It's a weighty question. What was the most important thing you did while you were in college? For a small group of students in UA's College of Arts and Sciences, the answer is often instantaneous and simple: The Blount Undergraduate Initiative.

Although the four-year liberal arts program comprises a mere 20 percent of each participating student's course of study, giving each student a minor in the liberal arts, Director Joe Hornsby said he hears the same message from graduating seniors each year. That is, the Blount Initiative was the single most important part of their collegiate careers.

Michelle Fuentes, a 2007 graduate of the program who received her doctorate in political science from UA this year, is no exception. "Blount has been the most transformative organization I've ever participated in," she said.

The program, which boasts one of the strongest 10-year reviews on record, is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year with an on-campus commemoration Oct. 31-Nov. 1. All alumni, faculty, and staff who have participated in the program are invited to attend.

The Blount Undergraduate Initiative was established in 1999 as an intellectual and social haven for exceptional students interested in the liberal arts. Its students take small, seminar-style classes from professors throughout the College of Arts and Sciences faculty, starting and ending with courses that bring into conversation the ideas of broad education for a broad world.

Sociology and criminal justice alumnus Jim Noe leads major offshore drilling company

It's hard to be an Alabama graduate living in Texas, though you wouldn't know it by visiting Jim Noe's office on the 23rd floor of a high-rise in downtown Houston. Noe, a sociology and criminal justice alumnus turned oil tycoon, knows all about navigating unfamiliar territory, and he approaches life in Texas much like he approaches business trips abroad—find common ground, then break the ice.

In Texas, common ground comes in the form of college football, a topic about which Noe is anything but apologetic. His office walls prominently feature the front pages of newspapers recounting the 1992, 2009, and 2012 Crimson Tide national championships, all playful jabs at his colleagues who are affiliated with some of Alabama's most-recent rivals.

Abroad, finding common ground is more of a challenge, though he manages to find it one way or another. One time, while attending his first board meeting for a company based overseas, Noe drew from his experience taking four years of Swedish classes at The University of Alabama. He had been appointed to the board of directors of an oil and gas company based in Norway, and although most of the board members spoke English, he took full advantage of the countries' similarities and greeted his co-workers with a Swedish-Norwegian “Hello! How are you?” to a room full of laughter. As he said, you never know what's going to be helpful.

With no formal training in the oil and gas industry other than what he had learned on the job, Noe has been forced to pull from the broad education he received at UA often. In his early 30s, he became one of the youngest general counsels for a public oil and gas company, Hercules Offshore, Inc., and later became one of the youngest CEOs in the marine industry leading Delta Towing, an inland and offshore tug and towing company. Now in his early 40s, he serves as the executive vice president of Hercules Offshore, the largest shallow water drilling company in the Gulf of Mexico and one of the world’s largest offshore drilling companies. He also spends half the year traveling to remote parts of what he calls “interesting and oddball countries around the world,” including Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Singapore, Myanmar, Thailand, Angola, and some 125 others.

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 4
A dream of this dean since I arrived on campus 14 years ago has been to build a performing arts facility that matches the quality and national stature of our performing arts programs. It was, likewise, a dream of the dean before me, as well as the dean before him. The file on this project and the practical need go back to at least 1974. Over the years, the College and the University have come close several times to getting beyond the drawing board, but funding, ultimately, proved elusive each time.

Now President Judy Bonner, knowing how important a Performing Arts Center is to the University’s educational mission, has committed to its construction on the recently-acquired Bryce Hospital property. The University’s purchase in 2010 of the historic, 168-acre Bryce Hospital property next to our campus ensures room for the University’s development and expansion for years to come. The University is known for the beauty, openness and natural landscape of our campus. This purchase, likewise, gives University planners an opportunity to extend this high quality environmental experience to this elegant and historic property while maintaining the its 19th-century design features.

Enhancement plans for the Bryce property figure prominently in a 2012 Campus Master Plan Update that “builds upon and respects the past and intertwined histories of both institutions, founded adjacent to each other in the 19th century, joining the essential spaces and places of both…” After consulting with many stakeholders, including the Bryce Hospital Historical Committee and the historian for the Department of Mental Health, University planners developed a far reaching design to “unify the campus as a complete learning environment, intertwined into a gracious and hospitable setting that both nurtures the soul and inspires the mind.”

The Performing Arts Center will be the grand centerpiece of this vibrant new area of our campus, one designed to be a welcoming gateway for the public to the Capstone. The Performing Arts Center will be marred with the stately Bryce Main Building. The adaptive reuse of this historic building includes a grand lobby that will incorporate its beautiful rotunda. Additional plans call for a Welcome Center and museums that tell the stories of the University and Bryce Hospital.

Current theatre and dance venues on campus date back to the 1950s and are obsolete technically and limited in space and support areas. Our current stages do not support the specialized performance needs of our programs. We are putting our lights under a bushel. Our new facilities, however, will allow our programs to shine with three theatres: a 450-seat dance theatre, a 400-seat proscenium theatre for drama; and an experimental space with seating of 175 to 250. Plans also provide for a footprint to construct a 2,000-seat roadhouse at a later date. The Department of Theatre and Dance will move from Rowand-Johnson Hall to the new facility. Classrooms, studio spaces, faculty offices and support shops will be housed in the current wings of the Bryce Main Building.

We envision a mini-village of performing arts spaces and classrooms set in the historical and natural landscape of the Bryce campus. As you will read in this issue of the Collegian, our first step toward this vision began with the renovation and adaptive reuse last year of Bryant Jordan Hall, the former chapel for the hospital. The building now houses the largest performance space for our fast-growing, award-winning opera theatre program in the School of Music, and also houses a state-of-the-art digital recording studio.

As the Collegian goes to press, we are finalizing design plans for the Performing Arts Center. I look forward to sharing architectural designs and, yes, ground breaking photos in the very near future.

This Performing Arts Center will make a major statement about our great university and all that it has to offer. Private support will play a major role in making this the facility of our longstanding dreams. If you share our vision for this state-of-the art facility in a setting of unparalleled beauty and history, I’d love to talk with you.

Dr. Sally Davis, who served on the faculty committee that helped create the program, retired in 2005 from teaching in the Department of English. But she still teaches Blount courses because she said they allow her to continue the parts of academic life she enjoys most.

“I like the material, the interaction with faculty in other departments, and the students,” Davis said. “One of the nice things, almost from the program’s beginning, we heard and still hear is that other faculty members say they can tell when they have a Blount student in their class, which I like. The students talk and participate more, and they think better and write better.

“The other good thing about Blount is that it connects freshmen with faculty members from the beginning, so you really get a chance to know each other. Blount alumni who came back for the 10th anniversary celebration felt the draw of both the students they wanted to see and their connections to faculty members. The anniversary celebrations are a great opportunity to reconnect alumni with the program, and to reacquaint us with them to see where they are in their careers.”

Dr. Ian Brown, who served on the faculty committee with Davis and currently serves as chair of the Department of Anthropology, feels similarly.

“There are a few things in my life, probably less than a dozen, that I look back on and knew from the beginning that they would be worthwhile endeavors that I would want to spend a good portion of my life helping to develop,” Brown said. “Blount is one of those. I’m a northerner, and when I came to Alabama, I had no idea I’d be here for 23 years and running. But I have never wanted to leave here because of things like the Blount Initiative. It has been one of the adventures of my life.”

More details about the anniversary celebration will be announced as the event nears. For more information, visit as.ua.edu or call the Blount Undergraduate Initiative office at 205-348-1706.
Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Symposium Brings Experts to UA

Experts in biodiversity research and nearly 200 researchers from across the globe joined Dr. Edward O. Wilson, the world’s most decorated scientist and a College of Arts and Sciences alumnus, for Edward O. Wilson Week, April 21-25 at UA.

The weeklong series of events honoring Wilson included the Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Symposium, three days of research presentations and forums on the state and future of biodiversity on our planet; a special tribute to Wilson organized by more than 20 Alabama conservation and biodiversity organizations; and an exhibit featuring a selection of the awards that Wilson has received throughout his career.

Wilson also announced two major gifts during Edward O. Wilson Week. He gave the College his collection of 246 international awards, prizes, and tributes that have been bestowed on him, including two Pulitzer Prizes, the Nobel Prize-equivalent Crafoord Prize, and the U.S. National Medal of Science. He also announced a $100,000 gift to establish the Edward O. Wilson Biodiversity Fellows Endowment, a scholarship that will support students to conduct field and museum research in the area of biodiversity.

Wilson chronicled his childhood exploring the woods and creeks of south Alabama in his bestselling 1994 autobiography, Naturalist. He is also the author of On Human Nature and The Ants, both Pulitzer Prize winners, and more than a dozen other books.

He is the leading expert on ants, one of the world’s leading experts on evolution and species diversity, and the founder of the theory of sociobiology. Wilson’s research has sparked decades of debate about the interface between the human psyche and human biology.

He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology from The University of Alabama in 1949 and 1950. He received his doctoral degree from Harvard University where he taught and conducted research for 45 years and where he is a University Research Professor Emeritus.
Academic Partnership with Greek University Expands

The University of Alabama’s partnership with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, took a major step forward in May when six College of Arts and Sciences faculty members traveled to Aristotle University to meet with counterparts to discuss potential cooperative projects. UA’s delegation was headed by Dr. Luocheng Han, senior associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dubbed the Alabama Greece Initiative, the partnership began in 2010 when UA hosted an Aristotle University doctoral student on a work visa. The student worked for one semester in the Department of Religious Studies and the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. A second Aristotle University doctoral student was employed by UA for a semester in 2012, and in the intervening year, two Aristotle University faculty members came to Alabama for a week to lecture and learn more about UA. Aristotle University’s Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Spyros Pavlides, also spent a week at UA in March. During his visit, he presented a lecture on the South Aegean Volcanic Arc, toured the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, visited Moundville Archeological Park, and met with UA faculty.

The delegation that traveled to Thessaloniki in May was selected to partner with faculty from Aristotle University to explore possible collaborations on research projects with a worldwide scope. These faculty members spent a day exchanging information and ideas with their counterparts. The conference was also attended by Aristotle University Rector Professor Yannis Myopolous and Robert Sanders, general consul of the United States in Greece.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is a public university and the largest in the Balkans with an enrollment of 81,000 students. It is located in Greece’s second largest city.

The UA faculty delegation consisted of the following members:

**Dr. Juan Lopez-Bautista**, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, conducts research on biodiversity, evolution, and assembling the tree of life of algae. He was paired with Professor Maria Moustaka and Lecturer Spyros Gkeliis.

**Dr. Ibrahim Cemen**, professor in the Department of Geological Sciences, offered a proposal to establish an ongoing collaboration with Aristotle University’s Professor Spyros Pavlides in order to further study the prediction of earthquakes. Cemen’s research interests include earthquake potential in western Anatolia.

**Dr. Andrea Cevasco**, associate professor in the School of Music, offered a proposal to compare the current status of music therapy in the United States and Greece to better understand advances and practical applications being made in both countries. Cevasco was paired with Lecturer Dora Psaltopoulou.

**Andy Fitch**, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, offered a proposal to explore similarities and differences among staging and scenic designs in Greek and U.S. theater, with a view toward collaborating on set designs. His collaborator is Professor Lila Karakosta.

**Dr. Trudier Harris**, professor in the Department of English, suggested that Greek sources for naming in the African American community is well known, as is Greek interest in African American writers. Her project examines the interactions between Greek and African American cultures. Harris was paired with Associate Professor Youli Theodosiadou.

**Dr. Tatiana Tsakiropoulos-Summers**, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, proposes to study why the view of women as inferior emerged in classical Athens at the time of democracy’s birth. Her collaborator is Associate Professor Katerina Kitsi-Mikakou.

University of Alberta doctoral candidate Vaia Touna, an Aristotle University graduate and Thessaloniki native, joined the trip as Dr. Han’s assistant.

LEARNING QUICKLY, COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

As a young boy, Noe grew up on Air Force bases across the globe and said he always envied people who were “from somewhere.” He graduated high school in Tampa, Florida, and chose to attend UA because of the broad, liberal arts-based curriculum offered by the College of Arts and Sciences, which he hoped would prepare him for law school. He studied sociology and criminal justice because he was interested in social behavior, institutions, and customs.

Intellectually curious, he also took a host of senior-level courses outside of his field, including Swedish and courses in Asian history, classics, mythology, archaeology, astronomy, English, and history. These courses, he said, became the foundation for his subsequent work in law school, giving him an unmatched ability to learn things quickly and to communicate effectively. They also broadened his perspective, a useful advantage in his current work for which he spends most of his time outside of the United States traveling to remote parts of the Middle East, the Far East, and West Africa.

“The people I conduct business with think differently and have different customs,” he said. “I may not have taken a course on how to do business in China, but I took an Asian history course, which allowed me to read further. When I go to Nigeria, I know about its history as a colony and when it gained its independence. That knowledge not only helps me be respectful when I travel to negotiate with people, but it helps me understand how they’re going to approach the negotiation. I wouldn’t be able to do that successfully without a broader perspective about the world.”

Noe also credits his success to the specialty he brings to the table—law. He received his Juris Doctor in 1997 from Louisiana State University and immediately began practicing law in New Orleans, which he said felt very “old world.” It was like practicing law in Savannah, Georgia, in the 1920s, he said. Never in his wildest dreams did he imagine himself working for an oil company, but the opportunity arose after he spent most of his time representing those companies in deals, arbitrations, and other claims. A former client, Single Buoy Moorings, offered him a job in Monaco, which he took and quickly enchanted him with the industry.

“It’s truly an international business because oil is abundant, or used, almost everywhere,” he said. “I’ve always been drawn to different cultures, to understanding how they work and how different economies work, but I became fascinated with the industry because it deals with so many tentacles of society, including culture, politics, geopolitics, science, and economics.”

He also discovered a passion for corporate law.

“Unlike being a private practice lawyer in New Orleans, I loved being part of something larger, a larger business goal, in Monaco,” he said.

“I knew then that I wanted to stay on the business side of law.”

GETTING IN ON THE GROUND FLOOR

After Monaco, Noe returned to the United States to accept a job in Houston, where he spent several years working for BJ Services Company, an oil field services company that is now a subsidiary of Baker Hughes, until he was approached in 2005 to help build Hercules from the ground up.

“One of the board members of that company asked me if I would be interested in helping him start a new offshore drilling company,” he said.

“Rarely are there startups in the oil business, but starting something from scratch interested me. I became Hercules’ fifth corporate employee, and I was given a broad range of responsibilities because we didn’t have many people at the time.”

Noe started as the company’s chief and only lawyer, which involved everything from making coffee in the morning to negotiating contracts and making decisions as an executive in the afternoon. The company grew quickly, and when Hercules went public in 2006, Noe rang the NASDAQ bell celebrating the company’s arrival on the stock exchange. He also served as the president and CEO of Delta Towing, a tug boat company owned by Hercules until it was sold in 2011.
Opera Theatre Finds New Home in Bryant-Jordan Hall

Students in UA’s Opera Theatre program performed Gino Carlo Menotti’s The Consul March 7 in Bryant-Jordan Hall, the debut performance in that venue. A former chapel, the building was renovated this year to serve as a teaching and performance space and be home to a new, state-of-the-art recording studio.

College Exhibits Morgan Collection

An inaugural exhibition of works from the collection of UA alumni JIM AND MYRA MORGAN were on display this year at The University of Alabama Gallery in the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center in downtown Tuscaloosa. The late Jim and Myra Morgan founded the Morgan Gallery in Kansas City in the late 1960s, which celebrated practicing artists in the Midwest and brought in artists from across the country to forge an appetite for contemporary art among corporate and private collectors. This exhibit featured a selection of the more than 150 works that were donated to UA by the Morgan family.

Arty Party Raises $31,000 for the School of Music

The 2014 Arty Party, an annual fundraiser sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board and coordinated by the board's fine arts committee, raised $31,000 for the School of Music. The Arty Party showcases annually one of the five fine and performing arts programs in the College: visual arts, creative writing, dance, music, and theatre. This year's event included performances by students and faculty in the School of Music, including a performance by former John Kay and Steppenwolf keyboardist MICHAEL WILK, special guest appearances by members of the band Kansas; live and silent auctions; and dinner on the Black Warrior River catered by Cypress Inn.

Author of The Help Returns to Her Alma Mater

University of Alabama alumna and best-selling novelist KATHRYN STOKETT let readers behind the curtain Feb. 28, when she shared the story behind her novel The Help during an on-campus lecture. Published in 2009, the novel became the basis for a hit movie starring Emma Stone, sold more than 10 million copies, and spent more than 100 weeks on The New York Times Best Seller list. Stockett graduated from the University with a degree in English and creative writing.
Nationwide Influence: Researchers Supported by $2.2 Million Grant Collaborate With Head Start to Improve Curriculum

Can what you teach preschool students have lasting effects on them and on their family’s health and well-being?

That’s what a group of University of Alabama researchers, in collaboration with Community Service Programs of West Alabama, hopes to determine. With a $2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families, the researchers have the potential to impact national policy on early childhood education. Their study will involve implementing a new curriculum and assessing its effectiveness at local Head Start programs this fall.

DR. ANSLEY GILPIN, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology; DR. JASON DECARO, associate professor in the Department of Anthropology; DR. JOHN LOCHMAN, professor in the Department of Psychology; and DR. CAROLINE BOXMEYER, associate professor in the College of Community Health Sciences, are leading the study. More than 700 preschool students across West Alabama are expected to participate, and the hope is to enhance children’s and families’ overall well-being and school readiness over and above the aims of Head Start, not just during the grant period, but also for years to come.

UA’s researchers are part of a consortium of researchers from Northwestern University, the University of Oregon, and the University of Southern California who will pool their results from concurrent studies, each assessing the effectiveness of dual-generation programming for Head Start. Once the studies are complete, policymakers will use the information to revamp and improve Head Start programs nationwide.

“This is a great opportunity for UA and for the state to make a difference in our national Head Start preschool initiative,” Gilpin said. “The programs that we’re implementing locally may end up being model programs for the nation. That’s a great opportunity for Alabama.”

The opportunity was made possible, in large part, because the team has worked together and with CSPWAL since 2011. Its members previously received funding from UA’s College Academy of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity to implement a similar program with 60 preschool children living in Tuscaloosa. That program showed promising results and laid the groundwork for their current study.

When the administration for Children and Families announced it was seeking grant proposals, the team had less than a month to submit their application.

“It took about a month of frenetic activity, right down to the wire, to get the proposal submitted, but I feel like we made the proposal stronger in the end,” DeCaro said. “They were looking for groups with a good amount of experience who were ready to hit the ground running.”

The goal of the research is to improve Head Start’s dual generation services, which combine child-focused programs with parent-focused programs to support the well-being of families.

“Dual-generation services propose that the way to have the most positive impact on children’s lives, including their academic success, is to do more than just focus on the children,” DeCaro said. “Children grow up and develop in a context, and their caregivers at home are critical people in that context. If you can find good programs that are reasonably cost-efficient and effective at addressing the needs of parents, those programs, in the end, are also very helpful to the children.”

UA’s team of researchers, in collaboration with CSPWAL, will implement and assess the effectiveness of two integrated programs. The first, a classroom curriculum known as Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, or PATHS, helps children understand and control their emotions. The second, a parent program based on the Coping Power program that was developed by Lochman, helps parents manage stress.

The parents also will learn about the PATHS curriculum, so they can help their children apply PATHS across contexts, even when they’re at home.

“The idea behind PATHS is to get the kids emotionally and behaviorally ready for kindergarten,” Gilpin said. “We know from developmental research that a precursor to being able to control your emotions – not hitting your friend when you’re mad, for instance – is recognizing that you’re mad. PATHS teaches the children to recognize an emotion, label it, and encourages them to find a good resolution. They learn good ways to express their emotions.

“We also know from developmental research that if you’re constantly in an emotional situation, you’re not learning much because you can only attend to so many processes at the same time. If the kids are constantly focused on some emotional drama, they’re going to miss learning their ABCs and 123s, and then when they move into first grade, the difficulties compound. Once they’re able to redirect their attention away from their emotions, they can focus on what they’re supposed to be learning.”

For both PATHS and the parent program, the team will conduct randomized controlled trials in which they will compare groups participating in the programs to groups not participating in the programs. Boxmeyer and Lochman, both clinical psychologists, will spearhead implementing the programs, while Gilpin and DeCaro will assess the programs’ effectiveness.

According to the researchers, the most exciting part of the study is its scope.

“Not only are the programs comprehensive, but so are the assessments,” DeCaro said. “We will assess the students’ responses before, during, and well after the pre-K programs end, all the way through the end of first grade, and we will see how they’re doing academically, behaviorally, socially, emotionally, and psychologically. We will be able to see if the programs consistently reduce stress and improve development over long periods of time. That’s the greatest goal – persistent effects.”

The other exciting aspect of the study, according to Gilpin, is the potential impact made possible through teamwork, both within the UA team and nationally.

“I wouldn’t be able to do this study on my own,” she said. “Combined, we take each other’s skills and create a team that can do a lot more than one person ever could be trained to do.

“More importantly, the other universities are collecting similar data. When we combine our results, the data set should be large enough that we’ll have reliable results, which policymakers can use to enhance Head Start programming for families. It’s exciting to see decisions being made based on research, and it’s a great opportunity for The University of Alabama to be a part of decisions being made at the national level. This research is a great opportunity to make a difference.”
Fulbright Grant Supports Study of Jewish Culture in Poland

Interest in Jewish culture and history is growing in Poland, perhaps nurtured by the vestiges of Jewish life there before the Holocaust.

**DR. MARYSIA GALBRAITH**, associate professor in New College and the Department of Anthropology, is spending the 2014-2015 school year researching this trend as a Fulbright scholar.

The Fulbright grant supports nine months of research and teaching in Poland, though Galbraith will remain in Poland for two additional months to continue her research as part of a grant from UA’s Research Grants Committee.

Galbraith will be affiliated with Adam Mickiewicz University, which boasts one of the most prestigious anthropology departments in Poland.

This is the third Fulbright grant Galbraith has received. Her first was awarded in the early 1990s from the Institute of International Education to conduct research for her dissertation, which focused on the national identity of Polish youth during the post-communist transformation. She received her second in 2005 to continue this study, focusing on the added dimension of Poland’s integration into the European Union. Her book *Being and Becoming European in Poland: European Integration and Self-Identity*, published by Anthem Press this year, culminates her 20-year longitudinal study of those topics.

Panitch Wins UA’s Burnum Award

**SETH PANITCH**, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, was presented in April with the 2014 Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award.

The award is one of the highest honors the University bestows on its faculty and is presented annually to a professor who has demonstrated superior scholarly or artistic achievements and profound dedication to the art of teaching. The winner is selected by a faculty selection committee.

Panitch serves as the director of the undergraduate and Master of Fine Arts acting programs in the Department of Theatre and Dance. He has worked internationally in Havana, Cuba, with the Ministry of Culture, and he has produced and acted Off-Broadway at the Harold Clurman Theatre, American Place Theater, Westbeth Theater Center, 59E59 Theatre, and Urban Stages Theatre.

He also has directed and performed in numerous plays at The University of Alabama and has worked in prestigious theatrical venues across the country.

He received his Master of Fine Arts in acting at the University of Washington’s Professional Actor’s Training Program.

Physics World Names IceCube Project ‘Breakthrough of the Year’

Six UA researchers are currently working on a project that was named 2014 Breakthrough of the Year by the British magazine *Physics World*. The project, called IceCube, is the result of an international collaboration between nearly 300 physicists and engineers from the United States, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, Korea, and Denmark.

**DR. DAWN WILLIAMS**, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, serves as the project’s calibration coordinator and received funding for the project from an approximate $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that continues through 2015. Other UA researchers involved in the project include **DR. PATRICK TOALE**, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; **DR. PAVEL ZARZHITSKY**, a former UA post-doctoral researcher; and UA graduate students **MICHAEL LARSON, JAMES PEPPER, and DONGLIAN XU**.

IceCube, an Antarctic observatory, was honored with the distinction for making the first observation of cosmic neutrinos, but also for overcoming the many challenges of creating and operating a colossal detector deep under the ice at the South Pole. Weeks before winning the award, researchers involved with IceCube published in *Science* the first evidence for a very high-energy astrophysical neutrino flux, opening a new era in astronomy.

The IceCube Neutrino Observatory was completed in December 2010 after seven years of construction at the South Pole.
Faculty News

Dynamic Duo

Professor-surgeon team headed to third phase clinical trials for new chronic pain treatment

DR. CAROL DUFFY is proof that changing your mind is not only acceptable, but that doing so can often lead to something momentous. Duffy, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, is headed somewhere that very few faculty members have the chance to go – to a third phase clinical trial for a drug combination that has shown promising results to treat not only one, but several painful and debilitating illnesses.

How have researchers not found this far-reaching treatment before? Because it never occurred to them that diseases such as fibromyalgia, chronic pain, and irritable bowel syndrome could be caused by a virus, specifically herpes simplex virus type 1. This virus causes cold sores and forever lives in the body of anyone who has been exposed to it, which amounts to about 90 percent of the population.

Another fact that physicians didn’t realize is that HSV-1 is best kept at bay using not just antiviral medications, but through a combination of antivirals and other drug types. That’s where Duffy, The University of Alabama’s resident expert on HSV-1, has been able to shed some light.

PREPARING FOR TAKEOFF

As an undergraduate zoology major at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, Duffy never imagined that she’d become a virologist. Her dream was to become a veterinarian. She stayed in her hometown of Flagstaff because she wanted to remain with her horse. In a zigzag path of trial-and-error, Duffy shadowed vets, worked in the medical research and development division of a manufacturing company, and conducted research as an undergraduate in her advisor’s lab. Through these experiences, she stumbled upon two things she realized she loved more – research and microbiology.

“I put off taking the courses I thought I’d hate until my junior year,” she said. “I especially thought I would hate microbiology, but after I got into it, I thought it was so cool. My senior year, I had a dilemma. Do I stay on my path, or do I pursue research? And if I change my mind about going to vet school, am I quitting? Eventually, I realized you’re allowed to change your mind.”

Duffy nixed the idea of going to vet school and instead received her doctorate in microbiology in 2000 from the University of Iowa. She began working on viruses as a doctoral student because she was fascinated by parasites.

“Viruses are basically the smallest parasite,” she said. “They’re not even living, and yet they can completely take apart an ecosystem.”

Like her career choice, she also happened upon her research focus, HSV-1. At the University of Iowa, she studied the DNA packaging mechanisms of bacteriophage lambda, a laboratory virus useful for quick experiments but limited in its scope. It could infect only bacteria. Seeking a virus with similar mechanics but broader applications, Duffy started studying the human pathogen HSV-1, first as a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University and then again in her lab at UA in 2007.

It wasn’t until 2011 that Duffy met DR. WILLIAM “SKIP” PRIDGEN, the man without whom she never would have discovered HSV-1’s link to a host of diseases researchers previously thought unrelated.

The Friday before spring break of that year, Duffy received a phone call from Pridgen, a Tuscaloosa surgeon. He presented her with a dilemma of his own.

“For about 10-15 years, he had been seeing patients with chronic gastrointestinal issues, and no matter what he did, they weren’t getting any better,” she said. “Not only that, but many of his patients began having symptoms when they were teenagers, and their symptoms would get worse in times of stress, which seems to indicate a virus. He talked to his mom, who was a virologist, and they thought the symptoms might be caused by a herpes virus because once you have that virus, you have it for life.”

So Pridgen began asking his patients if they would be interested in taking an antiviral medication, Famvir, which prevents various strains of herpes viruses from replicating. Desperate for a solution and with nothing to lose, many of his patients agreed. Some of these very same patients also had symptoms of arthritis, for which Pridgen would give them samples of the anti-inflammatory drugCelebrex.

“Those who took the antiviral came back to his office and admitted they felt better, but not 100 percent better,” Duffy said. “The patients who took both drugs, however, came back and said everything was better. Their fibromyalgia was gone. Their chronic fatigue was gone. Their headaches were gone. All of these things had cleared up. When the first few patients approached him, he thought it was a fluke, but as more and more and more patients said the same thing, he knew it couldn’t be a coincidence.”

He needed Duffy to help him prove it, to show that a herpes virus really was causing these diseases, and he needed her to explain through research why this particular drug combination worked.

“He told me his story, and I thought, ‘It’s so different that he’s a surgeon and he’s using antivirals, but I’m in. I want to work on this,’” she said.

METHOD TO THE MADNESS

The fact that the two drugs worked better together was no surprise to Duffy. Previous research had shown that a particular family of herpes
Pridgen had found deep red streaks that were similar, but not identical to, from the patient’s GI tract, where chronic GI issues, each sample taken tissue samples from 45 patients with given up.” “Well, I guess we just don’t get to do it,”’ she said. “Skip gets a lot of credit for keeping me going because there were a lot of times that I would have ‘I told him I wanted to see the tissue because nobody is going to believe us unless we show that the virus is there,’ she said. Approved for a study, she examined tissue samples from 45 patients with chronic GI issues, each sample taken from the patient’s GI tract, where Pridgen had found deep red streaks that were similar, but not identical to, spots found in patients with bacterial infections. “We had a bet going,” she said. “I thought, ‘It’s not going to be HSV-1. Somebody would have found this before,’ and that would just be too lucky for me because that’s the virus I work on in my lab.’ I thought it would be something like VZV, the herpes virus that causes chicken pox, or a combination of various herpes viruses depending on the patient.” But after extracting DNA from the tissue samples and using an antibody technique called immunoblotting that would debunk any theories of lab contamination, she realized she was wrong. All the tissue samples were infected with HSV-1 and no other herpes virus. A pathologist also studied the samples, and only three of the 45 tested positive for the bacteria that was thought to cause the disease. But their challenge didn’t end there. In order to get the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve a new treatment, they would need to complete several clinical trials. The first of which, a second phase, placebo-controlled clinical trial, would cost approximately $4 million. “When I found out we had to raise $4 million, I told Skip, very dejected, ‘Well, I guess we just don’t get to do it,’” she said. “Skip gets a lot of credit for keeping me going because there were a lot of times that I would have given up.” With federal funding scarce, the duo decided to start their own company called Innovative Med Concepts, for which Duffy serves as the chief scientific advisor. In March 2012, they began looking for investors who might be interested in funding the trial, making daytrips throughout the Southeast when their schedules allowed. On several occasions, Pridgen would borrow a friend’s private plane, meet Duffy at the Tuscaloosa Regional Airport at 5 p.m., fly to nearby cities such as Atlanta to make a pitch, and return to Tuscaloosa by midnight in order to be at work at 8 a.m. the next morning. By May 2013, they had raised enough funds to start a small-scale, phase two trial, which they finished in January. By March, they had raised a total of $5 million. Despite the trial’s small scale – they enrolled a little more than 140 people – Duffy says the results were incredible. They were so promising, in fact, that the duo has continued to convince key players in the field to join their cause.

Mike Gendreau, a practiced designer of clinical trials who helped bring the fibromyalgia medication Savella to market, designed their first trial. Rick Burch, a University of Alabama alumnus and former senior vice president of the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, became president of Innovative Med Concepts in March. Daniel Clauw, director of chronic pain and fatigue research at the University of Michigan and one of the world’s leading experts on fibromyalgia, joined their scientific advisory board. Duffy describes the experience as a “blur.” “It’s been a ride,” she said. “I never thought I’d be out there raising millions of dollars for a clinical trial. We’ve been successful largely because we got some of the top people in the field on board.”

**NEXT PHASE**

As Duffy and Pridgen look to conduct a series of larger-scale, third phase clinical trials – a cost they’ve estimated to be $50-$100 million – they are searching for the quickest, most cost-effective way to get their treatment to market.

Though the team is mulling over their options, Duffy said they will likely seek funding from foundations that support research related to the diseases their drug shows promise to treat. The team might also partner with a pharmaceutical company or a venture capital firm willing to fund the trial.

In the meantime, Duffy is working to develop diagnostic tests that doctors can use to determine whether patients would benefit from taking the drug. The team is looking to conduct toxicity tests to determine whether a larger dose of the drug would be safe and make the treatment more effective.

“Even with the smaller dose that we used in the phase two trial, we had great results,” Duffy said. “But if the FDA is going to approve our drug combination, we want it to be at the dose that’s going to help people the most.” Considering what brought her to this point, Duffy said, “I give a lot of credit to this University and to my department. At a lot of universities, they expect you to get funding from specific places, and since federal funding is so hard to get these days, a lot of faculty put all their eggs in one basket and only focus on one thing. “If I had been in that situation, I never would have done anything like this. Here, the University encourages you to be entrepreneurial. If funding comes from a company you start, that’s fine. I’m lucky that I get to see my research result in a clinical trial. Not many people in a faculty job ever see that. It’s a rare opportunity.”
Kim Receives $573,000 NIH Career Development Grant

DR. GIYEON KIM, assistant professor in the Center for Mental Health and Aging and the Department of Psychology, received a prestigious $573,000 career development grant from the National Institute on Aging the National Institutes of Health to pinpoint the geographic factors contributing to racial and ethnic disparities in mental health care.

Kim will use national data sets from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, and Collaborative Psychiatric Epidemiology Surveys and merge that information with U.S. census data to study disparities at local and national levels. Kim’s research will focus on finding ways to reduce or eliminate existing disparities among older adults.

Kim is a gerontologist and earned her doctorate in aging studies from the University of South Florida. Her research focuses on racial and ethnic disparities in mental health and mental health service use among older adults. The grant runs through May 2018. ■

Rothman’s Work on Slavery and Violence Earns Best Book Awards

DR. JOSH ROTHMAN, professor in the Department of History and the director of the Frances Summersell Center for the Study of the South, was honored with two awards for his book, Flush Times and Fever Dreams: A Story of Capitalism and Slavery in the Age of Jackson.

The work won the Gulf South Historical Association’s Michael V. R. Thomason Book Award for the best book on the history of the Gulf South. The Gulf South Historical Association is a consortium of Gulf South colleges and universities that works to preserve and promote the history and cultures of the Gulf South within state, regional, national, and international contexts through exchange of scholarly research.

The book was also honored with the Southern Historical Association’s Frank L. and Harriet C. Owsley Award for the best book in southern history published in 2012. The Southern Historical Association works to promote interest and research in southern history, the collection and preservation of the South’s historical records, and the encouragement of state and local historical societies in the South.

Rothman’s book discusses slavery and related violence in the pre-Civil War South. The book hinges on the story of Virgil Stewart and his conspiracy theory pamphlet, which proposed that a petty criminal from West Tennessee named John Murrell was planning to launch the largest slave rebellion the South had ever seen. Rothman said the pamphlet became a catalyst for violence throughout the region. ■

Rable Wins SEC Faculty Achievement Award

The Southeastern Conference announced in April that DR. GEORGE C. RABLE, professor in the Department of History and the Charles G. Summersell Chair in Southern History, won the 2014 Faculty Achievement Award. Rable was one of 14 professors across the SEC to be chosen for the award.

SEC Faculty Achievement Award winners receive a $5,000 honorarium from the Southeastern Conference and become their university’s nominee for the SEC Professor of the Year Award. Selected by a committee of SEC provosts, the SEC Faculty Achievement Award and the SEC Professor of the Year Award are part of SECU, the academic initiative of the Southeastern Conference, which sponsors, supports, and promotes collaborative higher education programs and activities involving administrators, faculty, and students at its 14 member universities.

A native of Lima, Ohio, Rable received his bachelor’s degree from Bluffton College, his master’s degree from Louisiana State University, and his doctorate from Louisiana State University. He taught at Anderson University in Indiana before coming to The University of Alabama in 1998, where he teaches courses on the 19th-century South, slavery, emancipation, and the Civil War. He is the author of numerous award-winning books on the Civil War, and he served as president of the Society of Civil War Historians from 2004-2008. ■

Giyeon Kim

Josh Rothman

George C. Rable

Kim Receives $573,000 NIH Career Development Grant

Rothman’s Work on Slavery and Violence Earns Best Book Awards

Rable Wins SEC Faculty Achievement Award
Lochman Receives Award from American Board of Professional Psychology

DR. JOHN LOCHMAN, professor of psychology and the Doddridge Saxon Chair of Clinical Psychology, was named the 2014 recipient of the American Board of Professional Psychology’s Distinguished Service Award.

The award is given annually to a certified specialist who has made outstanding contributions to the science and profession of psychology throughout his or her career. Candidates for the award must be nationally recognized and must be practicing clinical psychology and providing services and engaging in research across all developmental levels, from childhood through adulthood, as well as across different types of psychopathology.

Lochman is the director of the Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems at UA, where he is actively involved in grant-funded intervention research. He has served as an officer and president of the ABPP Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, the primary certification board for child psychologists. His research interests include prevention, child aggression, and intervention research.

He received the award at the ABPP annual convocation Aug. 9 in Washington, D.C. He will also deliver an address at the 2015 Convocation in Toronto, Canada.

Dolliver Featured in Time Cover Story

A Time cover story published Nov. 11, “The Secret Web: Where Drugs, Porn, and Murder Live Online,” features insights from DR. DIANA DOLLIVER, assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice. The article addresses the little-known Deep Web, a part of the internet where activity – illegal or legal – cannot be tracked.

Dolliver specializes in macro-level trends in organized crime and drug trafficking. She was interviewed because of her affiliation with Harvard University’s Scholars Strategy Network, which is made up of academic experts and provides members of the press with a clearinghouse for scholars doing cutting-edge research on topics of public interest. She earned the spot based on her doctoral coursework at Northeastern University in Boston.

In her research, Dolliver tracks trends in drug trafficking and analyzes the motives behind these trends. Prior to 2005, very few major drug trafficking organizations used the Internet to sell and distribute narcotics, she said. The primary means of communication was through cell phones. Dolliver spent three years working for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration analyzing telecommunications patterns for major crime groups.

In the article, Dolliver discusses these mainstream methods and how their infiltration by law enforcement may have led to more sophisticated technologies. This is where the Deep Web, and specialized technologies associated with it, began to flourish... Dolliver is currently pursuing a grant to gain access to the Deep Web so she can analyze major trends for use by such government agencies as the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Hansen Goes to the White House

President Barack Obama greets recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in the East Room of the White House April 14. DR. SAMANTHA HANSEN, assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences, was one of only 102 researchers to receive the award this year. Awardees are selected from previous winners of highly competitive grants given by national agencies. Hansen’s accomplishments were detailed in the 2014 edition of Celebrating Excellence. Read more at www.as.ua.edu/home/from-ua-to-antarctica-to-the-white-house.

Mancini Receives Sidney Powers Memorial Award

DR. ERNEST A. MANCINI, professor emeritus in the Department of Geological Sciences and retired UA Distinguished Research Professor, was named the 2014 recipient of the Sidney Powers Memorial Award by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

The award is given annually in recognition of distinguished and outstanding contributions to, or achievements in, petroleum geology. Mancini is the 67th Powers medalist.

Mancini began his career with Cities Service Company as an exploration geologist in 1974. Two years later, he became an assistant professor in the College’s Department of Geological Sciences. He was appointed state geologist and director for the Geological Survey of Alabama and oil and gas supervisor and director for the state of Alabama Oil and Gas Board in 1982, where he served simultaneously until 1996.

Mancini founded UA’s Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies, an interdisciplinary geoscience research center, in 1998 and served as interim chair of the Department of Geological Sciences. He has received several prestigious AAPG awards, including the A. I. Levorsen Award in 1980, the Distinguished Educator Award in 2000, and Honorary Membership in 2008. He also served as AAPG elected editor from 2004-2007 and was the Haas-Pratt Distinguished Lecturer from 1987-1988.

He was appointed Distinguished Research Professor at UA in 2005. He was named UA’s Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor in 2007 and received the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award and became professor emeritus in 2010.
Michael Wilk

Furthering the Cause
Steppenwolf keyboardist joins faculty, brings state-of-the-art recording studio to UA

Michael Wilk’s fondest memory as the keyboardist with John Kay and Steppenwolf is not selling 25 million records, nor is it touring with such equally legendary performers as Emmylou Harris, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp. It was September 19, 1987, at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska. Some 125,000 people filled the stands and covered the field as musical acts such as Emmylou Harris, Neil Young, and John Mellencamp took the stage for the third Farm Aid, a series of benefit concerts organized to keep American farmers from losing their land. John Kay and Steppenwolf played only two of their signature songs, “Born to Be Wild” and “Magic Carpet Ride,” but Wilk remembers it vividly.

“When we played the intro lick to ‘Born to Be Wild,’ 100,000 Styrofoam cups went flying into the air,” Wilk said. “There aren’t too many people in the world who can say they played in front of 125,000 people, but it’s also a fond memory because it was for such a good cause.”

And causes are important to Wilk. A cause, music, led him to close his commercial recording service in Oregon and donate his state-of-the-art recording studio to The University of Alabama. One year later, in 2013, he also became a faculty member of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Why would Wilk, a world-renowned rock star with a half dozen gold albums under his belt, trade a gig in Oregon providing recording services to high-profile CEOs for a gig in Tuscaloosa rubbing elbows with UA faculty and students?

“There was an opportunity for me to advance the cause of music in Tuscaloosa,” Wilk said. “In Oregon, I was providing a service. Here, I knew I could bring my equipment and start something that would have lasting effects. There wasn’t a formal recording studio at UA; now there is. From this point forward, students interested in recording will have something to hang their hats on.”

EARLY DAYS IN HOLLYWOOD
To watch Wilk play the keyboard is like watching rain drops crash to the ground during a heavy storm — high-energy, infinitely quick, and unremitting. It appears to be the result of years of polish, the work of a person who seemingly mastered the art of playing keyboards before he could even write his name. Only Wilk’s story isn’t quite so cookie-cutter. He was a freshman in college before he ever touched the instrument.

Wilk’s journey began on a different instrument, the accordion, which he remembers playing to occupy his time after he rode the bus home from school.

“I went to high school miles away from where we lived, so I had to take a bus,” he said. “I wasn’t able to participate in after-school activities, so I would go home and practice, a lot. I just got better and better and better. There are no musicians on either side of my family as far back as it can be traced.”

Despite a lack of familial aptitude for the subject, Wilk’s flair for music was apparent. He won several jazz and accordion championships in New York and the surrounding New England area, where he was born and raised. By the time he graduated high school, he had cultivated only the “chops” of his right hand, which had developed its skill from racing up and down the miniature keyboard of his accordion. His left hand merely controlled the bass and timing of preset chords.

“That’s why I studied music theory in college and not an instrument, because there’s no such thing as majoring in accordion,” he says. At the University of Hartford, where he received his degree, Wilk took organ lessons, which helped bring his feet and left hand up to par with his right. It also built upon the multitasking he had learned from playing the accordion.

Wilk describes his razor-sharp focus playing accordion much like he describes his approach to becoming a successful musician once he moved to Los Angeles after graduating college.

“If you’re going to take a swing at the pitch, you go out and take a swing at the pitch,” he says. When he arrived in LA, Wilk’s mammoth was, “Keep your nose to the grindstone.” And he did. He practiced organ and synthesizer daily from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., took advantage of free recording sessions from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., arrived an hour early to his nightly gig in Woodland Hills in order to get a free meal, played the gig from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., drove home, and pushed repeat.

Wilk joined John Kay and Steppenwolf after responding to a flyer he saw at a recording session announcing John Kay’s need for a keyboard player. The night following the audition, Wilk received a phone call during his gig in Woodland Hills. John Kay was on the other end of the line and offered him the part.

“I put in my notice with the restaurant that night, and it was the end of playing the lesser-than-large gigs,” he said.

To this day, Wilk credits renowned engineer, producer, and inventor George Massenburg for the majority of what he knows about recording and studio design. Wilk met Massenburg at a paid recording session with Earth, Wind & Fire, to which Wilk was invited by then band member Al McKay. The session was held at Massenburg’s recording studio in Los Angeles.

Wilk, known for his attention to detail, showed up to the session an hour before dawn beat, as did Massenburg. During that time, the two discussed the use of microprocessors in music and recording, the acoustical properties of a studio designed by Massenburg, and much, much more.

“We’re still in touch, and the conversation continues today,” Wilk says.

FROM LA TO UA
Fast-forward to 2011, the year Wilk first visited UA. His daughter, Mandy, was enrolled in UA’s School of Music, of which Wilk had already become quite fond. That fall, he performed at UA with John Kay and led a symposium and master class on the properties of human hearing.

The weekend of the symposium, Wilk presented his design for a state-of-the-art recording studio to College of Arts and Sciences Dean Robert Olin, a

Faculty News
A smart phone app designed to boost the interpersonal communication skills of children with autism has been developed by Angela Barber, assistant professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders, in partnership with students in UA's Emerging Scholars program and other UA faculty.

Children with autism struggle to read and understand non-verbal emotional cues in others, which makes it difficult for these children to interact with people in a typical way, Barber explained. The app is targeted for children around kindergarten age and is divided into three interactive phases addressing this need.

The child is first presented with an image of a facial expression followed by the word that describes that emotion, such as happy. The app features an audio option, and after either reading or listening to the name of the corresponding emotion, the child is next asked to match the emotion expressed in the image with its correct name. The aim of the app is to help children with autism learn visual emotional cues and, thus, improve social interaction skills.

Barber’s research focuses on the development of social skills in children diagnosed with autism as compared to children without autism. Two years ago, Barber was approached by Lauren Lambert, a student involved in the University’s Emerging Scholars program. Lambert wanted to know more about developmental intervention techniques. Lambert, now majoring in psychology, wanted to develop a tool that could help children with autism deal with this crucial part of social development.

After brainstorming ideas with Barber, Lambert joined with Cassidy Lam, a fellow Emerging Scholar and a computer science major, and Joshua Wolfe, another computer science major, both in UA’s College of Engineering, to develop an app for smartphones. They also worked with Dr. Jeff Gray, an associate professor of computer science in the College of Engineering, to develop the technical aspects of the application.
Expanding the Reaches of Medicine

UA Premier Award winner fights health care disparities at home and abroad

While hordes of pre-health students scramble to prepare for medical school interviews and perfect their already polished applications, a University of Alabama senior has taken a different approach to pursuing his passion for medicine. BRIAN McWILLIAMS, though beginning his third year of college, will graduate this spring with a bachelor’s degree in biology. By the end of his fourth year he will receive his master’s in business administration. He also leads a student organization that ships medical supplies overseas and founded a nonprofit in high school that has raised $12,500 to date.

McWilliams says he hopes to end up somewhere “on the business side of medicine,” either in the field of health care policy or administration. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he chose to attend The University of Alabama because of its honors programs, streamlined application process for science students interested in pursuing graduate business degrees, and resources available to undergraduates, of which he has taken full advantage. He is a member of the University Fellows Experience, works in Dr. Matthew Jenny’s research lab, and was named the winner of the University’s John Fraser Ramsey Award this year, which includes a nearly $30,000 stipend that he will use toward his graduate degree.

McWilliams’ interest in medicine stems from his interest in science and the extensive impact of disease and health care.

“When I think about health care, I think about how necessary it is,” he said. “Everyone is on the same level in terms of disease, because no one is completely immune from that.”

McWilliams said his interest in health care is as much about the application and distribution of health care as it is about the actual practice and day-to-day interaction with patients. He is particularly interested in disparities that exist in health care availability.

“I like to read a lot of about health care disparities and learn about what’s being done – and what could be done in the future – to mitigate them,” he said.

But he hasn’t just read about health care disparities. He’s acted upon the them.

In high school, McWilliams was inspired by a 4-year-old boy, Alex, who showed that diseases can affect anyone at any time and for any reason. Alex developed a mass of blood vessels around his spine, and when doctors tried to remove the mass surgically, he became paralyzed from the waist down. Alex spent four months in the pediatric intensive care unit and another four months in an inpatient rehabilitation facility before needing more surgeries and experiencing complications as varied as swine flu and collapsed lungs.

“He kept pushing through, and I thought, ‘If this kid is doing this much to help himself, there must be something I can do,’” McWilliams said.

McWilliams started the Team Alex Fund, which initially raised $30,000 for Alex and his family through a 5K race with more than 800 runners. McWilliams has since turned the one-time fundraiser into an established nonprofit.

“After the first year, the family shared with me how much they appreciated the fundraiser and how often they had met other families in similar situations who didn’t have the same kind of community support,” McWilliams said. “I wanted to be able to make those kids’ lives easier, too. We held our fifth annual race this year and have raised $125,000 for children with spinal cord injuries since the organization started.”

The Team Alex Fund provides therapy and mobility equipment not covered by insurance and has funded everything from $100 shower chairs to $15,000 bikes with electrodes that stimulate the spinal cord. Though McWilliams doesn’t take the same hands-on approach as he did when the organization started, he still serves as chair of the board of directors.

“We just received an application for a child in Puerto Rico, so I was pretty excited to see that our reach was able to extend that far,” he said.

At UA, he leads another organization with the same mission of providing medical services to people who might not otherwise receive them. As co-president of Alabama Advocates for World Health, he leads a team that collects medical supplies to send to clinics in third world countries.

“Local hospitals discard supplies when their expiration dates have passed, according to guidelines set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration,” he said. “But many of the products are still usable and will last at least six months to a year and a half before the manufacturing dates expire. It’s a great opportunity for overseas clinics with limited funding and less strict guidelines.”

This summer, McWilliams employed the skills he’s learned as an undergraduate researcher to impact patients in yet another way. As a research intern at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, he investigated cases of ultramassive blood transfusions, in which patients receive 20 or more units of blood in a day. McWilliams examined daily the amount of blood the patients received the week following the ultramassive transfusion, and he compared the amount of blood the patients received to their recovery time. The results of McWilliams’ study will be combined with results from similar studies occurring in 13 countries and 30 hospitals worldwide.

“The data will be used to determine whether giving patients more blood yields better outcomes and fosters more healing,” he said. With two years of undergraduate and graduation education still ahead of him, McWilliams is unsure of what will await him next.

Quartet Places First in Southeast Horn Competition

Four School of Music students won the quartet competition at the Southeast Horn Workshop March 7-9, a workshop held annually with about 350-400 attendees from all major academic institutions throughout the Southeast. Members of the winning quartet are JOSHUA WILLIAMS, a 2014 graduate, PAYTON SIMS, a junior; HALEY FUNKHAUSER, a sophomore; and ALLISON MORRIS, a sophomore.

The students competed against undergraduate and graduate students throughout the Southeast. They are the third group from UA to win the competition in the last four years.

The winning quartet performed at the final gala concert in front of all workshop attendees. The attendees included students, professional performers, teachers, and other horn-playing enthusiasts. The participating students also took part in workshops, clinics, performances, and other learning opportunities as part of the conference.

Collegian  This is how college is meant to be.
College Boasts Six Student Fulbright Scholars

Six recent graduates of the College were awarded Fulbright grants from the U.S. State Department to conduct research and teach abroad during the 2014-2015 school year. They were among 1,800 students chosen from a nationwide pool of 11,000 applicants.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program, sponsored by the U.S. State Department, is the largest U.S. international exchange program offering opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals. Fulbright Scholars receive funds to support all expenses for an academic year in an effort to increase mutual understanding between people in the United States and other countries.

HAGLAEEH CONTRERAS, from Elrod, Ala., will assist English teachers in Malaysia. Contreras is a 2013 graduate who majored in biology. As an undergraduate, she was a member of the Honors College and participated in the Impact Alabama programs FocusFirst, SaveFirst, and CollegeFirst. For these programs, she conducted vision screenings for low-income children, prepared taxes for low-income and working families, and helped high school students prepare for Advanced Placement courses. She began pursuing her master's degree in public health from The University of Alabama at Birmingham after graduation.

CORI FAIN, from Gardendale, Ala., will assist English teachers in Malaysia. Fain is a 2014 graduate who majored in international studies and Spanish. While at UA, she worked 20 hours a week as a tutor for non-English speakers in the Tuscaloosa County School System. She was also a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, several honor societies, and Freshman Forum.

SAM GUGGENHEIMER, from Dayton, Ohio, will assist English teachers in Turkey. Guggenheimer is a 2014 graduate who majored in international studies and economics. He was a member of the University Fellows Experience and the International Honors Program at UA. He spent his junior year studying abroad in Istanbul, Turkey, on a Boren Scholarship.

RACHEL HUNKLER, a 2013-2014 Fulbright Scholar who assisted English teachers in Spain, has received a second Fulbright grant. Hunkler will remain in Spain for 2014-2015 to assist with orienting and mentoring new Fulbright grantees to the country. She will also direct the Global Classrooms program, a Model United Nations program for high school students learning English, in Madrid. She graduated in 2013 with a degree in Spanish and secondary education.

ABIGAIL JONES, from Austin, Texas, will assist English teachers in Macedonia. Jones graduated in 2013 with a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting. She has performed in plays at The University of Alabama, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and the Austin Shakespeare Festival. She also performed in “Alcestis Ascending,” an original play directed by Associate Professor Seth Panitch that sold out shows in Tuscaloosa, New York City, and Havana, Cuba.

LAUREN MARSH, from Prattville, Alabama, will conduct research in China on infant nutrition. Marsh is a 2014 graduate who majored in anthropology. She studied abroad in Chengdu, China, her junior year. She made a documentary about a rural school in that city as part of UA’s Global Classrooms program, a Model United Nations program for high school students learning English, in Madrid. She graduated in 2013 with a degree in Spanish and secondary education.

Student Attends Nobel Laureates Meeting in Germany

Imagine meeting the winner of a Nobel Prize. Now imagine spending an entire week with 38 Nobel Prize winners. That is the opportunity that BRANDON HILL, a doctoral student in the Department of Biological Sciences, had this summer.

Along with about 600 other young researchers from 80 countries, Hill was selected out of about 1,500 applicants to attend the 2014 Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany, June 29-July 4. The researchers participated in discussions, master classes, and panels led by Nobel Prize winners working in medicine and psychology.

Hill’s research primarily focuses on engineering herpes simplex virus type-1 and nanoparticles for targeted drug delivery in treating cancer. This project is a joint collaborative effort between Dr. Carol Duffy, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences; Dr. Yuping Bao, associate professor in the College of Engineering; and their respective labs. After completing his doctorate, Hill plans to pursue a post-doctoral position that focuses on developing innovative drug delivery systems for cancer therapy. His long-term goal is to win a Nobel Prize for his research.
The White Gold

Graduate student explores Louisiana salt trade with archeological dig

You’d think that spending the summer at the site of Louisiana’s oldest French settlement would be nothing short of grand. But Paul Eubanks, a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology, tells a different story.

Eubanks’ six-week stay in Natchitoches involved daily ventures into the swamps of northwestern Louisiana and ample amounts of digging as he conducted research for his dissertation, which will focus on the history of salt production in the area.

Though he describes Natchitoches as a town akin to New Orleans, only with less debauchery and condensed into one street, he spent most of his time in the areas surrounding the historic town, areas where canoes are the primary means of transportation and where alligators, hogs, panthers, and poachers are known to roam. During one of his first trips to the research site, he hopped out of his car and found a water moccasin between his feet. The snake recoiled and scurried off into the woods.

“Fortunately it was just as scared of me as I was of it,” Eubanks says. “We had a lot to watch out for while we were there.”

Eubanks and his team of researchers excavated 10 archeological test pits from May 12-June 21, searching for remnants of life during the 17th and 18th centuries, when the Caddo Indians occupied the area and began producing salt in large quantities. The team’s research was made possible by an $18,000 grant Eubanks won from the National Science Foundation, as well as by funding he received from the Department of Anthropology and the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

Eubanks said the site was chosen because of its unique history.

“One of the main reasons why Natchitoches was established is because of the Drake’s Salt Works, which is where we were digging,” he said. “Looking at historical records, there’s a quote from the commandant of the fort at Natchitoches saying they built the trading post there because it was so close to the salt production site.”

When the water table rose, water with high concentrations of salt would percolate to the ground surface and then evaporate, leaving the salt behind, he said. The Indians then scooped up the salt when the salt flat was dry. Using this method, the Caddo salt makers were able to produce hundreds of pounds of salt each year, which they then traded to the French, Spanish, and other American Indian groups, placing them in a powerful position due to high demand for the mineral.

“Salt is something we take for granted today, but that wasn’t the case two or three hundred years ago,” he said. “Salt was called the white gold because it was something that people needed. It was used not only for dietary reasons – because you need some salt to live – but it would have been used to preserve meats and tan animal hides. During the 1700s, there was a big demand on the European markets for deer, beaver, and buffalo hides.”

The site also shows evidence of European takeover, which occurred in the early 1800s. Several dozen historic salt kilns made of brick, as well as one of the world’s oldest examples of deep well rotary drilling, were added to the site after the Caddo left the area and the Americans took over the salt works. The well, more than 1,000-feet deep and built in the 1840s, still bubbles forth salt water to this day.

Despite the site’s historical significance, little work has been done there. Only since 2011 has The University of Alabama partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to work on joint projects and learn more about the site’s history. Even so, Eubanks said it’s impossible, at least in some parts of the site, to take a step without crushing a half dozen pieces of pottery or other artifacts.

When Eubanks and his team first started the excavations, they were looking for signs of habitation that would indicate the amount of time the Caddo salt makers spent at the site.

“We were looking for domestic-related materials to see if the Indians stayed there for a period of several days, just to make salt, or if they stayed there for longer periods of time,” he said. “It looks like they stayed there for longer periods of time, but on a temporary or seasonal basis. We didn’t find any signs of permanent architecture, but we did find a lot of animal bones, which shows that they took the time to bring in meat and process it. We also found a lot of stone debris and stone tools.”

But the group also found something they weren’t expecting – thousands of broken salt bowl fragments buried beneath the ground surface in one particular area of the site. This space was used to further refine the salt.

“These bowls were quickly constructed, and their primary purpose would have been salt manufacture,” he said.

As the Indians collected the dried salt from the ground surface, they would have gathered a substantial amount of unwanted sand. To get rid of the sand, they placed the salt-sand mixture into a woven basket, collected water from a nearby creek, and poured the water over the mixture as the basket was suspended over these ceramic bowls. The water would have dissolved the salt, and the resulting liquid brine was then boiled inside of the salt bowl.

“We knew that area of the site existed, but we didn’t know how it was used,” he said. “I was excited to discover something that we didn’t know previously.”

Eubanks’ next step is to analyze the artifacts and write his dissertation.

He expects to graduate with his doctorate in May 2016.
Student Awarded Prestigious Truman Scholarship

JASON ARTERBURN, a senior from Madison, Alabama, has been named a Truman Scholar for 2014. He is one of 59 students nationally to receive the award this year. The winners were selected from a pool of 655 candidates nominated by 293 colleges and universities nationwide.

Given by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, the scholarship provides winners up to $30,000 for graduate study. Winners are selected based on their leadership potential, ability to communicate, academic success, and commitment to pursuing a career in government or the nonprofit sector.

Arterburn is studying economics and interdisciplinary studies through New College. He studied abroad his junior year in China on a Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State and a David L. Boren Scholarship from the National Security Education Program.

At UA, Arterburn has worked on several community outreach programs in Perry County as a University Fellow and an Honors College 57 Miles intern. His activities include teaching ACT Now, an ACT prep class serving more than 60 students at Francis Marion High School, and the Exergaming Initiative, an education module using Wii dance video games to incorporate physical activity into the classroom at Albert Turner Sr. Elementary School.

He also has volunteered at George Washington Carver High School in Birmingham with Birmingham to Beijing, a program that funds and organizes after-school, university-level Chinese language classes and a cultural exchange to Beijing for motivated students at a low-income, inner-city school.

Undergraduates Recognized for Outstanding Research

Ten undergraduate researchers in the College received recognition through the Randall Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award Program for the best research activity conducted by UA undergraduates. The students were nominated by faculty and staff research directors. A panel of UA research faculty and past winners of the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award selected the winners.


MEREDITH RICKARD of Atascadero, California, also received the Henry Pettus Randall Jr. Endowed Research Scholarship for her senior year at UA. This scholarship is awarded to the top vote recipient who also is a member of the Computer-Based Honors Program. Rickard, a junior chemistry major, was nominated by Dr. David Dixon, Robert Ramsay professor of chemistry.

Other winners included the following students.

LINDSAY COBB, a senior from Collierville, Tennessee, was nominated by Dr. David Nikles, professor of chemistry.

MOLLY COOK, a junior from Vestavia Hills, Alabama, was nominated by Dr. Ryan Earley, assistant professor of biological sciences.

RONNIE JACKSON, a senior from Bessemer, Alabama, was nominated by Dr. Julie Olson, professor of biological sciences.

NICOLE KERNANAH, a sophomore from Slidell, Louisiana, presented “Does Vibrant Coloring Elicit Aggression in Female Convict Cichlids?” Her nominator was Dr. Ryan Earley, assistant professor of biological sciences.

Goodell, Truong Named Goldwater Scholars

Two students from the College were named Goldwater Scholars by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program for 2014-2015. The students, BRIAN GOODELL and LYNDA TRUONG, received scholarships covering the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to $7,500 during their senior years.

Goodell and Truong were among 282 students selected as Goldwater Scholars this year and were chosen from a field of more than 1,100 nominees.

Goodell, a senior from Plattsburg, New York, is majoring in physics and chemical engineering, is a member of UA’s Computer-Based Honors Program, and conducts research with Dr. David Nikles, professor in the Department of Chemistry. Goodell’s research involves synthesizing nanoparticles with the intent to use them in high-energy permanent magnets. He plans to pursue a doctorate in optical sciences after graduation and teach at a university.

Truong, a senior from Grand Prairie, Texas, is majoring in chemistry, is a member of the Computer-Based Honors Program, and conducts research with Dr. Stephen Woski, associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Chemistry. Her research involves the synthesis and assessment of cyanocarbazole derivatives as universal bases. She plans to pursue a doctorate in chemical biology after graduation.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established in 1986. The program, honoring U.S. Sen. Barry Goldwater, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in research in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering.
Marine Science Students Earn Hollings Scholarships

Two juniors in the College, Nicholson Kernahan and Zoe Nichols, were selected to receive Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarships for 2014-2016. The scholarship, given by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, provides $8,000 a year for full-time study during a student’s junior and senior years and $6,500 for a 10-week internship at the NOAA or an NOAA-approved facility.

UA ranks among the top four universities in the United States this year in terms of the number of Hollings Scholarships awarded. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration selected 106 students in 2014 for these highly competitive scholarships.

Students Design Poster for Grammy-nominated Rock Group

Students in the Department of Art and Art History were given the opportunity of a lifetime last fall when they were asked to design a poster for the three-time Grammy-nominated rock band Alabama Shakes.

Heath Fogg, rhythm and lead guitarist for the Athens, Alabama-based group, asked UA instructor Laura Lineberry to have her students design a poster for the group’s 2013 tour. Fogg is a 2008 alumnus of the department.

Alabama Shakes chose a design by senior Devin Huey from Birmingham, Alabama, who majored in graphic design and advertising. Huey said he and many of his friends are fans of the band, and he was completely in shock when his class was asked to design a poster for them.

Huey’s design incorporates an iconic image of an Indian chief. He said he wanted to create a design that represented the band without actually using a photo of the group. His inspiration came when he came across a photo of lead singer Brittany Howard wearing an Indian-style headdress.

Devin Huey designed this poster for the Grammy-nominated rock band Alabama Shakes and the group’s 2013 tour.

Student Wins First Place for Poetry at International Convention

Joey Gamble, a 2014 graduate from Pinson, Alabama, won first place for original poetry at the 2014 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Savannah, Georgia. Gamble, who majored in English, won $200 for the award.

The annual Sigma Tau Delta International Convention is sponsored by the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, which boasts more than 850 chapters worldwide. The convention provides honor society members the opportunity to present creative and scholarly works, the best of which are given awards. Nearly 1,000 submissions are received annually. While at UA, Gamble served as vice president and president of the UA chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. The chapter was named the most outstanding chapter by the international organization in 2013. The chapter organizes literacy-based service projects, publishes annually an award-winning print literary journal Dewpoint, and sponsors a lecture series within the Department of English. Gamble began pursuing his doctorate in English and women’s studies at the University of Michigan this fall.

Seniors Receive Top Honor for Service

Two graduating seniors in the College received University of Alabama Premier Awards, UA’s five highest honors bestowed upon students. Mary Sellers Shaw, a 2014 graduate of New College from Birmingham, Alabama, was awarded the Morris Lehman Mayer Award, which recognizes one graduating senior who exemplifies integrity, selfless service and leadership at UA and in the community.

Kirkland Back, a 2014 graduate majoring in English from Gadsden, Alabama, was awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes excellence of character and service to humanity.

Shaw found UA’s Documenting Justice class, in which non-film students spend a year creating documentary films, an eye-opening experience. The documentary she worked on looked at undocumented immigrants. She interviewed them about their life stories and how Alabama’s immigration law affected them.

Her work on the documentary led her to engage the UA community in civic causes as well as interfaith and cross-cultural activities. These activities included organizing “Dwell Better Together,” a Crossroads Community Center panel that looked at homelessness and poverty through an interfaith lens. Shaw also co-founded Blend, a student group that brings people together across ethnic and cultural lines. Currently, she is serving as a volunteer with Young Adult Volunteers, a mission outreach of the Presbyterian Church, in Nashville.

Back served as president of the Honors College Assembly, was a Creative Campus intern and served as an undergraduate representative for the Faculty Senate Task Force for Diversity and Inclusion while at UA. She co-founded Inform, a student group that prepares people to engage in diverse and inclusive settings. She has also interned for W magazine in New York, had selected pieces published in The Rectangle journal, and was a featured columnist for The Gadsden Times. She is now working as a fifth grade English teacher with Teach For America in Nashville, Tennessee.
The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board includes alumni and friends who support the College and its students with their time, influence, and annual membership gift of $1,000. Leadership Board members support the College's Scholarship Endowment, which now provides more than $30,000 annually in merit- and need-based scholarships.

Robert E. Abernathy
Atlanta, GA
Laura C. Abernathy
Atlanta, GA
Arielle Ache
Sheffield, AL
Pam Askew
Tuscaloosa, AL
James Haywood Baker
Montevalo, AL
Emily L. Baker
Tuscaloosa, AL
Bette Anne LeBlanc Barger
Birmingham, AL
T. Lee Baumann
Birmingham, AL
Brinda K. Baumann
Birmingham, AL
Noel Bedwell
Mobile, AL
Shannon Bedwell
Mobile, AL
Winifred D. Braig
Virginia Beach, VA
James S. Brooks
Tuscaloosa, AL
Meln Butler
Spring Hill, TN
Lary Canada
New Orleans, LA
Vincent Camaggi
Birmingham, AL
Cornelius Carter
Tuscaloosa, AL
William Christberry
Washington, DC
Frances R. Clement
Elberta, AL
Martha McMillan Cobb
Birmingham, AL
Nanae Leach Coibs
Birmingham, AL
Cako Connor
Aiken, SC
Joy Cooper
Birmingham, AL
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Mobile, AL
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Daphne, AL
Sylvester Croom, Jr.
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Enterprise, AL
Fred Crown, Jr.
Nashville, TN
Dr. Martha Crowther
Tuscaloosa, AL
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Tuscaloosa, AL
Beverly Crawford Davis
Mobile, AL
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Selma, AL
Morton B. Dimes
Atlanta, GA
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Forby Sellers Donald
Birmingham, AL
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Birmingham, AL
Jack Drake
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Birmingham, AL
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Birmingham, AL
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Tuscaloosa, AL
Rebecca Florence
Tuscaloosa, AL
Andre J. Fessas
Mobile, AL
Marjorie Forney
Birmingham, AL
William H. Forster
Gibson Island, MD
Gary Fowlie
New York, NY
H. Joseph Fritz
Tuscaloosa, AL
Thomas Allen Gaskin, III
Birmingham, AL
Sylvia Goldberg
Birmingham, AL
Mills Green
Tuscaloosa, AL
Rebecca Gregory
Tuscaloosa, AL
Frank Gregory
Tuscaloosa, AL
Roy Hager
Montgomery, AL
Gerard Donald Haggstrom
Florence, AL
Patricia Hatchell Hall
Montrose, AL
Loishek Harris
Tuscaloosa, AL
Dr. Samantha Hansen
Tuscaloosa, AL
Billy Hargrave
Florence, AL
Susan Pottsery Hargett
Florence, AL
Phillip Harmon
Birmingham, AL
Truddi Harris
Tuscaloosa, AL
Robert Hayes
Tuscaloosa, AL
Don Hays
Tuscaloosa, AL
Joel Hearl
Florence, AL
Ronald Earl Henderson
Birmingham, AL
Russel T. Henshaw
Huntsville, AL
Annie Barr Hennan
Sueanee, GA
Scott Hestevold
Tuscaloosa, AL
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Montgomery, AL
Mack D. Hoxon
Banks, AL
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West Bethesda, MD
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Mobile, AL
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Florence, AL
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Birmingham, AL
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Tuscaloosa, AL
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West Mclean, VA
William Johnson
Mobile, AL
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Tuscaloosa, AL
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Birmingham, AL
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Houston, TX
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Andalusia, AL
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Vestavia Hills, AL
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Tuscaloosa, AL
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Fitzpatrick, AL
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Birmingham, AL
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Mountain Brook, AL
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Dallas, TX
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Andy Latabac
Atlanta, GA
Dr. Patrick LeClair
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Lisa Lindquist-Dier
Tuscaloosa, AL
Margaret Livingston
Birmingham, AL
John Lockett
Atlanta, GA
clayton Lowe, Jr.
Trussville, AL
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Mobile, AL
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Birmingham, AL
Richardson McClintock, Jr.
Dothan, AL
Pamela McCollough
Katy, TX
Tricia McElroy
Tuscaloosa, AL
Trip McVey
Mobile, AL
Camille Mendle
Tuscaloosa, AL
Gina Sealy Miers
Tuscaloosa, AL
James David Mills
Birmingham, AL
Giora Moody
Birmingham, AL
Stella Hillard Moore
Tuscaloosa, AL
Rivet B. Moore
Huntsville, AL
Pam Newman
Gadsden, AL
James William Mike
Sugar Land, TX
Bonita Todd Norman
Tuscaloosa, AL
Bob Olin
Tuscaloosa, AL
Jessica Patrick
Nashville, TN
Hamilton Patrick
Birmingham, AL
Walter G. Pittman
Mountain Brook, AL
Helen Pittman
Birmingham, AL
Gl Price
Gaithersburg, MD
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Tuscaloosa, AL
Paula F. Quarles
Tuscaloosa, AL
Ralph Quarles
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Montgomery, AL
Mary D. Reyner
Mobile, AL
Luther W. Richardson, Jr.
Birmingham, AL
George Richardson
Huntsville, AL
Rick Richardson
Houston, TX
Sharon Riley
Mountain Brook, AL
Jack Robbins, Jr.
Tuscaloosa, AL
Martha Cobb Roberts
Birmingham, AL
Rebecca M. Roberts
Burton, TX
Joe Rowe
Birmingham, AL
Alice Schlesner
Birmingham, AL
V.C. Scott
Vestavia Hills, AL
Ted Sexton
Tuscaloosa, AL
Leah Ann Sexton
Tuscaloosa, AL
Michael Shanahan
San Diego, CA
Elisabeth S. Sheldon
Tuscaloosa, AL
Craig T. Sheldon, Jr.
Tuscaloosa, AL
Roger Sidje
Tuscaloosa, AL
Alan M. Siegel
Tuscaloosa, AL
Karen Simmons
Geneva, AL
John F. Simmons
Geneva, AL
James Sledge
Tuscaloosa, AL
Wendy Smith
Decatur, AL
Ned Smith
Pell City, AL
Thomas C. Smithers
Pittsburgh, PA
Amanda Duncan Soong
Hoover, AL
Margaret J. Soule
Pennsacola, FL
Dr. Ellen Spears
Mobile, AL
Mary Spencer
Birmingham, AL
Winston L. Staley
Tuscaloosa, AL
Molly Steed
Anniston, AL
Leah Snell Stephens
Montgomery, AL
Johnnie W. Stevens
Riverside, AL
Donald Wilbur Stewart
Anniston, AL
Barbara Stone
Birmingham, AL
Jenny C. Orsando Taylor
Alexandria, VA
Edward Lamar Thomas
Birmingham, AL
V. C. Stovall
Tuscaloosa, AL
Elton Tyler Tidmore
Vestavia, AL
Claire Tidwell
Tuscaloosa, AL
Jean Tomlinson
Birmingham, AL
Henry Townsend
Birmingham, AL
Rae Wade Trimmer
Birmingham, AL
Pamela Varner
Birmingham, AL
Billy Vaughn
Bloomington, IL
Julie Vaughn
Tuscaloosa, AL
Alison Verhine
Northport, AL
George Wakefield
Montgomery, AL
James C. Walker, Jr.
Birmingham, AL
Susan Austin Warner
Tuscaloosa, AL
Philip Watkins
Birmingham, AL
Mary Jean Weaver
Tuscaloosa, AL
L. Steve Weinstein
Mobile, AL
Lucy Weinstein
Mobile, AL
Allan S. Wilmens
Mount Laurel, NJ
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Accokeek, MD
Tammi L. Williams
Tuscaloosa, AL
Edward Wilson
Lexington, MA
Hoyt Wisseltir, Jr.
Birmingham, AL
Stanley Winslow
Montgomery, AL
Cheryl Winslow
Montgomery, AL
Zhijuan Wu
Las Vegas, NV
James F. Wymer
Atlanta, GA
Catharine Wymer
Atlanta, GA
Kathy Ybarbo
Tuscaloosa, AL
Robert Yoder
Birmingham, AL
James H. Zawarz
Tuscaloosa, AL
Jeffrey Ziemann
Mobile, AL

Leadership Board Selects 2014 Faculty Fellows

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board awards fellowships annually to faculty members from each of the College’s three academic divisions to recognize outstanding achievements. Established in 2002, the highly competitive fellowships aim to provide recognition and encouragement to the College’s most promising and successful faculty. Faculty fellows receive $5,000 annually for three years to support their scholarship, research, and other academic, non-salary expenses.

This year’s faculty fellows are DR. ANGELA BARBER, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Disorders; SARAH BARRY, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance; and DR. SAMANTHA HANSEN, assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences.
Scholarships and Endowments

The following friends have established or contributed to scholarships or endowed funds in the College of Arts and Sciences between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014.

James Cummings
Honors Father with Endowed Scholarship

James M. Cummings of Columbia, Missouri, has given more than $20,000 to the College to establish the James Morgan Cummings Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship in honor of his late father. The scholarship will support full-time undergraduate students pursuing degrees in chemistry. James Morgan Cummings Jr. attained his own college education not only through study, but also by keeping a job that could provide him with the funds needed to attend school. Through his hard work, he was able to support his family's dreams by earning and saving enough money to ensure they could attend college without financial struggle or debt.

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Mr. James B. Boone Jr.
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. and Mrs. Dorothy Demus Boyd
Birmingham, AL
BP Fabric of America Fund
Princeton, NJ
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brantley
Oxford, MS
Mr. and Mrs. James Garland
Brazil
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mrs. Diane Ellis Breth
Tuscaloosa, AL
Dr. Carol and Mr. Bennitt Britt
Thibodaux, LA
Mrs. Lelia C. Bromberg
Birmingham, AL
Dr. Carol Johnson Brooks
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. James S. Brooks
Tuscaloosa, AL
Dr. Melvin Lynn Butler

Spring Hill, TN
Mrs. Virginia Duckworth Cade
Tuscaloosa, AL
Judge William W. Cardwell, Jr.
Southside, AL
Dr. Vincent Anthony Carnaggio
Birmingham, AL
Central Carolina Community Foundation
Columbia, SC
Mr. Rager Morgan Chapman
Brewton, AL
Frank Chiles Insurance Agency
Starville, MS
Mrs. Frances R. Clement
Elberta, AL
Coastal Methane Asso. of Ala.
Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Naneita Leach Cobbs
Birmingham, AL
Dr. and Mrs. George David Cole
Northport, AL
The Birmingham Foundation
Birmingham, AL
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cook
Birmingham, OK
Mrs. Joy Clark Cooper
Birmingham, AL
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Craddock
Fernandina Beach, FL
Dr. John Richard Cranton
Daphne, AL
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Dr. John C. Crowell
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. and Mrs. John F. DeBuys, Jr.
Birmingham, AL
DeLisle Properties, LLC
Tuscaloosa, AL
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Selma, AL
Dr. Morton B. Dinnenstein
Atlanta, GA
Mr. Robert M. Dimick
Brentwood, TN
Dr. Dan E. Douglas
Birmingham, AL
Mr. Matthew David Dowell
Starville, MS
Mr. Jack Drake
Birmingham, AL
Dr. Mark S. Drummond
Birmingham, AL
Mrs. GeorgeAnn B. Dukes
Richardson, TX
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Edwards
Albany, GA
Mrs. Mary P. Eimsre
Birmingham, AL
Dr. Miller Bonner Engelhardt
Montgomery, AL
Dr. Elizabeth D. Ennis
Birmingham, AL
Dr. Sean Franklin Evans
Jackson, TN
Exxon Mobil Production Co.
Theodore, AL
ExxonMobil Foundation
Irving, TX
Ms. Laura B. Fikes
Hamilton, AL
Mr. Johnny Fisher
Columbus, MS
Dr. Andre J. Fordana, Sr.
Mobile, AL
Mrs. Marjone H. Forney
Birmingham, AL
Dr. William Hull Forster
Bethany Beach, DE
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Franklin
Roswell, GA
Dr. H. Joseph Fritz, Jr.
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Garrett
Lutherville Timonium, MD
Mr. Robert S. Gaston
Ridgeland, MS
Dr. Lois D. George
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mrs. Emily Stewart Gilbert
Las Vegas, NV
Dr. Margaret R. Gladney
Fernandina Beach, FL
Mrs. Sylvia Kaplan Goldberg
Mountain Brook, AL
Mr. George B. Gordon
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. Russ Golson
Theodore, AL
Mrs. Milla Windham Green
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. and Mrs. Frank William
Gregory
Wetumpka, AL
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Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Glenda K. Guyton
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Montgomery, AL
Dr. Gerald Donald Haggstrom
Florence, AL
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Columbus, MS
Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Sherwood
Hamilton
Huntsville, AL
Dean and Mrs. V. Nathaniel
Huntsford
Lexington, GA
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Hargett
Florence, AL
Dr. and Mrs. Hector Harima
Jacksonville, FL
Dr. Philip Wayne Harmon
Birmingham, AL
Mr. Bobby Harper
Columbus, MS
Dr. Tisdal Harris
Tuscaloosa, AL
Pensacola, FL
Dr. Joel P. Hearn
Florence, AL
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Mr. Ralph G. Helnich
Foley, AL
Dr. Ronald Earl Henderson
Birmingham, AL
Mr. Wiley Phillip Henderson, Jr.
Montgomery, AL
Dr. Henry G. Herrid III
Memphis, TN
Ms. Suzanne A. Herrd
Tuscaloosa, AL
Dr. H. Scott Heselton
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. Charles E. Hillburn
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. David L. Hill
Rehoboth Beach, DE
Mrs. Iouise Partlow Hill
Montgomery, AL
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edward
Alabaster, AL
Dr. Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Colin
Hocking
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Mr. Ralph Gains Holberg III
Mobile, AL
Dr. Michael Benjamin Horan
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United Kingdom
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Gainesville, FL
Mrs. Geraldine Hammack
Huntsville, AL
Tuscaloosa, AL
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Houston, TX
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Dr. Terry and Mr. Ransom
Jackson
Athens, GA
Mr. William Paul Jackson, Jr.
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JBHM Architects, P.A.
Mobile, AL
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Jessup, Ingram, Burns & Associates LLP
Tuscaloosa, AL
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Jessup
Tuscaloosa, AL
JMF Consulting Inc.
Tuscaloosa, AL
Ms. Ellen F. Johnson
Nashville, TN
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Joiner
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mrs. Bonnie Cook Jones
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Mr. Brockway Jackson Jones
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Mr. David Blake Jones
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Madison, AL
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Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Junge
Leonardtown, MD
Keans Family Foundation
Trinity, FL
Mr. Allan D. Keel
Houston, TX
Mr. Arthur C. Kelly
Starville, MS
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Kenne
West Point, MS
Mr. Chuck King
Birmingham, AL
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Alcoyville, AL
Dr. Jerry Lester Kitchens
Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Catherine Knepper
Columbus, MS
Dr. Robert A. Kreisberg
Birmingham, AL

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2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 18
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 17
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 16
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 15
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 14
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 13
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 12
2014 Aug collegian/2014 P17 uscpu.indd 11
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Tuscaloosa, AL

Mrs. Roberta Smith Largin
Tuscaloosa, AL

Dr. Darrell Latta
Morgantown, WV

Mr. David G. Liddell
Eutaw, AL

Mr. George Lindahl
Spring, TX

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Mr. Willard Wise Livingston, Jr.
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Tuscaloosa, AL

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Birmingham, AL

Mr. and Mrs. Sean McDade
Birmingham, AL

Ms. Robin McCormick
Katy, TX

Ms. Pamela Jo McCollough
Tuscaloosa, AL

Mr. and Mrs. Gary J. Maples
Tuscaloosa, AL

Mr. Michael Martone
Tuscaloosa, AL

Mr. John Henry Masingill III
Tuscaloosa, AL

Dr. Chandra Maria McColl
Birmingham, AL

Ms. Anna Harris McCarthy
Tuscaloosa, AL

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Abernathys Establish Endowed Scholarship

Laura C. and Robert E. Abernathy of Atlanta, Georgia, have given $25,000 of a $100,000 pledge to the College to
establish the Laura C. and Robert E. Abernathy Endowed Scholarship, which will be used to support full-time
undergraduate students majoring in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Robert Abernathy graduated from The University of
Alabama in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and obtained his master's degree in 1978 from Lawrence
University. He has had a successful 32-year career with
Kimberly-Clark Corporation and has been selected to
become chairman of the board and chief executive officer of
Halyard Health. Laura Abernathy graduated from Judson
College in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in biology and
graduated the same year from Samford University with an
associate's degree in nursing. She has been a nurse in her
hometown of Mobile, Alabama, and Appleton, Wisconsin.

Both of the Abernathys are involved in The University of
Alabama College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board
and the National Leadership Council of World Vision.
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The College Fund supports scholarships, teaching innovations, and value-added student activities that state funds do not cover. It also enables the College to expand its level of alumni support. Donors to the College Fund help provide the margin of excellence that keeps the College in the forefront of liberal arts education. The College gratefully acknowledges the following friends who made gifts to the College Fund between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014.

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Friends and Family of Carolyn P. Handa to Establish Endowed Scholarship
Family, friends, and colleagues of the late Carolyn P. Handa have pledged $25,000 to establish the Carolyn P. Handa Memorial Scholarship, which will be used to support students studying English. Handa joined The University of Alabama faculty in 2005. She taught expository writing in the Department of English and conducted research in the field of composition and rhetoric, serving as assistant chair of the department and a senior faculty member for the graduate program in composition, rhetoric, and English studies. She also dedicated herself to mentoring minority and first-generation college students as a faculty fellow for the McNair Scholars Program. Anyone wishing to donate to the scholarship fund should send donations to The University of Alabama Office of Advancement Services, Box 870101, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487. Checks should be made payable to The University of Alabama with a note indicating the gift is for the Carolyn P. Handa Memorial Scholarship.

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Edward Guy Establishes Scholarship in Communicative Disorders

Edward E. Guy Jr. of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, has given $25,000 to the College to establish the Edward Ervin Guy Jr. Endowed Scholarship in Communicative Disorders, which will be used to support full-time undergraduate or graduate students majoring in communicative disorders. Guy, born in Tuscaloosa, is a graduate of Brookwood High School. He began his career at The University of Alabama in 1994 as a program coordinator of West Alabama Comprehensive Services in the College of Education, where he continued working in various departments until he became in 2013 an administrative assistant to the associate and assistant deans of the Graduate School. He has also served the community as a past member of the board of directors of West Alabama Aids Outreach, Temporary Emergency Services, and Mrs. Jennifer Toloba McKeon.
David Dreher Honors Brother with Gift to English Scholarship

David Dreher, of Seneca, South Carolina, has given $10,000 to the O. B. Emerson Endowed Scholarship Fund in memory of his late brother, Andrew S. Dreher. Andrew Dreher also gave $5,000 to the College of Arts and Sciences in his will. He received his undergraduate degree from Newberry College and his doctorate in English literature from The University of Alabama, where O. B. Emerson was one of his favorite professors. He was retired from the Veterans Administration and was a veteran of the United States Army. David Dreher also attended The University of Alabama, receiving his bachelor’s degree in 1967 and his master’s degree in 1969.

The O. B. Emerson Endowed Scholarship Fund supports full-time students majoring in English.
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Mathematics

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Society for the Fine Arts Lifetime Members

The Society for the Fine Arts, or SFA, was established in 1975 to advocate for and support fine and performing arts programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. The society annually honored state and community leaders and artists with a Lifetime Membership for their role in advancing the arts in Alabama. In 2003 the SFA was incorporated into the College’s Leadership Board.

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College Ambassadors Seek to Establish Scholarship for Students in Need

Aug. 25 to promote the Rising Tide Scholarship, which will provide a helping hand to students facing a variety of obstacles or challenges. The campaign has included on-campus events and donation centers, promotions on social media, and spirit nights at participating Tuscaloosa restaurants.

The Ambassadors’ co-president Will Menas said the goal of the campaign is to have all students in the College of Arts and Sciences donate $1 to the scholarship fund and to build shared community support for the scholarship.

To encourage student participation and collaboration with the College’s faculty and alumni, the Ambassadors have asked the College’s faculty to consider matching each student or class’s contribution to the Rising Tide Scholarship, which will provide a helping hand to students facing a variety of obstacles or challenges. The Ambassadors’ goal is to raise $25,000 in order to endow the scholarship.

“We hope to make this scholarship a reality in honor of all the students we know who are facing hardships,” Menas said. “We all know students who are veterans, students who are parents, students who hold down three jobs to make ends meet, students who have lost parents, students whose parents have lost jobs, and students in other difficult situations.”

Donations can also be made online by visiting the College of Arts and Sciences website at www.as.ua.edu. Click “Give to A&S fund and to build shared community support for the scholarship.”

What would you do if you could be dean of The University of Alabama’s College of Arts and Sciences for a day?
Marcita Cole, one of more than 9,100 students who were asked the question via social media earlier this year, said she would provide critical financial assistance to successful students in need. The College’s student Ambassadors were struck by her response and are seeking to make her vision a reality.

The College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors began conducting a campaign to make ends meet, students who have lost parents, students whose parents have lost jobs, and students in other difficult situations.”

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Donations can also be made online by visiting the College of Arts and Sciences website at www.as.ua.edu. Click “Give to A&S” and “Give Now,” and select the “Rising Tide Endowed Scholarship” account.

Serving as the face of the Rising Tide campaign, an Ambassador-led campaign organized to establish a scholarship for students in need, is a 6-foot-wide, 4-foot-tall “elephant bank” made of wood and Plexiglas. Pictured are College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Robert Olin and Ambassador co-presidents Will Menas and Hannah Studard dropping their donations inside.

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Alumni Notes

1947
Lauren C. Clough (history, BA) has retired as a teacher in Nassau County, Florida. He continues to be involved in a retired teachers association, AARP, and national politics.

1953
Mary Alice Gray Lee Hudson (chemistry, BS) has retired after practicing medicine for 30 years. She has two children, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Her hobbies include painting and traveling. She lives in Madison, Mississippi, with her husband Jerrold.

1963
Fred Marchman (art, BFA) published a new book of poetry, Thee Portals of Paradise, published by Author House in 2013, is written in cursive freehand and is illustrated by Marchman.

1970
James L. Sumner Jr. (biology and chemistry, BS) was awarded the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws Award for 2013. Sumner has been the director of the Alabama Ethics Commission since 1997, and he is credited for his leadership in implementing a major revision of the state’s ethics laws.

1971
Charles A. Casmus III (broadcast and film communication, BA) recently played his 1,500th gig as the lead singer in the Montgomery-based band Charlie C & The Cuzamatics. He has been performing part-time since 1966.

J. Michael Ferninany (theatre and speech, MA) just signed with KOR Talent Agency after receiving good reviews for his performance in the comedy “The Belle Aires.” He is currently writing a new play.

1975
James E. Griffith Jr. (biology, BS) recently founded the OldSchool Collaborative to bring together teams of designers, educational institutions, and public agencies to create sustainable and economically viable communities.

1993
Carl Borick (history, BA) has been named the director of The Charleston Museum, America’s First Museum, which was founded in 1773.

David Moyer (political science, BA; criminal justice, MS, 1994) has been elected president of the St. Charles Parish Bar Association in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. He received his Juris Doctor from The University of Alabama in 1996 and currently practices law in Luling, Louisiana.

2001
Shannon Michael Boyd (English, BA) is a premier field engineer for Microsoft. He lives in Yorktown, Virginia, with his wife Sonya and three children, Lily, Colton, and Jack.

Adam R.Colvin (Russian and political science, BA) has accepted a position at the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer. Following initial orientation and training in Washington, D.C., Adam will serve as a U.S. Diplomat, posted at one of the more than 265 U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad, moving with his family from post to post every 2-3 years.

2003
Katherine Perez-Rivera (psychology, PhD) is successfully running a fee-for-service/out-of-pocket private practice specializing in clinical pediatrics. She is also enjoying life with her husband, Orlando, and her 9 1/2 year old daughter, Kassandra.

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Noe was appointed to his current position, executive vice president, at Hercules in November 2012, which he sees as a continuation of his previous work there. He continues to “do a little bit of everything,” including business development; managing the legal, risk, and insurance departments; meeting with government officials who have regulatory interests in offshore drilling; and negotiating drilling rights with oil and gas companies across the globe.

His favorite part has been seeing the world. “There’s a saying in the oil business that God didn’t put oil under Paris,” he said. “That’s true, but I’ve seen some fantastic things.” Among them, he’s visited the pyramids at Giza, the Great Wall of China, the Colosseum in Rome, Angkor Wat, and the Taj Mahal.

“I became fascinated with the industry because it deals with so many tentacles of society, including culture, politics, geopolitics, science, and economics.”

TIGHT SECURITY TRAVELS

Equally fascinating are the security measures he and Hercules must take when he travels to dangerous destinations. “The oil and gas industry is sometimes in places with histories of corruption,” he said. “To do business the way we want to do business, the right way, that requires leadership from the top in the form of presence in countries with histories of corruption and face-to-face discussions with people who might be corrupt themselves. Dealing with these compliance issues, I often find myself in situations in which my safety may be in jeopardy, but it comes with the territory.”

During these harrowing trips abroad, Noe’s security measures rival those seen on the screens of Hollywood. He has booked multiple plane tickets and hotels to elude governmental officials who might be tracking his whereabouts. He’s planned secret escape routes over land or sea into nearby countries should he need to leave quickly. His hotel stays are a closely guarded secret.

But dangerous situations don’t keep him from having a little fun. “When I travel with a security team, our code words are often related to Alabama football,” he said. “We’ve used ‘roll tide roll,’ a lot for code words and different things. It’s funny to do that because people in other countries have no idea what that means.”

Working with Hercules also gives him great satisfaction in knowing that his company employs thousands of people and helps feed and pay tuition bills for thousands of families. “You can make a good living in our business, and it’s fantastically rewarding to see that translate into people’s lives,” he said.

LOBBYING FOR THE INDUSTRY

But that reward also comes with a tremendous amount of responsibility. During the most recent economic recession, Hercules’ challenges were compounded by the BP oil spill and resulting government action that temporarily banned offshore drilling. During that time, Noe said Hercules laid off several thousand employees in order for the company to survive.

“It quickly became apparent that we wouldn’t survive as a company very long unless the moratorium was lifted for shallow water drilling, which is very different than deep water drilling in that it’s less risky and allows for easier access to inspect, maintain, and repair drilling equipment,” he said. “We knew we had to educate lawmakers about the negative effects the moratorium was having on the work of thousands of people.”

So Hercules and a group of companies with similar interests formed the...
Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition and took their cause to lawmakers in Washington, D.C. Noe led the cause as the group’s executive director, which required an even higher level of expertise in the art of communication than he had employed previously.

“Part of the reason I was dubbed to be the executive director is that I was one of the few members willing to take the short straw and appear on television and testify before Congress,” he said. “We knew we needed to educate not only lawmakers, but also the general public, that the moratorium was putting thousands of people out of work unjustly and unnecessarily, but we had an uphill battle. No one likes oil and gas companies when they see oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico day after day after day. Even so, we knew we had to engage the media to tell our story – that we’re an important part of the economy, that we’re an important part of national security, and that as we continue to develop our oil and gas resources here at home, we become less reliant on guerilla-controlled oil and gas resources abroad.”

In the months following the BP oil spill, Noe spent much of his time in meetings with senators and congressmen, and he also appeared frequently in the opinion pages of national newspapers and on live television. He describes his first live TV interview as very, very nerve-racking.

“I was being interviewed remotely by someone in New York, and all I had was an earpiece and a camera staring at me,” he said. “There was all this chatter in the background from the producers. The most difficult part was learning how to communicate to different people, to people who may be hostile to my business or who may not know anything about my business, to experts and non-experts, to politicians and John Q. Public watching on CNN. It was communication par excellence that I had learned from my days at The University of Alabama and LSU. The moratorium was lifted on shallow water drilling after several months of lobbying.”

**ADVICE TO STUDENTS**

Noe encourages any student wishing to be successful to think and study broadly.

“With jobs being scarce, it’s hard not to be practical when you’re deciding your major or the classes you’re going to take,” he said. “But remember that it’s a broad world out there, and you’re going to need more skills than those that get you a job or earn you a paycheck. In business, you’re not always an expert in everything that crosses your desk. You have to quickly understand it, learn more about it, and then communicate that information with others, particularly as a senior executive of a company. The communication abilities and the broad perspective I gained at the University helped me to become the leader that I am.

“I would encourage all students, whether you’re majoring in accounting, science, or engineering, to take courses that will help you communicate, such as English and history courses focused on reading and writing. Also take courses that will give you a broad view of the world. If you want to become a senior executive, you need that core background of something you’re bringing to the table, which for me is law, and you need communication skills and a worldview that’s broader than what your major dictates. You need a lot of other aspects of what the University offers you to do your job well.”

**New UA Cybercrime Lab Launched with Local Police**

As computer-based crimes become more prevalent, local law enforcement agencies need access to technology in order to gather and access digital evidence of cybercrimes. A new digital forensics crime lab at UA will assist law enforcement with this endeavor.

**DR. KATHRYN SEIGFRIED-SPELLAR,** assistant professor of criminal justice, will serve as an academic liaison for the new lab. Created through a partnership between the Department of Criminal Justice and local law enforcement agencies, the lab will assist local and possibly national law enforcement officials with processing digital evidence for use in cybercrime prosecutions.

The new lab is being funded by a grant Seigfried-Spellar co-wrote with Lt. Dennis McMillian with The University of Alabama Police Department. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs provided $60,000 for the lab as part of the grant. The lab, the first joint partnership of its kind in the state, will provide opportunities for UA students to study cybercrime, UA faculty to expand their research, and law enforcement officers to process evidence from computer-based crimes.

Seigfried-Spellar joined the UA faculty in 2012. Her research interests include computer deviance and cyber forensics. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Purdue University in 2005, a Master of Arts in forensic psychology from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2007, and a doctorate in cyber forensics from Purdue University in 2011.
Woods Quad Sculpture Garden Opens

The University of Alabama’s Woods Quad has long been home to students filling sketchbooks and lounging between classes. Now, thanks to a recently completed renovation, it will serve as the University’s outdoor sculpture garden and an outdoor classroom, featuring work by faculty and the very same students who call the quad “home.” The new design links each sculpture bed with connecting sidewalks. Every bed has up-lighting on each piece of art to enhance the works at night. A dedication ceremony for the Woods Quad Sculpture Garden was held August 15.