Issue Highlights

Dean’s Message 2
Science and Engineering Complex Construction 3
New Perspectives on German Culture 4
Take and Give 5
Computing the Future 6
If You Can Make It There... 7
Peopling the Past 10
Faculty News 11
175th Birthday Party 14
New Advisory Board 15
Alumni News and Notes 16
Supporters 18
Pre-Civil War Dorms Revealed 36

Science and Engineering Complex Construction Begins

UA’s Science and Engineering Complex will house the Department of Biological Sciences and other UA science programs and is slated for completion by the summer of 2009.

Carl and Ann Jones Make Second Gift for Jones Regions Scholarships

In the same semester that students began receiving scholarships made possible by their first $1 million scholarship endowment gift, UA alumni Carl E. and Ann Karpinski Jones made a second $1 million gift to the Carl E. and Ann K. Jones Regions Endowed Scholarship.
Dean’s Message

The buzz on campus at the start of fall semester was about our new pedestrian central campus, a topic of conversation second only to the ensuing football season. The streets around the Quadangle are now dedicated solely to pedestrians and bicyclists while The University of Alabama’s new Crimson Ride System provides transport from outlying parking areas to classes and offices.

What a pleasant adjustment in atmosphere. The parked cars and roundabout traffic formerly characteristic of the areas around the Quad and Gorgas Library have given way to the quieter rhythm of walkers.

The pedestrian campus as well as the construction of our new $69 million Science and Engineering Complex (see front page story) are two of the most visible manifestations of a rapidly changing and improving University of Alabama. Less evident at first glance is the growth in our student body, one of the most important events on this campus in decades, not to mention a key factor in the former central campus traffic jams.

In 2003, President Witt set a goal to increase our student population by 8,000 to bring the University to the critical mass necessary to continue to thrive as a high quality, flagship institution. The University now has some 4,000 more students than in 2003. I have no doubt that we will be successful in reaching the target of 28,000 students at UA.

As President Witt has reported, we are growing in quality as well. In the last two years, UA has admitted 155 National Merit Scholars, ranking us 13th or better in the country among public universities in National Merit Scholar enrollments. This increase in new faces and bright young minds is certainly evident throughout the College of Arts and Sciences, the University’s largest academic division and the division where all UA students take their liberal arts core courses. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about many of our student accomplishments in this issue of the Collegian. I’m proud to say there are many more that we simply didn’t have space for in this issue.

For example, there are what I call the great “4.0 stories.” Our B. B. Comer Mathematics Medal was awarded to Adam Sneed of Memphis, Tennessee. A senior in math and English and a member of the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, Adam sports a 4.0 grade point average.

Jimmy R. Simmons of Columbus, MS, a senior in math and electrical engineering, also has a 4.0 GPA. He has earned an A+ in every math course he has taken and has received the Dr. Fred A. and Frances Pickens Lewis Endowed Scholarship.

Joshua Tyson of Dothan, the son of a math teacher and an electrician, is a junior majoring in math and engineering. He also has a 4.0, is taking graduate classes in his senior year, and has received the Thomas Waverly Palmer Mathematics Award.

As a mathematician, I can be accused of showing partiality to math majors here but, rest assured, there are similar “4.0 stories” in all of our majors.

Such stories of personal growth and accomplishment continually inspire us. And they point to the critical importance of another major event under way at the Capstone, one that will also have a lasting and decisive effect on the character of our institution, the College of Arts and Sciences. I’m particularly delighted that we successfully met an anonymous foundation’s generous offer to match $500,000 in endowments for art scholarships. Elsewhere in the Collegian, you will read the names of our friends who were instrumental in making this possible, bringing an impressive $1 million in additional scholarship endowments in the Department of Art and doubling the lasting impact of their gift in the process.

We will continue to work very hard in the next 20 months of the Capital Campaign to increase our scholarship endowments as well as faculty support.

To all our friends who have made capital campaign gifts (and many of your gifts are detailed in this Collegian), I extend my sincerest thanks. To our friends who have been thinking about sharing in this time of growth and bold new plans at the Capstone but have not yet placed their names on our roster of donors, I’d like to talk to you.

Aaron Vold Named Director of Development for the College

Tuscaloosa native Aaron Vold has been appointed director of development for the College. Vold will lead the College’s fund-raising efforts for the “Our Students. Our Future.” campaign and cultivate, solicit, and steward gifts to the College. He held a similar position at UA’s Capstone College of Nursing, where he served as director of advancement.

“As the largest college at The University of Alabama, the College of Arts and Sciences will play a significant role in the success of the ‘Our Students. Our Future.’ campaign,” said UA president Robert E. Witt. “I am confident that Aaron will be as successful in the College of Arts and Sciences as he was in the College of Nursing.”

Vold was instrumental in helping the College of Nursing raise more than $5 million toward its campaign goal. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama where he earned a bachelor’s degree in public relations and a master’s degree in business administration. Vold has previously held positions with two public relations firms in Birmingham, Big Communications and Lewis Communications.

“Our Students. Our Future.” capital campaign.

Each year, the College of Arts and Sciences awards approximately 500 scholarships. They are made possible thanks to the vision of those who established them. But as the number of highly qualified students grows, so does the need for scholarship support. Consider this: In the “4.0” department, UA has admitted in the last two years alone more than 1,349 students with high school grades of 4.0 or higher. Accomplished students rightfully look to their university for support of their hard work and future promise through scholarships. We have work to complete to meet their expectations and our own.

As part of “Our Students. Our Future.” The University of Alabama is seeking $250 million specifically for scholarships; the College’s portion of that goal is $20 million. I’m pleased to report that we have received $7 million in scholarships; we need $13 million to meet our goal. We have reached approximately 62 percent of our overall “Our Students. Our Future.” campaign objective, raising $16.7 million of our targeted $27 million.

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Aaron Vold, Director of Development for the College
State-of-the-art biology labs, a coffee shop, “interaction areas” and an intimate courtyard are part of the design for a new 195,000-square-foot, $69 million science and engineering complex now under construction on the UA campus.

Located next to Shelby Hall, the three-story brick facility includes stately two-story-high columns and broad walkways as well as research facilities, teaching labs, and offices.

The building will provide much-needed space for the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, and the College of Engineering. It will house 40 research labs, 47 support rooms, 25 teaching labs, and offices for 65 faculty and more than 150 postdoctoral staff, support staff, and graduate students.

“One of the reasons for building the complex is to foster an interdisciplinary relationship between undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty. We look forward to the unique research and collaborative opportunities that will certainly arise from this magnificent new building,” said Robert Olin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Located on the corner of Hackberry Lane and Campus Drive, the complex is part of a new “science corridor” at the University. Construction, which began this summer, included rerouting streets around the complex. Hackberry Lane will now pass to the east of Shelby Hall. The portion of Campus Drive that ran between Devotie Drive and Hackberry will be converted to extensive green spaces. Tree-lined walkways, sloping lawns, and several quad-rangles will encircle the complex.

Slated for completion in the summer of 2009, the complex will be home to biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, chemical and biological engineering, and science education.

The Department of Biological Sciences will move from the present Biology Building to the new complex, where the department will occupy its own wing. “This move will have a positive impact on our biological sciences faculty.

Illustration of the science and engineering complex
New Perspectives on a Misunderstood Culture

German Professor Thomas Fox uncovers complexities of German history and culture.

"I became a German professor by traveling to France," said Thomas Fox, professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. His adventure into the world of German began when he traveled to France during his undergraduate years at Wesleyan University in Connecticut.

"I went to France in search of European culture and history, but I spent too much time with my compatriots and didn’t learn as much French as I would have liked. After the semester concluded, I decided to travel around Europe. I got to Germany, fell in love with it, and the rest is history," said Fox.

With research in areas ranging from the Middle Ages to the Holocaust and with more than five books and 60 articles and reviews under his belt, Fox is now an established scholar in the field of German studies. His underlying objective throughout his research and teaching has been to bring to the world a new interpretation of today’s unified Germany.

"I think Germans are a misunderstood culture. It's as if the concept of Germans was frozen after 1945. They are portrayed in a one-dimensional light; either as the militant Germans from old World War II movies or else wearing their native lederhosen and drinking beer. These images keep being recycled in many people’s minds. But Germans have become quite pacifist; for example, they have troops in Afghanistan but they are more interested in city building and infrastructure than in combat," said Fox.

According to Fox, political and national identity, particularly for German Jews, has been an illusive concept.

In his highly acclaimed book Stated Memory: The Holocaust and East Germany, Fox investigated the perception of the Holocaust in post–World War II Communist Germany. "I found that a good many high-profile East German Communists were Jews. To some it seemed like a shortcut to assimilation and acceptance because they could trade their Jewish identity for a communist facade," said Fox. "But the price was high: they agreed not to talk about the Holocaust, about East Germany’s anti-Israel policies, or about East Bloc anti-Semitism."

During his 12 years at The University of Alabama, Fox has been able to educate his students about his research.

Fox has created a popular course among the students called the Holocaust in Literature and Film. "I think this class is very important to the German curriculum because as we get farther away from the actual event, and as the last survivors die, the public perception will increasingly be formed by literature and especially film. I also want students to keep in mind that there is a structure of prejudice and that events like the Holocaust are not necessarily limited to a single place and time," said Fox.

According to his students, the course has been eye-opening. "I learned so much about the Holocaust in Dr. Fox’s class," said James Garner, a sophomore from Auburn, majoring in German. "At the beginning of the semester he had us anonymously write our stereotypes of Jews and then at the end of the semester we looked over what we had written and realized how much we had been unjustly stereotyping this rich culture. One of the things that really struck me was the long-standing history of prejudice against Jews, going back to the 1300s. I’ve had a couple of other classes with Dr. Fox and he has really opened my eyes to many different German topics."

After his initial two-and-a-half-year stay in Germany, Fox returned to the United States in the 1980s to pursue a doctorate in German at Yale University. Fox’s first area of German research was in literature. His dissertation focused on 19th-century European women writers.

"The German literary canon at Yale at the time was focused on male writers. British female 19th-century authors such as Jane Austen and the Brontës were studied but not German women writers. I set out to find some female authors, for example, Louise von Franz. I was able to introduce her not only to Americans but also to Germans who had not previously known much about her works," said Fox.

Fox has made numerous efforts to make the American public more aware of what German culture has to offer. He spoke recently at the German film festival in Tuscaloosa and the Jewish film festival in Montgomery. Fox has also been invited to give nonacademic talks on German culture in Boston, Albuquerque, and St. Louis, among other venues.

He has received the Alabama-German Partnership’s Culture and Education Award from the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany for his diverse research on German culture. Fox is also working on curriculum collaborations between the German program and the College of Commerce and Business Administration.

Back on the research trail, Fox spent last summer in Berlin archives researching the surveillance of East German Jewish Communists by the East German secret police, or Stasi, while wife, Barbara Fischer, also a professor of German in the College’s Department of Modern Languages and Classics, and their children, Katharina and Christopher, renewed family ties in Germany.

Fox’s summer of research was made possible through the College’s Leadership Board Faculty Fellowship. Fox said the field of modern German culture remains rich because new archival material continues to surface and bring new insights.

"I had a chance to look at the Stasi files, including one they had kept on me. There was approximately one informant for every six people in East Germany. For example, if one went to a dinner party for 8 to 10 people, you could be confident that at least one person was an informant. These Stasi files have not been seen by many people so I always look forward to finding new bits of information and making it available to everyone," said Fox.

Fox will continue researching the Berlin archives over the next three years and plans to publish a book to be titled The Negotiation of Jewish-Communist Identity.
Take and Give

Demondrae Thurman, assistant professor of euphonium and tuba in the College’s School of Music, has made his mark nationally as a critically acclaimed performer. And he has never forgotten how he got so far.

“I owe a lot of my success to my band director, Bill Fessmeyer, who taught me at Northport Junior High School in 1986. When he sent me to The University of Alabama during high school for private euphonium lessons, I was under the impression that it was a recruiting effort by the University. Not until many years later did I learn that Fessmeyer had paid for my lessons. I’ll always be grateful for his belief in me,” said Thurman.

Those high school lessons revealed Thurman’s extraordinary musical talent, which has now made him one of the most recognized names in the latest generation of euphonium soloists. A native of Tuscaloosa, Thurman began playing the euphonium in his seventh-grade band class.

“I remember not being sure what a euphonium was, but as I played it, I learned to love its velvety tone. Its sound is a mix between a French horn and a trombone but I would say that it’s most comparable visually to a tuba,” said Thurman.

Thurman’s abilities soon caught the eye of the School of Music’s assistant trombone professor, Dan Drill, the man who taught Thurman and is now Thurman’s mentor and adviser.

“Even when Thurman was only in junior high, he demonstrated top-drawer talent. I attended his concerts and Fessmeyer would single him out. And in a relatively short time since then, his musical career has skyrocketed to the point that he is now a world-class performer,” said Drill.

His 2005 debut recording, Soliloquies, was nominated for Best Euphonium recording by the International Tuba and Euphonium Association. He has a chapter in the book The Brass Player’s Cookbook: Creative Recipes for a Successful Performance. Professional brass players from all over the world are included in this collection of mini lessons tailored for brass players.

In order to give himself musical breadth, Thurman also plays the tuba, baritone horn, bass trumpet, and trombone. As a trombonist, Thurman has played with such Motown recording artists as the Temptations, the Four Tops, and the Supremes.

While the tuba and euphonium don’t typically bring to mind terms such as “hip” and “thrilling” as a trombone does, an individual need only spend a few minutes listening to Thurman talk about or play his instruments to reach a fresh appreciation of these beautifully mellow instruments.

As a founding member of the internationally recognized Sotto Voce Quartet, a tuba/euphonium ensemble, Thurman, with characteristic enthusiasm and delight, is introducing an appreciation for his instruments to a larger audience. He said of his quartet, “It is arguably the hippest thing I do musically. I see us as revolutionary because we are redefining lowbrass instruments. The euphonium no longer has to be heard just in a military band. We are helping create a new genre of stimulating tuba/euphonium chamber music.”

In 2006 Sotto Voce won the Roger Bobo Award for Best Chamber Music Recording for their second recording, titled Viva Voce! The Complete Recordings of John Stevens.

“I’ll never forget playing our piece ‘Consequences’ at the 1999 U.S. Army Band International Tuba/Euphonium Conference. The piece starts with these tremendous elephantine-like riffs and during its five-minute playing time, it introduces exciting classical and jazz materials. It brought down the house that day. Since then, it has received significant applause and praise in Hungary, Germany, and England. People keep telling me they’ve never heard anything like it,” said Thurman.

Thurman’s name has become a household word for euphonium players worldwide through his invention of the Demondrae model mouthpiece for euphoniums, and he is in the process of designing a new euphonium with the brass instrument manufacturer Miraphone.

Thurman’s nearly boundless energy for his work, family, and students is evident. It is not unusual for him to work a 12-hour day teaching, recruiting, attending faculty meetings, practicing, and performing. He attends a student performance almost every night.

“Even with the baby he had a few months ago, Mr. Thurman still makes time to help me,” said one of Thurman’s students, Ryan Black, a master’s degree student in music performance from Tallahassee, Fla. “He’s stayed up late with me many times, helping prep me for an audition. But, on the other hand, he’s a dedicated dad. A few days ago, he was playing with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra but he wanted to be with his son so much that he drove back home to Tuscaloosa after every performance just to see him. The next day he would drive back to Atlanta. This went on for a few days.”

In April, Thurman and his wife, Jenny Grégoire, an accomplished violinist who also teaches at the School of Music, had their first child, Steffan Michel Thurman. Although his son’s birth has extended his workday even more, Thurman sees it in a positive light. “I love being a dad and having Steffan has really inspired my performances. I have a whole new set of emotions that I can now express musically,” said Thurman.

Thurman tends to bring out the best emotions in others as well. In the School of Music, he is known for his optimism in life, his grand smiles, and his informal warmth. “Without question, Thurman was one of the best students I ever had, but beyond that he projects such an infectious positive attitude, you can never help but be uplifted by him. He sparkles both on and offstage,” said Drill.

Now, at the relatively young age of 32, Thurman says, it’s time for him to give back. “Since I returned to Tuscaloosa, I have noticed some kids who play really well. There is a lot of untapped talent in this town, and I’m ready to help them the way I was helped because I couldn’t have made it here without those people who encouraged me along the way,” said Thurman.
Carl and Ann Jones Make Second Gift for Jones Regions Scholarships

In the same semester that students began receiving scholarships made possible by their first $1 million scholarship endowment, UA alumni Carl E. and Ann Karpsinski Jones made a second $1 million gift to the Carl E. and Ann K. Jones Regions Endowed Scholarship. The Jones Regions Scholarship endowment was established in 2005 with a $1 million gift from Regions Financial Corporation in honor of the Joneses shortly before Carl Jones retired as Regions chief executive officer. The Joneses matched that original gift and made their second $1 million gift last fall.

“Carl and Ann Jones know that the quality of life in our state and our communities is irrevocably linked to the opportunities available for higher education. In their gifts to The University of Alabama, they see the young men and women whose lives will be advanced thanks to these scholarships and who, in turn, will contribute positively to our communities. The University is truly fortunate to be the beneficiary of their generosity and of their leadership in our capital campaign,” said Robert Olin, dean of the College.

The Joneses, who are both 1962 alumni of the University, cochair the University’s “Our Students. Our Future.” capital campaign.

The Jones Regions Scholarships are designated for students in both the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration and the College of Arts and Sciences. Priority consideration is given to full-time undergraduates who are dependents of employees of Regions Financial Corp or its subsidiaries. The first Jones Regions Scholarships were awarded for the 2006–2007 academic year to College of Arts and Sciences students Joseph F. Gravelle of Trussville and to Barnard Hanan, Richard Hanan, and Kayla Warren, all of Montgomery. College of Commerce and Business Administration students selected were Andrew Talbert of Spanish Fort and Robert Wesley of Tallahassee, Florida.

Jones Regions Scholarship awardees for the 2007–2008 academic year in the College of Arts and Sciences are Kristen Abernathy of Trussville; and Dianna Duffy of La Place, Louisiana.

“Receiving this scholarship means so much to me and my parents. I am very grateful for the Carl and Ann Jones Scholarship. It rewards not only me for my work as a student but also my mother for her hard work as an employee of Regions Bank,” said Duffy.

Recipients in the College of Commerce and Business Administration are Chase Bottcher, Matthew Kirkpatrick, and Tyler Rudman of Birmingham; Kelli Connor of Hoover; Camden Kitchin of Lincoln; and Lakendrick Knight of Montgomery.

The scholarship is renewable for four years for students in good standing.

Carl Jones, who received his bachelor’s degree in banking and finance from UA, has served on the UA President’s Cabinet since the 1970s as well as on the College of Commerce and Business Administration’s Board of Visitors. Ann Jones received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from UA; she is a member and past chair of the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board. Her career in education included 15 years as a middle school teacher and the college counselor at Mobile’s UMS-Wright Preparatory School.
Last year, theatre faculty and students took center stage twice in the Big Apple with Seth Panitch’s play and UA’s New York Showcase Bama on Broadway.

Seth Panitch, assistant professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, wrote six versions of his play Dammit Shakespeare! before he got it right. His creative craftsmanship paid off when his play was produced in Los Angeles to rave reviews and suggestions that he take it to New York.

In August 2006 Panitch took not only his play but also University of Alabama theatre students to perform in New York. The production, financed with funds awarded by UA’s research advisory committee, took place at the well-known Urban Stages Theatre.

“The chance for undergraduate students to perform in New York City is very rare. They only had a week to set up and perform the play, and they did an outstanding job. It was a totally new experience for them and their excitement and energy level carried across to the New York audience, which is an extremely difficult audience to please,” said Panitch.

Panitch teaches acting and movement at UA, directs mainstage productions, and is in charge of the master of fine arts program in acting pedagogy. An actor, director, playwright, and screenwriter, he has written plays and screenplays for both Hollywood and New York City audiences.

“The development of this play, in many ways, mirrored my development as a writer and an actor. This is the sixth production and each time it’s done, I’ve rewritten it from a new vantage point, as both my development as an artist and my comprehension of the art have changed,” Panitch said.

His script for Dammit Shakespeare! was originally written as a two-man play for the Los Angeles theatre scene. There it caught the eye of theatre critics from New York City who encouraged him to rewrite and develop it. Since then it has evolved into a six-person production.

His play takes a decidedly different approach to the life of Shakespeare and the actor Richard Burbage. Shakespeare’s star performer at the Globe Theatre. In the tradition of the American musical, Dammit Shakespeare! finds its “songs” in Shakespeare’s own words. In lieu of singing, characters express themselves in appropriate passages from Shakespeare’s text, telling the story of Shakespeare’s life through his written words.

“It’s more about writing and acting than it is about Shakespeare and Burbage,” said Panitch. “It’s an artistic divorce that takes place on the eve of their final performance together, as each struggles with his own jealousies toward the contributions of the other.”

Tuscaloosa locals got a chance to see Panitch’s play in 2006 when it was performed at UA’s Allen Bales Theatre in Rowand-Johnson Hall.

“I call the actors the company, so they feel there is a sense of teamwork and that everyone is working together. What is truly significant to me is not so much the final product, but rather the process. The most rewarding thing for me is to have a student leave my class at the end of the semester having grown as an artist,” said Panitch.

Panitch will return to New York in March 2008 when he codirects UA’s New York Showcase, Bama on Broadway. Since 2003 UA students have traveled to New York during their spring break to put on their off-off Broadway production at the Lark Theatre on Eighth Avenue.

The New York Showcase provides graduating seniors in theatre the opportunity to be seen by industry professionals such as casting directors and agents in search of new artists. The annual Showcase is made possible with the financial support of the Office of the Dean in the College plus some aid from the Department of Theatre and Dance; the department is seeking a permanent source of funding.

“This year we really hit our stride. Out of the nine students performing at the showcase, five were signed by major agents and a sixth got an audition with the vice president of casting at Warner Brothers,” said Panitch.

Not only have the students had great success, according to Panitch, but the Department of Theatre and Dance has begun to build a solid reputation in New York. “There is a lot of competition since there are so many fresh, young actors in New York. Plus these agents have the memory of a fly so if we don’t remind them at least once a year what our students can do, they’ll forget about us. Bama on Broadway is of utmost importance to our department. I look forward to bringing UA students to New York for many years to come, thanks to the Showcase,” said Panitch.
UA’s Goldwater Scholars Hail from the College

This year, three UA students have received one of the country’s most elite academic scholarships and all have majors in the College. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation selected Andrew J. Vincent, a chemistry major from Birmingham, Jackson R. Switzer, a biochemistry major from Gulfport, Miss., and Daniel E. Roberts, a biological sciences major from Amston, Conn., as 2007 Goldwater Scholars.

Vincent, Switzer, and Roberts were among 317 undergraduate sophomores and juniors selected on the basis of academic merit to be this year’s Goldwater Scholars. These scholars were selected from more than 1,100 mathematics, science, and engineering students from schools across the nation; they were nominated by their colleges and universities for the prestigious award.

Andrew J. Vincent has been working in the computational chemistry group headed by David Dixon, Ramsay Chair in the Department of Chemistry in the College, for three semesters in the UA Computer-Based Honors Program. Vincent is planning a career in biochemical medical research “most likely dealing with newly appearing antibiotic resistant bacteria or complex, seemingly incurable, retroviruses,” he said.

Jackson R. Switzer has been active on campus as a member of the UA Blackburn Institute, the Other Club, a Gamma Sigma Epsilon Chemistry Honors Club officer, and a participant in the Chemistry Undergraduate Research Program. He also serves as a volunteer in the YMCA after School Program. He works part-time at Phifer Wire, as well as for the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.

Switzer plans to obtain his doctoral in biochemistry and pursue a career researching chemical weapons and their effects. “Through the study of chemical weapons I look to enhance methods for detection that will help stop their mitigation,” Switzer said.

Daniel E. Roberts has career aspirations to work as a research scientist focusing on finding effective treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. He plans to accomplish this by “seeking to answer the fundamental scientific questions that underlie the abnormal conditions.”

In the College, Roberts has been conducting research on the genetics of neurological diseases using the fruit fly model. The one- and two-year Goldwater scholarships cover tuition, fees, books, and board up to $7,500 per year.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established in 1986 to honor Sen. Barry M. Goldwater and to encourage students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. It is the premier undergraduate award of its type.

Boyd, Wilcox Named to USA Today Academic Teams

NELDA SANKER

Andrew Vincent, Daniel Roberts and Jackson Switzer, all in the College, are this year’s Goldwater Scholarship recipients.
College Student Receives Prestigious Amgen Fellowship to Teach in Hawaii

While most students travel to Hawaii for pleasure, Robyn Thomas, a 2007 biological sciences graduate, has been sent there recently on a two-year all-expenses paid trip to teach. Thomas, of Trussville, Ala., has received an Amgen Fellowship with the Teach for America program to teach in the Honolulu, Hawaii, school district. The fellowship provides each recipient with a $2,000 signing bonus for joining Teach for America and includes an all-expenses paid trip to an annual symposium in Washington, D.C., in the spring of each year. Thomas is one of only 50 people across the country to be selected by Teach for America for an Amgen Fellowship. “I’m a Girl Scout through and through so I see this program as yet another opportunity to give back since it targets teaching opportunities in rural or inner city locations, which don’t get a lot of attention in terms of education,” Thomas said in May before leaving for Hawaii. “I know Hawaii seems like a surprising destination but there are definitely areas that are much less affluent and touristy that get too easily overlooked. That’s where I’m going.”

The application process for Teach for America is very competitive. In 2006 the Teach for America program only accepted 12.6 percent of the 19,000 applicants. “The process was pretty arduous. I had to fill out an extensive application. A few weeks later I had a phone interview where they asked me the craziest questions in order to get to know my personality. Then a bit later I had a five-hour face-to-face interview. For one part of it I was the ‘teacher’ in front of a group of people. At that point I got really excited because it was so inspirational to think about teaching these kids and really making a difference,” said Thomas.

Teach for America is among the top 10 entry-level employers of college graduates, according to CollegeGrad.com. The Amgen Foundation partners with Teach for America to help improve the quality of math and science education in America’s underserved public schools. The Amgen Fellowship supports the aim of doubling by 2010 the number of college math and science graduates who join Teach for America as corps members.

Thomas, who hopes to teach biology and chemistry, will receive a master of education in teaching degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa by the end of her teaching time as part of Teach for America’s partnership with neighboring universities. Teach for America corps members must attend night classes for two years in order to obtain this degree. “Although I am excited about obtaining my master’s degree by the end of this experience, what I am really looking forward to is becoming a mentor to these students who may not otherwise get the attention they need. I just can’t wait to see their faces,” said Thomas.

Guy Caldwell, associate professor of biological sciences, provided a strong recommendation for Thomas’s application. Caldwell called Thomas a “highly dedicated and talented young woman.”

Thomas, who has worked under Caldwell’s direction in his research laboratory since 2004, was an intern of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. While at The University of Alabama she worked on a project that investigated the relationship between polyunsaturated fatty acids and the human gene torsinA, a protein linked to a human movement disorder called dystonia that is similar to Parkinson’s disease.

Thomas was also member of the Blount Undergraduate Initiative and the University Honors Program. She was active as an Ambassador for the College, a position in which she served the University by recruiting new students. She also served as editor in chief of JOSHUA, the Journal of Science and Health at the University of Alabama.

Thomas is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

College Scores High with Two Hollings Scholars

From exploring computational environmental options to studying DNA of corals, two College students are being nationally recognized for their top-notch research by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Rachael Blevins of Maryville, Tenn., and Kathryn Tippey of Tuscaloosa have received the prestigious and highly competitive Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship given by the NOAA.

Blevins, a junior with double major in marine science and biological sciences, is a Presidential Scholar and a member of both the University Honors program and the Computer-Based Honors program. Through the Computer-Based Honors program, Blevins has worked with Julie Olson, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, studying the effect of dark spot syndrome on coral morphology. She has also worked in Olson’s lab as an undergraduate researcher studying DNA associated with diseased and healthy corals.

Tippey, a sophomore double majoring in economics and mathematics, was recently inducted into the Elliot Society and Omicron Delta Kappa. She is a member of the Computer-Based Honors program and the University Honors program. Through the Computer-based Honors program with David A. Dixon, UA Ramsay Chair in Chemistry, on a computational environmental science project. 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 NOAA or an NOAA-approved facility between the junior and senior years.

Some 110 students were chosen nationally this year. Students studying in the sciences, mathematics, engineering, information sciences, social sciences, and teacher education are eligible to apply.

The Hollings Scholarship Program is designed to improve undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science and improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.
By the time anthropology doctoral student Brad R. Lieb completed his master’s thesis, he had solved a centuries-old mystery about what happened to a historic Native American tribe. In addition, his archaeological findings have sparked interest among the descendants of the 18th-century people he studied.

It all started when Brad Lieb was a young boy hunting for American Indian arrowheads along the old Natchez Trace in his hometown of Ridgeland, Miss. Fast forward about 20 years and Lieb is now the first recipient of the annual Chickasaw Nation Heritage Preservation Award presented to him by Chickasaw Nation leaders Gov. Bill Anoatubby and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel.

“For me to receive this award was both humbling and gratifying. Beyond that, this award has influenced the way I interpret the archaeological past. To me, the greatest benefit is opening up an old part of the culture and history of the Chickasaw Nation for its modern-day people who still derive much of their culture and identity from being Chickasaw,” said Lieb, a doctoral student in the College’s Anthropology Department.

At an October 2006 ceremony he described “moving,” Lieb took a seat beside many modern-day Chickasaws.

“Mr. Butler, I am doing something... very much enjoyed and feel very fortunate to be recognized by them,” said Lieb. “I’ve really tried to work on bridging that gap and creating a trusting bond with a people who have long been mistreated by the government and people of this country.”

Lieb is currently working to preserve and interpret Chickasaw heritage sites in the vicinity of rapidly expanding Tupelo, Miss. “It’s so important for people to be aware of and preserve these significant archaeological sites. Whole areas at times have been bulldozed without people knowing that they are destroying the evidence of a rich and ancient past,” he said. He also wants to complete his analysis of National Park Service collections of Chickasaw material.

Lieb is now incorporating his master’s degree research into a doctoral dissertation, delving deeper into the Natchez-Chickasaw connection, as well as trying to understand what happened after many of the Natchez left the Chickasaws in the mid-18th century. His career goals include research and teaching as well as employing the Chickasaw Nation’s Natchez-Chickasaw Heritage Preservation Act.

“Before 1991, in some sectors there was an ‘us’ versus ‘them’ attitude between archaeologists and Indians,” said Lieb. “I’m doing something I really enjoy and feel very fortunate to be recognized by them,” said Lieb.

MRAM might replace DRAM and flash, and it might even possibly replace your hard drive. It could be sort of a universal memory. The military has expressed interest in this type of memory because it would be less likely to be damaged by radiation,” Butler said.

If a computer company Web site one day touts its latest machine as "equipped with MRAM," a key hurdle in the development will likely be traced back to Butler and his colleagues’ 2001 calculations.

Since 2001, Butler has directed MINT, named by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as one of the 29 Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers in the United States. MINT has carried this designation since 1994 when it was chosen as one of the 11 original centers recognized by the NSF.

An example of the type of Natchez pottery identified among Chickasaw artifacts.
Two College Chairs Complete 58 Years of Combined Leadership

In what may be a UA record for administrative service, two of the College’s longest-serving department chairs concluded their administrative duties this year after completing 58 years of combined leadership and steering their areas from fledging academic units to departments with national reputations.

“We are empire builders,” said Ed Williams, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. “These departments have been our babies and we have nurtured them from the very beginning.”

Both Williams and Jim Salem, chair of the Department of American Studies, launched their departments from the bottom up.

Salem, who joined the faculty in 1967, was director of the American studies program from 1968 to 1975. In 1984 he became chair of the newly formed Department of American Studies. Williams, hired as a UA faculty member in 1971, has been chair of his department since 1979. His 28 years of chair service make him the longest-continuously serving chair in the College; Salem’s 30 nonconsecutive years of service make him the longest-serving chair in the history of the College.

Williams, a theatre faculty member in what was once the Department of Speech, oversaw the 1979 move of the dance program from the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation in the College of Education to the College of Arts and Sciences. He also established the department’s existing and evolving relationships with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Salem has seen the Department of American Studies grow from a handful of courses to one of the nation’s few American studies departments. Salem began his department with only four seminars. It now has 42 undergraduate courses and 27 graduate courses.

Williams plans to continue as a faculty member following a yearlong sabbatical. Salem plans to retire in June 2008. Alumni can wish Salem and Williams well at jsalem@tenhoor.as.ua.edu and ewilliam@theatre.as.ua.edu.

Kevin Redding

Kevin Redding, associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, has been chosen as one of three scholars in the nation to receive a Fulbright Fellowship to Paris, France, this year. He is one of only four UA professors to receive a Fulbright this year.

Redding, who was awarded the fellowship to continue his groundbreaking research on the chemistry of photosynthesis, has chosen to work at the Institute of Physico-Chemical Biology (IBPC), in Paris. In addition to research, Redding will present guest lectures at the IBPC and affiliated University of Paris campuses.

Redding has also received a National Science Foundation Early Career Award worth $670,000 over a five-year period. He will use funds from both awards to aid his research in Paris.

Dennis L. Peck

Dennis L. Peck, professor of sociology, has coedited a two-volume, 1,500-page reference handbook that the American Sociological Association has indicated it will be using in its efforts to promote sociology and policy decision-making in Washington, D.C.

Peck spent more than three years writing and editing the 106-chapter 21st Century Sociology: A Reference Handbook. The book provides a comprehensive overview of the discipline of sociology. It also presents, in a single definitive resource, a body of knowledge accumulated during the past three decades. The textbook was coedited by Clifton D. Bryant of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

A member of the College since 1978, Peck served for six years as editor of Sociological Inquiry, the sociology international honor society journal of Alpha Kappa Delta. He has served or currently serves as a member of several editorial boards. Peck also had editorial contributions in the four-volume Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior and the two-volume Handbook of Death and Dying.

Ron Buta

Ron Buta, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, has recently cowritten The de Vaucouleurs Atlas of Galaxies, published by Cambridge Press. The book describes what is known about the origin of different galaxy types in the context of modern research through digital pictures. No other previously published galaxy atlas has used digital images to portray these galaxies.

Buta cowrote The de Vaucouleurs Atlas of Galaxies with the intent of digitally showcasing more than 500 galaxies such as Whirlpool, Andromeda, and Bear Paw galaxies, among others.

The book is named after Buta’s doctoral thesis supervisor, Gerard de Vaucouleurs (1918–1995), one of the 20th century’s leading astronomers. It illustrates a galaxy classification system that de Vaucouleurs published in the late 1950s.

For this comprehensive illustration of galaxy morphology, Buta solicited pictures from astronomy laboratories all over the world and then calibrated them to make them suitable for the atlas.

The book was cowritten by Harold G. Corwin Jr., research scientist at the Infrared Processing Analysis Center of the California Institute of Technology, and Stephen C. Odewahn, resident astronomer on the Hobby-Eberly Telescope, McDonald Observatory, of the University of Texas at Austin.
Faculty News

Caldwell Wins Best Young Investigator Award

Kim Caldwell, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, was presented the Best Young Investigator Award by the Movement Disorders Society (MDS) at the 3,000-person International Congress on Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders in Kyoto, Japan, last year. The MDS is an international professional society of clinicians, scientists, and other healthcare professionals who are interested in Parkinson’s disease, related neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental disorders, hyperkinetic movement disorders, and abnormalities in muscle tone and motor control.

Caldwell is director of the UA Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Rural Science Scholars Program and a fellow of the Blount Undergraduate Initiative in the College where she teaches a course on the societal impact of the Human Genome Project. She is a former National Institute of Health National Research Service Award Fellowship recipient and was a Revson Fellow of the Rockefeller University.

A self-described “microscope guru and queen of cytokinesis,” Caldwell is also the administrative liaison of the Department of Biological Sciences’ HHMI grant. She designed and teaches an introduction to research for HHMI student interns called “The Language of Research.” For her innovative teaching, Caldwell has been named an Education Fellow in the Life Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences.

Bishop’s Painting Selected for National Portrait Gallery of Smithsonian

Brian Bishop’s portrait Untitled (Missing Lawrence) was included this year in an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Bishop, assistant professor in the Department of Art, was chosen as a finalist in the first U.S. national portrait competition, the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition.

A panel of seven internationally renowned jurors chose 51 paintings and sculptures from more than 4,000 entries for inclusion in the exhibition. The National Portrait Gallery competition will be held triennially.

The exhibition marks the grand opening of the Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture, which houses the National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian Museum of American Art. Both museums have been closed for seven years to accommodate an extensive renovation of the historic Patent Office Building.

The exhibition, which opened in July 2006, was on display through February 2007.

Evans a Recipient of American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Award

Brian Evans, assistant professor in the Department of Art, received the 2006–2007 ASCAPLUS award in the concert music division from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP).

ASCAP is a membership association of more than 285,000 U.S. composers, songwriters, lyricists, and music publishers of every kind of music. ASCAPLUS provides cash and recognition to active writers in the early and midstages of their careers. Awards are based on the unique prestige value of each writer’s catalog of original compositions as well as recent performances in areas not surveyed by the society.

In addition to his varied and extensive work in the visual arts, Evans has a background in electronic music. His digitally generated visual art, both time-based and static, has been widely exhibited and included in numerous professional journals. His professional articles have also appeared in such prestigious publications as Leonardo and the Futurist.

Benke Selected as Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor

Arthur C. Benke, a professor of biological sciences whose latest book has won national honors, is the recipient of the University’s Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award.

This award is presented annually to a UA faculty member who is judged by a selection committee to have made extraordinary contributions that reflect credit on the individual, his or her field of study, students, and the University.

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

A freshwater ecologist, Benke has taught in the College for 22 years, and his Rivers of North America, which he coedited with Colbert Cushing, won the 2005 Award for Excellence (Best Book in Geology and Geography) by the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers. With a foreword by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., president of Waterkeeper Alliance, the book is considered a single source of information on North America’s major river basins.

Arthur Benke
Clark Gains Rare Access to Vatican Secret Archives

Anthony Clark, assistant professor in the Department of History, had access to the Vatican Secret Archives and the pope’s private library in Vatican City last summer to research 14th- through 20th-century letters between European and Chinese monarchs.

“This is an extremely rare opportunity,” said Clark, who specializes in Chinese history. “The ability to access and analyze this information will improve historical understanding.”

The research is for Clark’s upcoming book Martyrs of the Middle Kingdom: The Catholic Saints of China, a historical study of the recently canonized missionaries and Chinese converts who were tortured and killed during China’s Boxer Uprising at the turn of the 20th century. Chinese troops slaughtered foreigners and then destroyed or suppressed records of the event. However, a few surviving priests smuggled some records away, which now are believed to be in the Vatican Secret Archives.

“This research will result in the first-time publishing of many accounts and photographs of the Christian massacres in northern China,” Clark added.

Halli and Richards Receive Premier Awards

Robert Halli Jr., professor in the Department of English and dean of UA’s Honors College, and Norvin Richards, professor in the Department of Philosophy, are the faculty recipients of UA’s 2007 Premier Awards.

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes excellence of character and service to humanity, was presented to Halli. While Halli’s most visible work for the University has been through his parallel role as dean of the Honors College, as an English professor his passion for his subject makes him popular with students. His formidable work ethic as a faculty member makes him a sought-after member of various committees and groups.

Richards is the recipient of the Mayer Award, which recognizes a faculty member who exemplifies integrity, selfless service, and leadership at UA and in the community while making significant contributions to student life.

Richards has had, in the words of one nominator, “profound and positive influences on our campus and our students.” He has served the campus and community in many ways, especially in dealing with medical ethics issues, working long hours on myriad committees, and in setting an example of personal ethics and unqualified integrity.

Halli and Richards can be contacted at rhalli@bama.ua.edu and nrichard@tenhoor.as.ua.edu respectively.

Megraw Receives Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award

Rich Megraw, assistant professor in the Department of American Studies, is one of the four recipients of the 2006 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award (OCTA), the University’s highest honor for excellence in teaching.

Established in 1976, OCTA recognizes dedication to the teaching profession and the positive impact outstanding teachers have on their students.

Megraw joined the College in August 1990. A Distinguished Teaching Fellow in the College, Megraw teaches and contributes to team-taught freshman survey courses as well as courses for upperclassmen. He has taught both halves of the senior-level undergraduate/entry-level graduate course “The American Experience,” as well as the department’s graduate colloquium.

Brodsy Receives Psychology–Law Society’s Highest Honor

Stanley L. Brodsky, professor in the Department of Psychology, is the recipient of the American Psychology–Law Society Award for distinguished contributions in psychology and the law.

This award, one of the most prestigious conferred by the American Psychological Association, is not presented every year. Instead it is awarded only when a nominee is deemed worthy of the award. It has been given only six times. Previous recipients include former attorney general Janet Reno and former Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun.

Brodsky is one of the foremost authorities in research and practice on court testimony. His several books in the area helped carve out a systematic approach to effective testimony. Brodsky helped found the American Psychology–Law Society and played an integral role in creating the field of psychology and the law.

His research interests include forensic psychology, expert witness effectiveness, competency for execution, jury selection, trial consultation, and mitigation evidence and testimony. His current work has focused especially on witness research.
College Celebrates

Over 100 faculty and staff from throughout the College sang a rousing happy birthday on Thursday, April 17, 2007 to the College in honor of its 175th birthday. The festivities included door prizes, recognition by Dean Olin of faculty emeriti, introduction of special guests such as deans emeriti Doug Jones and Jim Yarbrough, music by the College’s Jazz Ensemble, elaborate party favors and displays from each division of the College. And although the party was slated to end at 6 p.m., faculty and staff lingered longer visiting and reminiscing about how the College has changed and grown in its 175 years.
On April 26, 2007, graduates of the Department of Criminal Justice who are employed in the field of criminal justice gathered in Farrah Hall for the inaugural meeting of the Criminal Justice Alumni Advisory Board. The board’s focus is on mentoring the more than 80 students who graduate each year from the Department of Criminal Justice and who will be the next generation of criminal justice professionals. Board members will provide advice, career counseling, and references for criminal justice graduates and offer social networking and fellowship for alumni.

“Many people think that all one can do with a criminal justice degree is become a cop. And that is a great profession, but there are many other career possibilities, from activities involving the gaming industry to postal inspecting to investigative opportunities. There is a lot out there for these students. Our alumni can provide a solid foundation of knowledge for them based on our experiences in the field,” said founding president Chad Allen (2004; M.S., 2006), who is an officer with the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.


Details about meetings, information about the board, and membership forms can be found at bama.ua.edu/~bamacj.

New Criminal Justice Advisory Board Focuses on Student Careers

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Lessons in Switching to Plan B

For Dallas commercial real estate developer Maurice Crowe, learning to restart after life threw him several curves proved to be the catalyst to a successful and satisfying career.

One of the most instructive experiences in personal growth, said Maurice Crowe (history, 1977), is not how we set a plan for our life and achieve it. It is what we do when that plan doesn’t work, when we abandon the plan, or when we just don’t have a plan at all.

“I think I’m a good example of not catching on very early, educationally and careerwise, and having to restart. And that has taught me a valuable lesson: What matters in life isn’t whether you are going to fail. You will. What matters is what you’re going to do when you come up short of succeeding,” Crowe said.

Today, Crowe heads one of the largest privately owned real estate development companies in Texas, which he founded in 1987. RM Crowe owns, manages, or leases some six million square feet of commercial real estate with a total market capitalization of $750 million. Crowe said his favorite part of the business is structuring real estate financial transactions, although he didn’t foresee finance or real estate as a career. That only came after a few all-important detours in his life.

The first came after he graduated from UA in 1977, the third generation of his family to attend UA. A native of Mobile, he is the son of Rae and Carol Evans Crowe. He attended UA on a partial tennis scholarship and was a member of the tennis team.

“My father is an attorney in Mobile, and I always thought that, after law school, I would practice law. But at the same time, something seemed missing in that equation. After graduation I ended up playing tennis for a year because I couldn’t get into the first law school I applied to, including The University of Alabama School of Law.”

That detour, Crowe said, taught him perseverance.

“Getting a law degree was more of a need, something I had to do, and I just needed to find a way to do it. I was admitted to Cumberland School of Law, and I was glad but also scared, because I was not all that great of a student. At Cumberland I gave it a real good shot, did well, and matured a lot,” he recalled.

That “something else out there” came as a job offer from a law firm in Dallas. Crowe worked there two years and realized, after a considerable amount of internal debate, that practicing law was not for him. “I wasn’t sure if I was not meeting the demands of practice, if I was truly ill-suited for law, or if I was more suited to do something else. But I didn’t think I was going to be good at it or happy with it,” Crowe said.

Dallas and Houston were in the midst of the commercial real estate “gold rush” of the 1980s. Crowe found a job in 1984 with Criswell Development Company raising capital for the construction of office towers and for the acquisition of commercial properties and land.

“How long was he employed before Crowe realized he loved the work? “About two days,” Crowe said. “I really couldn’t believe they were actually paying me to do this.”

Between 1984 and 1987 more than 40 million square feet of office space was added to the city, and Dallas was growing by 100,000 jobs per year. Then, in 1986, it stopped.

“The price of oil went from $35 to $10 a barrel. The 1986 Tax Reform Act took 30 percent of the profits out of real estate ownership. The bottom fell out of the financial and real estate markets. Three major Dallas money center banks failed, and the city was in a protracted depression that would last seven years,” Crowe said.

Criswell Development went from 225 to 12 employees and would close within a year. Crowe looked to relocate to healthier markets in Washington, D.C., and New York, but, he said, “Markets could go bad anywhere. I realized there was no safe harbor.”

With square footage to spare, the company gave the 31-year-old Crowe and his partner of three years a challenge to simply keep trying until it worked,” he said.

And his advice to others is to persist until you find something you do well. “If you like something you’re more likely to be good at it and that gives you the resilience to try again when you fail,” he said.

Since Crowe borrowed a desk and a phone 20 years ago, RM Crowe and principals have acquired, developed, or managed more than $1.5 billion in real estate holdings. The portfolio includes hotels, office and retail space, hospitals, medical offices, and now surgery centers.

Maurice CroweDeliver First Mills Lecture

Maurice Crowe, chief executive officer of RM Crowe of Dallas, will present the first Helen Crow and John Carroll Mills Lecture at The University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham on Thursday, October 19, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the University of Alabama School of Law.

Helen Mills and her late husband, John Mills, of Birmingham, established the Helen Crow and John Carroll Mills Lecture Series Endowed Fund Support Fund in the College with a $100,000 commitment shortly before John Mills passed away earlier this year.

To motivate and inspire students, the series will bring successful and distinguished alumni and citizens to campus to speak.

Helen Mills received a doctor of science degree from the College of Human and Environmental Sciences at The University of Alabama in 1950. She is president of Crow Real Estate and Insurance Company in Birmingham.

John Mills received his bachelor of science degree in preclinical studies from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1955 and a dentistry degree from the University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham in 1958. He pursued oral surgery training at Jackson Hospital in Miami, Florida, the following year. Mills, who was board certified as one of the first clinical endodontists in Alabama, practiced dentistry for 19 years. After leaving private practice, he became director of the endodontic program at The University of Alabama School of Dentistry in Birmingham.

Helen Mills received her bachelor of science degree from the College of Humanities and Sciences at the University of Alabama in 1950. She is president of Crow Real Estate and Insurance Company in Birmingham.
1954
James L. Pate (psychology; M.A., Ph.D., psychology) was elected president of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA) for 2008–2009. He is the fourth person connected with the Department of Psychology at UA to have been elected president of the SEPA. He is also historian of SEPA and cochair of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, of which he was president in 1988. In 2004 Pate was president of Division 26 (Society for the History of Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. Having taught for more than 35 years, Pate retired as professor of psychology at Georgia State University in December 2000.

1955
Carol Pitts Hovanec (English) has been named a professor emeritus of political science. She has been at the station for 24 years. Before that, she was employed at a company headquartered in Atlanta. She recently coauthored the book A Good Day’s Work: Ensuring Ethical Behavior and Business with Ralph W. Clark. She graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University with a certificate of advanced studies in 1971. Lattal received her doctorate of philosophy in 1980 in clinical psychology from West Virginia University. She is married to Andy Lattal (psychology, 1964; Ph.D., experimental psychology, 1969). They have a son, twin daughters, and four grandchildren.

1965
Darnell Hammer Lattal (American studies; M.A. special education) is president and chief executive officer of Aubrey Daniels International, a consulting company headquartered in Atlanta. She recently coauthored the book A Good Day’s Work: Ensuring Ethical Behavior and Business with Ralph W. Clark. She graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins University with a certificate of advanced studies in 1971. Lattal received her doctorate of philosophy in 1980 in clinical psychology from West Virginia University. She is married to Andy Lattal (psychology, 1964; Ph.D., experimental psychology, 1969). They have a son, twin daughters, and four grandchildren.

1971
Mary L. Wimberley (journalism) is a news and feature writer at Samford University in Birmingham.

1974
Sally Wigg (history) is a news anchor at WTAE-TV news in Pittsburgh, Pa. She has been at the station for 24 years. Before that, she was employed at a radio station in Birmingham. She received her master of arts degree in Asian studies from the University of Michigan and was part of a four-person investigative team who won the Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association and Foundation.

1976
Joseph L. Fail (M.S., biology) is an associate professor of biology at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. He received a doctorate of philosophy from The University of Georgia in 1983.

1982
Andrew Mays (music; MA, music performance), a Birmingham ophthalmologist, is the winner of the Van Cliburn Foundation’s Fifth International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. He won the title last June in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas. The competition is held every four years and is open to contestans 35 or older who do not earn their living teaching or playing the piano. Mays won the competition over 75 other pianists from all over the world. Along with the $2,000 cash award, Dr. Mays is booked for recital engagements in Laguna Beach, Calif., and Washington, D.C. In addition to the top prize, Mays took the Audience Award and honors for the best performance of a Romantic work. Mays studies the piano under the tutelage of Amanda Penick, professor of music at The University of Alabama.

1986
Cheryl Sington (dance) has lived in southwestern Florida since 2003. She and her family moved there from Albuquerque, N.M., when she was offered the position of director of student affairs and assistant professor in the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). In June 2006 Sington left FGCU to begin her own business, Sington Consulting, a corporate and educational consulting firm. She lives in Fort Myers, Fla. with her family.

1987
Barry Phelps (political science; M.P.A.) has been appointed internal communications manager of the Transportation Security Administration, an agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Arlington, Va.

1990
Michael Boyd (biology) is a battle major stationed with Task Force 3 Medical Command (TF3 MEDCOM) in Camp Victory, Baghdad. Boyd works to maintain security and operations in MEDCOM in a battle cell. Hours are long for Boyd who works 12 to 18-plus hours a day, seven days a week. His time off consists of one six-hour period (half a workday) per week, mission allowing. During Boyd’s downtime, he works on his master of science degree in emergency and disaster management, which he is obtaining online from Tuoro University. Boyd first received a commission from The University of Alabama’s Crimson Tide Battalion, Army ROTC in 1989. This is his first deployment into a combat zone.

1992
Mohiyydeen (Mo) Qamarudeen (political science) recently acquired the designation certified public manager (CPM) after completing a nationally recognized, comprehensive training and development program for public sector managers. He is a financial services coordinator employed by the city of Nashua, N.H. Qamarudeen also received a bachelor of science in marketing from UA. His spouse, Sharon Williams-Qamarudeen (psychology, 1995), a licensed practical nurse, works at a nursing home in Manchester, N.H.

1995
Michael Emerson (M.F.A., theatre) is best known these days as “the con artist formerly known as Henry” on the ABC television show Lost. He has been signed on as a regular cast member for the show’s third season. Emerson’s first TV role was as a serial killer on The Practice. Since then he has had roles in the TV shows The X-Files and Without a Trace as well as the movies The Imposters, The Legend of Zorro, and Saw.

2001
Carlton Jenkins (New College) recently opened his own coffee shop/espresso bar The Coffee Break in the Inverness/Hoover area. Before that he was employed by SouthTrust Bank in Birmingham.

2006
Creshema Murray (political science) is working on her master of arts degree in communication studies at UA.
**Professor Emeritus Ron Robel to be Missed by Many**

Dr. Ron Robel, professor in the Department of History, died on Friday, August 24, 2007 after a months-long illness. Robel, 73, had been with the College since 1966.

“He was a true authority and an inspiring teacher of Asian history and culture,” said Robert Olin, dean of the College. “During his remarkable 41-year career and life in our community, he had the unique ability to inspire students, fellow faculty members and countless members of our community to look beyond what was familiar and to discover the wonders and delights that the world offers. He was truly an enlightening person, and we will miss him.”

Born in Oak Park, Illinois, on March 21, 1934, Ron Robel received a B.A. in History from Grinnell College, a M.A. in History and a M.A. in Far Eastern Languages & Literature from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in History from the University of Michigan. His teaching career included positions in the Overseas Program of the University of Maryland, in Chinese Language at the University of Michigan, and in the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin in Madison before he came to UA. Here he was Assistant Professor of History and Chinese Language, Director of the Critical Languages Center, Director of the Asian Studies Program, and Director of the International Honors Program.

He was president of the National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs, president of the West Alabama Language Alliance, and member of the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Association of Asian Studies, Southeastern Regional Association of Asian Studies, Alabama Association of Historians, Chinese Language Teachers Association, and the Society for Comparative Study of Civilizations.

He has been recognized for his inspiring teaching: Distinguished Teaching Fellow in the College of Arts and Sciences, Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award from the UA National Alumni Association, and National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship from Japan.

A memorial service for Robel was held on the UA campus on Sept. 8, 2007. His sister, Diana J. Robel Barg, and his parents, Mildred and Ray Robel, preceded him in death. Survivors include his brother-in-law, Don Barg; niece, Wendy J. Cantua; nephew, Randy R. Barg; grand nieces, Kaeli Cantua and Emily D. Barg; and grand nephew, Justin R. Barg.

The family has requested that donations be made to the UA Ronald R. Robel Endowed Scholarship.

---

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Carolyn Matthews Lowe and her father, Walter Matthews of Florence, Alabama, have established the Carolyn “Julie” Haddon Matthews Memorial Endowed Scholarship in honor of mother and spouse. The scholarship will provide support to students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences who are pursuing degrees in studio art and sculpture. Carolyn “Julie” Haddon Matthews received her bachelor of arts degree in European history from the College in 1961. While at UA, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and various other honorary organizations. She was also a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

After graduation she married Walter Matthews. He attended UA, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta, and graduated from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor of arts degree in European civilization. Julie Matthews was a supporter of the College’s Society of Fine Arts until her death in 1993.

Carolyn Matthews Lowe, who graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in art history from the College in 1990, was also a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She is married to Russell W. Lowe Jr. and they have two children.

Father and Daughter
Create Tribute to Wife and Mother

Carolyn Matthews Lowe of Birmingham and her father, Walter Matthews of Florence, Alabama, have established the Carolyn “Julie” Haddon Matthews Memorial Endowed Scholarship in honor of mother and spouse. The scholarship will provide support to students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences who are pursuing degrees in studio art and sculpture. Carolyn “Julie” Haddon Matthews received her bachelor of arts degree in European history from the College in 1961. While at UA, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and various other honorary organizations. She was also a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

After graduation she married Walter Matthews. He attended UA, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta, and graduated from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor of arts degree in European civilization. Julie Matthews was a supporter of the College’s Society of Fine Arts until her death in 1993.

Carolyn Matthews Lowe, who graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in art history from the College in 1990, was also a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She is married to Russell W. Lowe Jr. and they have two children.

Wife and Mother

Carolyn Matthews Lowe of Birmingham and her father, Walter Matthews of Florence, Alabama, have established the Carolyn “Julie” Haddon Matthews Memorial Endowed Scholarship in honor of mother and spouse. The scholarship will provide support to students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences who are pursuing degrees in studio art and sculpture. Carolyn “Julie” Haddon Matthews received her bachelor of arts degree in European history from the College in 1961. While at UA, she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and various other honorary organizations. She was also a member of Kappa Delta sorority.

After graduation she married Walter Matthews. He attended UA, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta, and graduated from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor of arts degree in European civilization. Julie Matthews was a supporter of the College’s Society of Fine Arts until her death in 1993.

Carolyn Matthews Lowe, who graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in art history from the College in 1990, was also a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She is married to Russell W. Lowe Jr. and they have two children.
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Tom and Virginia Joiner Endow Scholarship in Geological Sciences

Tom and Virginia Joiner of Tuscaloosa are creating the Thomas J. and Virginia H. Joiner Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Geological Sciences. The scholarship will be given to deserving undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in geological sciences.

Tom Joiner received his bachelor of science degree in geological sciences at The University of Alabama in 1956. He became Alabama’s fifth state geologist and the third state oil and gas supervisor. He later founded Tom Joiner and Associates, a geological and engineering consulting firm. In 2000 he retired and has since devoted his time and effort to community and educational concerns. He served as president of the College’s Leadership Board from 2004 to 2006 and was also principal organizer and first chairman of the Department of Geological Sciences’ Advisory Board, which generates scholarships for the department. In 2004 he was inducted into the Department of Geological Sciences’ Founders Wall of Distinction.

Virginia H. Joiner received bachelor and master of science degrees in education from UA’s College of Education. She taught special education in the Tuscaloosa county and city school systems until she became coordinator of special education for the Tuscaloosa city school system. Retired since 1997, she devotes herself to church and community activities. In 1993 she was named the outstanding special educator in Alabama and received the Alpha Brown Award from the Alabama Federation Council for Exceptional Children.
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**Gift Results in $1 Million in Scholarships**

Individuals wishing to establish art scholarships at The University of Alabama recently received a welcome proposal. For every dollar they put into an art scholarship endowment, an anonymous foundation would match it in the foundation endowment for the same purpose. Donors were able to double the impact of their art scholarship gift.

As of August, $500,000 in individual endowments were matched by the foundation for a total of $1 million in new art scholarships. “We are grateful on two fronts for this remarkable opportunity. We thank this farsighted foundation for its generosity in providing both funds and inspiration for student scholarships in art. And this wonderful doubling of art scholarship endowments could not have happened without the thoughtful individuals who made the match possible by establishing their own scholarship endowments in the Department of Art,” said Dean Robert Olin.

Individuals who enabled the match through their art scholarship endowments included Anonymous; Mrs. Carolyn Lowe of Mountain Brook, Ala.; Mrs. Farley Moody Galbraith of Anniston; Mrs. Billy Hulsey and Dr. Virginia Rembert Liles of Homewood, Ala.; Ms. Elizabeth Crump of Montgomery; Mr. Jack Drake of Birmingham; Dr. Carol Merkell of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; Jerry Rutledge of West Hollywood, Calif.; the Crimson Ceramics Society of Tuscaloosa and Dr. Lowell and Mrs. Holly Baker of Tuscaloosa; Mr. William Anderson of Shereeport, La.; Mr. J.P. Morgan of El Segundo, Calif., and Mrs. Denise Milton of Burkeville, Texas and the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board Fine Arts Committee through proceeds from its annual Arts Party gala to benefit the arts, among others.
Carla and Cleophus Thomas Jr. Endow Support Funds

Carla and Cleophus Thomas Jr. of Anniston have pledged $30,000 to create three $10,000 support funds in the history and political science departments and in New College.

The Carla and Cleophus Thomas Jr. Endowed Support Funds will provide for faculty academic needs including travel, conference fees, scholarship and special equipment purchases. Support funds can be established in any unit of the College with a minimum $10,000 endowment.

Carla Thomas received a bachelor of arts degree in 1977 from Harvard University. She has in private practice in Anniston. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy, politics, and economics. Carla Thomas received a bachelor of science degree in 1979 from Yale University and a doctor of medicine degree in 1982 from Harvard University. She has in private practice in Anniston.
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Dr. Edward Lawrence Goldblatt
Birmingham, AL
and University of Pennsylvania and has been a visiting professor at the University of Illinois and University of Michigan in 1951, Cava was an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard from 1951 to 1953.

Cava, who worked for five decades in the field of organic chemistry, contributed to the understanding of the synthetic chemistry of sulfur, selenium, and tellurium compounds. In recent decades he has collaborated with materials scientists in the study of organic conductors.

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Thomas Family Honors
Norman R. Ellis

Hugh Rowe and Susan Ellis Thomas of Birmingham have created the Norman R. Ellis Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Psychology. Norman R. Ellis, retired professor of psychology, has been honored by his daughter and son-in-law with an endowed scholarship in the Department of Psychology. Scholarships will be given to undergraduate students majoring in psychology.

Norman R. Ellis received his bachelor of arts degree from Howard College in 1951, his master of arts degree in psychology from The University of Alabama in 1953, and his doctorate in psychology from the University of Virginia in 1959. His dissertation, which was awarded the American Psychological Association’s William C. Estes Award in 1957, was titled “An Investigation of the Effects of Social loafing.”

In the 1960s, Ellis became interested in the field of mental retardation and began conducting research on the topic. His work on this subject led to the development of several important contributions, including the concept of “aberrant behavior” and the development of the “behavioral assessment” technique.

Ellis was invited to the White House in 1967 for the signing of the Mental Retardation Bill and was honored in 1972 by the American Association on Mental Retardation as “one of the world’s leading behavioral scientists in mental retardation.”

Norman Ellis is married to Kay Ellis. Their daughter, Susan Ellis Thomas, graduated from UA with a bachelor of science in nursing in 1983. She is married to Hugh Rowe Thomas, who graduated from UA with a bachelor of arts in communication in 1987. They have three children.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA College of Arts and Sciences 27
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Parents with Endowed Scholarship

In memory of her parents, Pam McCollough of Katy, Texas, has contributed $20,000 to the College of Arts and Sciences in order to establish The Doris and Joe McCollough Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will be given to deserving full-time undergraduate students in the College who maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average. Although McCollough’s parents did not attend The University of Alabama, they were instrumental in supporting and encouraging her educational endeavors. McCollough graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and English in 1979 from the College and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Houston in 1984. She is an intellectual property attorney for Shell Oil Company and a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board.
30

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UA Graduate Receives Tribute from Daughter

Katherine Bryan's of Tuscaloosa has established the Johnnie Katherine Leggelle Barrett Endowed Scholarship to honor her mother. The scholarship will provide support to music majors in the College.

Barrett, who was born in 1925 in Mobile, Alabama, graduated from UA's College of Education with a bachelor of science degree in music education. During her undergraduate career, Barrett sang in the UA choir. She also helped Byron Arnold, professor of music at UA, who traveled across Alabama collecting folk songs that, with Barrett's help, were given to the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

During the Korean conflict, Barrett worked with the American Red Cross as a recreational therapist at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. Later she worked as a clerk for the bankruptcy court of Tuscaloosa. After retirement, Barrett returned to UA in 1985 to obtain a master's degree in counselor education. During her undergraduate career, Barrett sang in the UA choir. She also helped Byron Arnold, professor of music at UA, who traveled across Alabama collecting folk songs that, with Barrett's help, were given to the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

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Through his $20,000 contribution, University of Alabama professor emeritus John Bickley of Tuscaloosa has established the John S. Bickley Endowed Music Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. Selection priority will be given to full-time students in the School of Music who are performance majors and whose principal instrument is the trombone. Bickley, a trombonist and former professor in the Culverhouse College of Business Administration, received his doctorate in business administration from the University of Wisconsin. He did additional graduate studies at Columbia University, Harvard University, and the University of Chicago.

Bickley first came to UA as a professor in 1940, he left in 1942 when he was drafted. He returned to teach at UA in 1968 and remained here until his retirement in 1986. Cited as a prominent figure in the insurance industry, he was responsible for bringing the International Insurance Hall of Fame to campus and for increasing the visibility and eminence of the industry, he was responsible for bringing the International Insurance Hall of Fame to campus and for increasing the visibility and eminence of the insurance program.
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The Society for the Fine Arts (SFA) was established in 1975 to advocate for and support fine and performing arts programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Society annually honors state and community leaders and artists with a Lifetime Membership for their role in advancing the arts in Alabama. In 2003, the SFA was incorporated into the College’s Leadership Board.

Gage Bush Englund Donates Dance Book Collection

An autographed book by renowned dancer and choreographer Ted Shawn and a music score by famed composer George Crumb are among the valuable books donated to the College by Gage Bush Englund. The collection of more than 1,000 volumes will be available in U.A.’s Amelia Gayle Gorgas Library.

Englund, a Birmingham native and longtime resident of Point Clear, Alabama, and New York City, donated her library of dance books in honor of professor emeritus Edie Barnes in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

The books were collected by Englund and her late husband, Richard Bernard Englund, during their more than 30 years as dance professionals in New York City. Together they founded what is now called the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) Studio Company of New York. Englund, ballet mistress of the American Ballet Theatre’s Studio Company, is an honorary member of the dance company’s board of trustees.

“Their collection is a treasure trove for students and professionals alike. It’s hard to quantify exactly the value of this gift, but we do know that this collection will be used to support our students, faculty, and the performing arts program,” said Dr. K. Alagem, professor of dance and director of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Within these volumes will be found a very comprehensive array of books on the philosophy of dance and modern dance techniques. There’s a good deal of material on the Royal Ballet, the Paris opera, and the Danish technique, and the collection gives a pretty good overview of the history of dance development in America and Europe,” said Englund. “Many of these books were hard to part with, but I knew I needed to share the wealth of knowledge with others. I hope they bring a great deal of pleasure, insight, and discovery to all who read them.”
### Other Contributors

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The list of donors includes individuals and organizations from across the United States and beyond, reflecting the broad support that the College receives. The College is committed to maintaining strong relationships with its donors and to providing them with opportunities to engage with the College and its students.

The College is also grateful to those who have provided their time and expertise as volunteers and advisors. Their contributions have been invaluable in shaping the College's programs and initiatives.

The College is committed to transparency and accountability in its financial management, and it is proud to be able to report on the progress it has made in using its resources effectively.

The College is grateful to its donors and to all those who have supported it in so many ways. The College is committed to using its resources wisely and to providing the highest quality education and research for its students and faculty.
Capstone Drive Excavation Reveals UA’s First, Pre-Civil War Dorms

Brass buttons, a chamber pot, smoking pipes, two coffee cups and even a toothbrush are some of the items that were unearthed last summer from pre-Civil War UA dormitories discovered under the asphalt of Capstone Drive in front of Clark Hall.

Three 5-by-20-foot holes—one to the west of Clark Hall and two to the east—revealed stone steps that led to what was once the cellar of Jefferson Hall, one of UA’s first dormitories. Two other excavation trenches, also on in the parking lot, were where Washington Hall, another dormitory, once stood.

Both structures, built in 1831 when the University opened, were torched in 1865 when Union troops marched through Tuscaloosa. The three-story dormitories held 96 students in 12 suites. Each suite had a sitting room with two bedrooms and a fireplace. When the buildings were burned, everything inside collapsed into the cellar.

What began as a three-week survey excavation has become much more because of the work of Robert Clouse, executive director of UA’s Office of Archaeological Research, part of the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Clouse and his team also uncovered parts of an iron bed, belt buckles, and square-cut nails as well as several foundation walls of unknown function.

The artifacts, a tangible link to UA’s early history, will be cataloged by the University. The dormitory sites have been recorded for future...