*Ann Berry '78 makes history as the eighth woman
and first African American Secretary of the Senate*

It was one of those moments that came out of the clear blue, and it started with a call from then-University of North Alabama President Dr. Robert Guillot.

"There must have been a dinner on campus. Sen. Howell Heflin mentioned needing people with my skills, and my name must have come up," said Sonceria "Ann" Berry, who in March was sworn in as the 34th Secretary of the United States Senate and the first African American to have the position. "I know he wanted his staff to reflect the state because he told us that, and I planned to work for him and then move on, but I spent the rest of his career with him."

It's impossible to know the future, of course, but that dinner, the ensuing phone call, and the subsequent job set the stage for a long, vibrant, and history-making career in public service for Berry. At its heart, however, is her career at UNA in the mid- to late-1970s.

In a Q-and-A with Berry, she explained how UNA prepared her for her role on Capitol Hill as well as her thoughts on her current appointment as Secretary of the Senate.



Q: How did your education at UNA prepare you for the role you fulfill now?

A: The education I received wasn't just in the classroom. I gained experience through working with the faculty members, the supportive staff, and the many extracurricular activities. I started as a student aide in the Admissions Office my freshman year and stayed through graduation. I learned first-hand about being in a professional setting with staffers who worked with students and their parents who were interested in attending the university. The Admissions Office always placed the students' interest as a priority, which gave me a sense of how important it was to be supportive and to have compassion. I was also able to work with our departments and faculty members at the University, which gave me a better understanding of how important team work can be in creating a great organization.

Q: Can you recall any special or unique memories or anecdotes from your time at UNA?

A: It's been awhile, but I participated in many activities, which mostly consisted in volunteering. However, I think the SOAR program for incoming freshmen students was my favorite. It brought back great memories of when I was an incoming freshman and how much fun and excitement it was to be a student attending college. I have many fond memories of UNA, but one Saturday morning in the Admissions Office stands out. Leo the Lion, our mascot, was getting his physical examination. Dr. Guillot, the president at that time, gave me permission to get into the cage with Leo to take a photo. Of course, Leo had been put to sleep for his physical, but it's something that gave me bragging rights and also something that was unique for me. And I have a photo of me and Leo with his head in my lap to prove it.

Q: This appointment as Secretary of the Senate is a hallmark of an incredible career. Can you share your thoughts the moment you learned you'd been appointed?

A: Well, to be honest, I wasn't sure if I wanted to take on this huge responsibility. I have worked on the Hill for over 42 years now. However, my family and my former boss, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), convinced me that I should. Walking on the floor of the Senate to be sworn in made me realize the significance of what was happening for the first time in our nation's history. Most of the staffers in Capitol Hill are young, and there have been times I have had to encourage them. One of the things I have said to them on more than one occasion is that if it's yours, no one can take it away. When I was thinking of accepting this position, I had to remind myself that I should take my own advice. And that is when I decided to accept the position.

Q: What led you to a career in public service and politics? Did your time at UNA also include roles in student governance?

A: I have always been active in public service, but I mostly volunteered with non-profit organizations. At the University, I served on the Student

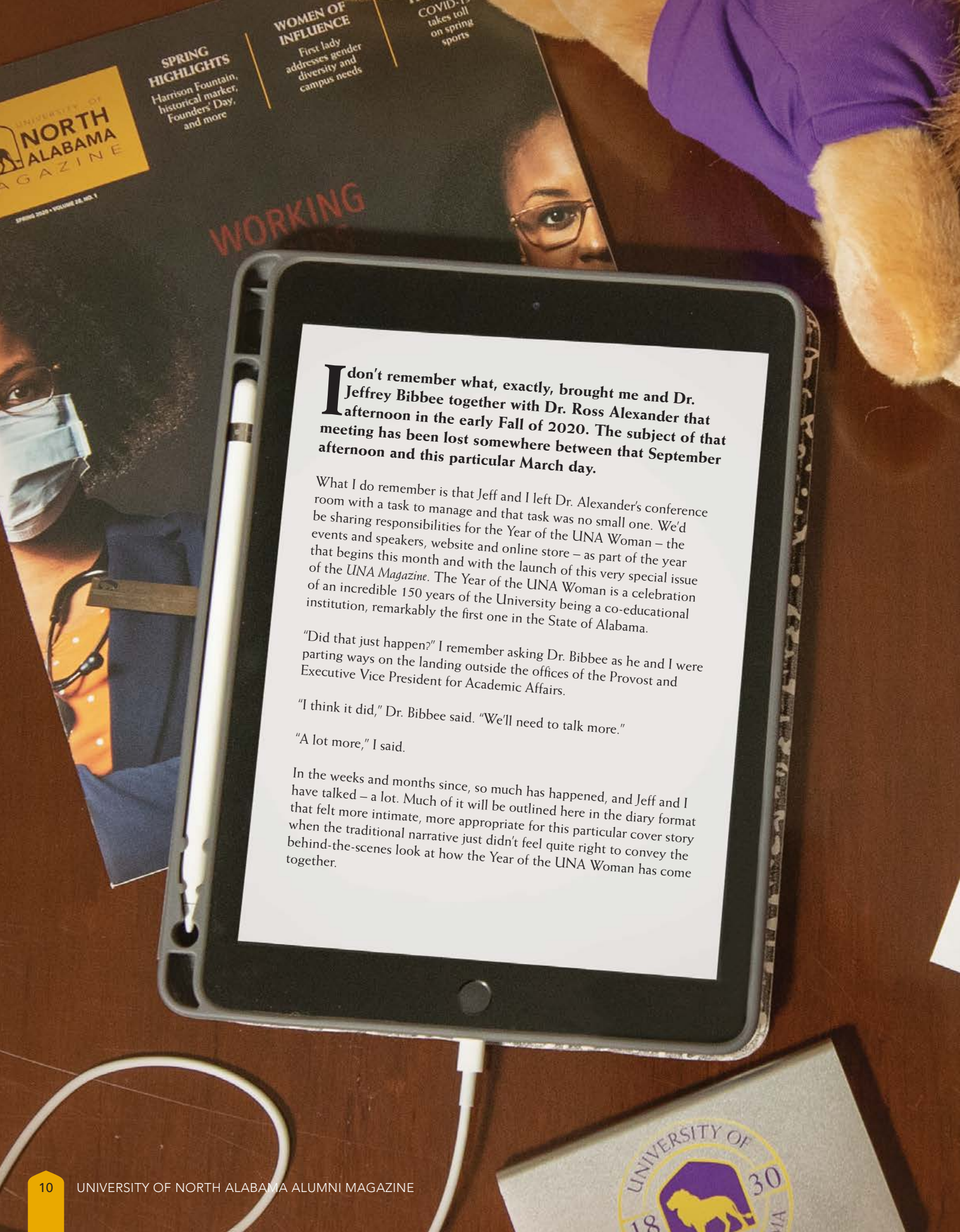
Government Board. But I can truly say that never in my wildest dreams did I think that I would have a career in politics. When Sen. Heflin offered me my first opportunity on the Hill, I had no idea what it would lead to – certainly not working in the Senate for as long as I have. I always thought that I would work for Sen. Heflin for a few years and then return home. I did not ever think that it would lead to serving as Secretary. I am truly humbled to have this opportunity.

Q: Are there any anecdotes or events from your public service that you believe shaped your career and paved the way for the success you have today?

A: The first thing that comes to mind in any decision that I make is how it will affect the staff I represent; in this position, I have to think about how it will affect this institution. Top of mind is to treat others the way you would want to be treated and to compromise when necessary; it is better than doing nothing at all.

Q: Beginning with the publication of this issue, UNA will embark on a year-long celebration of 150 years of admitting women to the institution. As one of UNA's trail-blazing alums, can you share your thoughts about this special sesquicentennial?

A: It is wonderful for UNA to celebrate 150 years of admitting women to the University. Our successes as women represent a powerful array of accomplishments, and we must remain committed to opening doors for others. I'm proud to be a product of one of the best universities in the State of Alabama. ☉



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH ALABAMA
MAGAZINE
SPRING 2020 • VOLUME 28, NO. 1

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS
Harrison Fountain,
historical marker,
Founders' Day,
and more

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE
First lady
addresses gender
diversity and
campus needs

COVID-19
takes toll
on spring
sports

WORKING

I don't remember what, exactly, brought me and Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee together with Dr. Ross Alexander that afternoon in the early Fall of 2020. The subject of that meeting has been lost somewhere between that September afternoon and this particular March day.

What I do remember is that Jeff and I left Dr. Alexander's conference room with a task to manage and that task was no small one. We'd be sharing responsibilities for the Year of the UNA Woman – the events and speakers, website and online store – as part of the year that begins this month and with the launch of this very special issue of the *UNA Magazine*. The Year of the UNA Woman is a celebration of an incredible 150 years of the University being a co-educational institution, remarkably the first one in the State of Alabama.

"Did that just happen?" I remember asking Dr. Bibbee as he and I were parting ways on the landing outside the offices of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.

"I think it did," Dr. Bibbee said. "We'll need to talk more."

"A lot more," I said.

In the weeks and months since, so much has happened, and Jeff and I have talked – a lot. Much of it will be outlined here in the diary format that felt more intimate, more appropriate for this particular cover story when the traditional narrative just didn't feel quite right to convey the behind-the-scenes look at how the Year of the UNA Woman has come together.

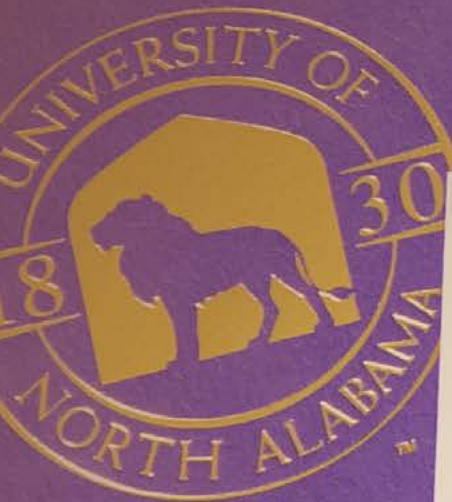


Welcome to the



Year of the UNA WOMAN

by
Michelle Pupe Eubanks '96
and
DR. JEFFREY BIBBEE
For the UNA Magazine



Oct. 2, 2020 - Jeff

MICHELLE AND I SAT IN MY OFFICE ... DISTANCED ... MASKED ... AND ANXIOUS. HAVE WE TAKEN ON TOO MUCH? THIS PROJECT IS GROWING EXPONENTIALLY. WE DO HAVE FULL-TIME JOBS (AND THEN SOME). WE HAVE ASSEMBLED A GREAT GROUP OF FACULTY, STAFF, AND ALUMNI. IDEAS ARE ALREADY STARTING TO FLOOD IN ... OR MAYBE A TIDAL WAVE?

OUT OF THE WINDOW ... GAZING INTO THE SUNNY CAMPUS QUAD. I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO SAID WHAT FIRST, BUT THAT IS IMMATERIAL. A BLANK SLATE. THE FACADE OF THE LIBRARY WAS A HUGE UNTAPPED BILLBOARD TO ADVERTISE THE YEAR'S EVENTS, A WAY TO PULL PEOPLE INTO CAMPUS AND A BACKDROP FOR THE MEMORIES SHARED AND CREATED.

NOW, HOW DO WE GET THINGS TO STAY UP THERE?

Dec. 10, 2020 - Michelle

first meeting of the sesquicentennial Task Force: done! checking that box because it feels, even so many months from when it will officially kick off, as though something very big is happening. we had to meet via zoom, and, despite the screens separating us from our offices on campus and in the community, I could feel the energy and the positive vibes from my fellow task force members.

There are more than two dozen of us, after all.

Each of those faces looking back at me and Jeff were eager to learn more and to know how they will be part of this celebration. It's really happening! but first: an important pronunciation lesson. It's ses-qu-a-cen-ten-e-al. That word is a mouthful. lol. spelling lessons later...

JAN. 21, 2021 - JEFF

KEEPSAKES.

I WAS CHATTING WITH MY SISTER, MELISSA BIBBEE SLEDGE '91, ABOUT HER TIME AT UNA. LAUGHING ABOUT HOW HER NEARLY GROWN DAUGHTERS ENJOY WEARING HER OLD ALPHA GAM T-SHIRTS, MAKING FUN OF HAIRSTYLES AND CLOTHING FROM HER TIME AS A UNA GOLDEN GIRL, AND TELLING HER TO FIND SOME OF HER OLD ZAPS FOR A PROJECT WE ARE WORKING ON. BECAUSE WHAT IT IS THAT WE'RE WORKING ON WILL BE SOMETHING MELISSA WILL WANT TO KEEP, MAYBE EVEN TREASURE.

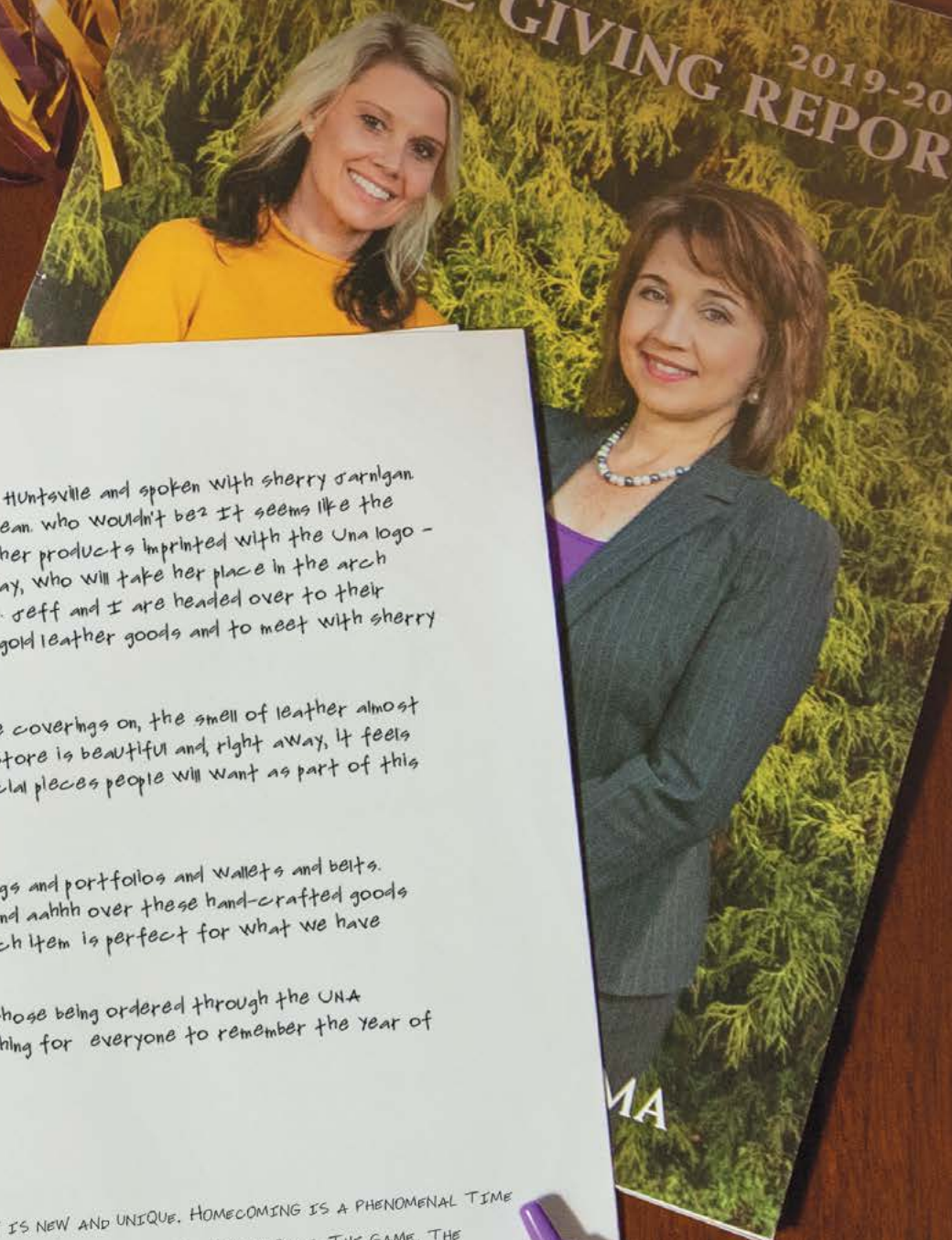
AS AN HISTORIAN, I CONSIDER A BOOK A LIFELONG FRIEND. A HOLDER OF MEMORIES, KEEPER OF SECRETS, AND A MARKER OF TIME AND SPACE. A BOOK CARRIES SO MUCH INSIDE ITS PAGES. IN OUR DIGITAL AGE, WE HAVE LOST THE ART OF THE PICTURE BOOK. WE SCROLL THROUGH PICTURES ON A PHONE AND MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD A BOOK OF IMAGES IN OUR HANDS. FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE SPINE. PAUSE AS WE RUN OUR FINGERS ACROSS THE PAGE. SIT CLOSE TO SOMEONE AND SHARE OUR MEMORIES, LIKE

Una
REMEMBERING

MY SISTER AND I WERE DOING ON THAT THURSDAY EVENING.

DIXIE NORWOOD IS THE KIND OF STUDENT YOU DREAM ABOUT HAVING. SMART, CAPABLE, PASSIONATE, ENGAGED. SHE ASKS SMART QUESTIONS AND DEMANDS GOOD ANSWERS. AS AN INTERN IN OUR COLLIER LIBRARY ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, WORKING ALONGSIDE UNA ARCHIVIST VOLODYMIR CHUMACHENKO, DIXIE HAS LEARNED HER CRAFT AS A PUBLIC HISTORIAN. SHE IS THE IDEAL PARTNER TO BRING A COMMEMORATIVE BOOK ABOUT UNA'S PROGRESSIVE PAST TO FRUITION. DIXIE IS GOING TO MINE THE UNA ARCHIVES PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION, STUDENT MEDIA, AND MATERIALS. DIXIE WON'T JUST BE TELLING A STORY ... BUT ALSO HER OWN. SHE, TOO, IS A UNA WOMAN.





Jan. 29, 2021 - Michelle

It's Field Trip Day!

I've called ahead to Holtz Leather in Huntsville and spoken with Sherry Jarnigan. She is so interested in our story! I mean, who wouldn't be? It seems like the perfect pairing - these beautiful leather products imprinted with the UNA logo - that's Una, as in the Honess, by the way, who will take her place in the arch from June of 2021 until August 2022. Jeff and I are headed over to their location to see and feel the plum and gold leather goods and to meet with Sherry in person.

Walking in to Holtz, and with our face coverings on, the smell of leather almost overwhelms us in the best way. The store is beautiful and, right away, it feels like this is the right fit for the special pieces people will want as part of this unique celebration.

Sherry walks us through the tote bags and portfolios and wallets and belts. Graciously, she allows us to oohh and ahhh over these hand-crafted goods that are buttery soft. Honestly, each item is perfect for what we have planned.

When we couple these pieces with those being ordered through the UNA bookstore, there really will be something for everyone to remember the year of the UNA woman.

Feb. 12, 2021 - Jeff

We need a WOW moment. One that is new and unique. Homecoming is a phenomenal time on our campus but it is driven by so many traditions - the parade, the game, the tailgating. Plus fall term is already full ... between the usual events at the start of the term and the holidays at the end. We need an event that does not come with pre-existing expectations, agenda, or audience. We need a moment for people to come together. Alumni, friends, family, faculty, staff, and students. We need to celebrate ... be loud ... have fun. Especially after this socially-distanced and face-covered year.

We might have it. The Weekend of Women. WOW indeed. Music, food, stories. It will take a lot to bring it together, but it is going to be the moment when it all makes sense. This will be a chance for our whole UNA family to gather - welcome back old friends and share our story with future family members. Spring seems ideal ... nothing is prettier than UNA's campus when the fountain is bubbling and the azaleas are in bloom.

March 7, 2021 - Michelle

Jeff and I took a Sunday evening drive to one of our favorite dinner spots to discuss our upcoming presentation to the members of the Executive Committee.

As a task force, we've met several times. And we've established sub-groups to help guide and direct things like the academic conference and the other events coming up, along with publicity and the online store.

Despite the work we have done, there is much more to do. We have 10 minutes with that august group to be unforgettable and to convey just how memorable the upcoming year can and will be!

Over messy sandwiches and cheesecakes, we hammer out the details for the weekend of women, scribbling notes on our napkins and brainstorming ideas to make sure those three days are packed with incredible, can't-miss events. We have a to-do list by the time we've paid our bill and headed home. We'll make calls and send emails, hoping we've got the pieces in place. It's one more list of agenda items for the next task force meeting, too.

We're focused - maybe a bit nervous? - about the meeting with EC. We need it to go well, and we have accounted for each second of those 10 minutes.

Wish us luck!

- Event planning
- Academic conference
- Online store
- FUN!

CELEBRATING
WOMEN
2021-2022
will mark
the Year of
UNA Women



amsill

April 5, 2021 - Michelle

The day is here! we've got this!

And, a short 10 minutes later, we're finished! we wrapped up in time, fielded a couple of questions and compliments from the group, and wowed them with personalized bookmarks from Holtz Leather. I think we can go out on a limb and say it went very well.

Reflecting on it, and even looking ahead, things feel official. we've planned and prepared as much as we possibly can. we've logged hundreds of volunteer hours already, and the year of celebration is just beginning. still, we are ready, and now, as you read this, it's official for you, too.

welcome to the year of the UNA woman!



OUR PRIDE

una.edu/admission

PRIDE
PRESSROOM

una.edu/pressroom





Strong. Beautiful. Genuine.

*Fine leather goods pair perfectly
with celebration of UNA Women*

By Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96
For the *UNA Magazine*

Becka Christian handles the Holtz Leather showroom with ease, taking her time between displays and picking up this wallet or that phone case to demonstrate its qualities. Always, her hands seem to linger over the leather, brushing the Holtz Leather logo with her thumb.

"The Babe – that's one of our most popular wallets," Becka said, finding one on the table and indicating how it can be styled for a man or a woman. "We sell out of them almost as quickly as we can make them."

Becka has come to the showroom today to spend a little time with the entourage from her alma mater, the University of North Alabama, as we take photos of the fine leather goods Holtz has to offer as part of the partnership between Holtz and UNA for the Year of the UNA Woman. She is patient as we work through one more pose, one more setting of the scene – not that Holtz needs any creative direction. The place is curated with Instagrammers in mind.

We spend some time chatting about her years at UNA – she graduated in 2012 – what led her to her role as Vice President of Holtz Leather, and how she was swept up in the entrepreneurial spirit of the company's owners, Rick and Coleen Holtz.



"I love to be the person to make those visions a reality."

"I had three years in marketing, and I was in a place where I could learn and grow," Becca said. "And people told me not to go with a start-up, but I was so drawn to the company. Rick and Coleen – they were dreaming big – and I wanted to be part of it. I was their only employee when I took the job as the marketing director."

Since then, just about five-and-a-half years ago, she's watched as the company has expanded to include not just leather goods, but a mobile oil change arm of the company as well as Heritage Weddings and Holtz Millworks. Today, the company has 10 employees, and Becca said her time at UNA more than prepared her for the role she has today.

"When I majored in communications, my plan was to go to law school," she said. "But I was attracted to the fast-paced business lifestyle and decided not to go to law school. So much of what I do is communicating from the top down what decisions are being made, what those needs are, and how to make the dreams of the owners a reality. Working here is very fast-paced, and the owners are extraordinary visionaries. I love to be the person to make those visions a reality."



Becka works alongside another UNA grad, Aaron Kean '14, who is the marketing coordinator at Holtz.

Like Becka, Aaron said the pace of the work and the constant change are the professional challenges he craves.

"Daily, I'm faced with things that, sometimes, I don't feel prepared for, but I love the challenge, and I love being able to work through it," he said. "There is a skill to being able to think critically through a challenge, and it's something I have taken with me throughout my career and since graduating. It might not always apply to every course, but you have to apply the ability to work through projects and problems."

Aaron majored in art, and his memories of his major field of study have to do with how he grew as an artist, particularly through the critique process.

"Even when I thought I had presented my best, my professors would encourage me to go deeper," he said. "They would push me, and, for a time, it would be the worst feeling in the world, but then came the realization that it could be better."

"I have those friendships and this marriage because of UNA."

Only as part of the process of partnering with UNA for the Year of the UNA Woman did Becka and Aaron realize they were students at the same time.

"We just realized that I was living in the Appleby residence halls, and he was living in a rental house on

Hermitage Drive," she said. "We were there at the same time, neighbors really, and I don't think we knew each other."

Both agree, however, that living on campus and experiencing life at UNA was among the most valuable parts of their academic careers.

"You know, I was right there," Aaron said. "We were on our front porch for game day and the parades. It was a special little spot."

For a moment, the two take in the memories of those days that are almost 10 years behind them.

"It's hard to believe it's been that long," Becka said. "I met my husband at UNA, and those are all great memories. All of the women who stood with me on our wedding day are still my friends today, and I have those friendships and this marriage because of UNA." ○



THE FLORENCE
SYNODICAL FEMALE
COLLEGE ABSORBS
LOCUST DELL

THE UNIVERSITY STARTS
HAVING FEMALE
INSTRUCTORS AT FLORENCE
NORMAL SCHOOL; AT THIS
TIME, THERE WERE 31
WOMEN WHO ATTENDED THE
SCHOOL

FIRST WOMAN
JOINS THE
FACULTY

1830

LAGRANGE COLLEGE
WAS FOUNDED IN
FRANKLIN COUNTY,
ALABAMA

1855

1874

1879

1834

1872

1877

NICHOLAS HENTZ
OPENS LOCUST DELL
ACADEMY THAT IS
OPERATED BY HIS
FAMILY

UNIVERSITY BECOMES
THE FIRST STATE
TEACHERS COLLEGE
SOUTH OF THE OHIO
RIVER

FIRST GRADUATING
CLASS, AND THREE OF
THE FOUR STUDENTS
WERE WOMEN

WOMEN'S HISTORY TIMELINE

ASHLEY COZART BRINGS
THE SOFTBALL TEAM TO
ITS FIRST NATIONAL TITLE
GAME AND WINS IT

BASKETBALL TEAM
REACHES THE FINAL
FOUR IN NCAA II
TOURNAMENT

2016

1994

2003

LADY LIONS VOLLEYBALL
WINS NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP; IN
2004, THEY WIN THE GSC
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE: Launch of the Year of the UNA Woman with the publication of the UNA Magazine and the hanging of the banners on campus at Collier Library.

JULY: UNA Night at the W.C. Handy Music Festival will be July 27 from 7-9 p.m. at the North Court Median in downtown Florence.

AUGUST: Welcome back, students, with some Welcome Week activities sponsored by the Center for Women's Studies. Fall Convocation. Women's Equality Day is Aug. 26, and the Center for Women's Studies will sponsor a Voter Registration drive.

SEPTEMBER: The George Lindsey Film Festival is back! Enjoy some independent films made by women. The Center

FIRST WOMAN
EDITOR OF THE
FLOR-ALA, MARTHA
SPAIN GASKINS

THE FIRST "DAISY MAE" MAJORETTES
FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S BAND ARE
EDITH ANN DAVIS, BOBBI MCKEE,
DOROTHY ANN PITTS, KATHRYN
GIBSON SANDLIN, AND CRIS YOUNG

1932

1949

1913

O'NEAL HALL, NAMED
AFTER ALABAMA
GOVERNOR AND FORMER
ALUM EDWARD O'NEAL, IS
COMPLETED AND OPENS
AS THE FIRST WOMEN'S
DORMITORY ON CAMPUS

1939

WILLINGHAM HALL
CONSTRUCTED BY
WORKS PROJECTS
ADMINISTRATION
AS A WOMEN'S
DORMITORY

1960s

LATE 1960S - LADY LIONS'
BASKETBALL PROGRAM
BEGINS AS A PART OF
AN EXTRAMURAL
PROGRAM IN THE
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT
(KNOWN AS
FLORENCE STATE
UNIVERSITY AT
THIS TIME)

FIRST WOMAN ATHLETE
RECEIVES AN ATHLETIC
SCHOLARSHIP, LILLIAN
GOODLOW

1974

MARY ELLA POTTS
BECOMES PRESIDENT
PRO TEMPORE OF
THE UNA BOARD OF
TRUSTEES, THE FIRST
WOMAN TO SERVE IN THIS
CAPACITY

1976

1986

FIRST SEASON OF FAST-
PITCH SOFTBALL WITH A
RECORD OF 16-10 AND
WINNER OF THE GSC TITLE

1975

BASKETBALL TEAM ENTERS THE
ASSOCIATION FOR INTERCOLLEGIATE
ATHLETICS FOR WOMEN (AIAW) WITH
SUSAN PHILLIPS AS HEAD COACH
(COACHED FROM 1975-1977)

for Women's Studies will have White Ribbon Days.

OCTOBER: Alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students are invited to campus for Homecoming on Oct. 16. Enjoy a special half-time show featuring all women composers, and all of the alumni award winners to be honored will be women. The Center for Women's Studies will have Purple Ribbon Days and a celebration of the International

Day of the Girl on Oct. 11. The Center will also have the Clothesline Project.

NOVEMBER: The Center for Women's Studies will have a Student Chapter of AAUW Meeting and a Women's and Gender Studies Association Meeting.

DECEMBER: Fall Commencement.

Updates about all events, including dates, times, and locations, will be available at una.edu/unawoman.



Writers, photographers, editors, artists . . .

For nearly 100 years, women have been involved in producing award-winning publications at UNA

By Kira Goldenberg | For the *UNA Magazine*

The University of North Alabama has a long tradition of encouraging women to take on active leadership roles in student publications on campus, from the 90-year-old *Flor-Ala* to the newly created *Flow*, a regional magazine which makes its debut this year. Women students have also shone as photographers across the generations. Today, with newly renovated newspaper offices and darkrooms, the tradition continues.

"I get the opportunity to capture student life across campus, whether they are studying at the library or are headed to their class of the day," said Abby Folsom '22, who assists the university photographer. "These opportunities have really allowed me to experience different settings in relation to photography."

That sense of opportunity and potential spurs already busy students to dedicate their time to documenting the world around them.

The Flor-Ala was first published in 1931, back when UNA was known

as Florence State Teachers College. The publication, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, has been informing the UNA community ever since and is published in print bi-weekly in the fall and spring semesters.

The Flor-Ala has a long history of women in leadership, especially in recent decades. This year is no exception: both the executive and managing editors are women. And they are leading the paper in a newly renovated office.

The Flor-Ala building's facelift included new windows, a fresh coat of paint, new flooring and furniture, and even a podcast recording studio.

"It's very homey, very comfortable," Editor-in-Chief Lavette Williams said. She and Managing Editor Ellen McDonald are steering the publication this year, the latest in a chain of women in leadership positions there.

It's a role Williams said she is especially cognizant of holding after a year marked by a nationwide



reckoning with police violence against Black people.

"I just feel like being a Black woman in this position means a lot, and it's great that I can be an example for other women who maybe are going to pursue journalism or are going to pursue a higher position," she said.

This year, the *Diorama*, the yearbook, is on hiatus, being replaced by a twice-yearly magazine called *Flow*. The magazine will be a regional publication covering the people, places, and stories beyond the UNA campus and into the Shoals area.

"The students really wanted to do this and have another creative outlet, but also one that helped them align a little more with some of their professional prospects," said Dr. Brett Butler Cain, who chairs the department of communications. Since the department doesn't have a magazine program, *Flow* will become a hands-on introduction to that world. And, because it costs less to produce than the *Diorama*, the savings will allow *Flow* to pay writers, allowing a broader cross-section of interested students to participate.



LAVETTE WILLIAMS
SERVED AS EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF FOR THE
FLOR-ALA FOR THE
LAST TWO YEARS.

"We created [*Flow*] with one goal in mind, which was to showcase the Shoals and modern southern culture more broadly," inaugural Editor-in-Chief Audrey Grisham Johnson said. Johnson was *The Flor-Ala's* managing editor in 2020.

That overall goal is expansive; the name, for example, which came from a fall brainstorming session, encapsulates multiple meanings.

"I think that so many of my peers and my campus community affectionately call Florence 'Flo' or 'Flo-town,'" Johnson said. "Obviously, since we love Florence, and we wanted to recognize Florence as this new epicenter for southern culture," she added. "We think about the flow of the Tennessee River, which is obviously super important to this region's development. And in psychology, they say the flow state is when you really get into something and you're hyper focused ...we like to think that that's how we get when we write our articles."

In the launch issue, those articles include pieces on novelist Michael Farris Smith as well as a recent alumnus with a thriving career as a potter; there's also a piece on the history of a Tennessee River hotel famous for its catfish.

"I'm really passionate about the investigative long-form journalism we get to do in the magazine," Johnson said.

This year, the photography department's darkroom moved from its long-time location in the Communications Building to brand new digs on the third floor of the arts building. The space, which had a grand opening in early April, is now one large darkroom with state-of-the-art equipment rather than a few smaller ones that made it challenging to teach and collaborate, according to photography professor Robert Rausch.

"In the gang darkroom, everyone is seeing what everyone else is working on, and that's inspiring," said Rausch, referring to the larger group space. "They can help each other and feed off each other creatively."

Folsom, who is a junior and a student worker for the University photographer / videographer, agrees.

"I like that the space is very open and students can help each other out," she said. "I think the open concept is a great improvement from the Communications Building, because it was harder to communicate and critique in the small office."



The vast majority of students using the sparkling new facilities are women, Rausch said, a shift he's seen in his 20-plus years teaching at UNA and one that ultimately leads to a broader spectrum of images. Many of those students go on to make an impact in the broader arts community, such as Christi Britten '05, executive director of the Tennessee Valley Arts Association.

Former university photographer Shannon Wells agrees. Before she returned to work at her alma mater for a 28-year run, she was a photography student there in the 1970s. She remembers having very few female classmates.

"I may have been one of the only women photographers that went into photography as a career that I know of," she said.

As university photographer, Wells said she made efforts to always hire some women as student photographers, a goal that got increasingly easier as the years passed.

"The women photographers that I worked with were just really great, because not only were they diligent and hardworking, they were very creative," Wells said. "I think women have a tendency to see a little bit differently in photography."🌞



The first advisor to the newspaper was Miss Pearl Sparks (left), a beloved figure on campus who held the position for more than 20 years until her retirement. Miss Sparks was replaced in this role by Doris Kelso (right), an English professor who was eventually promoted to Director of Publications and who oversaw not only student publications but also the graphics and information services departments. It was women who oversaw The Flor-Ala and the Diorama in their first 70 years.



Learning to *lean in* and SPEAK OUT

New RSO offers support, resources for future Women in Business

By Anna Beahm '16 | For the *UNA Magazine*

A new student organization aims to prepare collegiate women to enter the world of business with the tools they need to advocate for themselves and lead in their field.

The new Registered Student Organization, Women in Business, was started by Assistant Professor of Managing and Marketing, Dr. Erin Gillespie.

Inspired by her students and motivated by data suggesting women have fewer negotiation skills compared to men, Gillespie knew she needed some way to ensure the women business students at UNA have the tools they need to be successful in the business world.

Research from LinkedIn found women are less likely to apply for jobs more senior than their current position. While women on average apply for fewer jobs than men, they are more likely to be hired for the jobs they apply for, according to LinkedIn.

Despite this data, Gillespie said her inspiration for starting the RSO began in the classroom.

"What drove me the most was seeing such strong, intelligent, and talented women in my classroom and across UNA's campus. I really wanted to help these women receive all the opportunities possible to help them be successful. I searched the internet to see if there was an existing national organization, and while I didn't find a national group of Women in Business, I did find such groups at a few other universities," she said.

In her own experience as a young woman in business, Gillespie said she didn't learn how to properly negotiate her salary until she was in her 30s, and she wants to make sure her students are empowered – ready to advocate for themselves

and lead their businesses with confidence.

"We're not trying to get them all to become entrepreneurs and lead their own companies. They can have whatever role they choose. But I do want them to have the negotiation and personal branding skills in place to go after whatever career they want," she said.

After pitching the idea to one of her advisees, Tori Bottoms, Women in Business was born. Bottoms became the first president of the organization, and after she graduated in May 2020, she was hired as a recruiter for the MBA program, and she is still involved with the organization.

The organization became official in Spring 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced the organization to go virtual as in-person classes were canceled, and students were sent to study in their dorms and apartments.

Despite the pandemic and shelter-in-place orders, Women in Business met via Zoom for workshops, panels, and speakers. The organization also has a group chat where members can get to know each other and share ideas.

Gillespie and Bottoms organize an event with a speaker once a month. Gillespie said she wants to work widely with other RSOs, university organizations, and organizations in the Shoals community to conduct these events.

Women in Business has hosted events with the Center for Women's Studies, the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, and a panel of recent UNA women graduates working in business.

The panel of young women in business who recently graduated from UNA was especially meaningful for Bottoms.

**"Going virtual
helped the business
to grow to not
only local Shoals
musicians, but
songwriters across
the US."**

Lillian Glanton

Owner

Muscle Shoals Song Rooms



"I got to come back and sit on that panel with people that I graduated with. To sit together and talk about our experiences and things that we learned along the way and things that were impactful for us here at UNA in the College of Business – that was cool," she said.

Hearing other young women share their early career experiences is important, and something UNA student and business owner Lillian Glanton said she values.

Glanton said she looks up to her friend, Hannah Garrett, who owns her own business in Nashville.

"She's the girl I can call up at 9 p.m on Tuesday night and say 'hey this is sucking in my life right now, and I need a word of encouragement,' " she said, as she described all the challenges of running a business during a pandemic.

"I think the one thing I wish I knew before I started my business was the actual time and dedication it takes. It's putting in the work. It takes 80-hour work weeks and sleepless nights. Sometimes, the entrepreneurial spirit can be sexy, but it's always not sexy. That's how the music business is," Glanton said.

Glanton obtained her own LLC when she was 18. She has been involved in music and the broader music industry since she got her golden ticket to Hollywood on the hit talent TV show "American Idol."

Her business, a performance and songwriting space called Muscle Shoals Song Rooms, opened in January 2020, not long before the world was turned upside down by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The closings forced Glanton to reassess her business model before it even got up and running strong. While this challenge caused anxiety about the future of her business, Glanton said it also inspired her

to find new ways to expand her business outside of the Shoals to the world.

"If it hadn't been for pandemic, I never would have thought to go virtual. Going virtual helped the business to grow to not only local Shoals musicians, but songwriters across the U.S.," she said.

As a young woman working in a middle-aged, male-dominated industry like the music business, Glanton said she had to learn how to "own her power" when making business deals.

"In about 90 percent of my meetings, I'm surrounded by 50-year-old men. I'm a 21-year-old girl trying to get them to write a check. You have to be comfortable with owning the power that's in the room. When you don't own your power, everyone can see that, and they can belittle you for who you are," she said.

Glanton said she did her own experiment with the power dynamic. In one meeting, she acted small and apologetic, shrinking when an investor didn't come through on her request. Next, she stepped into that own-your-power mindset, and asked for what she needed without apologizing.

"I decided to go in there and say 'this is what I want, this is how much it costs, this is what I need. If you can't do that, I'll move on,' " she said. "When I started to say, 'no, this is what I want and need' and going to other companies, the companies would be more up front with me because I was more up front with them. You actually get more 'yeses' because you're not wasting time on people who aren't moving you forward."

Gillespie said Women in Business is now meeting in a hybrid format, and she hopes to add more in-person events this year. ☺

NO PLAYING AROUND

New UNA doctoral program balances exercise science, health promotion

By Gail Allyn Short
For the *UNA Magazine*

The Department of Kinesiology in the College of Education and Human Sciences is rolling out its first doctoral program with a curriculum that is bringing together exercise science and health promotion.

The program is UNA's first Ph.D. offering and the University's second doctoral degree program after the College of Business recently debuted its Executive Doctor of Business Administration degree.

UNA professor of health promotion Dr. Lee Renfroe says exercise science and health promotion have always worked closely together, but are rarely combined into a single Ph.D. program.

"We've seen over the last few years that as students exit our programs, a lot of the internships and jobs are blending exercise science with health promotion," she said. "So we're seeing students who need skill sets in both areas."

Students in the new Ph.D., program will explore exercise science topics such as the scientific basis of health and human performance as well as advanced exercise testing and prescription. The health promotion courses, on the other hand, will include topics such as biopsychosocial aspects of nutrition and the social determinants of health.

Students can also choose from a host of electives like cardiac rehabilitation and integrative health coaching. Those who complete the 60-credit hour program will earn the Doctor of Philosophy in Exercise Science and Health Promotion degree.

Most classes will be in-person, although some courses will be online, said Dr. Matthew Green, associate dean in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

"Many doctoral programs have a heavy lab emphasis where there's a lot of research, grant writing, and data collection," he said.

Besides preparing students to be competent researchers and scholars, this Ph.D., program will give students an early taste of what it is like to be a university professor, Green said.

For example, students will have to complete up to nine hours of a supervised teaching practicum to become skilled classroom teachers, Green said. But they will teach 300- and 400-level undergraduate courses, which is unlike most doctoral programs where universities assign Ph.D., students to teach 100- and 200-level courses as teaching assistants.

In addition to research and the teaching practicum, the doctoral program also includes a service component where students will contribute to the campus and the local community the same way university faculty members are often required to do, he said.

"Service is an often overlooked component of doctoral preparation," said Green. "We're going to engage our students in service from the beginning of their program and throughout so that when they go to a job interview, they can confidently say that they've already engaged in the kinds of activities that the university where they're applying will need them to come and plug into."





KINESIOLOGY STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE HEALTHY UNA SCREENINGS BY PROVIDING BLOOD PRESSURE AND OTHER HEALTH TESTS.

Those service activities might involve working on UNA department, college, and university committees, or volunteering with other units on campus or groups like Special Olympics, he said.

"Approval for service projects is required, but students are also encouraged to take initiative and develop projects where they have a passion for serving," he said.

"At the end of this program," said Green, "we'll have doctorally prepared candidates who are ideal prospective faculty members for university positions in teaching, research, and service."

Close to 20 people applied for the doctoral program, Green said. Eleven were accepted.

Savanna Knight, 23, of Corrigan, Texas, recently completed her master's degree in exercise science at UNA and said she chose to stay for the doctoral program.

"I've really enjoyed my time here and getting to know all the professors at UNA,"

Knight said. "I've kind of built a relationship with them, and that's something I don't think I'd be able to find at a different university. I know how important it is to have a good mentor when you're pursuing a Ph.D."

Knight said that other than conducting research on the science of running, she is especially excited at the prospect of gaining valuable experience teaching upper-level courses.

"Teaching is what I'd like to do," said Knight, "and I'd like to teach exercise science at a university in the future."

Women like Knight who pursue degrees in exercise science, kinesiology, or health promotion are not new. In fact, data shows that women comprise about 53.8 percent of those obtaining degrees in kinesiology and exercise science. But a report by Zippia.com says that just 33.3 percent of kinesiology professors are women while 66.7 percent are men.

However, like Knight, Alyssum Reno, 25, of Ellensburg, Wash., has her eye on becoming a university professor, too.

Reno earned a master's degree from UNA, and said she chose it for graduate school at the suggestion of a mentor at her undergraduate school who knew Dr. Green.

"The UNA faculty are, in my opinion, the best mentors," she said. "I graduated from UNA a couple years ago, and I can still call and talk to them about anything. I just knew there was no other place I wanted to do my Ph.D."

Reno says her attraction to exercise science and health promotion stems from her college days as a track-and-field athlete where she threw the shot put, javelin, and hammer. She also majored in nutrition and dietetics. Having been a teaching assistant in graduate school, she wants to teach and conduct research at a university.

"I love teaching, but I'm really excited to add the research component," Reno said. "I'd love to be a professor at a university and be involved with sports nutrition."

Another classmate, Pedrica Bain from Nassau, Bahamas, comes to UNA with a master's degree in exercise physiology. Playing basketball and softball in college helped solidify her passion for exercise science, she said.

The director of her master's degree program suggested that Bain consider UNA's doctoral program, she said. After visiting the campus, she knew UNA would be a good fit.

"I like the program model," Bain said. "It's built around teaching, service, and research, so you have the chance to get a taste of each area. I want to pursue a career in academia, and I'll be on track to be a tenured professor. The faculty members will go above and beyond because they don't want to see any of us fail, so they'll do their best to help us to succeed," Bain said.

Her plan is eventually to teach at a regional institution for 10 years before pursuing another career in health education and fitness, she said.

"I'd like to return home to the Bahamas and start my own fitness facility where I can educate Bahamians about health," she said. "Exercise is medicine."🌱



ABOVE: PROFESSOR OF HEALTH PROMOTION DR. LEE RENFRO.
LEFT: ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES DR. MATTHEW GREEN



Well-prepared for a life



of service

UNA's first nursing school cohort looks back

By Gail Allyn Short
For the *UNA Magazine*

Back in 1973, Lynne Marks, who was Lynne Young at the time, made the decision to enroll in nursing school in her hometown of Florence after a long struggle to choose a career.

Her mother was a nurse and UNA, which at the time was Florence State University, had just announced the opening of its School of Nursing and Allied Health with the first cohort of students to start classes in 1973.

"I feel fortunate that the School came along when it did," Marks said. "I was young and floundering at the time. I felt that it was providential that the opportunity came along when it did."

To lead Florence State's new School of Nursing and Allied Health, the University tapped Oklahoma City native Jimmye Stevenson, who *The Flor-Ala* newspaper described as "an experienced educator" who had taught at four nursing schools across the country and was completing her doctoral studies.

"She was very strict," said Pamela Kennamer Longcrier, a native of Sheffield who also enrolled in the nursing school's first class. "You followed the rules, and they were very strict about our appearance."

Nursing students had to wear smock-like blue and white pinstripe dresses with hems no higher than the knee, Longcrier said. White hosiery and white shoes were a must. Most jewelry, on the other hand, was not permitted; although, married students were allowed to wear a gold band.

"Dr. Stevenson ran a tight ship, and if you made some bad grades, you didn't proceed on," Longcrier said. "You had to fall back."

Marks said knowing that she and her classmates were the nursing school's inaugural class was exciting.

NURSING DEAN JIMMYE STEPHENSON, SECOND FROM LEFT, VISITS WITH OTHER CAMPUS LADIES OUTSIDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S HOME.



ABOVE: LYNNE MARKS, AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE, STUDIES WITH OTHER STUDENTS IN 1973.
RIGHT: THE FIRST NURSING COHORT CELEBRATES AFTER THEIR PINNING CEREMONY IN 1976.



"It's great that we were the first class," said Marks. "We really bonded together. For me, it was just a sense of being in my hometown and going to school and getting a bachelor's degree in nursing. It was pretty special."

Marks says her favorite teacher was Dr. Alyce Brown. Brown was a 20-something-year-old instructor who had spent several years working as a charge nurse at area hospitals.

"She was just so ladylike and professional, and I'm not an easy person to teach," said Marks. "I was kind of a joker and anti-authoritarian. So she had her hands full, but she never, ever gave up on me, and I really appreciate that."

Brown taught students the fundamentals of nursing, such as how to take blood pressures and temperatures, the proper way to give patients a bath, and how to communicate with other healthcare professionals.

"Most of the students were naturally apprehensive," said Brown. "They depended on you a lot so you had to have good relationships with the students. And, at that time, quite a few were older than me."

"We had students who were already nurses," said Brown. "They had a diploma, but not a degree, so they had to go back through all of the basics like the rest of

the students who were younger, fresh in college. Then we had people who had wanted to be nurses, but there hadn't been a nursing program before."

Brown recalled one challenging week of 13-hour days when she was tasked with making sure all 54 students had the skills needed to start their upcoming clinicals at the local hospitals and clinics.

To get ready, every student had to complete a series of simulations and techniques to show they could do the kinds of basic tasks and procedures they would have to perform in a hospital, such as giving a patient a bath.

To meet the deadline, Brown arrived at school every day that week at 8 a.m., and left when the guard arrived to lock the building at 9 p.m., she said.

"But I got them all checked off and prepared to start clinicals," she said.

Longcrier says one of her favorite clinical experiences was at the local health department.

"The nurses back then would do field visits to people's homes, and they would let us go with them," she said. "One of my mentors there was Connie Culver. I loved going out with her as she visited families at homes for wound management and giving tuberculosis treatments and other kinds of in-home care."

On the evening of May 14, 1976, Florence State University's first cohort of nursing students graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in nursing.

Marks says one of her fondest memories was traveling on a bus later that summer with her fellow graduates to Montgomery to take the nursing board exam.

"Everybody was excited and nervous," she said. "I mean, this was putting it all on the line. The A students didn't have a care of the world because they knew they knew it. The B and C students like me thought we could pull through, but there were others who we were close to that we hoped would make it through, too."

Before the exam, Longcrier had landed a job at Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield where she remained for about a year before taking a position with the

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services caring for special needs children. She worked there for 37 years.

"I think the discipline required in nursing school is so important," said Longcrier. "There are life-and-death decisions in the real world that you have to make. You have to have the discipline to handle that. The training that I got at UNA taught me to be disciplined, and the knowledge I obtained helped me to make right decisions."

Marks also worked at Helen Keller Hospital for a few years in its ICU before moving to Chattanooga with her husband, David Marks. There, she took a job in the quality improvement department at Erlanger Hospital in 1982.

"I liked the idea of working with the medical staff to ensure that all patients left in better shape than they came in, which included infection control," Marks said.

Brown later became Dr. Brown after earning her doctorate in nursing and going on to teach medical surgical nursing, nursing management, and research at UNA before retiring in 2011 after 38 years of teaching.

One of the most pivotal deans in the nursing school's history was Dr. Birdie Bailey, who led the school as it launched its first graduate program. In 2001, the nursing school offered one of the first online courses at UNA, and later purchased the first high-fidelity mannequin for medical simulations, said the current Dean Dr. Vickie Pierce.

"[Dr. Bailey] was a forward thinker," Pierce said. "She was always looking at what the latest innovations were or the latest trend in nursing education and was definitely on the forefront of taking the nursing programs at UNA and moving them forward."

Bailey retired in 2015.

That same year, Marks retired after 33 years at Erlanger Hospital. Looking back, she still recalls the pride she felt being among UNA's first cohort of nursing school graduates.

"Nursing was never on my radar," Marks said. "I didn't think I could ever do it. Then, this school came along, and I thought, 'I can do this.' It turned out to be a lifelong blessing." ☉



ABOVE: ALYCE BROWN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST NURSING PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND RETIRED FROM UNA IN 2011.

LEFT: PAMELA KENNAMER LONGCRIER GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST NURSING COHORT IN 1976.

BELOW: BIRDIE BAILEY WAS DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF NURSING FROM 1994-2015.

Leading by Example

Honors students need look no further for inspiration than the woman whose name is on their college

By Abigail Ryan, Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College Class of '21 | For the UNA Magazine

Spring is a time of new beginnings and growth, and that's especially true in the Honors College. In March, the University's Honors College became the Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College. The College is named for Delores and Weldon Cole, graduates of the University of North Alabama College of Business in 1958 and 1960, respectively. The support of the Coles during the past decade has been essential to the continued growth of the Honors College, which is expected to pass the 600-student mark for the Fall 2021 semester.

Friend of the College Spotlight – Delores Dollar Cole

While many in the UNA family are familiar with Weldon Cole thanks to his service on the Foundation Board and having been selected Alumni of the Year in 2008, the other half of this supremely generous alumni couple is an integral part of our Honors College story.

Delores Dollar Cole was born in Addison and attended Florence State College. She married Weldon in 1957. The Coles lived all over the United States, and in 2000 they returned to Alabama.

Mr. Cole said, "Delores sacrificed a very promising career more than once to support me in my career. In truth, it was our career because she helped me many times prepare for company and client presentations. Delores also graciously hosted many business events in our home and became involved in the communities where we lived."

Mrs. Cole has been a part of the President's Cabinet at the University, on the Board of Hospice West Alabama, on the Nursing Board of Visitors at the University of Alabama, and in various offices of the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra Guild, the Alexis de Tocqueville Society, Belle Arts, and PEO (a philanthropic

organization of women helping women). Renaming the Honors College as the Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College was in great part because of the dedication of Delores Cole to Honors students past, present, and future.

Lafayette Honors Hall Updates

A name change is not the only transformation happening at the Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College. Renovations will also soon be underway to refresh our home facility and attract a growing number of students to the College.

Jill Andrews from Create Architects is leading the design team. Updates include a major modification of the north entrance of Lafayette Hall that will allow students to gather, learn, and engage in the heart of UNA's campus. The changed exterior public spaces will situate students in the middle of campus while continuing to provide a dedicated space for Honors students.

Other updates include bathroom renovations, new windows, flooring, and lighting in the residential areas as well as repairs to the outside of the building and improved accessibility.



LAFAYETTE HALL

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Morgan Camp Butler



Morgan Camp Butler is a 2017 UNA and Honors College alumna. Since graduating, she has worked for NASA as an industrial hygienist. In her work at NASA, Morgan has evaluated hardware for the International Space Station, provided support for the Space Launch System (SLS), and has become a subject matter expert in additive manufacturing and health hazard analysis. Morgan had been awarded the NASA Center Operations Peer Award for Positive Impact, the One KBR Award for Outstanding Achievement, and the NASA Early Career Public Achievement Medal. In June, Morgan became a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and plans to continue her education at the University of Michigan this fall with a Master of Public Health focusing on Environmental Health and Epidemiology.

Brianna Coleman



Brianna Coleman graduated from the Honors College in 2017 with a degree in Secondary Education. A first-generation college graduate, and the first educator in her family, Brianna has worked as a high school instructor and is finishing her second year as a teacher at R.A. Hubbard High School in Courtland, where she has taught in both virtual and traditional settings. At R.A. Hubbard, Brianna was recently elected to the school's leadership team. In December, Brianna will graduate from UNA with a Master of Arts in Writing so that she can better serve her students.

Amy Minnelli Martin



Honors graduate Amy Minnelli Martin completed a bachelor's degree in 2010 from UNA where she was member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority. Martin has been a Bank Independent employee since 2011 and a Bank Secrecy Act Officer since 2017. In her role, Martin monitors transactions to report potential financial crimes, including money laundering and terrorist financing. Martin is a manager of the BSA Team at Bank Independent and serves as the bank's business continuity program assistant. She is a member of the Southeast Regional BSA Peer Group, an ACAMS member (an organization for Anti-Financial Crime professionals), and is a member of the American Bankers Association Money Laundering Issues Group. Martin lives in Florence with her husband, Tyler, and their children, Rosie and William. She is an active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church and is active in the Shoals tennis community.

Bridging the gap

Women's Studies minor and Women's Center offer haven, education, and resources for community

By Kali Daniel '16 | For the *UNA Magazine*

In the spring of 2016, I walk into the house on Pine Street across from Willingham Hall. The beep of the door sensor announces my arrival, and a voice radiates warmth from the back of the building.

"Hi! Welcome to the Women's Center, and don't forget to sign in," said Emily Kelley, the coordinator of the Center for Women's Studies.

"It's me, Ms. Kelley," I said. She immediately comes to the common area from the kitchen, asks me how my day is going, and gives me my assignments for the day, which include greeting guests, updating the monthly newsletter, meeting with students who need access to the resource pantry, and answering all-too-common questions about the center to anyone who pops by.

Ms. Kelley made the center seem like a home for anyone on campus – one that had been around forever; however, the center and the accompanying Women's Studies minor didn't exist before the turn of the century.

Nestled into the east side of UNA's campus, Willingham Hall is home to several College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering departments. It is also home to the inception of the Women's Studies minor program, which was launched more than 20 years ago in the spring of 2000.

Dr. Lynne Rieff, who was and continues to be a faculty member in the history department, and Dr. Anna Lott, a now-retired English professor, were approached by another faculty member with a stark question: Have you considered looking into a women's program at UNA?



The question was broached in 1999, just one year after now-director Rieff joined the faculty. The answer was a resounding yes.

"Anna and I began going through the undergraduate catalog to see what was practical," Rieff said. "We were keenly aware that there probably wasn't going to be any money as far as creating the minor from scratch and creating courses."

Instead, the co-coordinators proposed UNA's first interdisciplinary program, cross-listing courses that were already being taught in other departments. These courses included English, communications, and sociology, in addition to the in-progress proposal of a women's history course. Both professors thought it was appropriate to include an introductory course, which Rieff was granted time to teach, and a final, capstone course, which Lott would oversee.

As the coursework was developed, both professors sought the experience of other universities across the South.

"As we were looking to see about an academic program, what we were also struck by was that institutions had women's resource centers," Rieff said. "When you talk about a women's resource center, you're talking about something that is not necessarily – and often is not at all – an academic center. It's part of student affairs."

They considered developing some centralized location that would serve the campus community, while connecting students with the greater Shoals community.

And that's what sets UNA's Women's Center apart.

"With our women's studies courses, you're talking and teaching about various forms of women's oppression," Rieff said. "There needed to be a visible place where we could do some programming, where we could not only educate our students who were enrolled in women's studies courses, but where we could do programming for the Shoals community that was focused on educating them about various women's issues, particularly issues related to gender violence but beyond that. There was a gap there."

Initially, the program was given a room

in what was then Bennett Infirmary. In 2004, the center was offered the house on Pine Street, which previously housed International Affairs before it relocated to Powers Hall. From there, the center became a place of welcome, understanding, and education for the community.

In 2009, Emily Kelley was hired as the first part-time coordinator of the center, and with Dr. Lott's retirement in 2012, Kelley became the full-time smiling face that greeted everyone with a "Hi!"

The impact of the center is significant. From providing a library of diverse resources and topics; to a printing resource for students who can't afford to do so; to a bathroom complete with a bath tub; and a cabinet full of referral cards for Shoals Crisis Center, One Place of the Shoals, and other community resources, the location is a haven for students in need.

"We've had students deal with homelessness; we've had students with mental health issues that Emily personally took to student counseling, not limited to women's studies students," Rieff said. "I know I've had, in teaching women's studies, any number of students in the intro class who had experienced intimate partner violence or had grown up in families with domestic violence. I've always been moved by the stories that students shared in the intro class. I hope there was some catharsis with that, having the opportunity to share those stories."

"It's in those kinds of situations that you realize that intellectually we read things like essays and books, and we know how widespread and pervasive women's oppression is across the world, but when you have students and they're sharing with you, you're in a situation where you're trying to help them – for example, work through homelessness and be where they can navigate through all the academic channels, and finish and be successful – it adds so much to that."

"It's been very, very meaningful to me and an honor to be associated with the Center for Women's Studies." ●

WOMEN'S CENTER
EVENTS INCLUDE
ANNUAL DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH
PROGRAMS, EQUAL
PAY DAY, SELF-
DEFENSE TRAINING,
AND BASKET AND
JEWELRY SALES THAT
BENEFIT WOMEN
IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES.

DRIVE AND

From their humble beginnings in the PE department, women's sports have evolved to become the NCAA-sanctioned powerhouses they are today

By Kira Goldenberg
For the UNA Magazine

In 1972, the only women's sports offered at the University of North Alabama were volleyball and tennis, and those were brand new to the school. The two teams were considered an offshoot of the physical education department; back then they weren't part of the Athletics Department or in the NCAA like the men's sports were. That meant they didn't get the resources, from uniforms to a dedicated coaching staff, available to the men as a matter of course.

But Ande Jones loved every moment of her volleyball and tennis careers.

"We would all be crammed into a 12-passenger van or a 15-passenger van. The coach would be driving," she said. "We drove all day – it was like in the wee, wee hours of the morning. And we'd get lost. And of course you're using maps in those days. Just the memories of those trips, singing on the van, just cutting up."



DETERMINATION

Jones ultimately went on to lead UNA to an Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) state championship in volleyball in 1975 and was a four-year volleyball letterman and three-year tennis letterman. She then coached the Lions as a graduate assistant in 1976 before returning again in 1979 to coach volleyball, tennis, and later, softball.

In between playing and coaching, Title IX came into force. The federal law, passed in 1972 but not fully enforced until a few years later, mandated gender parity in educational environments that received federal funding. That included parity in sports.

At UNA, that meant that women's sports moved from the physical education department to the Athletic Department, with dedicated coaches who didn't coach multiple sports or juggle coaching with teaching responsibilities. It also paved the way for UNA Lady Lions teams, most of which formed decades after the men's teams, to have access to scholarships, dedicated coaches, and equal resources. That meant women's teams started to recruit for players, allowing them to create ever-stronger programs. The increased money involved in women's sports caught the NCAA's eye, and after the AIAW folded in 1983, the NCAA took over.

"When I came back in '79, things had shifted to more of an 'athletic' viewpoint. We had shifted to being under the Athletic Department, so coaches did not have teaching responsibilities," Jones said. "[It was] a big change there in just the perception, I think."



Jones is not the only Lady Lion from the 1970s to notice how far women's sports have progressed at the University with the passing decades.

"When I came in, it was like, 'So, these are the uniforms,'" laughed Wanda Beckham Ross, a basketball player from 1978-1980 on a team first created in 1976. After she graduated, the team got warmups, she said, "and I thought that was the coolest thing."

Ross was the first All-American in a women's sport at UNA and the first female inductee into the UNA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. During her time at the University, she helped elevate the team's game, leading them to a 22-10 record and an AIAW state championship win.

"I remember in the state championship, and it coming down to a foul to win," she said. That was a nail-biter, but not a problem. "We had to shoot free throws every day [at practice] when we were tired, and if we missed we all had to run again. So that got you really tired, and when you got up there you had to hit those free throws. I had to hit those free throw shots at the end, and I was like, 'Oh my gosh that depends on me.'"

Ross brought the drive and determination, but the brute repetition was the brainchild of her coach, Gary Elliott, who guided the team for four years, starting the year she arrived to play in 1978. At the time, women's coaches didn't have full-time assistants, and they often had to coach multiple sports and teach physical education.

"I have never had a male come in after playing a basketball game and just be completely exhausted, and I had several women who played so hard they could just hardly move," he said.

Early on, the women's game was three-

on-three rather than five-on-five – there were six players on the court from each team, but defense and offense had to stay on either side of the half-court line. It gave the game a very different feel for Elliott, who coached men both before and after his time with the UNA women's team. He couldn't use strategies he wanted at the time, he said, but women's basketball has transformed across the decades.

Today, UNA women's sports have come into their own. While the school ended the 1960s with volleyball as the only women's sport, added basketball and tennis in the '70s, then softball and cross-country in the '80s, today the school also offers soccer, beach volleyball, and golf. The teams regularly win conference championships and enjoy strong NCAA showings. The soccer team even entered the NCAA's Division I – with a win over Alabama State – in August 2018.

The groundwork for that accomplishment was partially cemented by Chloe Roberts '12, who led the team to its first Gulf South Conference championship and still holds 10 school records, including a career-record of 93 goals. She's now head coach of women's soccer at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

"I felt we put UNA soccer on the map along with other accomplished sports," said Roberts, adding that the team got their own dedicated locker room during her time there. "When I heard the news of UNA going to Division I, I was very excited for them."

One thing that hasn't changed? The camaraderie and the tight bonds that come with being a Lady Lion.

"The team when I arrived was an instant family," Roberts said. "We all gelled together and created something really special." ☺



LEFT: ANDE JONES (FAR LEFT) CELEBRATES WITH THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM. BELOW, LEFT: CHLOE ROBERTS LED THE SOCCER TEAM TO ITS FIRST GULF SOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP AND STILL HOLDS 10 RECORDS TODAY. BELOW, RIGHT: THE 1975 VOLLEYBALL TEAM WERE THE FIRST WOMEN'S TEAM TO WIN A CHAMPIONSHIP (ANDE JONES PICTURED THIRD FROM RIGHT). BOTTOM LEFT: ANDE JONES LAUGHS WITH PRESIDENT ROBERT GUILLOT. BOTTOM RIGHT: WANDA BECKHAM ROSS WAS THE FIRST FEMALE INDUCTEE INTO THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME IN 1993.



Philanthropy with a uniquely personal touch

*First Lady's initiative supports
University programs, students*

By Anna Beahm '16
For the *UNA Magazine*

If you're a woman who wants to support UNA, but you don't know how to get involved, a new initiative of First Lady Dena Kitts may be the right fit.

Last year, Kitts launched the Women of Influence initiative, a program for any woman who wants to get involved at UNA. For the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic thwarted plans to host events, but the initiative is pressing forward to help philanthropy-minded women learn how they can support programs and students at UNA.


On the surface, Women of Influence may look similar to the many other philanthropic opportunities at UNA, but Barbie Terry, the assistant vice president of Advancement, promises there's nothing like it at UNA.

To become a member, you must be a woman and have contributed at least \$250 annually to the Women of Influence Fund at the UNA Foundation. The \$250 per year works out to about \$21 per month. The minimum donation allows for greater engagement across a broader spectrum of participants, Terry said.

What makes Women of Influence different? Each member has a say in how the money is spent and who receives funds.

"Members are our boots-on-the-ground. They have a key role in this. It's not something where you just send your money in and then we never hear from you again," she said. "There are very few programs like this where you really get a say in how money is allocated."

**"We want people
who have been
sitting at their
home saying 'I've
always wanted
to be involved
but, I don't know
how.' "**



"There are very few programs like this where you really get a say in how money is allocated."

At the end of each fiscal year, one-third of all the funds raised, which includes the donations made by members, will automatically go to the Caring for the Pride Fund, which supports students facing a financial need.

Members will vote on how the remaining two-thirds of the funds are spent. Terry plans to have the first membership meeting this Fall.

There's no restriction on where the money goes, Terry said. This is an opportunity for women to become visionary investors through a collective force of supporting the mission of the University of North Alabama.

Michelle Forsythe Jones, membership chair for Women of Influence, said many people aren't aware of the additional student needs that aren't covered by scholarships.

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to be involved with Women of Influence at UNA, which gives women the platform to come together and make a positive impact at the university," said Jones, a Shoals entrepreneur and business owner.

Women of Influence isn't just for women who attended UNA or who live in the Shoals; it's for any woman who wants to support the University and students financially.

"We want people who have been sitting at their home saying 'I've always wanted to be involved but, I don't know how' or 'I live in Florence and I'm not a graduate of UNA, but I love that campus' or 'I want to help students, but I don't know what to do personally'" Terry said.

"I hope names come across that we've never seen before. We want to get to know people through this program. Let us help you find your passion by letting us show you the behind-the-scenes of our students that people don't get to see."

Both Terry and Jones said Women of Influence can become so much more than just another way to donate. It's a program that can empower women to meet needs and to make connections between the community and UNA students.

Jones mentioned the many woman-run nonprofit organizations in the Shoals and major national woman-founded organizations like the American Red Cross and the Special Olympics, and she sees Women of Influence as another powerful woman-led group making a real difference.

"Behind any successful event, business, college, or any other entity, there is always a woman," Jones said.

To learn more about Women of Influence and join the initiative, go to una.edu/advancement/woi. ☺

BUILT IN HISTORY

On the main campus and off, buildings are named for notable women who had a passion for the University of North Alabama. One of the most prominent buildings named after a woman on campus is Coby Hall; the historic structure was given to UNA in 2005 by David Brubaker and was named in memory of his late wife, Coby Stockard Brubaker. Coby Hall is home to the Office of Admissions, where prospective students often begin campus tours. In 2017, the Department of Human Sciences, Hospitality, and Design was named in memory of Connie D. McKinney by her sons, Joe and Chester McKinney, Jr. Mrs. McKinney graduated in 1950 from Florence State Teachers College, where she studied Home Economics. Ground was broken in 2018 for Laura M. Harrison Hall, which houses the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions. Construction was completed in late 2020. Harrison, '55, is named elsewhere on campus, and Harrison Fountain is the most recognizable feature of the Harrison Entrance to UNA. The UNA softball team plays at Hilda B. Anderson Softball Stadium. The Softball Complex was renovated in 2019; Mrs. Anderson passed away in March of 2020.







Dear Alumni and Friends,

The University has designated 2021-2022 as the Year of the UNA Woman, making this year even more special for me to serve as National Alumni Association President. The year-long celebration, which kicks off this month, focuses on the UNA women and their contributions throughout the past 150 years. As such, the 2021 Homecoming Alumni Awards will be dedicated to those women who have gone above and beyond to give back to UNA and our community. We need your help with nominations, which are open until and July 1 and may be submitted at una.edu/alumni/awards.

In celebration of women, First Lady Dena Kitts and Assistant Vice President of Advancement Barbie Terry have collaborated to form Women of Influence. This initiative allows philanthropists to come together to impact the lives of UNA students.

In the spring, we had our Alumni Awards ceremony in the newly renovated Norton Auditorium. It was exciting to recognize the recipients of those awards.

As the Alumni President, my legacy has involved stocking the shelves of The Pantry, a food pantry on campus that is accessible to students in need. None of our students should go hungry, and you can donate food at any time. Visit una.edu/students/Food-Pantry to learn more.

On behalf of the Alumni Board, I want to recognize the significant loss that many of us in the UNA family have experienced this past year. The grace and steadfastness that you have shown while losing faculty, family, friends and even our beloved lioness, Una, is to be commended. I have no doubt that while we may still grieve these losses, we also look ahead to a brighter future and continue move forward in hope.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, and Roar Lions!

Dr. Mary Leigh Gillespie '96

Attended/Did not graduate

Charles E. Grainger published his memoir, *My Journey through a Changing South*. (Attended UNA from 1956-1959.)

Lillian Glanton (current student) was featured in *Forbes* magazine for founding the Muscle Shoals Songwriters' Festival and Muscle Shoals Song Rooms.

1970s

Gary Smith ('76) was elected Business Council of Alabama chairman of the board.

Sonceria "Ann" Berry ('78) was named first African American Secretary of the United States Senate; she is the eighth woman to serve in this position.

Don Cash ('79) won his sixth regional Emmy award for his role as series producer for the Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS Television Show.

1980s

Harold Hudson ('81) is the incoming Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Casual Furnishings Association.

Andrew "Andy" Betterton ('82) was elected Mayor of Florence, Alabama.

Rita M. Prince, CPA ('83) was appointed by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey to the Alabama State Board of Public Accountancy.

Doug Banning's ('85) legacy of safety in his 35-year professional career in the oil and gas pipeline and distribution industry earned him the 2020 Pipeline Leadership Award.

Anne Whitaker ('89) was appointed to the Caladrius Biosciences, Inc., Board of Directors.

1990s

Kerry "Bubba" Underwood ('90) was sworn in for a second term as Mayor of Tuscumbia, Alabama.

Dr. Steven Ross Murray ('91) accepted a seat on the ASEA Scientific Advisory Council and Medical Professionals Board.

Stephanie Wieseman ('91) was named District 7 Middle School Principal of the Year by Sheffield City Schools in Sheffield, Alabama. She serves as the junior high school principal.

Jeaniece Slater ('92) was promoted to General Manager of the West Morgan-East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority.

Jeff Taylor ('94) was appointed as Commissioner of Business Development for the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development.

Valerie Hooker Alley ('99) was promoted to Division Chief at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

2000s

Jamie Norris ('00) was named a Limestone County Teacher of the Year in Limestone County, Alabama.

Eric Fike ('02) was promoted to Vice President of the CB&S Bank Board of Directors.

Marcus Maples ('02) was featured in the Birmingham Business Journal talking about his career highlight, ultimate career goal, and the biggest changes in the legal profession over the next 10 years. Marcus currently serves on the UNA Board of Trustees and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Patrick Chambless ('02) was selected by Limestone County Schools as Elkmont High School Teacher of the Year in Elkmont, Alabama.

Stuart Tubb ('02) accepted a position as Executive Vice President and Decatur Market President of Progress Bank and was featured in Progress Bank's Tools for Success magazine.

Emily Mays ('03) was promoted to Chief Administrative Officer of Community Spirit Bank in Russellville, Alabama.

Michelle Clingan Byrd ('03) was named a Limestone County Teacher of the Year at Ardmore High School in Limestone County, Alabama. She teaches grades 7-12 with more than 10 years of teaching experience.

Andrea Edmondson Ratcliff ('04) was named Claremore Public Schools District Teacher of the Year at Westside Elementary School in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Kristen Tippee ('04) was selected as one of eight teachers by Athens City Schools as the FAME Academy Teacher of the Year at Brookhill Elementary School in Athens, Alabama.

Dr. Rachel Winston ('04) was appointed by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey to serve on the Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition. Dr. Winston has also been selected to serve as Special Assistant to the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at UNA.

William Robert Hall II ('04) has been named Head Football Coach at the University of Southern Mississippi, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Charles "Chip" Long III ('06) has been named new Offensive Coordinator at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Mary Brown-Huffman ('07) has published a children's book, *Bean and Le: The Picky Prickly Eater*.

Rena Purdy ('07) has been appointed to serve on the Columbia State Community College Foundation Board. Columbia State is in Columbia, Tenn.

Luis Devalon Fisher ('08) has been named 2021 Golden Apple Teacher of Distinction for Lee County, Florida.

Starre Dolan Guffey ('09) was chosen by Limestone County Schools as Teacher of the Year at Johnson Elementary School in Athens, Alabama. She teaches Pre-K through fifth grade with more than 10 years of teaching experience.

A.J. Milwee ('09) has been named Offensive Coordinator for Arkansas State Football team in Jonesboro, Ark.

2010s

Adam Ross Parker ('10) was promoted to Vice President of First American National Bank in Iuka, Mississippi. Parker joined First American National Bank in 2015 and has more than nine years banking experience. In addition to being a UNA alumnus, he is a graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking and is currently working on his master's degree.

Dax Glover ('10) has been named Principal of Tishomingo County High School in Iuka, Mississippi.

Jeremy Jackson ('13) was nominated for an Emmy as a reporter for WHNT 19 News. Jackson is the Shoals bureau reporter for the

Huntsville, Alabama-based station.

Matt O'Brien ('13) was promoted to Vice President, Training Director at CB&S Bank in Russellville, Alabama. Previously Matt was a loan officer at TVA Community Credit Union.

Katelyn Dorsett ('14) has been named Principal at Margaret Elementary School in Odenville, Alabama. She has more than 12 years of teaching experience in the Odenville community.

Aniska Moss-Melford ('16) was selected as a Corporate Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta.

Kate Partain Brown ('16) delivered a Ted Talk at TedX Wilson Park on September 11, 2020.

Katelynn Gordon Thompson ('16) was selected as West Morgan High School Teacher of the Year in Trinity, Alabama.

Rachel Wammack ('16) was chosen as the singer for "A Million Dreams," the promotional anthem for the new streaming platform, Discovery+.

Eric Belew ('17) released his first book, *God and Football*.

Jeffrey Holt Barnett ('17) was promoted to Vice President on the CB&S Bank Board of Directors.

Sarah Green ('17) was admitted to the Alabama State Bar and named an associate at Sirote & Permutt Tax Practice Group in Huntsville, Alabama. Sarah is a former SGA President.

Abby Sides ('18) has earned her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) credentials.

Joel R. Anderson II ('18) has been elected to the Board of Directors of First Southern Bank.

Joe Armstrong ('18) has been named Vice President of Engineering & Operations for PowerSouth.

Angel Heinkel ('19) has joined a revamped culinary team at the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, where she will oversee the 360 Grille as Head Chef.

In Memory

Graduates '40s

MARY TERRY DOWDY ('47)
February 24, 1926 - December 26, 2020

Graduates '50s

ETHEL "NICKI" GRAHAM ('51)
June 29, 1930 - October 31, 2020

SARAH FRANCES HARRIS ('51)
August 25, 1928 - December 29, 2020

MARAGEM FOSHEE KOONCE ('52)
January 12, 1930 - January 18, 2021

VIRGINIA LYNN FUQUA HORTON ('52)
February 9, 1930 - December 29, 2020

AGNES LOU POUNDERS LINDSEY ('53)
September 4, 1931 - November 8, 2020

DORTHA 'DOT' MATTOX ('53)
September 7, 1931 - December 2, 2020

RONALD GRAHAM, SR. ('53)
May 1, 1933 - January 20, 2021

JEWEL ELIZABETH MANN DALEY ('54)
December 17, 1931 - January 2, 2021

HENRY CLARENCE NICHOLS ('56)
April 17, 1934 - November 11, 2020

LAWRENCE WALTON "SKEETS"
MCGREGOR JR. ('56)
February 14, 1928 - October 27, 2020

LEON PATRICK "PAT" BREWER ('56)
April 28, 1931 - January 25, 2021

JOHN BATES BOSTICK ('57)
January 20, 1934 - January 2, 2021

PAUL REX KEETON ('57)
June 21, 1934 - January 29, 2021

SARAH JO SPEARMAN ('57)
December 7, 1934 - January 16, 2020

JOHN THOMAS MCGEE ('58)
April 25, 1935 - February 14, 2021

EDDIE GROCE HAMMONS ('59)
February 2, 1933 - December 10, 2020

WILLIAM JOSEPH FOSTER ('59)
July 18, 1931 - January 14, 2021

Graduates '60s

JAMES MCKEE ('60)
April 26, 1932 - January 10, 2021

JERRY PHILLIP ROBINSON ('60)
March 6, 1935 - November 2, 2020

JIMMY LOWELL BURLESON ('60)
June 15, 1937 - October 10, 2020

GEORGE "BUDDY" BAKER ('61)
August 25, 1937 - December 28, 2020

JAMES THOMAS COONS, JR. ('61)
April 20, 1943 - October 12, 2020

NANCY ANN BROWN ('62)
July 12, 1941 - October 24, 2020

DONALD WADE COKER ('62)
July 21, 1940 - November 2, 2020

ROBERT "BOB" SEARCY ('63)
February 12, 1941 - December 27, 2020

ROBERT CYRUS STEWART ('64)
February 25, 1925 - January 12, 2021

CHARLES WAYNE BROWN ('65)
May 21, 1943 - October 19, 2020

JOHN BARINOWSKI ('66)
January 27, 1941 - October 4, 2020

JOHN STANLEY "STAN" CATALDO ('66)
March 13, 1943 - July 24, 2020

DWIGHT EDWARD CAGLE ('68)
April 13, 1946 - October 17, 2020

DON MORRISON ('69)
November 13, 1946 - October 28, 2020

Graduates '70s

LINDA ANN JACKSON SPAIN ('70)
March 28, 1948 - January 13, 2021

WILLIAM DOUGLAS STUTTS ('70)
August 21, 1948 - November 22, 2020

VIRGINIA GAIL PAINTER GILBERT ('70)
November 14, 1946 - January 16, 2021

WILLIAM DONALD BEVIS ('71)
April 30, 1949 - September 28, 2020

GEORGE ROYAL BETHUNE III ('71)
December 15, 1947 - January 16, 2021

JAMES G. ARNOLD ('72)
February 18, 1950 - May 27, 2020

JUDY COGGIN POUNDERS ('72)
October 28, 1949 - December 10, 2020

DAVID NATHAN WORLEY ('73)
May 1, 1950 - November 14, 2020

DEBORAH KOLARICH ('73)
July 12, 1951 - January 26, 2021

JAMES WILLIAM POITEVINT II ('73)
September 2, 1950 - October 24, 2020

MITCHELL PATRICK BROWN ('73)
May 29, 1944 - November 2, 2020

ROBERT WARREN HICKMAN, JR. ('73)
June 4, 1951 - January 25, 2021

THOMAS "TOM" SMITH ('75)
February 7, 1943 - December 31, 2020

WILLIAM "TOM" BANKS ('75)
August 14, 1952 - November 11, 2020

WHITNEY THOMAS DOOLEY ('75)
December 29, 1951 - October 30, 2020

SUZANNE WAGES LANGCUSTER ('76)
June 19, 1935 - January 8, 2021

WILLIAM "BILL" CARSON, JR. ('76)
March 18, 1939 - December 22, 2020

ANTHONY "TONY" PAGE ('77)
April 11, 1955 - December 5, 2020

KENT HARRIS COONER ('79)
May 3, 1956 - September 13, 2020

THOMAS STEVE GEAN ('79)
December 16, 1952 - January 9, 2021

Graduates '80s

GREGORY "GREG" BURDINE ('82)
May 1, 1959 - December 14, 2020

SHARON GAIL SMITH ('84)
September 24, 1962 - November 10, 2020

GUY YOUNG MCCLURE, JR. ('85)
September 18, 1961 - November 7, 2020

GEORGIA THOMPSON CUNNINGHAM ('88)
August 14, 1966 - October 26, 2020

Graduates '90s

JEFFERY J. PLATZ ('90)
May 8, 1967 - December 14, 2020

MARY MONTGOMERY-SMITH ('93)
June 15, 1967 - December 9, 2020

BILLIE JOE "BILL" ERWIN ('94)
July 25, 1944 - December 14, 2020

KIMBERLY ANN PIERCE QUALLS ('95)
September 18, 1959 - November 9, 2020

KIMBERLEY CLARICE INGRUM ('96)
February 26, 1959 - August 1, 2020

TIMOTHY DANIEL BROOKS ('99)
September 12, 1972 - October 4, 2020

Graduates '00s

DERRICK JOHNSON ('01)
January 5, 1978 - January 10, 2021

JOHN DAVID LAWLER, SR. ('04)
October 24, 1971 - December 5, 2020

Graduates '10s

JOEL R. ANDERSON ('15)
March 22, 1944 - October 12, 2020

STEPHANIE YOLANDA BEAN ('15)
February 5, 1963 - October 1, 2020

Faculty/Staff

DR. PAUL ENLOW
October 6, 1955 - October 7, 2020

WILLIAM "BILL" MATTHEWS, SR.
November 8, 1937 - November 20, 2020

NANCY DOUGLASS TROWBRIDGE
January 28, 1940 - December 14, 2020

LT. COL. RAMON MORALES PADILLA
September 1, 1931 - December 29, 2020

DR. SARAH ETHELINE BOUNDS
November 5, 1942 - January 30, 2021

Friends of the University

GENE THOMAS GOOCH
July 8, 1933 - December 13, 2020

GEORGE PETTY
December 31, 1940 - November 7, 2020

DR. STEVEN E. JONES
April 21, 1960 - September 16, 2020

MARIE JOHNSON CUNNINGHAM
November 5, 1918 - December 16, 2020

THOMAS HOWARD SCOTT
October 8, 1932 - January 23, 2021

OFFICER TOBY
d. February 25, 2021

C.W. Hunter, who graduated in 1963, passed in November of 2019. In 1962, he served as UNA's first official student mascot when the University was known as Florence State College. Hunter donned the first lion costume, and that costume is housed and on display in the Archives at Collier Library.



Homecoming 2021 is set for October 16, 2021, and we can't wait to have you back on campus! In the meantime, nominations are open for the Alumni Awards. As part of the Year of the UNA Woman, the National Alumni Association seeks to recognize alumnae who, through their service, have brought great distinction to themselves and to UNA. For the first time in our history, women will be honored with each award. Nominations are open through July 1 and may be accessed at **una.edu/alumni/awards**.

We want to hear from you! Tell us about the amazing UNA Women in your life at **alumni1@una.edu**.





Division of Advancement
University of North Alabama
UNA Box 5113
Florence, Alabama 35632-0001

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH ALABAMA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



THE LEGACY INITIATIVE

Rebuilding the heart of UNA

*Etch your name into UNA's history.
Learn how you can leave a lasting legacy at*

una.edu/legacy

