West Gift Establishes Summer Theatre on Gulf Coast

For beachgoers on the Alabama Gulf Coast, fly-by planes pulling banners advertising the area’s hottest attractions are a familiar sight. Last summer, those fly-bys included ones touting The University of Alabama’s new SummerTide theatre in Gulf Shores performing the Broadway play *Pump Boys and Dinettes*.

Gulf Coast visitors and residents were able to spend the evening entertained by live theatre established by the College and the Department of Theatre and Dance thanks to funding from Florida businessman and UA alumnus Herbert Clark West Jr. of Santa Rosa Beach, Fla., and additional support from the George Meyer Foundation of Gulf Shores and The University of Alabama Alumni Association.

*Pump Boys and Dinettes*, a hilarious rock, country, and musical revue, was performed by actors from the Department of Theatre and Dance each evening except Sunday at the George C. Meyers Theatre Arts Center in Gulf Shores from June 4 to July 3.

“SummerTide had a great response from visitors and residents and enormous support from the business community—from people who bought out tickets for a night for their church, business, or social group to University alumni from all over the country who made SummerTide part of their beach vacation plans. We look forward to bringing Broadway theatre back to the beach next June,” says Bobbie Rafferty, assistant professor of theatre and director of the theatre management program.

While in Gulf Shores, the theatre company made appearances at various libraries in Baldwin County in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program and sponsored theatre workshops for students.

A University of Alabama professional summer theatre on the Gulf Coast was proposed to the College of Arts and Sciences dean Bob Olin by Bob Wright, former University of Alabama vice president.
Message from the Dean

A ny parent who has nudged a child to (how many times have we said it) “think for yourself” and any employer who laments the employee who can’t seem to take ownership of a problem and solve the darn thing knows why colleges and universities put so much emphasis on teaching students critical-thinking skills.

They are, arguably, the single most important factor in personal, community, and professional development.

Major universities, and liberal arts colleges in particular, have a distinct advantage in helping to instill this kind of thinking in students. Our teachers are also researchers, scholars, and artists. They are daily engaged in the art and science of discovery, which requires those rigorous thought processes and evaluative skills.

As university educators, we are called to teach students how to learn and to use these skills from the first day they enter the University. We want to produce undergraduates who are well prepared for the workforce and for making positive contributions to their communities. One way we do this is by integrating research, scholarship, and artistic creation.

By conducting a problem-solving or creative project, students quickly learn the difference between acquiring information through memorization and creating knowledge with original thinking. It’s also a lot more fun and often makes the basics easier to understand.

In this issue of the Collegian, we devote several pages to profiles of students who are taking advantage of what is known as a “value-added undergraduate education.” Last year, about 680 undergraduates in the College were involved in out-of-class creative or research projects, and that number is growing each year.

To underscore how important our faculty feel this work is for students, the College held its first annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Project Presentations Competition in April. We were pleasantly surprised at the number of students (67) who took time in the middle of a busy semester to present their work. The depth and array of subjects made this dean proud.

Projects included Kimberly Peter’s examination of genetic changes in proteins implicated in cancerous cell division, James Cook’s mathematics presentation titled “Correct Solvability of Sturm-Liouville Operators,” and Whitney Greene’s study of the cultural influences on conversational gestures in Spanish and English-speaking people. Jeffrey Sherard analyzed a Moundville earth lodge wall to determine what it can tell us about the construction of these ancient Native American structures. Morgan Hooper read her series of poems, “Walks,” about her interactions with people of other cultures.

The abstracts of all 67 student projects in the competition are on our Web site at www.as.ua.edu/as/students/PosterIntro.htm.

There are many matters to manage in a flagship College that has more than 6,000 students, 450 faculty and staff, nearly 40,000 alumni, and a sea of research endeavors, creative activities, and community projects. Fortunately for me, I have a hard-working group of associate deans and professional staff who help row the boat in the Office of the Dean.

Since last year’s Collegian went to press, we have welcomed two new associate deans. Professor Jimmy Williams of the Department of Criminal Justice has joined our office as the University’s first associate dean for multicultural affairs. Jimmy is the point person for minority recruitment and retention efforts and for developing new initiatives to increase diversity.

Professor Tom Wolfe, who comes to us from the School of Music, is the associate dean for humanities and fine arts. Tom works with 9 of the College’s 23 departments and makes sure our faculty tenure and promotion, teacher course evaluations, and other assessment processes run smoothly.

You can send a note to Dean Olin at rolfin@as.ua.edu.
Dedication ceremonies for Shelby Hall took place in the building’s central rotunda. The architectural centerpiece and main public entry to Shelby Hall, the rotunda is crowned with a dome that rises 80 feet above its surroundings. Inside, it is encircled with Doric columns around the entrance portico. A skylight bathes the hall in natural light. Stairways that flow up and around the interior of the rotunda lead into the adjoining wings, providing the visitor with a sense of the rotunda’s stately proportions. Terrazzo tiles form a mosaic on the rotunda floor, which has at its center a bronze inlay of The University of Alabama seal. A reception following the dedication was held on the patio directly behind the rotunda that overlooks Shelby Hall’s spacious courtyard.
for financial affairs and a frequent visitor to the Gulf Coast area, which is estimated to attract some 30,000 visitors weekly during the peak summer season. The theatre became a reality when West, a 1977 graduate of the College in speech communications, donated $400,000 to the Department of Theatre and Dance, stipulating that half the amount be placed in an endowment to fund student scholarships and half be placed in an endowed support fund, a portion of which underwrites SummerTide.

West’s gift was part of a larger $1 million gift made to UA with his business partner and fellow UA alumnus Elliott Mitchell. UA’s College of Commerce and Business Administration received $400,000 from Mitchell to support scholarships and academic programs, and West and Mitchell jointly contributed $200,000 to UA’s Crimson Tradition Fund, a $100 million fund-raising campaign for University of Alabama athletic facility improvements.

Mitchell and West are founders of Southern Shores Properties, a real estate development firm based in northwest Florida that specializes in residential and business developments along Scenic Highway 30A.

Additional support for SummerTide came from the University of Alabama National Alumni Association and the Meyer Foundation of Gulf Shores. The Meyer Foundation was established by George C. Meyer of Gulf Shores in 1953 to support public, scientific, educational, religious, and charitable purposes in the Gulf Shores area. The foundation has been instrumental in assisting a number of key civic developments in the community.

“Thanks to the Herbert Clark West Endowed Support Fund, the National Alumni Association, and members of the Gulf Shores community, the Department of Theatre and Dance has embarked on an exciting new educational experience for our students,” says Olin. “SummerTide Theatre offers a wonderful arts attraction to the Gulf Coast while giving our theatre and dance students the opportunity to perform in an exciting new venue. The Herbert Clark West Jr. Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Theatre and Dance will also provide much-needed financial support to deserving theatre and dance students. We are most grateful to this alumnus.”

Response from the Gulf Coast community was strong and enthusiastic, says UA alumnus Wade Ward, a member of the George C. Meyer family and a Gulf Coast businessman for 44 years. Ward is president of Wade Ward Real Estate, alumnus Clark West, and theatre student William North Clecker.

After finishing a performance of Pump Boys and Dinettes, members of the SummerTide Theatre company were joined on stage with key SummerTide supporters Clark West, Wade Ward, and Robert Wright following an opening weekend performance and reception hosted by Dean Robert Olin on June 5. Back row, left to right: Theatre alumnus Brad Williams; theatre alumna Stacy Alley, now assistant professor of theatre at Arkansas State University; music major Paul Oliver, Mark Cobb, arts editor for the Tuscaloosa News; theatre student Lauren Hausser, Robert Wright, former UA vice president for financial affairs; and Raphe Crystal, assistant professor of theatre and director of musical theatre. Front row, seated: theatre student Michael Freeman: Wade Ward, president of Wade Ward Real Estate; alumnus Clark West; and theatre student William North Clecker.

Richard Cowart of Louisville, Tenn., past president of the National Alumni Association with his wife, Jennie, and Bob Wright, former University of Alabama vice president for financial affairs.

UA College of Arts and Sciences dean Robert Olin announced West’s gift and plans for SummerTide on April 24 at the UA President’s Mansion during the Arty Party, a fundraising event for UA arts programs (see p.14).

SUMMERTIDE (continued from page 1)

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“SummerTide was fantastic! The talent was amazing,” says Ward. “The performance and the actors were first rate. Members of our community were delighted with it. SummerTide adds so much to what is being offered during the summer on the Gulf Coast, not only first-rate professional theatre but also the educational programs in the community for our children. We can’t wait until next year.”
think living-learning communities appeal a lot to parents,” says Ann Webb, assistant dean of student services in the College. “They say, in effect, ‘Your child will receive extra attention in making the transition from high school to college.’ And that can be a tough transition for many students—and their parents.”

In the College, one living-learning community that has proved a hit with both is the Parker-Adams Freshman Year Experience. Available only to entering freshmen in the College, the co-ed residence hall houses 90 freshmen, 6 fellows (sophomores who were at Parker-Adams the previous year), 5 or 6 RAs (resident assistants), and a hall director. In addition a faculty member lives on site.

Larry Bowen has been the faculty-in-residence since Parker-Adams opened in the fall of 2000. “I was very skeptical at first about living in the residence hall,” says Bowen, who teaches in the mathematics department. “Now I’m the program’s biggest fan. I’ll keep doing this as long as I can.”

Bowen believes the major advantage for students who participate in the Parker-Adams year is access to information they would otherwise find difficult or impossible to find. One avenue of information is through the hall director, typically a Ph.D. student who serves as counselor cum academic adviser. Matt Kelley, a doctoral student in the psychology program, is the current hall director.

Information, as well as encouragement, is also available through the mentoring program, which pairs each student with a faculty member. Mentoring, says Webb, is an important part of the goal of living-learning communities: to bring students and faculty together outside the traditional classroom setting. “We want to blur the line between in class and out of class,” she says.

“If we can help students feel comfortable approaching their mentors, then our hope is they will also feel comfortable approaching other faculty members,” explains Webb. “We believe having a faculty presence in the students’ lives outside the classroom is important.” Mentors may be selected by the student or assigned through Webb’s office.

Parker-Adams students also gain valuable information through AS 101, a “compass course,” that offers a broad range of activities and assignments, from visiting a mentor’s office, to guest lectures at the residence hall, to cultural events. The hall residents make up a single section of AS 101 so all have these experiences in common.

Judging the success of a program such as the Parker-Adams year isn’t always easy. “I don’t think you can tell at the end of a year just what impact you’ve had on students,” says Bowen. “It’s 5 or 6 or 10 years later you’ll really know if—and how—you’ve made a difference. Nonetheless, we’re already seeing some success stories. For example, officers in student organizations on campus are laced with many former Parker-Adams students.”

The numbers speak for themselves. Ninety-five percent of Parker-Adams freshmen chose to return to college for their sophomore year, compared to the University’s overall retention rate of 83 percent. Over the past two years, the average grade point average for students in the program has been above 2.9.

“And,” Bowen continues, “I think it’s a good sign that a number of siblings of former Parker-Adams students are joining the program.”

Student Scott Barnes agrees. A telecommunications and film major, Barnes was a member of Parker-Adams’s inaugural class. His brother, Philip, will be at Parker-Adams this fall. “He could live with me in my apartment,” Barnes says, “but being part of Parker-Adams helped me adjust to college, so I recommended that Philip sign up. I absolutely adored the program.”

For more information about the Parker-Adams Freshman Experience, contact Dr. Ann Webb at 205-348-8547; email awebb@as.ua.edu; or visit the Web site http://www.as.ua.edu/as/prospective/services.
On the Road of Discovery

A good undergraduate education is not just classroom work anymore. Innovative, independent projects—both creative and research—are part of the course. Meet some College students who are on the road of discovery long before they graduate.

COLLEGE of Arts and Sciences graduate and aspiring set designer Erin Brown learned through experience that her chosen career “really combines everything I love to do.”

“I’m very strong in art, design, and geometry—I love geometry and math, and my art in general is very detailed. I love the research; I love presenting things to the director; I love painting and building things; I love using power tools. I love it all.”

A set Brown designed for one of the theatre department’s mainstage productions, Country Life, took first place in the humanities/fine arts category of the College’s 2004 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Project Presentations (URCAPP) Competition. The set was completed as part of an independent study project.

“I’d taken other set design classes and designed things that weren’t built or realized,” says Brown, who plans to earn an M.F.A. in set design. “There’s a world of difference between taking a class in set design and doing projects that won’t be realized and doing the real thing, because suddenly everything has to work and you must pay so much attention to detail and to working with your team. I learned how to communicate more effectively, research more efficiently, and just generally work well with other people and really make it a collaborative experience.”

Since graduating in May, Brown has taken on another collaborative creative project: with fellow UA alumna Jan Mize (who earned her M.F.A. in theatre in 2004), she’s started a business doing interior fine painting, murals, faux finishes, and hand-painted floor cloths and screens.

“These are heavy-duty canvases we paint as we would easel art,” Brown explained. “The designs are inspired by illuminated manuscripts from the medieval period and the early Renaissance-rich colors, metallic accents.”

The pair chose floor cloths and screens because, as Brown puts it, “I’m less interested in hanging art than in functionality. That’s why I’m interested in set design—it’s not just ‘fine’ art. It’s something that’s used.”

“When the White House offers you a position,” says 2004 A& S graduate Annie Donaldson, “you take it.” And so in January 2004 the political science major turned down more lucrative internship offers in favor of a semester’s work in First Lady Laura Bush’s Projects and Policy Office.

“I’d only been in the White House for a tour before then,” Donaldson says. “It’s a great place to work. It’s definitely a sense of history and accomplishment that goes along with it.”

The internship was Donaldson’s second in the capital; in summer 2003 she interned at the South
down Governor’s Association. At the White House, Donaldson worked Mrs. Bush’s constituent phone line and helped coordinate her events and policy initiatives. Donaldson also worked on the White House’s comment line, fielding calls from concerned citizens following major press conferences.

On weekends, Donaldson flew to Boston for an intensive political campaign training school. This summer and fall, Donaldson is working in Massachusetts as campaign manager for Judith Judson, a candidate for state representative. Her responsibilities include planning fund-raising events, helping Judson research for TV appearances and “walk the district,” and printing T-shirts, bumper stickers, and push cards. The hours are long and stressful, she says, but also a lot of fun.

“I’ve learned so much more through my internships in Washington and this job than I could have learned in a classroom,” Donaldson says. “Nothing can really touch being out there and learning things in the field.”

“Politics and policy are often credited with—or blamed for—Supreme Court decisions. As I examined the specific language of the justices’ decisions [in one particular case], I noticed that it didn’t seem like policy—it seemed more of a procedural matter,” Forrester says. “Past research showed such decisions were more about politics…but past research has focused more on numbers, not the specific reasoning behind decisions.”

Forrester, who plans to attend law school at Michigan State beginning in fall 2004, says he’s always been interested in constitutional law. “This was a great way to give me a heads-up on how to focus on legal reasoning as I read cases, rather than just reading the words on the pages—how to think like a lawyer,” he says.
NURSING home patients with advanced dementia often lose the ability to communicate, leaving them feeling powerless and isolated. Through an undergraduate research scholarship sponsored by the McWane Foundation and under the guidance of Dr. Beth Macauley, assistant professor of communication disorders, Candace Handley studied the gestures of stroke patients with language loss to determine “whether or not they had the concept behind the gesture correct.”

The findings suggest that expanding a stroke patient’s use of gestures might supplement impaired communication.

“The research definitely increased my awareness of the complexity of language and how much it can affect someone’s life,” says Handley. A communicative disorders major who graduated in May 2004, she plans to pursue a master’s in speech-language pathology at UA. Handley is more interested in children’s language development than in working with stroke patients, and in therapeutic applications rather than a career in research. “But I enjoyed doing the research,” she says. “I enjoyed feeling like I had something to contribute to the field.”

MISTI JOHNSON
PREVENTING PAIN

“The Center for Mental Health and Aging Undergraduate Scholarship was created, says center codirector Dr. Louis Burgio, “to encourage interest in aging studies in junior and senior undergraduate students.” The scholarship’s first recipient, Misti Johnson, plans to continue working with the aging in a clinical setting after earning a Ph.D. in psychology.

“Pain is very much a subjective thing, and there’s no real way to measure it exactly,” explained Johnson, who is a member of both the University Honors Program and the psychology honors program. “The only way to do it is to ask the person, but when you get a person who has dementia to the point where they can’t communicate, you have to move more toward behavioral cues.”

Johnson observes patients while they’re receiving care and records the pain signs they exhibit. The data will be used to develop a training program for nursing home staff to help them identify and perhaps prevent pain.

“This experience has really helped me in my assessment skills,” Johnson says. “I didn’t have any experience interviewing patients, and like a lot of younger people, I was intimidated by older people a bit. But now I enjoy it.”

If you’ve lived in A town that’s As small as Calera, Everyone, Worldwide, Knows of Your Town. Chicago knows about Your famed Railway Museum, And as far as Arabia, People have seen The tree that grows Outside Butch’s driveway.

MORGAN HOOPER
EXPLORING DIVERSITY

DISCOVERIES don’t always happen just in the laboratory or the library. Sometimes, they’re made on the streets of Slidell, La., or Florence, Italy. English major Morgan Hooper proved this when she placed third in the humanities/fine arts division of the College’s 2004 URCAPP Competition with “Walks,” a series of poems about Hooper’s interactions with people of different cultures.

“These are the moments of my life that remind me of the common nature—and the absolute separation—of all human beings, the ‘common diversity’ that divides and binds us all at once,” Hooper writes. “Understanding this has been the goal of my education.”

“Calera, 2002” is one of the poems Hooper submitted for the competition.

CALERA, 2002

Butch said the Directions were, “Turn by the Tree.” But I reasoned with him, That we were in Calera, And everywhere There was a Road There were AT LEAST One Hundred Trees. “No,” he said, “THE Tree,” Glancing at me Like I was naïve For not knowing This tree that’d been Part of his life.

If you’ve lived in A town that’s As small as Calera, Everyone, Worldwide, Knows of Your Town. Chicago knows about Your famed Railway Museum, And as far as Arabia, People have seen The tree that grows Outside Butch’s driveway.
SENIOR political science and history major Anita MonCrief has seen the challenges of nation-building firsthand. As an election observer in Macedonia, MonCrief interviewed villagers about their election experiences, documented human rights abuses, set up polling places, and helped count and verify votes. As a researcher for the International Crisis Group’s Eurasian Program in Washington, D.C., she studied political transitions and democratization in central Asia and the Caucasus region.

Those experiences confirmed for MonCrief that working overseas in countries in transition is “exactly what I want to do.” After graduation, MonCrief will work for the American Bar Association’s Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative for a year. Her ultimate goal: to do human rights work for the United Nations, preferably in Eastern Europe. “Research, if you take it and use it every day like I try to do, becomes part of who you are,” she says.

SHERMEEN MEMON knew she’d have research opportunities at The University of Alabama—her older siblings, Nada and Nabeel, distinguished themselves in research here—but, she says, “I didn’t know it would be this involved. To be able to work one-on-one with faculty but also doing ‘my’ research was something I never thought I could do as an undergrad.”

Memon also didn’t expect an opportunity like the College’s 2004 URCAPP Competition, in which she took first place in the natural sciences category for her work using a miniscule worm, C. elegans, to test the toxicity of ionic liquids.

Memon is one of several successful undergraduate researchers to come from the Caldwell Lab, run by Drs. Guy and Kim Caldwell, assistant professors in the Department of Biological Sciences. The environment there is highly collaborative and encouraging, Memon says. “They have a lot of undergraduates and graduates working together, and everyone there is willing to teach. And not only are you doing your own research, we also have weekly lab meetings, so you can learn about others’ projects. It’s an extremely friendly atmosphere.”

Memon’s current work involves testing the toxicity of ionic liquids using C. elegans. Ionic liquids are currently used in shampoos and other consumer products, and Memon is testing their toxicity to determine whether the liquids might be safe in other manufacturing processes.

Memon has already published a paper on her research and plans to continue the work in fall 2004. Her sister and brother both went on to medical school, an option Memon is considering. “There’s always a possibility I could go into microbiology instead,” she says. “This work has given me a perspective on what’s happening on the research side. I’m more appreciative of all the work that goes into treatments and drugs.”

AS he begins his junior year at Alabama, biology major Cody Locke has already established himself as a talented researcher in cellular biology. Since his freshman year, he’s conducted research on the molecular basis of epilepsy in the lab of Drs. Guy and Kim Caldwell, assistant professors in the Department of Biological Sciences, using nematodes (small worms) called C. elegans as a model organism. A USA Today All-USA College Academic Second Team Member and a student in UA’s innovative Computer-Based Honors Program, the Boaz, Alabama, native is also a first-generation college student. His epilepsy research placed second in the natural sciences category in the College’s 2004 URCAPP Competition.

Locke’s interest in epilepsy began with an honors biology course taught by Guy Caldwell. “I came to the University as a freshman thinking that I was pre-med, so I decided to take honors general biology. One day Dr. Caldwell was talking about his research, and he showed us a video of worms having convulsions. When I saw that video, I saw that through research I could potentially make a much larger impact than if I went to medical school.”

Locke cherishes his time in the lab because, he says, the work there is “discovery-based.” “I’m bored with just learning knowledge,” Locke says. “I want to create knowledge. In the Caldwell Lab, I have that opportunity.”

CODY LOCKE SEIZING THE WORM

Shermeen Memon harnessing the power of research

Cody Locke with research mentor Dr. Guy Caldwell. “I view Cody Locke with awe for the maturity and resolve he bestows at such an early stage in his academic career—and life,” says Caldwell.

Shermeen Memon

Anita MonCrief building democracy

Anita MonCrief
Amanda Peltz

Unlocking the Mysteries of Autism

Jean Holly Poplin likes chemistry for what some may consider an unusual reason: creativity.

“I realize there’s enormous opportunity for creativity in chemistry,” she says. “I had to work really hard to get the math and the physics and the science down, but I think the most successful chemists are the ones that are the most creative. That’s what I love about the difference between being in class and being in the lab. Now, I’m able to be as creative as I want to be.”

Poplin, who plans to earn a doctorate in chemistry, placed second in the natural sciences category in the College’s 2004 URCAPP Competition. Her research involved working with ionic liquids that dissolve cellulose—one of our most abundant natural resources but notoriously difficult to dissolve. That’s why paper plants smell so bad, because of the chemicals they have to use.”

Compared to traditional solvents, ionic liquids are low volatility and low toxicity, and they dissolve cellulose. Poplin uses ionic liquids to create a cellulose membrane, treats it with a chemical that changes color in the presence of mercury, and voilà: an inexpensive, portable mercury detector.

“Traditional methods of mercury detection involve expensive equipment. This is a more portable test, and it’s quick to make and very cheap,” says Poplin, who plans to improve her mercury test by using more-sensitive chemicals.

Jason Spruell

Taking Top Honors

CHEMISTRY major Jason M. Spruell, a junior from Dothan, Ala., is the only student from an Alabama university to receive one of the 310 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships awarded for the 2004–5 academic year.

Goldwater scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of sophomore and junior mathematics, science, and engineering students nominated by their college or university faculties. The one- and two-year scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of $7,500 per year.

Spruell is majoring in chemistry, with a specialization in physical organic chemistry. He has been working with UA’s Dr. Silas Blackstock, professor of chemistry, on intermolecular bonding research.

“He has been able to grow the first examples of sulfoxide-alkene co-crystals,” Blackstock says. “The result is publishable in a quality chemistry journal and a paper is in preparation on which Jason will be the lead student author. Jason is the driving force in the lab on this project.”

Parker Sweet

Uncovering the Foundation of Ethics

FOR his honors thesis in philosophy, recent College of Arts and Sciences graduate Parker Sweet probed the foundations of ethics and morality.

A scholar in the College’s Blount Undergraduate Initiative and a double major in English and philosophy, Sweet took second place in the humanities division of the College’s 2004 URCAPP Competition with a comparative study of ethical theories titled “Ethics and the ‘Standards of Evidence’ Factor: What Internal Verification Has to Say about Practical Value.”

“One thing I learned is how broad and unsettled the field of ethics is,” says Sweet. “One of the real eye-openers is how people relate to their worldviews and how we often unconsciously adopt ideas because we’re more comfortable dealing with the problems they present than with others.”

Sweet related his findings to the law and legal theory. As the son of a lawyer and a court clerk, Sweet has long been interested in a career in law, and his research helped shape those ambitions. “I came into college with this mindset of ‘get the four-year degree; go to law school.’ Now, I’m thinking more in terms of something academic. I’m still going to law school and will practice law, but not practice law for its own sake as much as for research experience for a future career as a legal theorist or judge. It’s certainly shifted my focus away from the purely professional track to a kind of professional-academic hybrid. I still have a taste for that kind of engagement with the everyday world, but this has shown me how much I enjoy the abstractions,” he says.

Amanda Peltz

For the research experience, I have a greater appreciation for research itself and all the details and many, many years of hard work and data analysts involved,” Peltz says. “Graduate school doesn’t scare me anymore.”
University of Alabama geographer is monitoring the water quality of Florida’s Pensacola Bay without ever getting his feet wet. In fact, with assistance from a satellite orbiting some 438 miles above the Pensacola area, he can measure the water’s ever-changing quality from his office on the UA campus.

Dr. Luoheng Han, associate professor of geography, is part of a team researching environmental conditions in the Gulf of Mexico, particularly those surrounding three Gulf Coast bays, Pensacola, Galveston, and Apalachicola. Han is the only team member focusing on remote sensing of water quality, a technique by which environmental conditions of an area are derived from satellite imagery.

“Remote sensing is clearly the future of data collection,” says Han. A sensor aboard an orbiting satellite measures the brightness of radiation reflected from specific items, such as chlorophyll, which are in bodies of water. Because the spectral signatures—the reflected energy levels at specific wavelengths—of some of these items are unique, the quality and quantity of the elements can be determined from the remotely sensed imagery.

Han logs onto a U.S. Geological Survey Web site to access the Landsat 7 satellite images. Various shades of blues, greens, and browns appear on the map displayed on Han’s computer screen. “The images of the Pensacola Bay contain seven different spectral bands,” Han explains. “It’s not like a conventional photograph.”

Using mathematical algorithms being developed by Han, a researcher can assign numerical values to the various shades. These values represent factors such as how much chlorophyll is in the water and the degree of sediment present. An overabundance of chlorophyll may signal severe oxygen depletion, known as hypoxia. Because fish avoid these oxygen-depleted waters, and lobster, shrimp, and crab sometimes die in them, their environmental and economic impacts are potentially severe.

Han zooms in on a single pixel, the smallest element of an image, which in this case represents an area about 42 yards square. “Each pixel,” says Han, “carries water quality information, such as the amount of microscopic algae known as phytoplankton.” The sensor can detect an abundance of phytoplankton by monitoring the concentration of chlorophyll, a pigment present in the plants. “The presence of too much phytoplankton, too much algae, will deplete the oxygen,” Han says. This depletion occurs as the plants fall to the ocean’s bottom and decompose, a process that uses up available oxygen.

Generally, excess nutrients lead to increases in algae. Algal blooms can occur when enough light is combined with warm, slow-moving water. “This is the first step in the chain reaction that can lead to hypoxia,” says Han.

Whereas Han uses digital imagery provided by the Landsat 7 satellite, scientists with the Gulf Ecology Division of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collect water samples in the standard manner: from aboard boats.

With the assistance of handheld global positioning system (GPS) devices, researchers on the boats can pinpoint their exact latitude and longitude. The water samples they collect are analyzed in the laboratory and then compared to satellite image pixels with the same latitude and longitude. Thus the linkage between the water quality and pixel values on the image can be established. “I will match, pixel by pixel, information from the water samples given to me,” explains Han.

The 14-person team, known as the Consortium for Estuarine Ecoindicator Research for the Gulf of Mexico, is headed by researchers at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and includes university representatives from six states. Han is the only team member from the University of Alabama.

The group’s data collection and computer modeling are designed to predict potential changes in the area. Identifying nutrient sources should assist decision makers in cost-benefit analyses of methods for reducing nutrient loads to coastal waters. The project, slated to continue through November 2005, is funded by a $5.9 million grant from the EPA. Han’s portion of the funding is approximately $200,000.

Remote sensing is not without its challenges, Han says, particularly in analyzing water quality. “Predicting water quality using satellite imaging is a challenge because the water signal is not very strong.” Wave effects and shallow areas, particularly near the white sandy beaches of Pensacola, can also distort the readings. And cloudy days can create havoc for a researcher.

Nonetheless, the ability to quickly monitor vast areas of water saves time and money. Remote sensing technology is effective now, notes Han, and as the technology continues to advance, its effectiveness will increase.

Han has been with the Department of Geography since 1994. Last year he was chosen as one of 12 Outstanding Chinese Scholars in the Southern United States. The scholars met at the Chinese Consulate in Houston to give advice about science policies of the Chinese government. He was selected as a Leadership Board Fellow for 2004–7 (see p. 15).

Ella Maxwell Richardson Davis Endows Arboretum Support Fund

The Arboretum, a botanical garden and educational facility in the College of Sciences and University Library Book Fund. “When the doors of the University opened in 1831, Mrs. Davis’s great-grandfather William Allen Cochran was one of the first to pass through them. Every generation of her family includes University graduates who have distinguished this University and College with their careers and support. Mrs. Davis admirably carries on that valued tradition. We are most grateful for her generosity and her long-standing friendship,” said Dean Robert Olin.
In Search of the Cultural Factors in Illness

Anne R. Gibbons

High blood pressure and low birth weight predictors in Tuscaloosa, musculoskeletal healers in highland Peru, and cultural dimensions of cardiovascular disease risk in Brazil are all the focus of research by medical anthropologists Bill Dressler and Kathy Oths in the College’s Department of Anthropology. As cultural medical anthropologists the two professors study the role of culture and society in the production of disease and illness in a variety of geographic areas.

Dressler knew when he was a junior in college that he wanted to have a career in medical anthropology, and he pursued that goal with single-minded zeal. For Oths the path to medical anthropology was a bit more circuitous, taking her from a Navajo reservation where she worked as a VISTA volunteer to highland Peru as an assistant on an archaeological dig then to graduate school and ultimately to the College’s Department of Anthropology.

When Oths came to the department as an assistant professor in 1990, Dressler had already been at the University for more than a decade. They discovered they had a lot in common: from a professional interest in research on stress and health outcomes to a personal commitment to organic gardening. They married in 1992.

Though they pursue independent areas of research, both have an interest in investigating cultural determinants of health behavior. Dressler’s research on social and dietary factors in cardiovascular disease risk has received international recognition, and in 2002 he received a three-year National Science Foundation grant to study cultural dimensions of cardiovascular disease risk in Brazil. Oths has studied the role of culture and society in the production of disease and illness, and conducted research on medical treatment choice and health outcomes in the United States, Peru, and Brazil. She and Dressler both speak Portuguese in addition to their native English; Oths also speaks Spanish. Dressler says he “can get by in Spanish-speaking countries” but doesn’t consider himself fluent.

Projects the couple have undertaken include Dressler’s research on blood pressure in the African American community in West Tuscaloosa and Oths’s study of musculoskeletal distress and the role of the compendedor in the Peruvian Andes. A compendedor is a type of healer found throughout Latin America, as well as other parts of the world. Translated literally as “one who fixes or repairs,” a compendedor repositions or sets straight vertebrae and other joints and muscles, even sometimes organs that are improperly positioned and are therefore causing the patient pain or discomfort—operating to a greater or lesser degree in the same way a chiropractor does. Oths’s study in Chugurpampa, Peru, on the highland bonesetter is the first of its kind in the Andes.

Dressler’s research in the Tuscaloosa community focused on how cultural stresses are implicated in higher blood pressure among black Americans. He has undertaken similar research in Brazil.

The couple has not undertaken any collaborative research together though they have coauthored several papers that built upon their individual research. They agree that working and living together allows them to bounce ideas off each other, and they each provide valuable insights and editorial guidance for the other’s work. Asked if there are any disadvantages to being married to a coworker, they both pause, consider the question, then shake their heads no emphatically.

Dressler and Oths say that a unifying research theme for both of them has been the quest to meld theory with research results that can be used to improve public health, a growing focus in the field of medical anthropology and one that is evident in the College’s newly established Ph.D. program in anthropology. Oths says it is “the only one in the United States that adopts a truly biocultural medical anthropological perspective on the human condition.” The program admitted the first students in 2002. Dressler is the director of graduate studies in the Department of Anthropology; Oths is the under-graduate coordinator.

Dressler, who grew up in a small town in Iowa, received his A.B. from Grinnell College and his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut. In 2002 he was the recipient of the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award. Established by Dr. and Mrs. John F. Burnum of Tuscaloosa, the award recognizes and promotes excellence in research, scholarship, and teaching. Presented annually to a professor chosen by a faculty selection committee, it is one of the highest honors bestowed on faculty by the University.

Oths was raised in Ohio, also in a small town; she received her undergraduate degree in human biology from Stanford University and her master’s and Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University. In 1992 she received a five-year NIH First Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. As principal investigator, she conducted research with two collaborators from the Capstone College of Nursing, investigating the association between job strain and low birth weight in expectant mothers in Tuscaloosa. •
Faculty News

Davis Selected for Mayer Award

The Morris Lehman Mayer Award is named in honor of Morris Lehman Mayer, business professor emeritus. For three decades, Mayer was a beloved UA teacher and a guiding force in student life. The award recognizes one faculty member and one member of the graduating class who exemplify integrity, selfless service, and leadership at UA and in the community while making significant contributions to student life.

Dr. Sara Davis has been selected as the faculty recipient of the Mayer Award. Davis’s “selfless service to The University of Alabama and the College of Arts and Sciences is a model of what faculty service should be,” according to one nominator.

Davis, a UA professor since 1974, has served as chairman of the Department of English since 1993. In addition to her work for the English department, Davis has served on the Blount Undergraduate Initiative Advisory Board, the Enrollment Management Task Force, the Legislative Agenda Committee, the UA Vulcan Scholarship Committee, and the Faculty Senate. She is described by a nominator as having “a genuinely altruistic dedication to [UA], its students and faculty, and to the citizens of the state.”

Carter Recognized by College Leadership Board

In spring 2004 Cornelius Carter, professor of dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance, received the Outstanding Commitment to Students Award, given annually by the Leadership Board to recognize dedication to students above and beyond the classroom. Nominators cited his many efforts to open professional doors for his students and to work with them after class to achieve their goals.

National Alumni Association Honors Donahoe

Dr. Rona Donahoe, associate professor of geochemistry, received the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award given by the University of Alabama National Alumni Association. Donahoe has been teaching for nearly 20 years and for many years was the only member of the department doing externally funded research in environmental geology. Her classes in geochemistry, thermodynamics, environmental geology, and physical geology have brought her in contact with a wide range of students who praise her ability to hold student interest and to present material in a variety of learning styles.

Jones’s Work on JFK

One of Year’s Outstanding Academic Titles

The book Death of a Generation: How the Assassinations of Diem and JFK Prolonged the Vietnam War by Dr. Howard Jones, research professor of history, was named one of Choice magazines Outstanding Academic Titles for 2003. Only 10 percent of more than 6,000 works reviewed by the magazine each year receive this designation. The magazine is a publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

Findlay Appointed J. Nicholene Bishop Professor of Biology

Respected ecologist Dr. Robert H. Findlay joined the College last fall as the J. Nicholene Bishop Professor of Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences. Findlay came to the University from Miami University where he had served on the faculty since 1993. “Dr. Findlay’s ability to bridge microbial diversity with ecosystem dynamics is notable, and the range of techniques he applies is particularly broad,” said Dr. Martha Powell, department chair. Findlay will build on the department’s strength in aquatic microbial ecology and will be a significant contributor to the department’s work in freshwater, estuarine, and marine systems as well as to research agendas in the Center for Freshwater Studies.

Burgio Named UA Distinguished Research Professor

The UA Board of Trustees has conferred the highest honor it gives to a faculty member on Dr. Louis D. Burgio, professor of psychology, director of UA's Applied Gerontology Program, and codirector of the Center for Mental Health and Aging. Burgio has been named University of Alabama Distinguished Research Professor. At the same time, the Center for Mental Health and Aging was designated as a University-wide center targeted for expansion to broaden its scope in research and community services. Burgio is nationally known for his research and expertise in the areas of geropsychology and in interventions for dementia patients, their families, and professional caregivers. Burgio is one of only seven faculty members at the University to hold distinguished research professor status.

Dixon Appointed Ramsay Chairholder in Chemistry

The College’s research program gained a highly respected expert in “virtual experiments” when Dr. David Dixon was appointed Ramsay Chair of Chemistry by the UA Board of Trustees. Dixon came to the University from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory where he was a Battelle Fellow. His area of expertise is in the application of techniques of numerical simulation and
Leadership Board Establishes New Faculty Fellowships

At its March meeting the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board voted to establish three additional Leadership Board Faculty Fellowships with a $9,000 annual commitment. The board has now established a total of nine fellowships, three for each of the College’s three divisions—natural sciences and mathematics, fine arts and humanities, and the social sciences.

Leadership Board Faculty Fellows are selected from faculty nominations by a committee consisting of Leadership Board members, Dean Robert Olin, and Associate Deans Joe Benson, Jonathan Maehaen, Carmen Taylor, and Jimmy Williams.

Faculty selected for 2004–7 are Professor Robin Behn, Department of English; Professor Forrest Scogin, Department of Psychology; and Associate Professor Luoheng Han, Department of Geography.

The board established the first fellowships in 2002 to recognize outstanding academic achievement by faculty members. The aim is to provide recognition and encouragement to the College’s most promising and successful faculty.

Faculty Fellows receive $3,000 annually for three years to support their scholarship, research, and other academic, nonsalary expenses.

Behn, who was featured in the 2003 Collegian, is a national Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, the author of three books of poetry, and coeditor of The Practice of Poetry: Writing Exercises for Poets Who Teach. Her most recent collection of poems, Horizon Note, won the 2001 Brittingham Prize in Poetry.

In 2003 Han was named one of the Outstanding Chinese Scholars in the Southern United States by the Peoples Republic of China. He is recognized as one of a small group of scientists who are expert in the use of remote sensing for the analysis of water landscapes (see p. 10). His research is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, among others.

Scogin is well recognized nationally in the area of clinical geropsychology, focusing on the mental health of older adults. The author of 2 books, 10 book chapters, and 79 journal articles, he serves on the editorial board of four major journals of psychology.

Other faculty currently holding fellowships are Professor Michael Martone, Department of English; Professor Jim Bindon, Department of Anthropology; Professor Robin Rogers, Department of Chemistry; Assistant Professor Rebecca Allen, Department of Psychology; Assistant Professor Tony Rodriguez, Department of Geological Sciences; and Associate Professor Tom Wolfe School of Music.

The Leadership Board consists of more than 90 alumni and friends who support the College with their interest, influence, and annual membership dues.

In Memoriam: Dr. Jan Alan Nelson, Department of Romance Languages and Classics

Dr. Jan Alan Nelson, professor emeritus of romance languages and classics, died February 11, 2004, at his home in Cottondale, Ala. Nelson, a faculty member for 27 years, began teaching French at UA in 1967 as an associate professor and was named professor in 1973. He retired from the University in 1994 but continued to teach part-time.

Nelson is well known for his monumental work called the Old French Crusade Cycle Project, begun in 1965 with coeditor Emanuel J. Mickel of Indiana University. The project examined for the first time medieval French epic texts, some 11,407 verses in Old French, and provided accompanying critical matter in English. Nelson worked for 38 years on this major academic work.

Volume 4 in the 11-volume set was La Chanson d’Antioche, edited by Nelson. This was the final volume to be published in the series (they were not published in numerical order) and represents the culmination of what Nelson described in the author’s acknowledgments as a monumental “philological adventure.” The University of Alabama Press published all volumes in the series.

The project has been valuable to a wide range of academic areas, including the literature of Old French, Old Spanish, Medieval German, and Middle English, as well as folklore, history, and linguistics.

Nelson received his bachelor’s degree from the University of the South in 1960, graduating with honors. He attended the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill to earn his master’s and doctoral degrees in 1962 and 1964. He taught at the University of Iowa from 1964 to 1967 before coming to UA. Nelson was also a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Nelson, who was 68, is survived by his wife and two sons.
Leadership Board’s Arty Party Raises Scholarships for the Arts

Some 115 guests attended the Arty Party, which also received contributions from more than 70 addition-al alumni and friends throughout the country.

That evening, under a tent twinkling with lights and festooned with arrangements of roses and palms, Leadership Board president Helen Mills of Birmingham announced to University of Alabama President and Mrs. Witt and the 115 supporting guests that the event had, indeed, met its goal to raise funds for four full-tuition scholarships for theatre students and to provide $1,000 to the College’s programs in dance, creative writing, music, and art for educational needs. More than 70 non-attending alumni and supporters from throughout the country also made gifts in support of the event.

Support levels for the event included Sponsorship Benefactor, $2,500; Sponsor, $1,000; Patron, $500; and Individual, $100.

Following dinner, guests attended a performance of The Rivals in the Marian Galloway Theatre and met the student cast afterward.

“Our arts programs are the finest in the state and well respected regionally and nationally. We burst with pride each time a student takes the stage, lifts an instrument, or picks up a brush. Likewise, we are bursting with pride and gratitude for the friendship and financial support provided to our fine arts and performing arts students. Bravo to the Fine Arts Committee for their hard work,” said Dean Robert Olin.

Members of the Leadership Board Fine Arts Committee are Ann Jones, Marsha Aldridge King, Margaret Livingston, Helen Mills, Patricia Noble, and Barbara Stone (cochair) of Birmingham; Cissy Fuhrman, Milla Windham Green, Jan Mize, Stella Moore (cochair), Melody Nix, Claire Black Wilson, and Anne Witt of Tuscaloosa; Beverly Davis, Susan Helsning, Nan Lauten, and Austill Lott of Mobile; Carla Simmons of Jasper; Katie Mitchell of Decatur; Larry Morris of Alexander City; and William Price of Amarillo, Tex.

Dance Program First in State to Earn Accreditation

As fall, the College’s dance program earned accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Dance, making it the only accredited dance program at any university in Alabama.

“We are so proud of the fact that as a very small program with limited facilities and resources, we have competed favorably with the best institutions in the nation,” said Edie Barnes, professor and director of dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Approximately 125 institutions across the country have fully accredited dance programs, including New York University, Rutgers, Barnard, The University of Arizona, and The University of Utah.

In recent years, the dance program has increased its scope nationally, with the American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Rockettes choosing the University as the site of their inaugural summer dance workshops outside of New York City. Dance students have presented original choreography at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and currently are appearing on the stage of Radio City Music Hall and with professional companies in Philadelphia, Chicago, and San Francisco. Dance program faculty members have been invited to teach and present choreography nationally and internationally.

UA dance students perform each semester through two dance companies, Dance Alabama! and the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre (ARDT). ARDT is a preprofessional company started by Cornelius Carter, professor of dance. Carter was selected as the U.S. Professor of the Year in 2001 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

The major in dance provides professional standards for technique in classical, ballet, modern, and jazz dance complemented by an intensive choreographic curriculum. Admission to the major is by audition only. Course work includes improvisation, anatomy for dance, dance history, repertory, performance, and independent study.
The College’s dance program wows Tuscaloosa audiences each fall and spring with concerts that are talked about and praised for their professionalism long after the stage lights dim. It is the state’s only accredited dance program, and many of its graduates have professional careers with major dance and performance companies throughout the United States.

Dance at Alabama!

TOP: Dance graduate Kari Hildebrandt (left) with Amanda Adkins during Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre’s fall 2003 concert. Hildebrandt is now dancing professionally with Gus Giordano Company in Chicago.

LEFT: Tessa Zimonova, Leigh Sewell, and Jaima Young in the fall 2003 Dance Alabama! concert.

RIGHT: Cassandra Dean and JoMorris Rivers in Equinox.

ABOVE: Performers in the spring concert of Dance Alabama!


LEFT: Dance majors Phil Cyr and Andrew Parker in Parker’s choreographed piece for Dance Alabama!

BELOW: Dance major Adam Pellegrine consulting with Professor Edie Barnes, director of dance, during rehearsals for Equinox. Pellegrine is now dancing professionally in the cruise line industry.
Alumni Notes

1948
WOODFORD ROSS THOMPSON (chemistry) passed away February 24, 2004, at the age of 85. He was a proud double graduate of the University, with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and a law degree. He was a partner in the Birmingham law firm of Jennings, Carter, and Thompson, specializing in patent law, trademarks, and copyrights.

1954
ROBERT M. PHPIPS (chemistry) is a retired patent attorney. On March 16, 2003, he married Susan Kolb; they live in Mayfield, Ky.

1956
ROBINSON J. “BOB” WARD JR. (journalism) retired from the Huntsville Times in September 2000. His fifth space-related book, Mr. Space: The Life of Wernher von Braun, was recently published by Smithsonian Institution Press.

1959
JIM FRANTZ (B.A.) retired in 2002 after 45 years as a radio broadcaster, most recently with WFRB in Frostburg, Md. He currently serves on the executive committee of the Frostburg State University Foundation’s board of directors and works at WFRB part-time.

1971
KAYRON MCMINN LASKA (M.A., Ph.D., history) is vice president for university advancement at Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga. In 2001 she received the Woman of Achievement designation from the Girl Scouts of Conchtry Council.

1975
LORING S. JONES III (political science) was the 2003 recipient of the Saint George Award from the Episcopal Church, for service to youth through the church and the Boy Scouts of America.

1986
CHERYL L. SINGTON (dance) received a Ph.D. in psychology and is now employed at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Fla, as director of College Reach Out Program and professor of psychology.

1987
BARRY PHELPS (political science, M.P.A.) joined the Department of Homeland Security’s Transportation Security Administration as a senior communications specialist in 2003.

1993

1998
ALLYSON L. NELSON (political science, Russian) received a juris doctor from The University of Mississippi School of Law in 2002. She is an attorney with Rushing and Guice, a law firm in Biloxi, Miss.

1999
AMY RUTLAND (M.A., criminal justice) will receive a master’s in education in December 2004 from the University of South Alabama in Mobile; she was recently inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an education honorary society. She married Kirk Lawson (M.A., education, 2000) in August 2000.

2000
KIRK LAWSON (M.A., education) teaches history and is a football coach at Daphne High School in Daphne, Ala. He and Amy Rutland (M.A., criminal justice, 1999) were married in August 2000.

2002
NICHOLAS S. DODSON (B.A., criminal justice) is a workforce investment act counselor with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. He will marry Karly Mauldin, a 2004 UA graduate, at Huntsville’s Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in June 2005.

2003
DAVID FLOYD (MFA, creative writing) teaches at Rutgers University–Camd and the Community College of Philadelphia. His poems and essays have appeared in American Poetry Review, Puerto del Sol, and Xconnect. He and his fiancée, the writer Teresa Leo, are purchasing a 102-year-old Victorian house just outside of Philadelphia.

Professor Emeritus Virginia Rembert Liles Establishes Art Scholarship

Dr. Virginia Rembert Liles, professor emeritus of art in the College of Arts and Sciences, has contributed $30,000 to establish the Dr. Virginia Rembert Liles Endowed Scholarship in Art. The scholarship will be designated for students who are majoring in art history or studio art. Professor Liles retired from the Department of Art faculty in 1990 after serving nine years as chair of the department. Prior to coming to the University, she was the Donaghey Distinguished Professor of Art and Art History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was also chair of the art departments of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Birmingham-Southern College, and held faculty positions in art at Massachusetts College of Art and Beloit College. Liles now lives in New York, where she writes on art history and art criticism. She exhibits her photo-paintings in exhibitions with her husband, artist Raeford Bailey Liles.

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### Colledge Fund Societies

**John S. Bickley Establishes Trombone Scholarship**

John S. Bickley, Frank Park Sanford Chair Emeritus of Insurance in the University’s College of Commerce and Business Administration, has pledged to establish an undergraduate scholarship in the College’s School of Music with a $20,000 gift. The John S. Bickley Endowed Trombone Scholarship will be designated for an undergraduate selected by the music faculty at the School’s outstanding trombonist, renewed with continued satisfactory academic performance.

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### Professor Gladys L. Ahrenholz

Professor H. William Ahrenholz, UA emeritus professor of mining engineering, will establish with a $21,000 gift a scholarship in honor of his late wife, Gladys L. Ahrenholz, a member of the College’s Department of Sociology faculty for many years. Ms. Ahrenholz taught courses in social problems, family sociology, and introductory sociology. Gladys L. Ahrenholz has become a strong advocate of the challenge of the College as a mining engineer, taking instruction from the late Professor Warren Hutton, professor of organ in the College, and now from Dr. Farley Freese, associate professor of organ. He served as head of the School of Mines from the University from 1937 to 1969 and retired from the University in 1973.
Scholarship Named for Henry “Hank” Cocke Holmes

An undergraduate scholarship has been established to honor the late Henry “Hank” Cocke Holmes (political science, 1977) with a $20,000 gift to the University by his brother, Tom Holmes, and the Holmes family of Batesville, Mississippi. The scholarship is designated for entering freshmen from Mississippi who have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher. Henry Holmes, a native of Mississippi who have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher. Henry Holmes, a native of Mississippi who have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher. Henry Holmes, a native of Mississippi who have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher. Henry Holmes, a native of Mississippi who have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher. Henry Holmes, a native of Mississippi who have a grade point average of 3.3 or higher.
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Send your Collegiate Fund gift to Rebecca Paul Florence, Director of College Relations, College of Arts & Sciences, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0268 or call (800) 365-2302. Checks should be made payable to the College of Arts & Sciences. Our fiscal year is October 1 to September 30. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You may also contribute to the Collegiate Fund via our secure web site at www.as.ua.edu/as/alumni.
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Undergraduate Scholarship Reflects Donor’s Interest in Quantum Physics

Dr. T. Lee Baumann of Birmingham has pledged to contribute $20,000 to establish a scholarship for undergraduates in the College. Dr. Baumann has published a book titled God at the Speed of Light: The Melding of Science and Spirituality, which focuses on the study of the nature of light and Dr. Baumann’s theory of science and spirituality. He has named the scholarship to reflect this interest in quantum physics. The God at the Speed of Light Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to students in the College who show potential for success in their discipline, demonstrate financial need, and possess a 2.5 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale. The scholarship may be renewed with continued satisfactory academic performance.
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Dr. Susan Black Honors Father with J. Ike Black Memorial Scholarship

The late J. Ike Black, a longtime employee of Flowers Baking Company of Georgia, has been honored with the establishment of a scholarship in his name with a $20,000 gift by his daughter, Dr. Susan Black Trankina of Birmingham. Ike Black was born in Miller County, Ga., and helped support his family before entering the U.S. Navy and serving in the Pacific during World War II. He subsequently joined Flowers Baking Company as a deliveryman and advanced through the company’s ranks, retiring as one of the company’s most respected executives. The scholarship has been designated for undergraduates in the College who are graduates of Alabama high schools or those of contiguous states and who possess a 3.5 grade point average or higher.
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The Holaday Foundation is supported by Dr. John Holaday (biology, 1968; M.S. biology 1969) and his wife, Dori. Dr. Holaday, a member of the College’s Leadership Board, is working to bring the Caldwell's technology into a biopharmaceutical company where their basic discoveries may evolve into tomorrow’s treatment for Parkinson’s and other neurodegenerative diseases.

“The creative discoveries of Drs. Guy and Kim Caldwell and their exceptional students offer the promise of providing a fundamental breakthrough in understanding how Parkinson’s disease develops and how it may be prevented,” said Dr. Holaday. “Not only are the Caldwells world-class scientists but they also tirelessly dedicate themselves to the education and growth of their team of undergraduate students who are recognized nationwide for their work. We are proud to support the Caldwells and their students.”
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Professors Blewitt, Rosenberg Honored with Younger Endowed Scholarship

Two longtime College professors have been honored by Suzanne Sevier Younger (New College, 1994) with the establishment of the Suzanne Sevier Younger Endowed Scholarship. Younger has pledged $20,000 to establish the scholarship in honor of Dr. Bing Blewitt, professor of chemistry and New College, and Dr. Jerry Rosenberg, associate professor of psychology and New College. The scholarship has been designated for an undergraduate enrolled in the New College program, the University's seminar-based, interdisciplinary program in which students may design their degree program.
Bon Voyage!

In the 2003-4 academic year, veteran faculty members traded their syllabi and research projects for more leisurely activities as they announced their retirement.

**PROFESSOR MICHAEL CAVA**, Department of Chemistry, who retired in December 2003, continues his activities in the department, including his research in the field of synthetic chemistry. He is eagerly anticipating getting settled into the department’s new home in Shelby Hall.

**PROFESSOR SHERYL COHEN**, Department of Music, retired in June and spent the summer traveling abroad.

**PROFESSOR PHILIP COULTER**, Department of Physics and Astronomy, who retired in August, spent the summer traveling and can be found this fall back in the department, where he will be retaining an office.

**PROFESSOR GERALD CULTON**, Department of Communicative Disorders, retired in January and spent last summer playing golf and trout fishing in Colorado. Culton is currently serving as a consultant for a children’s rehabilitation service in Birmingham and intends to continue his research on speech pathology.

**PROFESSOR DONALD DESMET**, Department of Physics and Astronomy, retired in June and now resides in Ontario, Canada, where his wife teaches.

**PROFESSOR WILLIAM GRAY**, Department of Mathematics, who retired in July, plans to continue his research, maintain the department’s Web site, and work on his lawn.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WILLIAM HENDERSON**, Department of Music, retired in August. He plans to travel and continue to serve University Presbyterian Church as choir director and organist. He also serves as secretary and treasurer for Songs Unlimited, a nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating musical composers and artists throughout North and South America.

**RESEARCH SCIENTIST M. V. LAKSHMIKANTHAM**, Department of Chemistry, who retired in December 2003, continues her research. But Lakshmikanthan has noted that not having to be at work until ten in the morning allows her more time to work in her garden.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR RONALD ROBEL**, Department of History, spent the months following his January retirement traveling. He took a three-week trip to China and attended a meeting in Alaska. Currently, Robel is attempting to return his yard to its once-proud condition.
FACULTY (continued from page 12)

High performance computing to the solution of complex chemical problems. His work has been recognized with numerous fellowships and awards including the 1989 Leo Hendrik Baekeland Award of the American Chemical Society given for outstanding accomplishment under the age of 40 and the 2003 American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Fluorine Chemistry. Dr. O. Myerson was a 2002 Fellow of the American Physical Society and a 1994 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Rogers Recognized with Burnum Award

Dr. Robin D. Rogers, professor of chemistry and a College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board Faculty Fellow, received the 2004 Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award in April. Nominators praised Rogers’s research accomplishments. Dr. Allan S. Myerson, professor of engineering at the University of Illinois, said Rogers’s work in crystal engineering and green chemistry “has had an international impact.” Dr. Richard A. Bartsch, chairman of the chemistry and biochemistry department at Texas Tech University, said, “Rogers is a world-class chemist with an amazing level of accomplishment.” Rogers has published more than 525 research papers and is one of the most frequently cited researchers in the world.

Kline Awarded Fulbright for Work in Colombia

Dr. Harvey Kline, professor of political science, spent two months last summer in Colombia teaching and conducting research courtesy of the U.S. Fulbright Scholars Program. Kline is the fifth UA representative and the only College of Arts and Sciences faculty member to be selected by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars for a 2003-4 Fulbright.

The trip marked the 11th time in 40 years that Kline has traveled to Colombia. While there, he taught at Universidad de los Andes in Bogota and conducted research for an upcoming book he is authoring on Colombian president Alvaro Uribe.

“This is the third book I’ve written on different presidents who have attempted to bring stability and peace to Colombia through negotiating with guerrilla and paramilitary groups,” said Kline.

The U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

Rable Honored with Outstanding Professor Award

Dr. George C. Rable, a professor in the Department of History, whose most recent book has won three national awards, is the winner of the University’s Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award.

The award, one of the highest honors bestowed on UA faculty members who “singal, exceptional, or timely work, whether in the form of research, a product, a program or published material, brings national recognition to the faculty member and the University of Alabama.”

The honor was created by Frederick Moody Blackmon of Montgomery to honor the memory of his grandmother Sarah McConkly Moody of Tuscaloosa.

Rable’s latest book, Frederickburg! Frederickburg! won the 2003 Lincoln Prize, the Jefferson Davis Prize of the Museum of the Confederacy, the Douglas Southall Freeman Book Award, and was a History Book Club Selection. Rable, who joined the College in 1998, is the Charles G. Summersell Professor of Southern History.
GAMEDAY UNIVERSITY

A Touch of Class on Game Day

Join The University of Alabama’s College of Arts & Sciences before the game for a pregame meal and to hear some of the University’s top faculty experts talk about today’s hottest topics in research, scholarship, and the arts.

Bryant Conference Center
240 Bryant Drive • Tuscaloosa

- October 2: Alabama vs. South Carolina
  Meal served 3 1/2 hours before kickoff;
  lecture begins 2 1/2 hours before kickoff.
- CSI Alabama: How Anthropologists Read the Bones
  Dr. Keith Jacobi,
  Department of Anthropology

- November 6: Alabama vs. Mississippi State
  Meal served 3 1/2 hours before kickoff;
  lecture begins 2 1/2 hours before kickoff.
- Cheerleaders and the Million Dollar Band:
  Behind the Game Day Show
  Hosted by Professor Cornelius Carter,
  Department of Theatre and Dance

JOIN US FOR LUNCH
Tailgate in the air-conditioned comfort of the Bryant Conference Center by purchasing a box lunch—with delicious choices such as New Orleans sandwich on French bread or grilled chicken sandwich on a hoagie, with fruit cup, pickle, chips, and dessert for $10. We will also offer a children’s box lunch for $5 each.