The Art of Success and Looking Out for Others

Bob and Mary Montgomery with pets (left to right) Kayla, Monte, Katrina, Opie, Mimi, and Mickey. Photo credit Lucien Capeheart.

Bob and Mary Montgomery have gone from Deep South children to Palm Beach promineints. While their lives have changed, their homegrown values have only become stronger.

Becky Florence

IN THE FALL OF 1949, WHEN Bobbie Montgomery Jr. called Mary McKenzie at the Phi Mu house for a date, at first she couldn't recall ever having met him. Such was the impression the brown-haired junior had made on her a week earlier on a double date. Mary had been arm-twisted into accompanying a sorority sister on a Sigma Chi swap. Mary was paired with Montgomery's friend from Auburn, Louie Lester.

“I did recall that Bob was what my reserved mother called a smart aleck. He was loud and silly, the center of attention, laughing at everything. I thought, I'm glad I'm with Louie,” Mary says with a laugh.

Montgomery eventually overcame his underwhelming first impression. Today the couple, now in their 53rd year of marriage, reside on Ocean Boulevard in Palm Beach, Florida, along a finely manicured split of glistening blue Atlantic Ocean frontage known as Billionaire's Row that they share with celebrity neighbors Rod Stewart, Donald and Melania Trump, business mogul Bill Koch, and mega investor Stephen Schwarzman.

“Working together, we can achieve our vision for the future,” said Carl Jones. “It's going to take hard work and dedication, but I'm convinced that the members of the University family will step up to the challenge.” Jones and his wife Ann are also members of the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board.

The faculty, staff, and students of UA have made a major commitment to the University’s future by pledging $5 million dollars in support of University initiatives. Included in the total is a $300,000 gift from UA president Robert E. Witt.
BIRTHDAYS ARE SPECIAL MILESTONES, EVEN FOR THOSE OF US WHO MAY LOOK SI LLY IN A PARTY HAT. THEY ENCOURAGE US TO CELEBRATE THE GIFTS IN OUR LIVES, TO REFLECT ON WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM, AND TO REDIREDICATE OURSELVES TO WHAT WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH FOR THE FUTURE. I THINK ALL THOSE EXERCISES BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THE OLDER WE GET. SO YOU CAN IMAGINE THE REFLECTION AND CELEBRATION THAT IS GOING ON THIS YEAR AS THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES MARKS ITS 175TH BIRTHDAY.

While this is the University’s 175th anniversary, there is only one college in the University celebrating its 175th birthday — the College of Arts and Sciences. We are proud that this strong, comprehensive University of Alabama — now with 13 different schools and colleges — originated with the College of Arts and Sciences in 1831.

So we are working to make this the best year ever for the College on many fronts.

We have some impressive guests coming for our birthday. The College is bringing to campus nationally recognized experts in several series of lectures and colloquia. On September 13, the College cosponsored with the College of Commerce and Business Administration and the University’s Creative Campus Creative Community Initiative a visit by Daniel Pink, contributing editor of Wired magazine and author of the best-selling book A Whole New Mind. The second year of the College’s speakers series on evolution, Alabama Lectures on Life’s Evolution (ALLELE), began September 14 with a lecture by nationally recognized geneticist Massimo Pigliucci on the theory of intelligent design. The series will follow with five other national experts in the area. Alabama’s greatest historical mystery, the unknown location of the Battle of Maubila in 1540, will be the subject of a conference of experts here on September 28. Plans are under way for other visits by scholars and experts throughout the year.

We have a unique keepsake to mark our 175th year. Students in the Department of Art have created a commemorative bronze piece inspired by the Gothic arch windows of the College’s historic buildings. Professor Craig Wedderspoon and undergraduate art major Brittany Armistead in the Department of Art led a student team that labored for months to create the piece, hand pouring and hand finishing each one. Brittany has recorded the intense and fascinating process on DVD. The College is making available this 175th Limited Edition Bronze, which comes with Brittany’s attractively designed In The Making DVD, for a mere $75. You can find the order form on page 22. Funds from the sale of the bronze will be contributed to the Collegiate Fund.

Contemplating what this liberal arts college has done in its 175 years naturally leads to a consideration of how we will provide for the College of tomorrow. In April the University and the College kicked off a major Capital Campaign entitled “Our Students. Our Future.” One of the best things we can do for the College is to increase the number of student scholarships it can offer. Our goal is to raise $27 million for scholarships as well as faculty professorships and academic programs.

Not a day goes by that I don’t send a silent thank you to someone who, decades or a century ago, had the generosity and foresight to set aside money in an endowment or scholarship that makes all the difference in a student’s life today and will do so for many others far into the future.

Our College continues to be blessed with such visionary individuals today including our Capital Campaign Committee. These men and women are generously giving their time to help us raise our $27 million legacy to the future. They have also put their money where their rhetoric is, individually pledging significant gifts to the College. Dr. Dan Douglas of Birmingham is our hard-working chairman, and he is ably supported by cochairs Mrs. Kay Blount Pace of Birmingham and Dr. Jim Yarbrough of Tuscaloosa. My sincerest thanks to them and committee members Ms. Lella Bromberg, Mr. Patrick Denney, Dr. and Mrs. Ron Goldberg, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gregory, Dr. John Holaday, Ms. Camilla Huxford, Mr. Tom Joiner, Mrs. Ann Jones, Mrs. Carolyn M. Lowe, Dr. and Mrs. Gaylon McCollough, Mrs. Helen Mills, Ms. Gloria Narramore Moody, Mr. John Oliver, Mrs. Carla Simmons, Mrs. Molly Steed, Mrs. Barbara Stone, Mr. Jack Warner, Dr. Phil Watkins, and Mr. Bob Wright.

It is our special privilege to name in each issue of the Collegian every person who has supported the College in the past year. This year, our 175th roster of supporters includes more than 600 alumni who made their first gift ever to the Collegiate Fund. They responded to our “175” campaign in which we asked all alumni to make a gift — $17.50, $175, or $1,750 — in honor of this anniversary year. The percentage of alumni who support an institution of higher education is one of the measures of quality used in university rankings such as the closely watched U.S. News and World Report lists. A supportive alumni family speaks volumes about the quality and distinctiveness of the College of Arts and Sciences. We’re proud that so many of our alumni have reconnected with the College and hope you will remain supporters in the coming years. We will certainly work hard to earn and honor that support.

Finally, the College marked two other significant milestones this year. We hired 30 bright, young faculty members, a record for the College, and welcomed one of our largest and most accomplished freshman classes ever. Two signs that the next 175 years are getting off to a great start.
After Years of Being Ignored, a Lowly Fungus Takes Center Stage

Chris Bryant

Years ago, Martha Powell, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, noted the danger in ignoring an apparently innocuous fungus. What if the world had listened?

Not so long ago, the lowly chytrid (pronounced kit-trid), a microscopic fungus, was relatively unknown and regarded as unimportant, even by many mycologists, those botanists who specifically study fungi. These days Chytridiomycetes, or chytrids, are getting plenty of attention, and not just from mycologists. From the journal Nature to the Times (London), from the Wall Street Journal to the Morning Herald (Sydney, Aust.), many a mainstream news outlet has devoted space to chytrids. Why all the interest in the conventional press about these primarily aquatic parasites? One type of chytrid has been implicated in the extinction of more than 150 species of frogs.

The “who cares?” attitude toward chytrids has gone belly up.

And what does Martha Powell, a mycologist who chairs UA’s department of biological sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences, say to those hopping on the chytrid bandwagon? Welcome aboard!

As an undergraduate student in the late 1960s, Powell was intrigued by a passage she read in her college biology textbook: “Most chytrids are of little economic interest.” Even more striking was what was unwritten. She cites that information void on chytrids as profoundly shaping her career by triggering her interest in the fungus, an interest that has spanned five decades.

As recently as the early 1990s, Powell, who was then national president of the Mycological Society of America, remembers attending professional meetings in which those studying chytrids could share information. Roll call at those meetings would have been brief, she said. “There would be the same three or four people at those things,” Powell said. “Now when we have a symposium, the room is full.”

While Powell is glad others are now interested, she wonders what impact earlier attention might have made. In 1993 Powell wrote, “My concern is that many recent biology texts are teaching students either implicitly or explicitly that Chytridiomycetes should be ignored.” To teach students “that the best studied systems are the best systems to study is dangerous,” Powell wrote.

Some five years later, scientists must have been green with envy at Powell’s foresight, although not even she knew the extent of the danger involved in ignoring chytrids. In 1998 a particular type of parasitic chytrid was first implicated in the deaths of frogs on six continents. Suddenly, Powell’s interest in chytrids seemed quite reasonable.

She’s currently leading two National Science Foundation projects, backed by grants totaling more than $1.1 million, researching chytrids. One of the projects, Powell, along with some of her students and colleagues, including Peter Letcher, assistant research scientist in biological sciences at UA, will update the chytrid’s monograph—a description of everything known about an organism. It will be the first time in nearly 50 years the chytrid’s monograph has been revised. A key part of the project involves the training of students in chytrid research. These students will later train their students.

In the second project, the researchers are focusing on chytrids’ taxonomy—the finding, molecular sequencing, describing, and naming of the various organisms that are classified as chytrids. Although more than 1,500 different species of chytrids have been identified, Powell and her colleagues are learning that may be a mere drop in the proverbial bucket.

The UA researchers are discovering that some chytrids that appear based solely on their physical shape, or morphology, to be the same are actually quite different. “We’re beginning to see more diversity than we ever expected,” Powell said. “Genetically, they are quite diverse.” Chytrids feed primarily on dead and decaying organisms, including other fungi, insects, plants, and, as is now known, amphibians. Chytrids, which are found in a variety of soil types, specifically within earth near water, also spend their time working to biodegrade materials such as chitin, keratin, cellulose, and pollen. One type also decreases mosquito populations by parasitizing mosquito larvae, as Powell pointed out in an encyclopedia article on chytrids for the 10th edition of the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology. Another causes black wart on potatoes, making spud production difficult in some soils. Quite an impact for a little fellow previously deemed “unimportant.”

One of the puzzling questions related to the so-called frog chytrid is why, after all this time, did the organism turn deadly? Understanding more about other types of chytrids can offer clues about how the sudden destruc-
Making a Continent Visible

Nelda Sanker

Zimbabwean Josephine Nhongo Simbanegavi instills in students a deeper understanding of Africa's history to help them learn about this diverse and complex continent.

Since 2004, Josephine Nhongo Simbanegavi, from Zimbabwe, has taught students in the College the history of Africa.

Driving on the “wrong” side of the road was just one aspect of Josephine Simbanegavi's transition from Zimbabwe to Alabama. But she has coped with the myriad changes and is now better acquainting The University of Alabama with Africa.

“The history of Africa is the history of many worlds; often I have to make myself ‘bigger’ than I really am to accommodate that diversity. It is a major challenge to contain Africa’s very long and diversified history into a semester-long course. There are wide gaps to fill regarding American students’ knowledge of the continent. Most have only had bits and pieces of information from CNN,” said Simbanegavi of teaching students about her native Africa.

The department of history in the College of Arts and Sciences has broadened its curriculum by offering courses on the history of Africa taught by Simbanegavi, a UA history faculty member from Zimbabwe.

“I was excited to be asked to teach classes on the history of Africa because it was something that UA had not offered before,” said Simbanegavi. “And I think it is an opportunity for American students to learn about this globe we live on from the perspectives of other people we share it with.”

Because many people in the South trace their past and their identity to Africa, it is appropriate that UA is seeking to promote a better understanding of the continent, Simbanegavi said. Even with the South’s strong African American heritage, Simbanegavi finds that she becomes at times more of a geographer than a historian in the classroom.

“The first thing I do when I teach a class is make my students work on a map exercise. A lot of people think Africa is one big state or country when it is really a huge continent consisting of 52 countries and hundreds of linguistic and cultural groups. One could put the map of the United States three times onto the map of the African continent and still have some open space. To be fair to the students, it is not their fault that they don’t know more about Africa. It seems like the only things you hear about Africa come through Animal Planet, or else Africans have to experience something as dramatic as a war or a famine to get the world’s attention,” said Simbanegavi.

She stresses that history teaching should “accommodate all sections of our population, giving African Americans an opportunity to learn about their ancestral past in a way that takes them beyond the history of enslavement. A study of African institutions and civilizations takes their history to a healthier start.” Africa has scars from slavery and colonialism, but it survived and it is home to many thriving societies. Its place as a source rather than just a recipient of world cultures is important, she said.

Simbanegavi studied for her first degree at the University of Zimbabwe, obtained her doctorate in 1997 from Oxford University, and then returned to the University of Zimbabwe to teach. She was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in New York and then a UA Bankhead Fellow in the department of history for one year before joining the faculty in the fall of 2005.

“Our faculty was immediately struck by her educational background, and when we met her we fell in love with her. She’s quite remarkable; witty and laid-back in addition to being a first-rate scholar. I sat in on a course she taught once and during the break no one left their seats; they were glued to their chairs asking her all about Africa,” said John Beeler, professor of history.

Simbanegavi, her husband, Blessed, and their children, Alison, eight, and Alvin, 17, received a warm welcome to UA and the Tuscaloosa community. She said fellow faculty members took time from their work to help her family settle in Tuscaloosa. One colleague helped them procure their groceries; another drove them around to all the relevant offices to enroll the children in school. Another colleague generously loaned them his car for close to a year before they bought their own car. They were invited to many welcoming receptions, and she has had requests to speak at local schools.

“I like Americans’ proactive approach to issues. They know if they don’t speak out, certain things won’t happen; I have learned to be more assertive from that,” she said.

In addition to an introductory course on African history, another on African peoples and cultures, Simbanegavi also teaches the courses Aspects of African History as well as Women in Southern African History. Simbanegavi stresses the distinction between the country of South Africa and the southern African region. By examining feminist issues in southern African countries as they relate to changing times and cultures, this course connects Simbanegavi with her current research investigating the intricate relationship between gender and international migration in southern Africa.

“Gender is an important consideration in determining reasons why men and women move in different directions between southern African countries. Incorporating a gendered point of view is one instructive way of penetrating the region’s migration history. It is also a way to make the women of Africa more visible as agents of historical change,” said Simbanegavi.

Her previous research on the liberation war in Zimbabwe yielded a monograph, For Better or Worse? Women and ZANLA in Zimbabwe’s Liberation War (2001), and a chapter in the second volume of the award-winning book The Historical Dimensions of Democracy and Human Rights in Zimbabwe, edited by the renowned historian Terence Ranger.

Simbanegavi looked at Zimbabwe’s ruling party, the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriot Front (ZANU–PF) and its actions in the pre-1980 war for independence. The party’s military wing, the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) claimed to be an emancipatory force for women. Simbanegavi demonstrated otherwise. She tapped sources previously unavailable to scholars, such as military reports, to document that women were actually treated as subservient and that sexual abuse was common. “Far from transforming gender roles or ‘liberating’ women, the war further entrenched male dominance. Women cooked, washed clothes, served as porters, and were the victims of sexual abuse, while being excluded from positions of power or authority and ZANLA’s emancipatory rhetoric was only rhetoric. Women’s status changed little. With their contributions denied or unacknowledged, large numbers of female

SEE SIMBANEGAVI, PAGE 21
What a Guy!

Chris Bryant

Guy Caldwell, associate professor of biological sciences in the College, has been selected as Professor of the Year from the state of Alabama.

The Shack is where he’s at. The University of Alabama laboratory playfully nicknamed “the Worm Shack” is where you’ll often find Guy Caldwell, associate professor of biological sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences and the state’s 2005 Professor of the Year. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) selected Caldwell for the outstanding teaching honor. Nearly 400 top professors in the United States were nominated for state awards.

The Worm Shack, so dubbed by students in reference to the tens of thousands of microscopic worms that call Caldwell’s research laboratory home, has received funding from some of the world’s most recognizable research organizations, including the March of Dimes and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research. Caldwell uses the microscopic worm C. elegans as a model for his research into Parkinson’s and other neurological disorders.

But research is only half the professorial equation, and it’s the other half, teaching, from whence Caldwell says he gets his greatest joy. “He sets the standard for undergraduate teaching and mentoring at The University of Alabama, both inside and outside the classroom,” wrote UA president Robert E. Witt in a letter supporting Caldwell’s selection. “Guy Caldwell exemplifies the challenging, caring, and inspiring academic life we seek to create for students.”

Since coming to UA in 1999, Caldwell has taught many biology courses, three of which he designed. One of those is a discovery-based course in which students conduct experiments with unknown outcomes. Students learn and apply modern molecular biology and genetics methods, including using DNA sequence information in gene discovery and in gaining a better understanding of gene function. Caldwell has coauthored a textbook on this course. A second course, the Language of Research, codesigned by Kim Caldwell, assistant professor of biological sciences at UA and Guy Caldwell’s wife, pairs students with faculty mentors. Students from UA, Shelton State Community College and Stillman College, receive instruction in areas such as scientific lingo, research etiquette, and how to analyze scientific literature.

Involving students in research ensures they have a better understanding of where the information in their classroom text comes from, said Caldwell. Some students take the lesson even further. “Unequivocally, the greatest joy I have had as a professor comes from working with undergraduates who have changed that information in textbooks through their research efforts,” said Caldwell.

Scientific discoveries made in the Caldwell Laboratory have drawn international attention. Recently, the lab’s researchers demonstrated that a specific protein protects against the loss of the brain neurons whose demise leads to Parkinson’s disease. His latest research was described in a collaborative project in a recent online article in ScienceXpress, electronic publication in advance of print of select research papers accepted by Science Magazine.

Fulbright Scholars Both Hail from the College of Arts and Sciences

Two students, both in the College, have been awarded 2006 Fulbright Scholarships. Megan Carper of Decatur, Alabama, and Amanda McMillan of Monroeville, Alabama, will participate in the U.S. international exchange program.

Carper, a psychology and international relations major, is teaching English as a foreign language in Turkey.

McMillan, a math and German major at the Capstone, is instructing English as a foreign language in Germany.

Fulbright scholars receive round-trip transportation, tuition, book and research allowances, supplemental health and accident insurance, and living expenses for an academic year in an effort to increase mutual understanding between people of the United State and people of other countries.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, offers opportunities for students, scholars and professionals. The program allows participants to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, and teaching in universities, elementary and secondary schools in more than 150 countries.
Faythe Freese has employed both talent and a penchant for organization in her journey from home economics teacher to internationally recognized concert organist and professor of music.

“She’s full of smiles and she’s all pedals and fancy footwork. She’s a very talented young lady and a great teacher,” said 90-year-old William Ahrenholz, a UA professor emeritus of mining engineering and a student of Faythe Freese, associate professor of organ in the College of Arts and Sciences School of Music. Ahrenholz has been studying with Freese for three years on The University of Alabama’s 87-rank Holtkamp organ, one of the largest pipe organs in the Southeast.

“When I first heard her play, I was very impressed with her talent. She possesses an exceptional ability that encourages one to try to emulate her,” Ahrenholz said.

Freese could be called a late bloomer. After earning a home economics degree from Valparaiso University, she taught vocational careers at a middle school, teaching boys to sew neckties and girls to bake cookies. Her true love, however, was the organ.

Freese returned to school, earning a master’s degree in organ performance and a doctoral degree in organ and church music from Indiana University, studying with Robert Rayfield and Marilyn Keiser, both international concert organists. Now, she is in demand as a recitalist throughout the United States and the world, with performances described by critics as “powerful . . . dazzling . . . a tour de force . . . and brilliant.”

The 2005–2006 academic year included performances in Denmark, California, Virginia, Tennessee, and Georgia, and she led the UA Germany Organ Study Tour, which featured historical organs once played by J. S. Bach and Franz Liszt. She is currently organizing the 2007 UA French Organ Study Tour, featuring French classic and Romantic organs.

Freese held her first college teaching position at Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia, and her first full-time church music position at First Lutheran Church in Williston, North Dakota, where she organized numerous vocal and handbell choirs.

Following study in Germany on a Fulbright grant, Freese became director of the Faith and Performing Arts Series and organist/director of music at Collingswood Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio. At Collingswood, amid a demanding schedule as choir master/organist and concert organist, she designed and implemented programs that hosted the Toledo Symphony; jazz legend David Baker; the early music ensemble Orpheus; and “Meet the Instruments,” a music education program for Toledo’s inner-city children. She then spent six years at Concordia University in Austin, Texas honing her skills as a teacher and concert organist.

During this time the UA School of Music organ program enjoyed a stellar reputation under the leadership of the late Warren Hutton, an organist of national renown. “Hutton was quite a legend at UA and I am honored to follow in his footsteps,” Freese said. Following Hutton’s death in 2002, the organ program languished.

“When we recruited her, School of Music faculty members took notice of both her talent at the organ and her initiative,” said Skip Snead, professor of music and director of the School of Music.

Today, the organ program is blooming. With her self-motivating personality, Freese has recruited nine organ majors to UA, which is no easy task given the national shortage of aspiring organists and the recent U.S. worship trends of employing praise bands. To be a successful recruiter, “one should perform nationally and internationally, maintain contact with talented students, and generate enthusiasm and passion for the pipe organ,” said Freese.

Steven Schneider, a master’s student in organ performance from Birmingham, said, “I chose to study organ at UA because of Dr. Freese’s great reputation. Dr. Freese has more enthusiasm for organ than anyone else I know, and she encourages her students to share that enthusiasm. She’s also incredibly knowledgeable about the instrument, is a dynamic performer and has great technical skill as an organist. She has so much to offer.”

Much of the newfound attraction to the UA organ program is the result of two initiatives established by Freese, a church music concentration under the graduate organ performance degree and an annual Church Music Conference. “The organ concentration is a valuable addition. No other state university in the Southeast offers a similar program, and yet for most organists, church music ministry will consume a great deal of their time,” said Schneider.
Otteson Receives Atlas Economic Research Foundation Award

James Otteson, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy, has been awarded a $10,000 prize from the Fund for the Study of Spontaneous Orders at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation.

The prize, which is given occasionally rather than on a regular basis, is for scholars working outside the traditional areas of economic study whose work is informed by an Austrian economic perspective. Atlas’s Fund for the Study of Spontaneous Order, supported by an anonymous donor, rewards and promotes the work of scholars that study the relevance of the spontaneous order to disciplines other than economics.

“The ‘spontaneous order’ social theory of Austrian economics holds that large-scale human social institutions—like law, language, and even morality—are the unintentional result of countless decisions made by individual actors,” Otteson said.

The award is given to recognize and support the work of scholars who apply the perspective of Austrian methodological individualism . . . to areas outside the realm of traditional economic study.”

Otteson wrote the internationally acclaimed Adam Smith’s Marketplace of Life and edited and wrote the introduction for Adam Smith: Selected Philosophical Writings. His other writings include Actual Ethics: Living a Good and Happy Life in the Real World and a work in progress “Protagoras Resurrected: Social and Political Theory in the Scottish Enlightenment.” Otteson is a College Leadership Board Faculty Fellow.

Burgio Receives Three Honors in Three Months for Research on Aging

Louis Burgio, professor of psychology and director of UA’s Center for Mental Health and Aging, received the 2005 Outstanding Contributions to Psychology in Long Term Care award from the Psychologists in Long Term Care (PTLC). Founded in 1983, PTLC is a network of psychologists and other professionals dedicated to providing high quality mental health services in long-term care settings.

That was Burgio’s third national recognition in three months for his research on aging, dementia, and long-term care. In July 2005 he was the winner of the M. Powell Lawton Award. One of the most prestigious national awards, it is given for outstanding contributions in the area of mentorship and innovations in applied gerontology. Burgio was also awarded fellowship status by the Gerontological Society of America. Fellowship is recognition by peers in GSA for outstanding contributions to the field of gerontology and represents the highest class of membership in the organization.

Since 1998, when he joined the College’s faculty, Burgio has been instrumental in obtaining research grants totaling more than $10 million awarded by the nation’s top research centers, such as the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Mental Health. Burgio has conducted research on caregiving and intervention for dementia patients for organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association, the National Institute on Aging, the National Institute of Nursing Research, and the Retirement Research Foundation.

Webster Receives National Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award

Roberta “Bobbi” Webster, an instructor and director of undergraduate studies in the department of geography, recently received the Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award from the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE).

The award is given annually to four college professors to recognize outstanding contributions to geographic education. NCGE was chartered in 1915 to promote geographic education.

Bobbi Webster

Webster has taught at the college level for almost 25 years, nine at UA. As director of undergraduate studies, she serves as the principal adviser for undergraduate matters in her department and advises 60 students.

Jerrod Bowman, a UA geography graduate student, wrote in his nomination letter: “Dr. Webster makes even the dreariest subjects intriguing. If Dr. Webster can keep the attention of a freshman at eight o’clock on a Thursday night, she can keep anyone’s attention.”

John Lochman

Lochman Selected as Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor

John E. Lochman, professor and Saxon Chair in Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychology, is the recipient of the University’s Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award. He was honored in a ceremony at the President’s Mansion in October 2005.

The Blackmon-Moody Award is one of the highest honors bestowed on faculty at the University. Created by Frederick Moody Blackmon of Montgomery to honor the memory of his grandmother Sarah McCorkle Moody, of Tuscaloosa, the award is given annually to a UA faculty member who has made an extraordinary contribution to his or her profession and to The University of Alabama.

“You have brought distinction and recognition to yourself and The University of Alabama in numerous ways,” wrote President Robert E. Witt in notifying Lochman of the award. “Your prolific research program on understanding, treating, and preventing aggression and violence in children and youth has earned you national and international recognition. Your colleagues at other universities think you are one of the top scholars in your field.”

Lochman, a faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences since 1998, conducts research in clinical child psychology and aggression and violence in children and youth. He has been instrumental in obtaining more than $5 million in research grants from major national agencies for his work.

Jim Otteson

Lou Burgio

Roberta “Bobbi” Webster

Bobbi Webster
Jerry Rosenberg Receives Penny Allen Award

Jerome Rosenberg, professor of psychology in New College and the Department of Psychology, received the 2006 Penny Allen Award for his contributions to the quality of student life. The annual award recognizes a University of Alabama employee who has given of himself in service and dedication to students. The School of Social Work and the Alabama Union Board of Governors established the award in 1979 in honor of the late Sara Bell Penrod “Penny” Allen. Allen was a former chairperson of the undergraduate program in the School of Social Work.

Rosenberg has been a faculty member for 37 years in the College of Arts and Sciences. His teaching and research interests include the Middle Ages to the Holocaust and human and humane survival, and ethics. He is responsible for creating the student-run New College Radio Lab, where he helps students use technology in new ways, as well as write, edit, and record scripts in a studio in the Carmichael Hall basement.

Husband and Wife Team Selected to Help Develop New Environmental Organization

Milton and Amy Ward, both professors in the Department of Biological Sciences, are two of only 40 representatives from throughout the United States who have been selected to serve on the Consortium of Regional Ecological Observatories, known as COREO. COREO was created to foster the development of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), an observatory which focuses on environmental science issues.

Amy Ward, founder and director of UA’s Center for Freshwater Studies, also served in the past as part of the NEON Design Consortium. Milton Ward is coordinator of the Aquatic Biology Program in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Proposed by the National Science Foundation, NEON is a national, interdisciplinary undertaking designed to answer scientific questions and to achieve credible ecological forecasting. Social scientists and educators are teaming with ecologists and physical scientists to address matters such as biodiversity, climate change, infectious disease, invasive species, and land use. NEON is the first long-term ecological observatory conceived as a continental-scale research network.

Rogers Named to Robert Ramsay Chair of Chemistry

The University of Alabama Board of Trustees has appointed Robin Rogers, UA Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Chemistry, to a Robert Ramsay Chair of Chemistry.

The Ramsay Chair was established in 1956 with gifts from Erskine Ramsay, of Birmingham, made in memory of his father, Robert Ramsay, to attract nationally recognized talent to the University. The Board of Trustees fully endowed the Ramsay Chair in 1979.

The appointment is permanent, University-wide, and can only be made by the Board of Trustees. Rogers is nationally known for his research on environmentally friendly ways to reduce or remove volatile solvents from production processes in the chemical industry. He has published more than 520 papers on these topics and is one of the most frequently cited researchers in the world. Rogers holds three patents, has edited seven books, and has given more than 500 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences.

There are two Ramsey chairs in Chemistry. The other is held by David Dixon, professor of chemistry. Mike Cava, professor emeritus of chemistry, held a chair from 1985 until his retirement in 2003.

Fox Receives Culture and Education Award from Alabama Germany Partnership

Thomas Fox, professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, recently received the Culture and Education Award from the AlabamaGermany Partnership.

The award is given annually to an individual for outstanding accomplishment and dedicated service in the field of education and culture in Alabama. Bruce Jones, an honorary consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented the award. He said Fox received it for his five books dealing with topics ranging from the Middle Ages to the Holocaust and for his more than 60 articles in the field of German studies. Fox, president of the Alabama chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, among them prestigious awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Fulbright Program at the Institute of International Education.

Benke Receives Award for Excellence for New Book

Arthur Benke, professor of biological sciences, has been honored by the Association of American Publishers with an Award for Excellence. Benke coedited the book Rivers of North America, which has been lauded by critics as the “best of the best for 2005.”

The book, selected by a nine-member panel consisting of librarians, academics, and working publishers who are themselves former academics, won in the category of geology and geography. Rivers of North America was published by Elsevier/Academic Press.

A 1,168-page comprehensive guide detailing 218 of the continent’s rivers, the book was coedited by Colbert E. Cushing, a retired river ecologist, with a foreword by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., president of Waterkeeper Alliance.

Jerry Rosenberg Receives Penny Allen Award

Jerry Rosenberg, professor of psychology in New College and the Department of Psychology, received the 2006 Penny Allen Award for his contributions to the quality of student life. The annual award recognizes a University of Alabama employee who has given of himself in service and dedication to students. The School of Social Work and the Alabama Union Board of Governors established the award in 1979 in honor of the late Sara Bell Penrod “Penny” Allen. Allen was a former chairperson of the undergraduate program in the School of Social Work.

Rosenberg has been a faculty member for 37 years in the College of Arts and Sciences. His teaching and research interests include the Holocaust, human and humane survival, and ethics. He is responsible for creating the student-run New College Radio Lab, where he helps Robin Rogers

The University of Alabama Board of Trustees has appointed Robin Rogers, UA Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Chemistry, to a Robert Ramsay Chair of Chemistry.

The Ramsay Chair was established in 1956 with gifts from Erskine Ramsay, of Birmingham, made in memory of his father, Robert Ramsay, to attract nationally recognized talent to the University. The Board of Trustees fully endowed the Ramsay Chair in 1979.

The appointment is permanent, University-wide, and can only be made by the Board of Trustees. Rogers is nationally known for his research on environmentally friendly ways to reduce or remove volatile solvents from production processes in the chemical industry. He has published more than 520 papers on these topics and is one of the most frequently cited researchers in the world. Rogers holds three patents, has edited seven books, and has given more than 500 presentations at regional, national, and international conferences.

There are two Ramsey chairs in Chemistry. The other is held by David Dixon, professor of chemistry. Mike Cava, professor emeritus of chemistry, held a chair from 1985 until his retirement in 2003.

Fox Receives Culture and Education Award from Alabama Germany Partnership

Thomas Fox, professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, recently received the Culture and Education Award from the AlabamaGermany Partnership.

The award is given annually to an individual for outstanding accomplishment and dedicated service in the field of education and culture in Alabama. Bruce Jones, an honorary consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, presented the award. He said Fox received it for his five books dealing with topics ranging from the Middle Ages to the Holocaust and for his more than 60 articles in the field of German studies. Fox, president of the Alabama chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, is the recipient of numerous grants and fellowships, among them prestigious awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the Fulbright Program at the Institute of International Education.

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Husband and Wife Team Selected to Help Develop New Environmental Organization

Milton and Amy Ward, both professors in the Department of Biological Sciences, are two of only 40 representatives from throughout the United States who have been selected to serve on the Consortium of Regional Ecological Observatories, known as COREO. COREO was created to foster the development of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), an observatory which focuses on environmental science issues.

Amy Ward, founder and director of UA’s Center for Freshwater Studies, also served in the past as part of the NEON Design Consortium. Milton Ward is coordinator of the Aquatic Biology Program in the Department of Biological Sciences.

Proposed by the National Science Foundation, NEON is a national, interdisciplinary undertaking designed to answer scientific questions and to achieve credible ecological forecasting. Social scientists and educators are teaming with ecologists and physical scientists to address matters such as biodiversity, climate change, infectious disease, invasive species, and land use. NEON is the first long-term ecological observatory conceived as a continental-scale research network.
May graduates Rachel Duncan and Shermeen Memon look back on four years of shared goals, big achievements, and an enduring friendship.

“Our sisters are friends too, but not best friends,” said Shermeen Memon and Rachel Duncan . . . at the same time. These two outstanding students in the College of Arts and Sciences, who often say the same thing at the same time, became best of friends after teaming up for a project in a research design class two years ago when Duncan was a junior and Memon a sophomore.

“I decided to ask Shermeen if she would do the project with me because I knew she would know what she was doing, and I had heard that she and her family have a great work ethic,” said Duncan, who graduated in May with three majors, classics, biological sciences, and English, and three minors, the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, history, and computer-based honors. Duncan is the daughter of Calvin and Cheryl Duncan of Pelham.

Since that class, they have sped through their undergraduate careers like twin whirlwinds, picking up one scholarship, honor, and award after another. Between them they have received the University’s Mayer and Sullivan premier awards, a College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Sophomore Scholarship, a Randall Undergraduate Research Award, and membership in the XXXI, UA’s honor society for women. One has already received scholarly notice for her scientific research in gene therapy, the effects of soil-borne bacteria on Parkinson’s disease, while the other has received recognition for research in linguistics and disability awareness. Both walked across the stage at their May graduation wearing multiple honor cords. “I looked like a curtain,” Memon said.

That first project, which brought them together and has given them the most joy, is a Type 2 diabetes education program. It extended into a two-year endeavor aimed at educating patients in Alabama about their disease.

“We chose this project because it was oriented toward helping people. When the class was over, we kept working on it because we had so much fun and because it passes as an excuse for a social outlet,” said Duncan with a smile. “We hope this can eventually help people across the country.”

The first phase of their project led Duncan and Memon to conclude that many Type 2 diabetes patients in West Alabama have a very limited understanding of the terminology associated with their diagnosis.

Through our research, we realized that the vocabulary associated with diabetes such as glucose, insulin, and arteriosclerosis was not understood by these patients. So we had the idea of creating an educational and infor-
UA Students Receive Prestigious Goldwater Scholarships

Two students at The University of Alabama have become UA’s 18th and 19th Goldwater Scholars, one of the nation’s outstanding academic achievements.

UA sophomores Thomas Glenn Kelly, a chemical engineering major from Jasper, Alabama, and Renee N. Rivas, a biological sciences major from Plano, Texas, were among 323 undergraduate sophomores and juniors throughout the country selected for 2006 Goldwater scholarships. More than 1,000 mathematics, science, and engineering students from schools nationwide were nominated by their colleges and universities for the award, which is based on academic merit.

Kelly has conducted research with David Dixon, professor of chemistry, on three projects in the College’s chemistry department. Last April, he displayed his work in the College of Arts and Sciences conference. Kelly plans an academic career in chemical engineering. “Glenn is passionate about his quest for a career in science and regardless of what he’s doing, he refuses to be distracted from excellence,” said Shane Sharpe, director of UAs computer-based honors program. “He is driven by his pursuit of answers to scientific challenges and his desire to explore and understand unexpected results.”

Rivas, the recipient of a National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates fellowship, plans to earn medical and doctoral degrees and hopes to direct a biomedical research lab in a hospital setting focusing on the molecular pathologies of disease.

Rivas has conducted research under the direction of Drs. Guy and Kim Caldwell of the Department of Biological Sciences since the fall of 2004. She has worked on two projects concerned with the pathological consequences of cellular stress in the worm C. elegans, a model organism for this research. She also has a special interest in immunotherapy for neurodegenerative disorders using DNA-based vaccines.

“Renee truly understands the science she learns in the laboratory and classroom and displays an uncommon passion for knowing more. ...Her goal is to combine human physiology with basic science toward eventual cures. I am confident this goal is easily within the grasp of this extremely talented, dedicated, and resourceful young researcher,” said Kim Caldwell, UA assistant professor of biological sciences.

Rivas said her mentors gave her the encouragement she needed to apply for the award. “I didn’t think I would win the award since I know there are students more experienced than I am who applied for it. When I found out I had won, Dr. Caldwell jumped up and hugged me. Both Caldwell were behind my work the whole time, and I appreciate their mentorship immensely,” she said.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established in 1986. The Scholarship Program, honoring Sen. Barry M. Goldwater, was designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in the fields of mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship, presented by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation, is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields. 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.

Classics Majors Inducted into New Eta Sigma Phi Chapter

On the night of November 29, 2005, 20 classics majors were inducted into the new local chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, a national classics honorary society.

Mallory Niemzak, the chapter’s first planetary (president), presided over the ceremony. She was assisted by Hyparchos (vice president) Samantha Dansby. Initiates, wearing togas, were led into a torch-lit area outdoors by Chrysophylax (treasurer) Megan James, where they stood before a table containing the symbols of the society. Kybernetes (ceremony guide) Walker Cyrus led the initiates to three stations where they heard inspirational words from Homer, Plato, and Virgil. The members then recited in unison, “Let the spirit of earnest endeavor, goodwill, and friendship pervade the body of Eta Sigma Phi and bind us all together.”

Classics was the first major at The University of Alabama when it was established in 1831. This society is the first one for classics majors in modern times, according to Kirk Summers and Tatiana Tsakiropolou-Summers, advisers to the society and professors in the Department of Modern Language and Classics. The society is open to classics majors and minors with sophomore standing who have maintained a 3.0 overall GPA. Eta Sigma Phi has 182 chapters throughout the United States. Members receive a biennial newsletter from the society, have the opportunity to attend an annual national convention, and are eligible for summer travel scholarships to Greece, Rome, or southern Italy, or for a Latin teacher training scholarship.

Robert H. Meier Honors Wife

The late Robert H. Meier of Victor, Idaho, provided an estate gift in memory of his wife to establish the Bettye L. Kerr Meier Endowed Student Support Fund in the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. He pledged $11,000 before his death in to support academic excellence in both colleges.

Half the endowment earnings will be used to provide academic support to female undergraduate students enrolled in the School of Music, with preference given to members of The University of Alabama’s Million Dollar Band.

Bettye L. Kerr Meier was a 1948 graduate of the College of Education at UA and a member of the Million Dollar Band.
Halliday, a mother of five, has plenty of experience in that category. "I make the nominees contact me regularly and give them a schedule of how much to do each week. I'm like a nagging mother, did you do this, did you do that, let's prioritize," she said.

Throughout the fall, Halliday's office light is on until 9 or 10 p.m. or even midnight as she meets with the candidates whose days are filled with class and work. They proofread and review essays, résumés, and letters of recommendation. Only 20 students in the country are selected annually for each of the First, Second, and Third Teams.

"I explain that they’ve got to be well rounded. I look for an application that speaks on different aspects of their academic career such as character, grades, leadership skills, and service," Halliday said.

USA Today winner Cody Locke has the singular distinction of having been selected for three USA Today teams: the Second Team in 2004 and 2005 and the First Team this year.

"Mrs. Halliday was there whenever I needed her. I remember this year I was in her office at about 8 p.m., and 15 minutes after I got there, another student was tossing rocks on her window to get into the office. She really expected herself to be there at times that were most convenient for the students," said Locke, a biological sciences major from Boaz, Alabama, who graduated in May.

Ultimately, about half the students recommended successfully complete the process each year. Other USA Today winners from the University have included a national Honor Student of the Year and psychology major who organized an honor student service program in economically depressed communities; a biological sciences major who established an Alabama database to track child abuse cases; an interdisciplinary studies major who assessed restorative justice programs for victims of crime; a microbiology major who obtained a grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research in the Department of Biological Sciences; and 2006 winner Katie Boyd, who conducted an anti-smoking educational program for fifth graders.

"She'll hound you in a good way to achieve what you otherwise might pass up. She won't spoon-feed you, but she will help you. I've never gotten better mentoring," said Boyd.

Along the way, Halliday has forged lasting friendships. Alumna and physician Nada Memon, who graduated with a degree in biological sciences in 1998, is an internist and cardiology fellow at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Memon was a USA Today First Team winner in 1998. Eight years later, Memon continues to stay in touch with Halliday.

"I still feel like I can come to her and ask for her advice and receive an honest opinion. It’s nice that out of a person I initially asked for assistance, I have made a friend," Memon said.

University enrollments are increasing, bringing more potential USA Today candidates to the attention of faculty, Halliday said. But, she said, although winning is nice, it is not the true prize. "A person does not compete just to win, it is a way of taking responsibility for your work. Once you realize that what you are doing affects the lives of others, you begin to see how important it is as a citizen to have those traits and to be respected for your sense of responsibility. The experience is the real prize," she said.

"The students are a joy to work with. As long as we have such terrific students, as well as faculty and administrators to work with, my office light will be on."
College Claims All of UA’s Hollings Scholars

Four students at The University of Alabama have received the prestigious and highly competitive National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship. The students, all from Alabama, are Jacob Batson, of Tuscaloosa; Micah Bennett, of Cordova; Barbara Blaylock, of Huntsville; and Christopher Cater, of Helena.

The University ranked among the top five universities in the nation in total number of recipients for the scholarship, said Gary Sloan, UA professor of microbiology and coordinator of prestige scholarships and awards in UA’s Honors College.

“This puts us in very elite company with schools including Penn State University, the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the University of Maryland–College Park,” Sloan said.

The scholarship provides $8,000 per year for full-time study during the junior and senior years and $6,500 for a 10-week summer internship at the NOAA or an NOAA-approved facility. Some 110 students were chosen nationally this year. Students studying biological and agricultural sciences, physical sciences, mathematics, engineering, computer and information sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and teacher education were eligible.

Batson, a chemistry major, is the son of Robert and Jane Batson. He was named Computer-Based Honors Freshman and Sophomore Student of the Year and was a student researcher in the department of chemistry’s Summer Undergraduate Research Program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Cater, a chemical and biological engineering major with a minor in biological sciences, is a Presidential Scholar and a member of both the University Honors Program and the Chemical Engineers Honor Program. His parents are Frank and Martha Cater. He was awarded the 2005-2006 McWane Foundation Endowed Research Scholarship to study ways to reduce the dangerous effects of commonly used medical plastics, and he is an active member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Bennett, a biological sciences major and liberal arts minor, is also a Presidential Scholar, a Blount Undergraduate Initiative Scholar, and a member of the University Honors Program. He is the son of Barry Bennett and Patricia Cunningham and is active in the Student Government Association Environmental Concerns Committee. He was a 2005 Howard Hughes Medical Institute research intern.

Blaylock has a double major in economics and mathematics. Her parents are Charles Blaylock and Claire Davies. She works as a UA teaching assistant and a research assistant. She is a member of the Business Honors Program. In 2005, she received the Economics Faculty Scholar Award and the Outstanding Economics Student Award.

The Hollings Scholarship Program is designed to improve undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research technology, and natural resource education; increase public understanding of environmental stewardship; prepare students for public service careers with the NOAA and in governmental areas that deal with natural resources; and improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

FRESEE, continued from page 6

Church music classes include: Hymnody, Liturgy and Arts, and Church Music Practicum. “Graduate students seeking a career in church music should already have solid organ performance abilities. Upon completion of the master of church music program, they will have acquired additional skills and knowledge to successfully compete for and hold a church music position,” said Freese.

Her second endeavor, the Church Music Conference, begun in 2004, attracts choir members and directors, handbell ringers, organists, and clergy. Workshops and performances are led by nationally regarded artists whom Freese, with her influence, attracts to the event.

Freese’s additional visions include: arranging an organ competition wherein the winning student would receive a UA organ scholarship; hosting an organ camp for gifted organ students 12 to 18; and establishing organ scholarships in addition to those she has already initiated.

Freese, a busy musician, has recorded two CDs while at UA, Faythe Freese in Concert (Arkay 6174) and, her latest project, Roaring Ranks with Faythe Freese (Arkay 6176), which is dedicated to “my strongest supporter” and “dear friend H. William Ahrenholz.” She also has an earlier recording, Sowerby at Trinity (Troy 368), and two publications, Sunday Morning Organist: A Survivor’s Guide for the Pianist and “Sonus Novus: Intonations and Harmonizations.”

The pipe organ occupies a special niche in music: It can’t be easily incorporated into an orchestra; few concert halls include an organ; and not many people own one. So why was the organ her instrument of choice?

“I was bored with piano lessons so I switched to the organ and have never looked back,” said Freese. “I consider playing the organ a type of sport because it requires so much footwork, coordination, and strategy. An inspired organ performance is tantamount to a challenging and exciting athletic event. Great physical coordination, virtuosic manual and pedal technique and profound mental concentration can bring forth great and beautiful sound. I love the challenge and excitement. Nothing matches the power of the pipe organ, the King of Instruments.”

Faythe Freese
O’Donnell Receives Outstanding Commitment to Students Award

Professor Janis O’Donnell, Department of Biological Sciences, was selected by the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board for its 2006 Outstanding Commitment to Students Award.

She was selected by a committee consisting of the board’s academic committee chairperson John Holaday, of Bethesda, Maryland, and members McCoy Pitt, of Decatur; Pam Mccolough, of Katy, Texas; Gillian Beavers, Joy Cooper, John Elmore, Ronald and Sylvia Goldberg, and Joe Rowe of Birmingham; Emily Baker, Martyn Dixon, Camilla Huxford, Jack Robbins, Michael Murphy, Edward Thomas, Carolyn Rowell, Dave Klemnack, and Bobby Wilson Hoyt Winslett, of Tuscaloosa; Dean Robert Olin and Associate Deans Carmen Taylor and Jimmy Williams.

The Leadership Board established the annual award in 1997 to recognize a faculty member in the College who has had an impact on students through service outside the classroom. In making its selection, the committee reviewed O’Donnell’s service as an adviser to student organizations, as a mentor to individual students, and in her work assisting individual students in their academic and personal progress.

The award, which provides $3,000 to the faculty member for academic needs, was presented to O’Donnell at the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Day Convocation in March.

“I think the best thing about it is how thrilled my students have been for me. They were at least as excited as I was about it,” said O’Donnell, who has taught at UA since 1989.

O’Donnell was nominated by the chair of her department, Martha Powell, professor of biological sciences, who cited her teaching in her renowned 300-level genetics course and in her work in professional development in research science with graduate students.

Students confirm that O’Donnell’s undergraduate genetics course is difficult but beneficial. “Learning from Dr. O’Donnell was not time wasted. She let me come to her lab, where I got hands-on experience, and she helped me in my research,” said Patrick Keenum, a former UA biological sciences student from Sheffield who is now attending The University of Alabama Medical School. “She was a good mentor. Her class is known as the most difficult courses in any biology department but she was very patient with me.”

Professor Janis O’Donnell received the 2006 Outstanding Commitment to Students Award. PHOTO CREDIT NELDA SANKER.

“I think it is important to make myself as accessible as possible to my genetics students and my research students,” O’Donnell said. “Although I’ve taught genetics for many years, I also think it is important to constantly evaluate what works and what doesn’t. This year, for instance, I made a simple change in genetics: I offered three bonus points for any student who showed up once for office hours so I could get to know them. It really worked.”

“In fact, during the first week of classes, I thought I had made a serious mistake because there was a very long line outside my door! Fortunately, the numbers tapered off after that, although it was a busy semester. Students, who usually tend not to come for office hours, came more often, especially when they were having trouble with the material. That change, plus requiring attendance, has significantly improved classroom performance,” O’Donnell said.

O’Donnell said she loves genetics and enjoys conveying her enthusiasm for the subject to her students. “When you have 90 undergraduates in a tough course and at least half of them are doing wonderfully well, it is quite impressive and makes teaching a lot more fun. I think that students here are every bit as good as at other institutions and are getting better all the time. The University’s efforts to recruit students who really do want to excel have been visibly paying off.”

The Leadership Board consists of some 100 alumni and friends who support the College with their interest, influence, and annual membership dues.

Leadership Board Names New Officers

Billy Hargett, president and chief executive officer of Houston Exploration Company of Houston, Texas, was named chairman of the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board for 2006-2008 at the board’s spring meeting. Other 2008 officers installed at the meeting were Fred Crown, vice-chair, and Rebecca and Frank Gregory, secretary/treasurers.

Hargett (geology, 72; MS, geology, 76) has been a member of the Leadership Board since 1995 and is a member of the UA President’s Cabinet. Hargett succeeds Tom Joiner (geology, 56; engineer, College of Engineering, 68) of Tuscaloosa as chair.

Crown (mathematics, 71; Phi Beta Kappa) is a retired senior vice president of AmSouth Bank in Nashville, Tennessee, and has been a member of the board since 1993.

Rebecca Geiger Gregory (history, 64; education, 67, both College of Education) is a retired educator. Frank Gregory (history, 62; MA education administration, 66) is a retired high school principal and former administrative director of courts for the state of Alabama. They have been members of the board since 1999.

Also at the spring meeting, Tricia Noble (biology, 76) of Birmingham was named chair of the board’s Fine Arts Committee, succeeding Milla Green (history, 92) of Tuscaloosa. Other committee chairs are Arlene Ashe (mathematics, 68) of Florence, Finance Committee; Jean Tomlinson (sociology, 48) of Birmingham, Membership Committee; John Holaday (biology, 66; MS, biology, 69) of West Bethesda, Maryland, Academic Committee; and George McAdams (political science, 83) of Sheffield, Student Recruitment Committee.
Rosa Moore Dunning Endowed Scholarship Established

Through their $25,000 gift and $500,000 estate pledge, Rosa and Art Dunning have established the Rosa Moore Dunning Endowed Scholarship in Communicative Disorders in the College of Arts and Sciences. “The Dunnings’ gift is a legacy of promise for our future students who deserve to see firsthand how college is meant to be,” said Robert F. Olin, dean of the College. “The Dunnings are passing on the opportunity for an education and the possibility of a brighter future.”

Art Dunning has named the gift to honor his wife, Rosa Dunning. Priority of consideration for the scholarship will be given to full-time undergraduate students enrolled in the Department of Communicative Disorders who graduate from high schools in Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Lowndes, or Wilcox counties in Alabama and who demonstrate financial need. Rosa Dunning, who grew up in Montgomery, graduated from The University of Alabama with a bachelor of arts degree in communicative disorders and a master of arts degree in speech communication. She has spent more than 30 years working with adults and children who have special needs, as well as in standard education. Her last 10 years have been with the Gwinnett County School System in Georgia.

Though he started out in the small community of Sweetwater, near Linden, Alabama, Art Dunning’s career path took him around the world as an administrator in public education. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology, a master of arts degree in education, and a doctorate in education administration with an emphasis in higher education, all from the Capstone. He currently serves as vice president of public service and outreach at The University of Georgia.
Party

1. The Ritz Review dancers come down the Smith Hall stairs to begin their performance.

2. A view of the Arty Party guests from the Smith Hall balcony.

3. Jan Mize, Lin Olin, Milla Windham Green, Wilson Green and Arty Party honoree Edie Barnes chat during the cocktail hour. Milla Green served as 2006 chair of the Leadership Board Fine Arts Committee and Mize is a committee member and 2007 cochair.

4. Professor Richard Richards and his wife, Professor Rita Snyder, faculty of the College, tango to a tune by the UA Jazz Ensemble during cocktails and silent auction.

5. Fred Helmsing, Bernard and Kathryn Harwood, and Stella Moore. Moore was the Leadership Board Fine Arts Committee cochair.

6. Harvey and Barbara Gotlieb

7. Virginia and Tom Joiner, Dean Robert Olin, Barbara and Cris Stone, and Mary and Tom Martz review silent auction options during “A Night at the Ritz.” Tom Martz is UA vice president of advancement.


11. Leadership Board Fine Arts Committee members Mary Joan Weaver, Jan Mize, and Claire Black Wilson visit with Wilson’s cousin Dick Coffee.

12. Auctioneer Jack Granger of Birmingham gives guests a five minute warning on the silent auction.
Alumni Support Groups

The Department of History and the New College established support groups, the Friends of History Association and the Friends of New College (FONC), this year.

The Friends of History inaugurated their group with a lecture on February 22 by Harlow Giles Unger, a renowned historian of George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. A veteran journalist, Unger was an editor at the New York Herald Tribune Overseas News Service and a foreign correspondent for the Times and the Sunday Times in London.

Clayton along with UA alumnus Bradley Hale (prelaw, 1954), also an alumnus of Harvard University, are co-organizers of the association. Hale, a retired attorney from King and Spalding in Atlanta, has served the history muse in many capacities—as a trustee in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a board member of the Alabama Archives and History Foundation, chairman of the Atlanta Historical Society, and chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Georgia Historical Society.

Other charter members of the board are Cathy Randall (history, 1973), of Randall Holdings; John Oliver Jr. (biological sciences, 1949), First National Bank of Jasper; Olin B. King, formerly of SCI systems; Jack Warner, formerly of Gulf States Paper Corporation; Edwin Bridges, Alabama Department of Archives and History; Cleophus Thomas Jr. (American studies, 1977), A. G. Gaston Corporation; Paul W. Bryant Jr. (commerce and business administration, 1966), Greene Group; William Anderson (history, 1965), Anderson Oil and Gas. Alumni who want more information about the Friends of History Association and the Friends of New College (FONC), this year.

“The goals of the new departmental initiative are to help guide the history department as they develop a long-term vision, as well as to cultivate financial support for the department’s efforts in scholarship, teaching, and learning about the past and what it means for us today and in the future,” said Larry Clayton, chair of the history department.

Clayton along with UA alumnus Bradley Hale (prelaw, 1954), also an alumnus of Harvard University, are co-organizers of the association. Hale, a retired attorney from King and Spalding in Atlanta, has served the history muse in many capacities—as a trustee in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a board member of the Alabama Archives and History Foundation, chairman of the Atlanta Historical Society, and chairman of the Board of Advisors of the Georgia Historical Society.


The Friends of New College, founded on June 25, 2005, includes alumni, parents, students, faculty, and community supporters, independent of the faculty and staff of the New College. Charter members of the group are Lee Borden (New College, 1975), an attorney at Alabama Family Law Center, and Steve Berryman (New College, 1972), an attorney in private practice in Florence, Alabama, and a member of the UA President’s Cabinet. Jim Hall, professor and director of New College invited the group to organize.

“We’re delighted with his leadership and with the talented and hard-working faculty and staff of New College. Our hope and expectation is that the membership of Friends of New College will be stable and perennial but that the composition of the coordinating committee will be dynamic and flexible,” said Borden.

The FONC will support New College as a liaison with the community to promote the interests of New College and its students within The University of Alabama and the Alabama higher education system; to help recruit talented, competent, motivated students to New College; and to provide scholarships for New College students. More information about the FONC can be found at www.friendsofnewcollege.org.

Elizabeth Crump Creates Tribute to Grandmother

Elizabeth Crump of Montgomery has made a gift to create the Elizabeth B. Bashinsky Endowed Art Scholarship in honor of her maternal grandmother. Her gift of $17,180 will be matched by the Windgate Charitable Foundation of Arkansas.

Bashinsky was born in 1867 in Dixon Springs, Tennessee. After graduating with honors from Columbia Institute in Tennessee, she moved to Troy, Alabama, where she was an elementary school teacher. She later married Leopold M. Bashinsky. They had three children, Helen, Leo and Mary Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Bashinsky was dedicated to education through service. For her lifetime of service, she was inducted into the Alabama Women’s Hall of Fame and was awarded the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award by both The University of Alabama and Judson College.

Crump received her bachelor of arts degree in English from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1959. She was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and is currently the secretary and treasurer of Dixie Electric Company in Montgomery.
Phillip C. Watkins Honors Wife, Elizabeth, with Scholarship

PHILLIP C. WATKINS, OF BIRMINGHAM, HAS ESTABLISHED The Elizabeth Dean Watkins-Blount Undergraduate Initiative Endowed Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences.

He is creating the scholarship in memory of his late wife, Elizabeth Dean Watkins.

Phillip Watkins received his bachelor of science degree from the College in 1963 and his doctor of medicine from The University of Alabama Medical School in 1966. He is a cardiologist in private practice in Birmingham. He is also a member of the President’s Cabinet at UA.

Elizabeth Dean Watkins received her bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Auburn University in 1963. She lived in Birmingham for the majority of her life and was a dedicated member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, as well as an avid gardener. She died on October 26, 2005.

In 1999, Watkins honored his wife with a gift to the Blount Initiative to name the Elizabeth Dean Watkins room in Oliver-Barnard Hall, one of two academic houses in the Initiative. Known as “Lizzie’s Lounge,” the room is a popular place where Blount students study. Recently, the Watkins family unveiled a portrait of Elizabeth Watkins that now hangs in the room. The unveiling enabled the family and close friends, some of whom had never been there before, to see the dedicated lounge and portrait and for Dr. Watkins to announce the scholarship in memory of his wife.

Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy and the Law Established

By means of a gift annuity, the late Thelma Richards established an endowment of $52,000 in honor of her son, Norvin Richards, professor and former chair of the Department of Philosophy. The gift is named the Norvin Richards Philosophy Endowed Support Fund.

The endowment earnings from this fund will be used to establish the Norvin Richards Award in Philosophy and the Law.

Eligibility for the award is restricted to majors in philosophy who intend to pursue a career in law. At the outset, no more than two such awards will be made annually. Recipients will receive equal shares of that year’s endowment income. Selection of award recipients will be made on the basis of students’ performance in four or more of the following courses: philosophy of law, philosophical issues in civil, criminal, and constitutional law, deductive logic or honors deductive logic, political philosophy, or other courses approved by the award committee. The names of the recipients will later be engraved on a commemorative plaque, which will be publicly displayed by the Department of Philosophy.

Thelma Richards was born in Leigh, Nebraska, on January 18, 1913. She had two children, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. She died on December 29, 2005.

Norvin Richards, of Tuscaloosa, received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1965. He received master of arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Virginia in 1967 and 1969 respectively. He was also a research student at King’s College, University of Cambridge, working under the supervision of Bernard Williams. Richards has taught at the College for 36 years.

Dance Scholarship Honors Gage Bush Englund

A dance scholarship has been established in honor of Birmingham native and longtime Fairhope resident Gage Bush Englund.

The American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Summer Intensive program has contributed $20,000 to establish the Gage Bush Englund Endowed Scholarship. ABT endowed the scholarship at The University of Alabama to honor Englund’s role in establishing this renowned summer dance program. Priority will be given to full-time undergraduate students majoring in dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Englund is well-known for her generous, lifelong support of dance and dance education. She was instrumental in bringing the ABT to UA for its successful Summer Intensive residential dance workshops, which attract some 200 students annually from across the nation. She is ballet mistress at the ABT in New York.

Thelma Richards

Gage Bush Englund
Alumni Notes

1948
ANNE BLACKMON WOODRESS (psychology) is the coauthor of a new book, *Slave or Free and...11 Other Problem-Solving Plays*, with her husband, Fred A. Woodress. Academy and Emmy Award–winning actor Cliff Robertson wrote introductory remarks for the book. The *New York Times* labeled one of the plays in the book “a war play of superior quality.” Another play, about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was a finalist in Actors’ Theatre of Louisville’s 2004 National Ten-Minute Play Contest. Woodress and her husband live in Muncie, Indiana.

1965
TOM HUBBARD (political science), senior adviser of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld, of Washington, D.C., advises clients on matters pertaining to Korea and other Asian countries. Before joining Akin Gump, Hubbard served from 2001 to 2004 as U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Korea, completing a 39-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Immediately before his appointment to Korea he was principal deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. He previously served concurrently as U.S. ambassador to the Philippines and to the Republic of Palau. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Maryland and The University of Alabama. Hubbard’s professional awards include the State Department’s Superior Honor Award and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service.

1974
AMANDA BORDEN (speech pathology; M.A., rhetoric and speech communication) is an associate professor of communication studies as well as academic liaison for the London Program at Samford University in Birmingham. In 1996 she won the Speech Professor of the Year in Speech Communication and Theatre Award from Samford University. In 2002 Borden received the University of Alabama Outstanding Alumni Award in Communication Studies, and she was in *Who’s Who among America’s Teachers* from 2003 to 2005. Borden received her doctor of philosophy degree in 1979 doctor of philosophy from the University of Illinois in speech communication. She is married to attorney Lee Borden (New College, 1975) and has two children.

1980
RAYMOND BROUGHTON (biological sciences; M.D.) is the medical director of the Bayou La Batre Area Health Development Board. A board-certified internist, he joined the Mostellar Medical Center practice in Irvington, Alabama, in 1987. Broughton and his family reside in Theodore, Alabama.

1987
BARRY PHELPS (political science; M.P.A.) is the director of communications of the Office of Human Capital, in the Transportation and Security Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Arlington, Virginia.

1988
VALERIE MARTIN (M.M., music; Ph.D., music performance) was appointed dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Communications at Susquehanna University in April 2005. Martin served as interim dean in 2004–2005 and is also an associate professor of music at the university. Susquehanna University is a private liberal arts college in central Pennsylvania.

1990
DALE WAYNE HARMON (economics; M.A., economics) is an information technology platinum consultant at SAP America, with a certified employee benefits specialist certification.

1996
JERRY SPOTSWOOD (Ph.D., English) has been named the Wendy and Stanley Marsh Endowed Professor of Shakespeare Studies at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. He was one of the first students to participate in UA’s Hudson Strode program in Renaissance studies, which focuses on English Renaissance literature. Spotswood is working to establish a similar version of the Strode program at West Texas A&M.

1998
ALEXANDER STEPHEN TIMKOVICH (modern languages/Russian) is a software developer for Ingersoll Rand in Hartford, Connecticut. He married Elizabeth (Troup) Timkovich (history) in 2000.

2001
CHARLES BURKS (music/organ performance) is director of music at the award-winning Cathedral of All Saints Choir of Men and Boys in Albany, New York. At 26, Burks, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is one of the youngest heads of a major U.S. cathedral music program. Burks was hired for the full-time position after a search committee reviewed more than 30 résumés sent from as far away as Australia and England. The 113-year-old tradition had dwindled to just three choirboys before Burks was hired. With his help, 13 new boys have been recruited. Burks previously worked as assistant music director at Saint Paul’s Church in Washington, D.C. He currently lives in Slingerlands, New York.

Bon Voyage

Six long-time College of Arts and Sciences faculty members announced their retirement in the past year, trading class time and office hours for more relaxed pursuits.

Keller Suberkropp
Department of Biological Sciences

Helen Delpar
Department of History

Tony Davis
Department of Mathematics

Ed Passerini
Department of New College

John O’Neal
Department of Political Sciences

Don Snow
Department of Political Sciences

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Address __________________________

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Email _____________________________

Degree __________ Major ____________ Year ______

Occupation/Profession __________________________

Achievements/Awards/Milestones __________________________

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The University of Alabama, Box 870268
Tuscaloosa AL 35487-0268
Email to: nsanker@as.ua.edu

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

18

Email to: nsanker@as.ua.edu

Collegian

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Achievements/Awards/Milestones __________________________

(please use additional paper if necessary)

Mail to: nsanker@as.ua.edu

Department of History

Department of Political Sciences

Department of Political Sciences

Department of Mathematics

Department of New College

Department of Biological Sciences

Department of Political Sciences
On the grounds of their home, three rescued swans glide across water in an aviary. The Montogmersy’s daughter, Courtnay, who resides nearby, walks three of their six dogs, five of which are also rescued animals. Inside the spacious and open house, hallways hung with paintings open to rooms accented by the couple’s prized collection of Tiffany lamps. A Picasso hangs next to works by an artist the Montogmersys sponsored, providing him with a residence and funds to paint in Europe in exchange for a pick of canvases.

Their marriage has taken them from newlyweds bivouacked at Alabama’s Fort Rucker to one of Palm Beach’s most prominent couples. They are known as much for Montgomery’s national standing as a trial attorney with a reputation for winning long shot, groundbreaking cases as for their extraordinary philanthropy, particularly for the arts.

Montgomery quickly points to “madame” as the inspiration for their devotion to the arts. But Mary begs to differ. “Bob’s really talented,” she says. “In fact his artistic side was what got my attention in school. When I finally went with him to a party at the fraternity house, I saw him sit down and play the piano. I started asking him about his musical talent and it all unfolded from there.”

Montgomery grew up with music, taught by his mother, Ber-nice Smith, a pianist, clarinetist, and vaudeville entertainer who performed nationally. His father, Morel Montgomery, was a successful Bir-mingham criminal defense attorney.

At The University of Alabama, Montgomery was a reluctant chem-istry major. “I was in the College of Arts and Sciences by reason of my father,” Montgomery says. “He said you are not going down there and take crp courses. You’re going to get an education. Back then, there were very few lawyers who were really successful. He wanted me to become a doctor. He said either that, or starve, one of the two. I struggled with those math and sciences courses, my goodness.”

Mary’s mother was Mary LeMerle Andrews McKenzie of Savannah, Georgia, her father, Roy William McKenzie, a Metropolitan life insurance executive. She grew up in Pensacola, Florida and at the age of ten moved to Columbus, Georgia, a place, she says, that made all the difference in her outlook on the world. Columbus High School was a liberal arts school and here Mary embraced art, music, theatre, and a diversity of classmates. “World War II was going on and Fort Benning was like a city, there were nothing but soldiers and from everywhere. My school mates were from every state. It saved my life because it broadened my perspective. You were able to be with all types of people, and I saw that the world was a much bigger, interesting place.”

Mary enrolled in 1947 at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, then part of the University of Virginia, and immersed herself in the arts. “Mary Washington had a great lyceum program. We had performances by symphony orchestras, operas, ballet,” she says. “I was able to see those things as part of my education, and the professional artistry, the beauty and precision of it, just blew my mind.”

Having fulfilled the expectation for southern women to begin their educa-tion at an all-girls college, Mary transferred to The University of Alabama in her junior year, continuing in English and art.

Bob and Mary became engaged in the spring of 1950 and Mary gradu-ated in June. Marriage was delayed two years while Montgomery finished his bachelor’s degree (crossing by a hair the wire of required quality points) and completed the first of a two-year commitment in the army. Mary took a job in the then burgeoning commercial airline industry as a stewardess on a Delta Air Lines DC-3 run from Atlanta to Dallas.

They married in March 1953 in a small church in Ozark, Alabama, near Fort Rucker, where Montgomery was stationed during the Korean War. That year, the Montogmersys decided to leave Alabama. With the GI Bill to finance Montgomery’s education, they set out for Florida in their green Plymouth two-seater coupe, leaving behind a social, political—and for Montgomery, familial—climate they found stifling. What they took with them, however, shaped the character of their success and their altruism. “All I knew was that I wanted to be a lawyer,” Montgomery says. “My daddy used to take me to court when I was seven, eight years old. They used to have court on Saturdays, and I’d sometimes drive him to federal court in Montgomery. My grandfather was a lawyer. I absorbed it by osmo-sis. There just never was anything else I wanted to do.”

Montgomery entered the University of Florida Law School, a move that estranged him from his father for three and a half years. Mary learned secretarial skills and took a job at the university working for the head of the Department of Psychology.

The Montogmersys look back on those lean law school years with great happiness. There was the time Mary spent $25 on a speed-reading device, a mechanical contraption that moved along a page at a certain speed, to help Bob get through his first year of case readings. There were weekend trips to Mary’s parent’s home in Augusta, Georgia, for free home cooking and the chance to watch a new thing, television. “It was a long drive for a short weekend, but we’d get in that little Plymouth and drive all the backroads. I mean those were good times,” Mary says.

Montgomery was one of 37 in a class of 100 to complete law school and the last to get a job. With a rec-ommendation from Mary’s father, Montgomery went to work for a firm in Jacksonville, Florida, for $300 a month. He spent the next 18 years practicing insurance defense and commercial law. The firm and its spinoffs grew to be South Florida’s largest defense group with more than 60 lawyers in eight cities. He and Mary moved to West Palm Beach in 1966 to open a branch firm there at the insistence of a client insurance company. Montgomery represented nearly every insurance company in the world and made headlines winning precedent-set-ting cases. He defended and won for Brystol Myers the country’s first personal injury case against birth control pills. And he represented Southland Corporation in what is known as the 7-11 case, that resulted in Jacksonville law being changed to allow retail sales on Sunday. “You couldn’t buy a loaf of bread during church hours in Florida. Thanks to me, people can buy bread and milk and a Coca-Cola on Sunday. Nobody else would touch that case with a ten-foot pole,” he says in a resonate southern drawl.

By 1976, however, Montgomery’s sensibilities were nagging him. And he had an ulcer. The insurance industry was changing. Personal injury claims became less about the fairness and the circumstances of individual cases and more about the bottom line, Montgomery says. “All of a sudden the MBA boys came in and they started putting the pencil to it and setting claims fees, telling you how to try your cases.”

Feeling more like a cog in a corporate wheel than legal counsel, he defended for an insurance company a case involving a young girl. “A poor family in a car came over a hill where contractors were doing roadwork. The workers had put a sign in the middle of the road and the car’s front fender hit it. The sign went through the back window and partially decapitated the girl. She was brain damaged. I won the case. The jury turned that family out of their home,” Montgomery says. “I just couldn’t stand taking money away from people who deserve it.”

Montgomery says.
Today, Montgomery, who is 75, practices from Robert Montgomery Jr. and Associates in West Palm Beach, a small boutique firm whose size belies its heft. Montgomery and his firm have received more than 65 multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements, which he has handled some of the country's highest profile personal injury cases, making international headlines in the process. In 1990 he represented Kimberley Bergalis, a 22-year-old University of Florida student who was likely infected with AIDS by her dentist, a case that changed sanitary procedures in dental offices throughout the United States.

Following the U.S. presidential election in 2000, the Gore-Lightfoot campaign hired Montgomery to defend Palm Beach County elections supervisor Theresa LePore in the "hanging chad" case that challenged George Bush's election win there. In 2002 he took on the manufacturer of a 25-caliber gun, the Saturday Night special, in a case that found, for the first time, a manufacturer liable for selling a product used in a crime.

The blockbuster case for Montgomery, however, was in 1996 when then Gov. Lawton Chiles asked Montgomery to be the lead attorney on Florida vs. American Tobacco, the first attempt by a state to sue tobacco companies for reimbursement of Medicaid expenses allegedly caused by tobacco use. To Montgomery's disappointment, the case was settled for $11.3 billion during the first weeks of the trial. Montgomery received $206 million for his services.

Personally and philanthropically, the Montgomeries' life in West Palm Beach marked a new era in their support of and influence on the community. They care about their neighbors. That’s one of the things that attracted us to each other," she says. "When we settled in Palm Beach, that was the first time we had a chance, really, to think about all these things."

Growing up during the Great Depression and World War II left an indelible mark on them both, Mary says. "If you were born in 1930, by the time you were 10 years old World War II had started. Everything you did was affected by it, the necessities you couldn’t get, the fear of air raids. We didn't know the war wasn’t going to come over here. Our relatives, Bob’s father and brother among them, were being sent overseas to war. Everything was a matter of survival. It can’t sound as critical to anybody who didn’t live through it. You just see things differently, and you build on that for the rest of your life. You take risks to get ahead. You look out for people."

"When asked what drives him, with all of his deep corporate pockets, he squares his shoulders and says, "I just couldn’t wait until I was somewhere else, when the Montgomerys received the Tocqueville Award in April, Bob told of an evening when, just after winning a major case, they prepared for a night of celebration. "We were there in our big house on the ocean, getting all dressed up, and I can never really understand how many powerful, successful, rich people there are in Palm Beach?" And she said, ‘One fewer than you think.’"

The Montgomerys have been key patrons of the Palm Beach Opera for more than 25 years, contributing several million dollars, helping to raise millions more, and taking opera into schools and communities through their support of the Palm Beach Opera Family Opera Series and its Opera Is Elementary educational touring program, which presents condensed versions of classic operas to more than 65,000 South Florida students annually.

They helped establish the $68 million Ray- mond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, personally raising $17 million for the cultural complex, which opened its doors in 1991, to provide a state-of-the-art home to the opera and many other regional performing arts companies. The center has an extensive outreach program that has served more than a million schoolchildren, economically disadvantaged senior citizens, and community groups.

Prompted by Mary, the Montgomerys founded Palm Beach’s Armory Art School, a nonprofit visual arts education center. She also served as a founding board member of the Burt Reynolds Institute for Theatre Training, the Miami City Ballet, and chairman of the Palm Beach Community College Foundation. The Montgomerys were also founders and principal benefactors of the city’s multimillion dollar Institute of Contemporary Art, for which they received the Medal of Chevalier des Arts et Lettres from the consular general of France.

The Montgomery and Montgomery and Associates names appear as founders, sponsors, or key underwriters of more than 30 community organizations in the county—public radio stations, cultural and educational programs, benevolent associations, medical charities and research centers, children and family services, and especially arts programs. Last spring, the Palm Beach United Way honored them with its Tocqueville Society’s Outstanding Community Citizens Award, the most recent in a large collection of honors for the couple.

Mary says she is devoting even more of her time these days to fund-raising for the Armory Center; the opera and its new orchestra; the Jewish Arts Foundation; and Leaders in Further Education (LIFE), an educational program for children from households below the national poverty level sponsored by the Lois Pope LIFE Foundation.

Montgomery appears regularly on area television delivering public service announcements (which he pays for) for Children’s Place at Home Safe, a facility for abused children; the Armory Arts Center; and the Palm Beach Cultural Council, among others. He recently became chairman emeritus of the Palm Beach Opera after serving as chairman of the board for 25 years. He is vice chairman of the Palm Beach Festival and the Kra- vis Center for the Performing Arts, a trustee of National Public Radio and the Economic Council of Palm Beach County. The couple contributed to the Robert M. Montgomery Jr. Cancer Research Fund at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

For years the Montgomerys have also championed programs that bring the arts back into public schools. Most recently, they joined other cultural organizations in Palm Beach to begin Be Smart, a initiative to promote arts education through after-school activities, weekend events, and additional materials that integrate the arts into primary and secondary school curricula. "Compelling evidence shows that to the extent that you are exposed to the arts, your grades and your understanding of all academic subjects just naturally go up. The arts and education are inseparable. The arts just raise the awareness of everything you do,” Montgomery says.

With the sting of his college premied struggle a distant memory, Montgomery looks back on his own liberal arts education at 'The University of Alabama. "The College of Arts and Sciences taught me to be fearless regarding words,” Montgomery says. "That education taught me I could read anything and understand anything. The University of Alabama was a wonderful experience, a real educational experience, and you met people you hold dear for the rest of your life."

In the Montgomery home, an elevator leads to Bob Montgomery's ground floor study. The furnishings are low key and functional, a simple retreat. There is a wooden desk, a pool table, chairs, and bookcases that hold family photos. The walls catch the eye. They are filled with framed newspaper clippings about Montgomery’s most notable personal injury cases, as much treasures of his labor as the fine paintings hanging on the walls upstairs. Here are the stories of a $1 million judgment in 1986 to the elderly parents of a West Palm Beach shopkeeper killed in a 1985 plane crash; of a $1.4 million award in 1987 to the parents of a child paralyzed after having a routine cyst removed; of a $9 million award in 1994 to the parents of a 19- month-old child who slipped into a coma and died after outpatient surgery for a drooped eyelid.

When asked what drives him, with all of his successes, to still take the long shot cases, financing them with his own money, going up against deep corporate pockets, he squares his shoulders and becomes Robert Montgomery, the steely eyed lawyer. He says he likes the challenge. He says he likes to teach the other side a lesson in being reasonable. He says, most of all, he likes to win.

Later, leaving his study and moving up the stairway in a relaxed, ambling way, Montgomery pauses amid the art and the glow of a wisteria and white Tiffany lamp. “You know, I’ve been thinking about that question,” he says. "And I guess, what I do—it just makes me feel good."
combatants emerging from the war at independence, came to be viewed as having been refugees rather than fighters,” said Simbanegavi. Simbanegavi seeks to connect her students with specific African issues by requiring individual research projects on different African countries or societies; they present their findings to the class. “As teachers, it’s easy to overlook undergraduate students’ research capabilities. I see them differently; I see them as key resource people on the subjects I teach. So I partner with them and give them shovels to dig for the information we need to analyze the different African issues we address on my courses.”

“If you put in the effort she wanted you to, you got an experience that you couldn’t get anywhere else,” said Carrie Burgjohann, a freshman from Cincinnati, Ohio, who is majoring in anthropology. “It’s amazing to think she actually has seen some of the things she is talking about. She’s seen civil unrest and seen countries gain independence and this has made her class all the more meaningful to me as a student.” For the future, Simbanegavi said she hopes to encourage her department to include African history as a required course for history majors. She also plans to mount a UA study abroad program in southern Africa.

Has she learned to drive on the other side of the road? “No, my husband has become the family driver. My own orientation is still very left, so maybe I will be the one to drive when we return to Zimbabwe. I would be reluctant to be driven by my husband then. But we might not be going back soon. Both my husband and I are having a great time working in a different environment from that which we are used to at home. Our children like their schools and they have made friends. It will not be easy to tear them away from that.”

How do they work so well together? They claim they bring different skills to the table. Duncan calls herself the “creative girl” while Memon is dubbed “the technical, computer person.” They both assert that they have never quarreled. They say the secret to keeping the peace is that they know their projects are always to serve others, and they keep their eyes jointly on this goal.

“You do realize that we share one brain between the two of us. When we leave, it’ll be very traumatic,” said Memon in May, just days before graduation.

Both are on their way to becoming medical doctors. This fall, Memon is enrolled in The University of Alabama School of Medicine; Duncan is attending the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile.

In May, Memon was still busy wrapping up her research to test the bacterial influence on dopamine neurons. She had been working with her mentor, Guy Caldwell, associate professor in the College’s Department of Biological Sciences, in his “Worm Shack.” This is the name given to Caldwell’s research lab because of his work with the worm C. elegans.

Duncan said that while Memon’s research in the Caldwell lab is exceptional, what impresses her even more is openness about her background as a Muslim and her Pakistani family heritage. “She has been a good mentor to students here. They look up to her. She’s willing to sit down and listen to any questions I have, especially about her religion. It’s not every day that someone will be so open in talking about being a Muslim in this part of the world. In fact, I was so impressed with her that I nominated her as a Capstone Hero,” said Duncan. UA’s Capstone Hero award annually recognizes 10 UA students who have made a difference in various areas of campus, such as diversity awareness, for which Duncan recommended Memon.

Memon said of Duncan: “She really cares about what she does, and it comes across in her demeanor. She wants to personally have an impact on public health. She’s also immersed in a variety of organizations on campus and pushes for people to get involved, including me.”

Neither friend yet knows what type of medicine she will practice, and they look forward to comparing first-year medical school experiences. They have vowed to talk daily by cell phone.

“The phone will connect us. It’ll be interesting to see how our medical experiences differ, and we joke that one day we can open joint practices,” said Duncan.
That sampling includes soil analysis from a host of geographic regions including Argentina, Costa Rica, South Africa, Alaska, British Columbia, China, Africa, Antarctica, and the Arctic, not to mention various areas in the continental United States. The lack of identifiable close kin is interpreted as a good sign. “That means there’s not this whole massive group of organisms getting ready to start annihilating vertebrates,” Powell said.

Letcher, Powell’s UA colleague, said gaining a better understanding of chytrids also leads to a better understanding of organisms more familiar to the general public.

“Chytrids are what we call basal to all the other fungi,” Letcher said. “They were the original fungi, and everything else diverged from them. Understanding chytrids helps us understand lineages that diverged further down. Toadstools, mushrooms, and the other macrofungi people are used to seeing, are all descendants of chytrids.”

Kathryn Picard, a rising UA senior majoring in biology and philosophy, is one of perhaps only a dozen people in the world who has successfully cultured large numbers of chytrids in the laboratory, Powell said.

Picard takes a portion of a soil sample and places it, along with sterile water, in a Petri dish that’s about the size of a coffee cup saucer. She adds a type of cellulose, such as onion skin, or another substrate, in an attempt to draw out the organisms, which are some five micrograms in diameter. The tiny fungi are easily overrun by other organisms so they have to be “washed” at least twice each day.

“It is a tedious job,” Picard said, “as even the largest of chytrid species measures only half the diameter of a human hair. Often, under the dissecting microscope, the chytrids you are hoping to isolate are virtually indistinguishable from the pollen grains on which they feed.”

The cultures are easily ruined by contaminants, such as bacteria, Picard noted. “You must be constantly on guard for spots of contamination, removing them as soon as possible, as they will quickly spread, overtaking in just a few hours chytrid colonies that may have taken days to cultivate. I cannot tell you how many times I have had to scrap entire plates because a few mold spores wreaked havoc on my cultures over a long weekend.”

Nevertheless, Picard, a research intern in a program made possible by a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Science Education grant awarded to UA, makes the task sound therapeutic. “When I’m in the lab isolating, I don’t worry about looming exams or papers. Instead, I pop on my iPod, grab some plates, and spend a few quiet, meditative hours picking up chytrids.”

After the chytrids reach adequate size, they are removed from the remainder of a dish’s contents and analyzed using electronic microscopy. Comparing the cell anatomy of the various chytrids’ zoosporic mechanisms by which they reproduce, is key in identifying different species.

In an interview published in the Birmingham News, Powell said appropriate training for the next crop of scientists, like Picard, can help reduce the likelihood of future scientific dismissals of an organism. “We should be teaching the next generation of scientists the panoramic view of biodiversity.”

![Powell and student Scott Wakefield (holding plankton net) collect algae suspended in water in hopes of finding chytrids. Photo credit Laura Shill.](image)

Department of Chemistry Receives $12,000 Anonymous Pledge

An anonymous benefactor has given $12,000 to recognize the contributions of Anthony J. Arduengo III, Saxon Professor of Chemistry in the College, and to promote academic excellence in the Department of Chemistry. The gift will be used to establish and support a visiting lecture series that addresses a topic of relevance and importance to the area of physical organic chemistry. The intent of the lectures is to recognize contributions in these areas at UA. The Arduengo lectures will be held at least every other year. The donor’s goal is to support the expense of hosting multiple speakers in a mini-symposium format in a targeted chemistry area.
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Through her $51,000 gift, UA alumna Farley Moody Galbraith of Anniston, Alabama, has established The Farley Moody Galbraith Endowed Art Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. Selection priority will be given to students who are enrolled in the Department of Art in the College and who are pursuing art majors with concentrations in ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, or painting.

Galbraith earned a bachelor of arts degree in history in the College in 1941. She was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to Frank M. and Sarah McCorkle Moody. She married the late Wilfred Galbraith, with whom she had two children, George Lock Galbraith and Farley Moody Galbraith II.

The Moody and Galbraith families have been longtime patrons of the arts and loyal supporters of The University of Alabama.

Farley Moody Galbraith has been fundamental to the long-term success of the Moody Gallery through her generous funding of the Farley Moody Galbraith Endowed Exhibition Fund, which has aided in attracting numerous nationally acclaimed artists to Alabama for lectures and exhibitions.

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Dr. Thomas Moore received his bachelor of science degree in commerce and business administration from the UA College of Commerce and Business in 1962. He is the former president of Pritchett-Moore of Tuscaloosa, a real estate and insurance firm. He is currently a member of The University of Alabama President's Cabinet and the Culverhouse School of Commerce and Business Administration Board of Visitors.
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Post-Civil War Building in UA Historic District Gains New Life for the Arts

Nelda Sanker

After starting out its life as a post-Civil War military laundry facility, a former maintenance building on The University of Alabama campus has been revived in service to the arts. Now known as the Arts Construction Building (ACB), the two-story structure will provide much needed studio space for sculpture graduate students in the College’s Department of Art and for theatre scene design and set construction in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

The laundry was constructed when the University underwent reconstruction in the late 1800s after being destroyed by Federal troops during the Civil War. The building was designed to be similar to the Romanesque/Gothic Revival style used for nearby Oliver-Barnard and Toumey Halls which were also built at that time, according to Dr. Robert Mellown, professor of art in the Department of Art.

In 1888 the University was a military school. The laundry contained the most modern equipment available to care for cadet uniforms, including a special press used to iron cadet collars, and was sited at the top of Marr’s Pond. Water came from Marr’s Spring which ran underneath it. Pump mechanisms drew the water into the laundry from the spring.

When the military system was abolished in 1903, it was assimilated into the Office of Facilities Maintenance as a plumbing shop. It remained so until its recent reassignment by UA’s Office of Academic Affairs.

Photo of building circa 1888 (left) and today (below).