UA Artist in Residence Paints Murals for New Federal Courthouse

Angie Estes

“...one of the first things you notice when you enter Anderson’s spacious corner office in Shreveport, La., is that he is, indeed, an avid and eclectic collector and sports historian. There are miniatures of Formula One cars atop an antique map case and a shelf of cast pewter military figurines by English craftsman Charles Stadden. The office hallways hold his sports art collection, scenes from University of Alabama and other colleges’ great football moments: portraits of athletes in action such as Joe Namath, Willie Mays, Joe Lewis, Yogi Berra, Arnold Palmer; an elegant pencil portrait of Leroy Jordan and Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant by Daniel Moore; deftly rendered works by artists Leroy Neiman, Bart Forbes, Walt “Spitz” Miller, Rick Rush, Merv Corning, George Rodrigue, and others. And Anderson has a personal moment, a story, to go with each piece.

There’s even a pencil collection at home, he says, which works out fine. It keeps his wife supplied for her collection of crossword puzzles.

Near Anderson’s desk, a large glass-fronted cabinet holds a different kind of assembly, their commonalities not readily evident. There is a miniature Heinz ketchup bottle, a mug from the 1980 British Open, a handball used to play “fives” at England’s Eton College, a photo of penguins from a trip to Antarctica—memorabilia from moments and milestones in Anderson’s life. “What it is for me, it’s the memory. A lot of this is memories of being with friends and family, what we have done,” says Anderson.

In an early 1950s photo, two young boys in identical shirts and all-American haircuts—Bill and his brother, Hank—stand next to their father, Garnett Murphy “Jake” Anderson, in front of a tin building at a family refinery in Ruston, La. Amid the office collectibles, that 58-year-old snapshot and a nearby jar of crude labeled “Spindletop,” tapped from a recent drilling, are the few allusions to the fact that Anderson and his family’s biggest collection may be of oil and gas wells.

Bill, 69, and his brother, Hank, 68, head Anderson Oil and Gas Inc., a regional, independent oil and gas developer. Now in its fourth generation of family ownership, the company has been based in Shreveport for four generations, according to Anderson.”

Continued on page 3
WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Leadership Board Welcomes New Members

The College of Arts and Sciences welcomed the following friends to the Leadership Board in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Mr. Norman A. Crow, Jr.
Tuscaloosa, AL

Mrs. Missy Edwards
Albany, GA

Dr. John T. Hagood
Eufaula, AL

Dr. Trudier Harris
Tuscaloosa, AL

Mr. Fox Reynolds Henderson
Santa Rosa Beach, FL

Mr. Joshua F. Mandell
Montgomery, AL

Dr. Richmond C. McClintock, Jr.
Dothan, AL

Mr. James David Mills
Birmingham, AL

Mrs. Pamela Sue Newman
Gadsden, AL

Mrs. Wendy Farris Smith
Decatur, AL

Dr. J. Allan Tucker
Mrs. Jean Tucker
Mobile, AL

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board consists of alumni and friends who support the College, its faculty, and students with their energy, friendship, influence, and annual minimum $1,000 dues. For more information about the Board, contact Rebecca Florence, director of college relations and associate director of development, at 205-348-8663 or rflorenc@as.ua.edu.

O’Neal Named Director of Development

Larry W. O’Neal has been appointed director of development for the College of Arts and Sciences. He is responsible for leading the College’s fundraising efforts and will cultivate, solicit, and steward gifts to the College.

Before joining the College in January, O’Neal served as vice president of development for DCH Health System/DCH Foundation in Tuscaloosa. He created a comprehensive fundraising program at DCH and launched a capital campaign that raised $10 million from some 3,000 donors.

O’Neal held several positions at the University from 1988 to 2001. He served as assistant vice president for development, senior director of development, director of development, and director of planned giving. From 1997 to 1998, O’Neal was vice president of advancement at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. He has also held positions at First National Bank of Tuscaloosa and AmSouth Bank in Tuscaloosa, and Commercial National Bank and Trust Company in Laurel, Miss.

“The College is very happy to have Larry join our team,” said Dr. Robert Olin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “He brings a wealth of experience with him, not only in the area of development but also with the University. I know our alumni and friends will enjoy their association with him.”

O’Neal received a bachelor’s degree in business and accounting from Livingston University (now The University of West Alabama).
Bill Anderson, Continued from page 1

since it was founded in 1916 by Anderson's grandfather.

Today, the Anderson family has a working interest in more than 1,100 wells, primarily gas, in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. In 2008, Anderson Inc. and its affiliates had a drilling budget of $50 million and participated in drilling some 97 wells, of which 76 are producing or completing. Another 20 wells were drilled on acreage where the family had royalty interest in the leases.

In the Midst of the Latest Boom

These days, the streets of Shreveport are abuzz with the latest oil and gas boom news, the discovery of the Haynesville Shale, an enormous gas-bearing rock deposit in northwest Louisiana, extending into East Texas, that may lie up to 14,000 feet underground. Energy companies estimate that it is possibly the largest gas reserve in the lower 48 states, with some 250 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. “Recoverable” is the crucial word. Oil experts say that the Haynesville Shale could quadruple the world’s natural gas supply, and, along with other big gas reserves, such as the Barnett Shale in Texas, ensure natural gas independence for the United States for years to come.

When word spread in early 2008 of a few highly productive wells coming from the Haynesville stratum, oil companies converged on Shreveport in frenzied competition to purchase choice drilling leases.

“All of a sudden, one day it was here,” says Anderson. “We aren’t talking about leases for $500 or $1,000 an acre. We’re talking about $25,000 and $30,000 per acre for buying oil and gas royalty leases. The major companies had seen what happened in the Fort Worth area when the Barnett Shale came in, and they wanted to get as much as they could. Consequently they paid a lot of money for those leases. It was nuts. But that hasn’t continued.”

Some Louisianans turned down those big offers, holding out for more, only to see the competition dwindle and lease prices drop.

“You know what you call that,” Anderson says. “Greed.”

What does this bonanza mean for Anderson Oil and Gas, situated in the midst of the biggest natural gas play since the last oil boom went bust 25 years ago?

More or less, business as usual.

At 10,000 to 14,000 feet deep, the Haynesville Shale is costly to tap. It requires deep wells, often horizontal drilling, and the use of relatively new and expensive techniques that fracture dense rock to extract the gas.

“We’ve got a lot to do. We would rather work areas that aren’t as expensive or as deep than to get directly involved in $10 million wells. And you don’t just drill one, you’re in there for quite a while,” says Anderson.

“So the Haynesville Shale, for all the excitement it brings, the results are riskier and the investment more expensive,” Anderson says, showing the measured judgment that comes from an inherited feel-for-the-business.

“My grandfather told his daughters he didn’t want us going into the oil and gas business. He lost money and he made money; ultimately he did pretty well. But he thought it was too risky. I guess you could say we proved him wrong. We’ve gone on and done OK,” says Anderson.

Too Risky

William C. Feazel was a farmer and oil well wildcatter near Monroe, La., when he and a partner began buying up mineral rights at Carthage, Texas, around 1916, the early heyday of the Texas wildcatter. Major oil discoveries had been made elsewhere in the state, but East Texas had been an area of relatively unsuccessful exploration. “They came in and eventually bought most of the Carthage leases, about 25,000 acres,” says Anderson.

In those years natural gas was considered a by-product of oil. “When it was found instead of oil, my grandfather just flared it, burned it off. They didn’t have anything else to do with it back then,” says Anderson.

Significant oil discoveries were eventually made in East Texas in the 1930s. The Carthage natural gas field was identified in 1939, at a time when natural gas was no longer a by-product, but a staple heating fuel for U.S. homes and businesses. “This was one of the biggest gas fields ever discovered in Texas,” Anderson says.

Feazel invested in gas pipelines and developed that field until 1949 when he sold his interest, with one very important exception. He leased and developed other oil and gas fields in North Louisiana and East Texas, in partnership with Bill Anderson’s mother and father, Gertrude and Jake, and his aunt, Lallage Feazel, until his death in 1965.

A Love of Learning

Anderson was a senior, double majoring in political science and history at The University of Alabama, when he returned to Louisiana in 1965 to join his father and brother in the family business. He had transferred to UA from Marion Military Institute, and while his time at UA was abbreviated, he says his experiences in Tuscaloosa made an indelible impression.

His appreciation for a broad-based liberal arts education remains strong, and he has actively supported the College of Arts and Sciences for a number of years. He is a member of the Friends of History in the Department of History, established the Anderson Endowed Support Fund in History, and has generously supported priority needs in the Department of Geological Sciences, the Department of Art and Art History, and other programs in the College.

Continued on next page
Fellowship Award

Wins Guggenheim English Professor

Washington Post Book World shares, Poetry, Progressive, Tin House, England Review, New York Times Book Iowa Review, Massachusetts Review, New horse, Georgia Review, Gettysburg Review, Boston Review, Chelsea, Crazy- have appeared in numerous publications, Books. His poems, essays, and reviews And So is, published in 2009 by Four Way UA’s faculty in 2002. His most recent work and Syracuse University, Brouwer joined A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College writing projects. promise. Brouwer will use his fellowship to appointed on the basis of achievement and tists, and scholars in the United States and Canada to receive fellowships out of some Brouwer is among 180 artists, scient- and inquiry on a subject that grabs him. “That’s unusual for their visits to Britain, Pompeii, or and making him an avid reader. He especially enjoys biographies and works on World War I, World War II, and the Revolutionary War. “I like to read about a historical figure’s roots and see where they go from there, how circum- stances put them in situations that change the direction of their lives,” he says. Two books cur- rently on his reading table are Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour by Lynne Olson and Making Haste from Babylon: The Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World: A New History by Nick Bunker. Anderson converses on art, geography, cul- tures, and sports with the curiosity of an avid self-learner, a collector of all things interest- ing. The Andersons regularly travel, and it is not unusual for their visits to Britain, Pompeii, or other locales to be followed by a burst of reading and inquiry on a subject that grabs him. “That’s part of the fun,” he says.

Company Heads before 30

Two years after Bill and Tina Anderson moved to Louisiana, Bill’s father died suddenly at the age of 53. Bill, then 26, and Hank, 25, soon took over the reins of Anderson Oil and Gas. This began a new period of leasing and exploration that established production in such gas fields as Manchac in Louisiana; Harper, Aventura Ranch, and West Tyler in Texas; and Grayson in Arkansas.

Meanwhile, Bill managed to work full time, share in raising his and Tina’s three children, Brant, Betsy, Garrett Murphy II; and obtain a business degree at Shreveport’s Centenary College at night.

The Anderson family has long been associated with Centenary, and Anderson has demonstrated his appreciation of the liberal arts college in vari- ous ways. A member of the board of trustees for 40 years, he recently stepped down as chair after 10 years, having steered the Methodist-affiliated, private college through a financial restructuring and the hiring of a new president.

Honest and Low Key

Though the boom and bust years, the broth- ers have managed to keep the family company on an even keel, Anderson says, “because our interests are so different. Hank, an alumnus of Louisiana State University, was a petroleum engineer, so he headed up exploration and lease management. I took the business side, finances and investments.”

Anderson describes the company philosophy as honest and low key. “Integrity means every- thing to us. And my dad was that way, too. Our partners know we are honest. That we pay our bills on time. We don’t keep any secrets. And the people who work for us are the same way. That’s the atmosphere we try to have in our office. We don’t have titles in the office, don’t go in for that. And our people share in the enterprise.”

Not insignificantly, both brothers adhere to a philosophy grounded on Grandfather Feazel’s warning that this is, indeed, a risky business. So, above all, they avoid leveraging the company. “Whenever you have a significant downturn, like oil and gas had in the 1980s, and you are highly leveraged, you are in trouble. The way we were able to survive was that we didn’t do that. In hard times we slowed down, but we didn’t have to let anyone go,” Anderson says.

The company has diversified into forestry, businesses, and other investments. “When I came in, I said that we needed to get involved in other things in case there was a rainy day. And we have done that.”

Today, Bill’s son Murphy and Hank’s son Cole are part of the business. Murphy is handling real estate and finances; Cole is handling explora- tion; and they continue to diversify the company. Bill is in the office every day. After hours, he and Tina, who are celebrating their 46th year of marriage, spend much of their free time with their handsome collection of grandsons. Oliver, 20, Henry, 14, Murphy, 5, and George, 3, are the children of daughter, Betsy, and her hus- band and UA alumnus, Graham Mears (Art, 1992). Luke, 2, and Blake, 3 months, are the children of Murphy and his wife, Jennifer.

The Exception

Grandfather Feazel had a hand in helping his grandsons manage the risk when he made a significant exception to those rights that he sold in the massive Carthage gas field. “My grand- dad kept the deep rights in the field. He was wise enough to think that there were future pos- sibilities in drilling deeper. So he sold the shallow rights and kept everything below the stratum called the Travis Peak. Consequently, when the Cotton Valley Formation natural gas field was discovered deeper in the Carthage field, we were able to put that into production, and that’s what I term our bread and butter. It made us,” Anderson says.

And there may be another chapter to Feazel’s foresight. Below the gas-rich shale, sand- stone, and clay deposits of the Cotton Valley Formation lies the much-ballyhooed but as yet unproved Haynesville Shale, extending from Louisiana into East Texas, perhaps waiting for the day when the risk will seem prudent for a new generation in the Anderson Oil and Gas family.

Friends can email Bill Anderson at wga@andersonoilandgas.com.
Dean Robert Olin and his wife, Lin, walking side by side. UA president Dr. Robert E. Witt also makes an appearance.

Tuomey Hall, which serves as an academic house for the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, was selected as the spot for O’Connor’s studio because it was one of the few available buildings on campus with ceilings high enough to accommodate the murals. The studio occupies half of Tuomey Hall’s Danford-Yarbrough Library. Glass walls enclose the studio’s interior entrance, so O’Connor’s work is easily visible to students and the University community.

Dean Olin said the College is excited to have O’Connor on campus and in turn be a part of the historic construction of the new federal courthouse. “We’re delighted that these murals are being created where our students can learn from and appreciate them,” he said.

A Realistic Touch

O’Connor, a native of Hawaii, is a graduate of Maryland Institute College of Art. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. While on a Fulbright grant in Italy, he studied marble carving and bronze casting. Some of his major oil paintings are displayed in Chicago at the Ann Nathan Gallery.

All major federal building projects are required—under a program called Art in Architecture—to devote one half of 1 percent of construction costs to commissioning original art. U.S. district judge Scott Coogler, a member of the group responsible for selecting an artist for the courthouse project, said the group visited O’Connor in Chicago and was struck by the realistic quality of his artwork. “We were very impressed, particularly with his ability to paint faces and expressions,” he said. “Some of his paintings are just absolutely incredible with the way they communicate emotion.”

The murals, which will line a 120-foot-long hallway on the second floor of the federal courthouse, will be unveiled when the courthouse is completed.

While O’Connor said he has experience painting large murals, he has never taken on a project as cohesive in theme and with as many paintings commissioned at one time as the courthouse murals. Extensive research and preparation go into each mural, he said. For instance, during the spring semester O’Connor attended a Civil War reenactment in Fayette, Ala., to get inspiration for his mural depicting the burning of the campus by Union troops in 1865. “It’s a lot of work to get everyone together and in the right clothing, but that’s what it takes to make sure everything is as realistic as it can be,” O’Connor said.

Campus Connections

Andrew Walker said he walked into O’Connor’s studio last fall as a senior graphic design major, not knowing much about realism. “I saw Caleb’s work, and it was exactly what I wanted to learn,” said Walker, who graduated in May. “Since working with him, I feel like I have a better grasp of what it means to be a professional artist.”

O’Connor gave individual painting lessons to Walker, with the goal of having him help with the murals once his skills are polished. “I enjoy sharing my knowledge with people, especially when I see they are eager to learn,” he said.

Sky Shineman, an assistant painting professor in UA’s Department of Art and Art History, said having a working artist of O’Connor’s caliber on campus is a real benefit to students. “He’s a funded working artist who is getting significant commissions. I think everyone will benefit from seeing the process of his work,” she said.

Some students have modeled for O’Connor’s paintings. Anna Foley, a senior in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, said O’Connor asked her and a fellow student to model for his first mural, the one that features Coach Bryant walking on the UA Quadrangle.

“A couple of us were telling a lot of people that they need to stop by and talk to Caleb when they have time, because he’s such a smart guy,” she said. “Of course, I had no idea when I was talking to him that one day I would end up in a painting, much less one with Bear Bryant in it.”

O’Connor said he looks forward to continuing his work with students and to expanding the ways they can work directly on the mural project with him. For example, he said, perhaps costume design students could help make historically accurate costumes for his models, or history students might help with research on the subjects of the paintings.

“Some students have said they want to talk to me about anything, I’m open.”

Caleb O’Connor, Continued from page 1

O’Connor’s first mural features Paul “Bear” Bryant walking on the UA Quadrangle.

O’Connor’s second mural features children playing in Tuscaloosa’s Capitol Park.

Artist Caleb O’Conner paints a mural in his studio in UA’s Tuomey Hall.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Craig Formby, a distinguished graduate research professor in the College’s Department of Communicative Disorders, doesn’t take problems with the inner ear sitting down. But his research subjects will. Formby has designed a chair to test the portions of the inner ear that play a crucial role in maintaining balance.

**The Roto-Tilt Chair**

What Formby calls the roto-tilt chair will allow researchers to explore why people have balance problems.

Dysfunction of the vestibular inner ear, the part that affects a person’s equilibrium, plays a role in about half of all fall-related injuries and deaths among U.S. senior citizens. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and nonfatal injuries among older Americans, Formby said.

With the chair, Formby can evaluate a sitting patient by spinning or tilting the chair or combining the spinning and tilting actions to achieve specific motions or positions that activate individual inner ear structures. By monitoring the person’s eyes during the spinning and tilting, a researcher can assess the two sensory systems that control balance: the visual and the vestibular.

These two systems must work together. The visual system receives input from the eye, while the vestibular system, through the intricate workings of the fluid-filled canals and sensory structures within the inner ear, senses changes in head position that are critical for maintaining balance as the eyes focus on an image.

When you’re dealing with something as complex as the inner ear, how do you pinpoint what’s not working properly? The custom-designed roto-tilt chair can help answer that question. The chair, built to Formby’s specifications by Neuro Kinetics of Pittsburgh, is installed in the Alabama Institute for Manufacturing Excellence (AIME) building at UA.

Specific motions and positions of the chair can be used to test particular parts of a person’s vestibular system; visual displays can be analyzed to assess related eye movement disorders. Formby began working on the chair about eight years ago at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Funding for the machine has come from the National Institutes of Health and from UA.

Possibilities for the chair are myriad. “We have visited NASCAR headquarters in Charlotte, N.C., to discuss potential applications of the chair for improving driver safety,” Formby said. “It’s so powerful and flexible that I will end my career and won’t have had enough time to do it justice. We plan to share its use with outside researchers.” UA engineers will work on new applications for it with colleagues from the UA School of Medicine and from UAB, where Formby holds an affiliate appointment.

**“A Ringing in the Ears”**

Formby is also working on a way to treat tinnitus, a ringing or roaring in the ears that affects about 50 million people in the United States. For some, the tinnitus is almost unbearable. A $5.6 million phase-three, randomized, controlled clinical trial will evaluate the effectiveness of a treatment that uses a noise-generating device, along with counseling, to alleviate the debilitating effects of tinnitus.

The nonmedical habituation-based treatment is known as tinnitus retraining therapy, or TRT. The investigational study of TRT, using tinnitus sufferers from the U.S. military, will be conducted in navy and air force flagship hospitals in California, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia. Researchers expect to recruit 228 participants for the study.

Formby’s UA team leads the clinical part of the study, which is funded by $3.2 million from the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Researchers at Johns Hopkins University received $2.4 million to manage and analyze the study data. The project will be conducted over five years, including four years for recruiting study participants and conducting the treatment and follow-up measurements.

Tinnitus is the No. 1 service-connected disability among veterans returning from the Middle East conflicts. “No one has found a definitive cause or cure for it yet,” Formby said. “Most people can deal with the tinnitus sound, but some can’t.”

The first prong of TRT involves specialized counseling and assurance that the tinnitus condition is not a life-threatening situation. The second prong uses sound therapy. The patient wears an in-the-ear device that emits soft noise intended to distract the sufferer from the tinnitus and minimize its audibility.

“What we’re trying to do is to determine whether the combined counseling and sound therapy protocol really works. If so, is it better than the usual and customary care, which in military clinical centers usually involves reassurance,” Formby said. “It is critical to the patient and the clinician to know whether paying thousands of dollars for noise generators provides significant added benefit beyond the effects of the counseling.”
Founder of UA Music Therapy Program Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Carol Prickett, professor of music therapy and music education in the College’s School of Music, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA). The award was announced at the 2009 AMTA national conference in San Diego. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor given in the music therapy profession.

Prickett began UA’s music therapy program in 1985. She teaches music therapy courses, music therapy practica, and music education research, as well as a graduate course that prepares music students in all areas for a career in college teaching.

“To do work I love is a great privilege. Being a music therapist, teaching young people who will become music therapists, and doing research that contributes a little more knowledge to my discipline—and to do these things at the University of Alabama—that’s as good as it gets,” Prickett said.

In 2007 Prickett received the UA College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Commitment to Students award. She also served as a Distinguished Teaching Fellow in the college from 1999 to 2001. She has received awards for outstanding research as well as for service from the Southeastern Chapter of the American Music Therapy Association.

A member of the editorial review boards of the Journal of Music Therapy and the Journal of Research in Music Education, she has also edited two books, published in national and international journals, and regularly presented sessions at American Music Therapy Association and national music education conferences and seminars.

College Physicist Wins NSF CAREER Award

The National Science Foundation selected a College of Arts and Sciences professor for a 2010 CAREER Award to conduct research related to improving future electronics. The five-year award totals $490,000.

Presented to Dr. Tim Mewes, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the award is NSF's most prestigious recognition of top-performing young scientists who are beginning their careers. Mewes is the seventh College faculty member to currently hold a CAREER Award.

His award will support his research regarding the properties of magnetic materials, which will be used in future high performance electronic devices. These include new and more efficient computer memories and logic devices, such as adders—components that add numbers and are found within a computer’s central processing unit.

The award will allow Mewes, who also works at UA’s Center for Materials for Information Technology, to research key properties of materials to be used in “spintronic” devices. In spin-based electronics, or spintronics, the spin of electrons, rather than their charge, is utilized to facilitate our understanding of the complex stratigraphy and geologic history of many oil- and gas-producing sedimentary basins,” wrote Dr. Ibrahim Çemen, chair and professor of the Department of Geological Sciences, in a nomination letter.

The Burnum Award, established by Mrs. Celeste Burnum and the late Dr. John F. Burnum of Tuscaloosa, is presented annually to a professor who is judged by a faculty selection committee to have demonstrated superior scholarly or artistic achievements and profound dedication to the art of teaching.

Mancini is recognized nationally and internationally for his research on the Gulf of Mexico, one of the most prolific oil- and gas-producing sedimentary basins in North America. Mancini has won numerous national and international awards for his teaching and research and served in leadership positions in geology’s top professional organizations. He has been at the University for 33 years.

Geoscientist Named UA Burnum Award Winner

A College geoscientist whose research focuses on developing environmentally feasible ways of increasing oil and natural gas supplies is the 2010 winner of the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award.

The University presented Dr. Ernest Mancini, distinguished research professor of petroleum geology and stratigraphy, with the Burnum Award, one of the highest honors the University can bestow on faculty members.

“Dr. Mancini has distinguished himself as an outstanding researcher and independent thinker whose innovative and novel ideas have helped facilitate our understanding of the complex stratigraphy and geologic history of many oil- and gas-producing sedimentary basins,” wrote Dr. Ibrahim Çemen, chair and professor of the Department of Geological Sciences, in a nomination letter.

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College Linguist Makes Contribution to Louisiana French Dictionary

The French language remains a part of daily life in the southern parishes of Louisiana, both among elderly Cajuns, Creoles, and Native Americans and among a new generation just discovering the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of the area.

To capture the distinctive French vocabulary of southern Louisiana, Dr. Michael D. Picone, professor of French and linguistics in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, has talked with many French speakers. The goal was to document the language before it vanishes.

The result is the 900-page Dictionary of Louisiana French as Spoken in Cajun, Creole, and American Indian Communities. Picone served as an assistant editor for the reference work. “A couple of hundred thousand individuals or more speak French in Louisiana based on the last census we have. But most of them are elderly, and they’re not being replaced by very many native speakers of French in Louisiana,” Picone said. “There are immersion programs in Louisiana schools that teach people to speak French, but not authentic Louisiana French. The French that’s learned in immersion programs is a new kind of French that combines elements of Cajun French but is also evolving.”

Published by the University Press of Mississippi, the dictionary inventories French vocabulary as spoken today in five key regions of “Acadiana”—the contemporary Francophone regions of Louisiana. The senior editor, Dr. Albert Valdman, is a professor emeritus and director of the Creole Center at Indiana University.

According to the publisher, dictionary entries “include the word in the conventional French spelling, the pronunciation (including attested variants), the part of speech, the English equivalent, and the word’s use in common phrases.” Picone has done fieldwork throughout French-speaking Louisiana. For the dictionary, his contribution came mostly from fieldwork in St. Landry and Vermilion parishes.

The dictionary has been well received by the Cajun community in Louisiana and is already in its second printing. “As a linguist, the research that I typically do ends up in scholarly journals that are read by relatively few people,” Picone said. “Contributing to the creation of this dictionary allowed me to be part of something that gives back to the community. That was very gratifying.”

Knight Wins UA Press Annual Manuscript Prize

Dr. Jim Knight, a professor in the Department of Anthropology, has been awarded The University of Alabama Press prize for the best manuscript in the field of southern history.

Knight’s work, Mound Excavations at Moundville: Architecture, Elites, and Social Order is the recipient of the Anne B. and James D. McMillan Prize. The McMillan Prize has been awarded since 1995 to the “most deserving” manuscript about Alabama or about southern history or culture. It was established to honor James B. McMillan and his wife, Anne. McMillan was the founding director of the Press, former chairman of the University’s Department of English, and a renowned dialectologist.

The UA Press faculty editorial board, which is made up of scholars from all public universities in the state that award a doctoral degree, confers the prize on the basis of scholarly excellence.

Knight’s manuscript is a state-of-the-art study of excavations undertaken at the Moundville site in west central Alabama, one of the largest and most complex mound sites from precontact North America. Despite the site’s importance and sustained attention by researchers, until now it has lacked a comprehensive analysis of modern excavations.

Knight’s study is richly documented with maps, artifact photographs, profiles of strata, and inventories of materials found. His work explores the significance of Moundville’s monumental architecture, including its earthen mounds and the pole-frame architecture that once occupied the summits of those mounds.

UA Political Scientist Recognized with Buford Peace Award

Dr. J. Norman Baldwin, associate professor and director of the master’s program in political science, is the 2010 recipient of the Lahoma Adams Buford Peace Award.

Administered by the UA School of Social Work, the Buford Peace Award is granted annually to a UA faculty member who in teaching, research, practice, and professional life has demonstrated exceptional levels of involvement in mediating human disputes, helping overcome prejudice, promoting justice, and establishing peace.

The recipient receives a $1,000 award. Although the School of Social Work administers the award, any UA faculty member may receive it.

Baldwin has been a member of the UA faculty for more than 20 years. He has served as Faculty Senate president, where he spearheaded an effort to achieve domestic partner benefits for faculty in same-sex relationships. He also led an effort to help facilitate racial integration of UA’s Greek system.

His UA honors include the Morris L. Mayer Award for service and leadership and the Sam S. May Commitment to Service Award. Baldwin supports numerous causes and charities outside the University, including Amnesty International, Refugees International, Children’s Hunger Fund, and Center for Victims of Torture.
Massive Black Hole Implicated in Stellar Destruction, College Astronomer’s Research Finds

Results from research led by a College astronomer suggest that a star has been ripped apart by a black hole a thousand times more massive than the sun. If confirmed, this discovery would be a cosmic double play: it would be strong evidence for an intermediate mass black hole, a hotly debated topic among astronomers, and would mark the first time such a black hole has been caught tearing a star apart.

Dr. Jimmy Irwin, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, led the team that obtained the results from NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Magellan telescopes. “Astronomers have made cases for stars being torn apart by super massive black holes in the centers of galaxies before, but this is the first good evidence for such an event in a globular cluster,” Irwin said.

The cosmic double play scenario is based on Chandra observations that revealed an ultraluminous X-ray source (ULX) in a dense cluster of old stars and on optical observations that showed a peculiar mix of elements associated with the X-ray emission. Taken together, these events could mean that the X-ray emission is produced by debris from a disrupted white dwarf star that is heated as it falls toward a massive black hole. The optical emission comes from debris farther out that is illuminated by these X-rays.

Irwin and his colleagues obtained optical spectra of the object using the Magellan I and II telescopes at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. These data reveal emission from gas rich in oxygen and nitrogen but with no hydrogen, a rare set of signals from globular clusters. The physical conditions deduced from the spectra suggest that the gas is orbiting a black hole of at least 1,000 solar masses. The abundant amount of oxygen and the absence of hydrogen indicate that the destroyed star was a white dwarf, the end phase of a solar-type star that has burned up its hydrogen, leaving a high concentration of oxygen. The nitrogen seen in the optical spectrum remains a mystery.

Theoretical work indicates that the tidal disruption–induced X-ray emission could stay bright for more than a century, although it should fade with time. The team observed a 35 percent decline in X-ray emission from 2000 to 2008.

The ULX in this study is located in NGC 1399, an elliptical galaxy about 65 million light years from Earth.

Irwin said he plans to conduct more research on this phenomenon in the near future.

UA Revives Minor in Asian Studies

The College of Arts and Sciences has revived its minor in Asian studies. This interdisciplinary minor draws on the expertise of scholars from across the College, in such disciplines as art history, English, history, modern languages and classics, political science, and religious studies.

These scholars have studied the cultures, languages, history, and contemporary situation in various parts of Asia, including China, India, Japan, Sri Lanka, and Tibet. International exchange and study abroad programs in Asia also contribute to educational opportunities for Alabama students.

After a period of inactivity, the minor is being reactivated because of strong student interest. “These regions of Asia have some of the most vibrant economies, and they face the opportunities and the challenges of being home to a significant portion of the world’s population,” said Dr. Steven Ramey, assistant professor of religious studies and director of the program. “This minor will prepare Alabama students to engage in global issues and opportunities as well as the growing diversity within Alabama.”

The Asian studies program hosted a variety of cultural and educational events during the 2009–2010 academic year. Among them were an Asian studies film series, a visit by internationally acclaimed Indian flutist “Suman” V. K. Raman, and a lecture on Jews in India.

Newly Named Department at Home in College

There is a new name among the list of departments within the College of Arts and Sciences—the Department of Gender and Race Studies.

In November 2009 UA’s Board of Trustees approved moving the College’s African American Studies Program—previously a stand-alone program—into the Department of Women’s Studies, which was then renamed the Department of Gender and Race Studies.

Department chair Dr. DeVeanna Fulton Minor said the move will not result in any curriculum or mission changes for either program. “We’re not merging them, but rather blending two entities together that have their own separate identities,” she said. “There was a recognition that both African American studies and women’s studies, as two very small units, could benefit from combining forces, so to speak. I absolutely believe this will strengthen both disciplinary areas.”

The department now offers an undergraduate major and minor in African American studies, and an undergraduate minor and master’s degree in women’s studies.

Along with the new department name comes a new location for African American studies. The program moved its office from ten Hoor to Manly Hall, which houses women’s studies.

Tom Wolfe, associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, said bringing the programs under one administrative unit makes more effective use of University resources. “I think this move will create synergies for both African American studies and women’s studies that will nurture the growth of both programs and their identities. The merger opens up opportunities for research collaborations as well,” he said.

Dr. Jimmy Irwin stands next to UA’s telescope atop Galaxlee Hall.
Blount Initiative Marks 10 Years of Intellectual Inquiry

Ten years ago, faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences carved out a home for exceptional students, broad-minded professors, and small, seminar-style classes that dared to cross intellectual boundaries.

That program, the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, celebrated its 10th anniversary during the 2009–2010 academic year with a yearlong celebration. To kick off the festivities, dozens of Blount graduates returned at the beginning of the fall semester for a reunion.

A special 10th anniversary lecture series brought two world-famous scientists to Tuscaloosa to speak.

Dr. Steven Pinker, one of the world’s leading cognitive scientists and a best-selling author, spoke in November before a packed crowd at the Bama Theatre in downtown Tuscaloosa.

In March, UA alumnus Dr. E. O. Wilson gave two public talks on campus. Wilson is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner who is widely considered one of the world’s most influential scientists.

The Blount Undergraduate Initiative arose from a 1993 effort to develop the challenging and stimulating environment typical of a small, private liberal arts college within The University of Alabama’s comprehensive research institution framework. Dr. James D. Yarbrough, then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and other faculty and staff members sought to encourage the best students in the state to stay in Alabama for their college education.

The Initiative accepted its first class in 1999 after some 30 University supporters contributed more than $12 million to establish the Blount Initiative Endowment, anchored by a $7 million gift from the late Montgomery businessman Winton Blount and his wife, Carolyn, and the Blount Foundation. Family and friends of University of Alabama trustee John T. Oliver provided $1 million to renovate John T. Oliver–Barnard Hall, which serves as one of the Initiative’s academic houses.

Pulitzer Prize–winning biologist and UA alumnus Dr. E. O. Wilson poses in front of Clark Hall.

Left to right: Carrie Finch Moore, Caleb Connor, and David Brantner talk at the Blount 10-year reunion.

Left to right: Dr. Michael Ruse, Dr. E. O. Wilson, Dr. Jim Otteson, and Dr. Richard Richards, panelists in the “Consilience 12 Years Later” colloquium, join Dr. Joseph Hornsby, director of the Blount Initiative, after the presentations.

Left to right: Caitlin Prickett, Calvin Parker, Brandi Law, Laeh Hardin, Adam Schwartz, Nicky Stevens, and Laura Ingram pose for a photo during the 10th reunion.
Today Honors

UA Students Receive USA Honors

A record 10 University of Alabama students have been named to USA Today's 2010 All-USA College Academic Team. Once again, UA led the nation with the most students on the team, and set a record for the most students any university has ever placed on the team in a single year. Eight of the students are from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Grades, leadership, activities and, most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom are considered in selecting team members. UA has had great success placing students on the national team that honors the "best of the best" undergraduate academic all-stars from across the nation, with 46 students on the team since 2003.

On the second team are Alan L. Binder of Norcross, Ga., a journalism and political science major; Patrick Connor Johnson of Cullman, Ala., who is majoring in biology; Kendra Key of Tuscaloosa, Ala., a political science major; and Dana Lewis of Huntsville, Ala., with majors in public relations and political science. Selected to the third team are Joy Driver Aldridge of Clanton, Ala., majoring in chemical and biological engineering; Richard Cockrum of Northport, Ala., who is a biochemistry major; Susan De-Leon of San Antonio, Tex., majoring in biology; and Amy E. Frees of Huntsville, Ala., who is getting a major in chemical engineering. The two UA students on the honorable mention team are Kalen P. Berry of Hartselle, Ala., a biology major and Rebecca T. Long of Vestavia Hills, Ala., who is majoring in chemistry.

Retired Physics Professor Turns Sculptor

At age 72, retired UA physicist Dr. Chet Alexander has found a creative outlet in sculpture. He held his first art exhibition, Insight, in May at the College's Sella-Granata Gallery in Woods Hall. It featured more than 20 sculptures inspired by the work of some of the world's most notable scientists and mathematicians.

Alexander, a professor emeritus in the College's Department of Physics and Astronomy and former assistant vice president in the Office of Academic Affairs, enrolled as a student in the Department of Art and Art History before he retired in 2005.

He studied sculpture under the direction of Associate Professor Craig Wedderspoon. By the end of the spring 2010 semester, he had earned a total of 33 hours, nearly enough credit hours for a major.

"It's been a lot of fun. I've enjoyed being around students, and Craig has been a really great teacher," Alexander said. "He helped me understand sculpture and gave me lots of ideas. And he has a physics background, which was helpful to me." The Insight exhibit illustrates the beauty Alexander has observed in the symmetries and patterns of the natural world, as well as the interactions between scientists who work together to understand the physical world.

Wedderspoon said he was pleased to have a student embrace the relationship between science and art as Alexander did. "Art is science and math. It's just sort of a visual application of it," Wedderspoon said.

"The relationship is indeed natural—it's almost innate."

Alexander said woodworking has always been one of his hobbies, but he never considered himself much of an artist. He will now focus on creating woodcarvings in his home studio for his grandchildren.

Wedderspoon said he will miss having Alexander—whom he described as an ideal student—in the classroom. "He added an entirely different perspective to all of our critiques, and he was always thinking and processing. He's really just a phenomenal person."

National Hollings Scholars Chosen from UA

Four University of Alabama students have received National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarships for 2010. Three of them are from the College of Arts and Sciences.

The four students are among the 121 Hollings scholarship recipients for this year. The scholarships provide $8,000 per year for full-time study during the junior and senior years and $6,500 for a 10-week internship at NOAA or a NOAA-approved facility during the summer between the junior and senior years.

NOAA's 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; and improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

This year’s recipients are Cameron Bolt, Jessica Duke, Kaylan Gee, and Matthew Kelley.

Bolt, a junior majoring in management information systems in the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, is from Prattville, Ala. Duke, a junior from Trussville, Ala., is majoring in chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences. A junior from Irmo, S.C., Gee is double majoring in microbiology and Spanish in the College. Kelley is a junior from Mountain Brook, Ala., who is majoring in chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences.
Joysticks aren’t just for video gamers.

Robin Cobb, a graduate student studying marine science in the College’s Department of Geological Sciences, used one in April to remotely direct a research submarine as it hovered above the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, some 2,000 to 3,000 feet below the surface. Cobb, a native of Harvest, Ala., near Huntsville, spent a week aboard a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research ship as part of a team of scientists collecting exotic corals and photographing rarely seen organisms on the ocean floor.

Cobb got the research opportunity courtesy of a NOAA program. Her UA adviser and research mentor, Dr. Fred Andrus, assistant professor of geological sciences, had participated in other NOAA expeditions to deep sea coral grounds off the coast of Georgia. “Deep sea corals and fisheries are among the areas of most profound concern to NOAA as humans are beginning to have major impacts on these corals,” Andrus said.

The research ship Pisces departed from Port Canaveral, Fla., with Cobb and 11 other researchers from six institutions aboard. It traveled through part of the Gulf Stream off the coast of Savannah, Ga., where it launched an unmanned submersible remotely controlled by those aboard the ship.

Andrus and Cobb were most interested in deep sea corals known as Stylasteridae. Little is known about these corals, and through sampling and laboratory analysis, the UA pair hope to answer basic questions such as how fast they grow and what is their life expectancy. They also hope to learn more about the coral’s potential importance as habitat for commercially valuable fish such as wreckfish, barrelfish, and red sea bream.

The coral is not often found in shallower waters, and humans cannot survive in the ocean depths where it typically grows. So no long-term observations of the coral have been made. Andrus said their deep sea excursion was a lot like “detective work” except the sleuthing was in an exotic environment. “It was like working on the surface of another planet,” he said.

In a unique collaboration, an assistant professor in the Department of English and a College undergraduate coauthored an article that was published in May in College English, a top academic journal.

The research article by Dr. Emily Wittman and Katrina Windon proposes that the translation studies pilot class Wittman taught at UA should serve as the model for a required course for English majors across the country.

Windon, who is from Montgomery, Ala., graduated in May with a degree in English and Spanish. “It’s really exciting that the hard work paid off,” she said. “It was definitely helpful to get to work with Dr. Wittman, to get her perspective and learn how to write for publication.”

College English accepted the article without revision, a rare occurrence for the journal, which accepts only 5 to 10 percent of submitted articles, according to editor John Schilb.

The objective of Wittman’s translations studies course, taught in the spring of 2008, was to teach students how to read literature translations and give them the skills to attempt their own translations. Twenty-two students, undergraduates and graduate students, took the course.

Few universities devote much attention to translation studies because of budget constraints and other course obligations, Wittman said. “The course went really well, and I got great feedback from the undergraduates. I wanted to write an article about teaching the course because I felt that English departments across the country could benefit from including a translation studies course in their undergraduate curriculum.”

Wittman asked Windon, who had excelled in the class as a sophomore, to work on the research paper with her. The two worked for a year poring over hundreds of books, articles, and Web sites.

Wittman said several of her colleagues in the Department of English have contacted her to discuss the possibility of coauthoring articles with students. Their paper is proof that very important collaborative work can be done in the humanities, she said.

“There are a lot of questions we deal with as scholars of literature that can be tackled in an even more responsible fashion by two people rather than one,” Wittman said. “That model isn’t always proposed to us, whereas in science you often have a professor working with several graduate students.”

The student wasn’t the only person to benefit from the collaboration, Wittman said. “It wasn’t just me mentoring her. She brought to the table a number of fields of expertise including, among many others, knowledge of several languages, an advanced understanding of Web-based translations, and a grasp of copyright issues.”

“Dr. Wittman, to get her perspective and learn how to write for a publication.” —Katrina Windon

Dr. Emily Wittman (left) and Katrina Windon coauthored an article that was published in a top academic journal.
Harper Lee’s Classic Novel an Inspiration 50 Years Later

Adrianne Farris was a high school senior in 2007, with no plans to attend the University of Alabama, when a conversation with the legendary author Harper Lee changed her mind.

Farris, then 18 years old, was at a reception for winners of the To Kill a Mockingbird Essay Contest for Alabama high school students sponsored by the University. Forty-six essay writers had been selected as winners from their individual high schools. Farris was the statewide winner.

During the reception, Harper Lee struck up a conversation with Farris and asked about her plans after graduation. Farris told her she wasn’t sure what she was going to do, but she had been offered a scholarship from a small liberal arts college in Alabama. “She looked at me and said, ‘Girl, you can do better than that,’ and then she winked at me,” said Farris, now 22 and a senior majoring in English at UA. “She was implying that I should go to UA, her alma mater, and that got me thinking. She told me I should pursue something in the field of English or literature, and she commended me on my essay.”

That encouragement was all Farris needed. With the help of her high school English teacher, Farris researched scholarship opportunities and enrolled at the University. “So now I’m here at UA. My plan is to go to graduate school, get my master’s degree in education, and eventually be a high school English teacher,” said Farris, who is from Thorsby, Ala. “The whole reason I chose English, besides the fact that I like it, was because of what Harper Lee said to me.”

Half a century after it was published in 1960, To Kill a Mockingbird remains one of America’s best-loved novels. It captures the ambiance and conflicts of small-town life in the Deep South during the Depression. The book, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961, was made into an Academy Award-winning film starring Gregory Peck as attorney Atticus Finch.

Lee, 84, one of the most important contributors to literature of the American South, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civil honor bestowed by the president—in 2007. She is a 1949 College alumna.

The essay contest was initiated by the University in 2001 to honor Lee’s induction into the Alabama Academy of Honor. Farris’s essay, “Plights of Alabama’s Youth: My Awakening to Mockingbird’s Realities,” compares the character Mayella Ewell with a girl in her high school who was a survivor of sexual abuse and lived in a small mobile home with seven other girls and two foster parents.

“As a young Alabamian myself, I did not realize the deplorable conditions of some of my peers living in our state,” Farris wrote in her essay. “Even though a system has been established to aid adolescents in need of guardianship, the system is in such a state of deterioration that many youths in situations such as those of Mayella Ewell still suffer the indignities she and similar children were exposed to 75 years ago.”

As the statewide contest winner, Farris received $500; $500 was also given to Thorsby High School. Farris has two copies of To Kill a Mockingbird signed by Lee, as well as a photo of the two of them together. “Really, the book had such a huge impact on me, way more than I can even really put into words,” she said. “It’s just an eye-opener to realize how things were in the South, really not that long ago.”

### Biology Professors Receive Grant to Research Oil Spill

Two Department of Biological Sciences professors received international media attention this summer for their efforts to find environmentally responsible ways to clean up oil from the Gulf of Mexico spill.

As the spill became one of the country’s biggest environmental disasters, Dr. Behzad Mortazavi, assistant professor, and Dr. Patricia Sobecky, professor and department chair, were awarded a National Science Foundation Rapid Response Research grant for their project that is investigating ways to increase the rate at which naturally occurring marine microbes break down oil. The research team is conducting the project out of Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the State of Alabama’s Marine Science Institution.

The long-term goal of the project is to develop feasible engineering solutions to assist in mitigating the effects of oil contamination in coastal waters. “This grant allows us to turn our frustrations into something useful,” Mortazavi said. “Now we feel like we can actually get involved right from the start, instead of having to wait a long time before we can actually do research. This is just the beginning, and we hope we will be able to come up with a feasible solution to this problem.”

The NSF Rapid Response Research Grants fund quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and other unanticipated events.
The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board includes alumni and friends who support the College and its students with their time, influence, and minimum dues of $1,000 annually.
Scholarships and Endowments

The following friends have established or contributed to scholarships and other endowed funds in the College of Arts and Sciences, between June 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010.

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Dr. Lynne Adrian
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. Wilton J. Aebersold
New Albany, IN
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Dr. Glenn James Ahrenholz
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Mr. Jack Harris Fein
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North Port, FL
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Crawford Dillon III
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Dr. Mark S. Drummond
Birmingham, AL
Ms. Juanita Patton Duff
Knoxville, TN
Mr. & Mrs. Mary Sue Avery Durant
Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Edwards
Albany, GA
Dr. Thomas Coke Elington
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Ms. Emily L. Baker
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. & Mrs. John J. DeBuys Jr.
Birmingham, AL
Ms. Mary Ann Croft
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The College’s School of Music has received $500,000 from the estate of Thomas L. Gentry to create an endowed scholarship in support of academic excellence. The Gentry Endowed Piano Scholarship is intended for exceptional students who are majoring in piano.

A native of Tuscaloosa, Gentry received a bachelor’s degree in piano from UA in 1953 and a master’s in piano from Indiana University in 1955. He taught at Corpus Christi University in Texas and Blue Mountain College in Mississippi. He moved to California State University, Sacramento, where he was quickly promoted to the rank of professor. He remained on the faculty at Sacramento State for 30 years; he retired in 1994.

Gentry was a member of the Music Teachers’ Association of California, the California Association of Professional Music Teachers, the American Choral Directors Association, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, and Pi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He died on May 15, 2008, at the age of 74.

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Lithographs of Picasso Drawings Donated to College

Fifteen limited edition lithographs of drawings by Pablo Picasso have been donated to the College and the Department of Art and Art History by Dr. Virginia Rembert Liles, professor emeritus of art and art history, and her husband, Raeford Liles.

“It seemed to us that this would be a wonderful teaching collection,” said Dr. Liles, who served as chair of the Department of Art from 1981 to 1990. “We thought the drawings would be an inspiration for students, and we wanted them to be as widely seen as possible by students and faculty. They certainly reveal the most creative aspects of the artist’s mind.”

The lithographs were hung in the lobby on the second floor of Gorgas Library in November and are still on display.

In late 1946 Picasso produced 16 works, Mes Dessins d’Antibes (My Drawings of Antibes), in a few highly productive days during a stay at the Chateau Grimaldi in Antibes, France. The artist was celebrating the end of the German occupation in France and his relationship with Françoise Gilot. The works represent new beginnings for Picasso and his adopted country.

This collection of limited edition lithographs, which features Picasso’s incredible draftsmanship, was printed by Georges Salles, director of museums of France from 1945 to 1957. Raeford Liles acquired the lithographs while living in France.

“This gift makes available to our community some very nice examples of the work of one of the great icons of the art world,” said Dr. Catherine Pagani, chair of the Department of Art and Art History. “Our students now have the opportunity to view the actual works of this well-known and influential artist, rather than reproductions in an art history textbook. They are able to see the hand of the master.”
The Collegiate Fund supports scholarship, teaching innovations, and value-added student activities. It also enables the College to expand its level of alumni support. Donors to the Collegiate Fund help provide the margin of excellence that keeps the College in the forefront of liberal arts education. The college gratefully acknowledges the following friends who made gifts to the Collegiate Fund between June 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010.

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**Collegian** This is how college is meant to be.
Shreveport. Their daughter is a graduate of UA's New College and UA's School of Law.

Hazel and K.C.'s daughter met her husband at UA in 1969 when she was a freshman and he a senior to achieve, quietly sacrificing to help pay for their college education. She was accomplished at libraries at UA and throughout the Southeast. Ptomey was a fan of the University and of UA football. His enthusiasm strongly influenced his daughter's decision to attend the University.

He retired after 44 years and enjoyed a second career as a genealogist, writing several books that are other school expenses.

The K. C. and Hazel Ptomey Endowed Scholarship will support undergraduate students in the College who are graduates of Alabama high schools and who possess a strong work ethic and desire to succeed. It is established in their memory.

Scholarship for Promising Students

The family of the late K.C. and Hazel Ptomey recently donated $100,000 to The University of Alabama to establish a scholarship in their memory.

The K. C. and Hazel Ptomey Endowed Scholarship will support undergraduate students in the College who are graduates of Alabama high schools and who possess a strong work ethic and desire to succeed. It is intended for students who demonstrate academic promise and potential that has not been fully realized due to financial and/or personal hardship.

K. C. Ptomey grew up in Birmingham, where he attended Enzley High School. He worked at Redmont Market to help support his family. While working there, he became discouraged and almost quit school, but his employer, Dewey Morris, insisted that he finish. According to the family, Morris paid for Ptomey's books and other school expenses.

Ptomey graduated high school and was offered a job with United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company by the husband of one of Redmont Market's customers. He was promoted to insurance claims adjuster and attended law school at the encouragement of Edwin B. Corley, a friend and mentor at the company. After receiving his law degree, he continued working for the company, serving in an executive capacity during the last two decades of his career.

He retired after 44 years and enjoyed a second career as a genealogist, writing several books that are in libraries at UA and throughout the Southeast. Ptomey was a fan of the University of and of UA football. His enthusiasm strongly influenced his daughter's decision to attend the University.

Hazel Ptomey attended St. Clair County High School in Odenville, Ala., where she was a varsity basketball player. She, too, was the recipient of kindness: her coach underwrote her basketball expenses, knowing that her family could not afford for her to be on the team.

Hazel met K. C. Ptomey in Birmingham. A stay-at-home mom, she valued education and encouraged her three children to achieve, quietly sacrificing to help pay for their college education. She was accomplished at sewing and needle arts. Her daughter, who inherited her mother's talent, majored in fashion design at UA.

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The Alabama chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has donated $10,000 to benefit UA’s J. Nicholene Bishop Biological Station in Hale County. The 480-acre nature reserve is also known as the Tanglewood Outdoor Classroom.

Bev Leigh Il of Tuscaloosa visited the College to present the check to Dr. Robert Olin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Leigh is a member of the board of the Alabama chapter of the federation.

“We like to put the money that we raise back in the ground in the state of Alabama, and this is a wonderful opportunity for us to partner with The University of Alabama,” Leigh said. The funds will be used to purchase a tractor for the nature reserve. The reserve plays a prominent role in the College’s natural resources management minor, helping to further undergraduate and graduate research in biodiversity and environmental processes.

“We are honored that the state chapter has chosen to partner with us in the development of undergraduate and graduate research in biodiversity and environmental processes.”
Powell Scholarship Established to Aid Sand Mountain Students

Col. Alyn S. Powell, a College of Arts and Sciences alumnus and professor emeritus, has donated $50,000 to the College for an endowed scholarship in honor of his grandfather. The D. W. Powell Endowed Scholarship will aid students in the College who graduated from a high school in the Sand Mountain region of Alabama or attended junior college there.

Born in 1987, D. W. “Doc” Powell grew up in Sand Mountain, Ala., where he became one of the area’s largest landowners. He was a storekeeper, postman, farmer, and entrepreneur, and he acquired the nickname “Doc” for his services as a dentist, although he had no formal training in dentistry.

D. W. Powell began his merchandising career by selling clothes from a wagon. The business grew into the largest mercantile establishment in DeKalb County. He generously gave back to the community and was active in the development of the region’s schools and churches. He donated part of his land to make possible the construction of a two-year college in Sand Mountain. A devoted father of 15, he also helped raise his grandson Alyn Powell.

Col. Alyn Powell received a bachelor’s and a master’s degree at the University of Alabama (1948, 1966). In 1965, after a distinguished career in the U.S. Air Force, he began teaching in UA’s Department of Journalism, which was then in the College of Arts and Sciences.

He became an assistant professor of journalism in 1967 and designed the advertising and public relations curriculum for the program. In 1974 Powell was named chairman of the newly created Department of Advertising and Public Relations in the School of Communication, now the College of Communication and Information Sciences. He retired from the University in 1980.

Powell, who lives in Lott, Tex., is grateful for the positive influence his grandfather had on his life and on the lives of so many others.
Physics and Astronomy Department Receives Memorial to Amateur Astronomer

When the Department of Physics and Astronomy held its popular nighttime viewings of the stars and planets, Gary Lee Holmes was often there. An informed and enthusiastic amateur astronomer, Holmes shared his knowledge of the night sky with others in attendance.

Holmes died in February at the age of 54, and his son, Joshua Holmes of Tuscaloosa, donated his father’s telescope, camera, and accessories to the Department of Physics and Astronomy in memoriam.

Dr. William Keel, a professor in the department, said he remembers Gary Holmes dropping by the Observational Astronomy class because he enjoyed watching the students see through a telescope things they had hitherto seen only in textbooks.

“He told me that he really got hooked on astronomy when watching Comet Halley in 1986, and he was hooked in a big way,” Keel said. “His photographic prowess was notable. He acquired very specialized sky cameras and produced beautiful panoramic color photos of the sky.”

Collegian
Georgia Couple Establishes Scholarship to Aid Atlanta-Area High School Graduates

Ronald S. and Martha R. Franklin of Roswell, Ga., have donated nearly $51,000 to establish an endowed scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences for graduates of Georgia public high schools in the Atlanta metro area. The Ronald S. and Martha R. Franklin Endowed Scholarship will help offset out-of-state tuition for those graduates attending UA. The Franklins created the scholarship to honor the memory of Ronald Franklin’s parents, Billy and Rozell Franklin.

Billy and Rozell Franklin grew up in Toney, Ala., and graduated from Hazel Green High School. Both were in the armed forces during WWII. Billy Franklin served three years in Europe and North Africa. The couple, who spent most of their adult lives in Huntsville, Ala., were successful in several independent businesses.

Priority consideration for the scholarship will be given to students who performed well academically in high school while participating in athletics or other extracurricular activities and who continue to be involved in extracurricular activities while maintaining good grades at the University.

Qualifying candidates must have completed at least 30 hours at UA with a minimum grade point average of 3.0, and they must demonstrate financial need.

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College Fund Donors

Professorship in English Honors
Memory of Former Faculty Member

The College of Arts and Sciences has received $250,000 from the estate of Dr. William Thornberry. Going to establish a professorship in English honoring the memory of his wife, Margaret Elizabeth Going to teach English language and literature at SIUE, he served as dean of instruction (1958–63) and at Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville (SIUE) during its formative years. She died in 1980 as professor emeritus. In addition to earning a master's degree at Duke University as a scholar and fellow in English, she was a member of the Glee Club and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. She was elected to Phi Beta Sigma, a well-loved professor of English, Margaret taught at the University from 1944 to 1957. She received a master's degree from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. She attended the University of London in England as a Ford Foundation Scholar. A well-loved professor of English, Margaret taught at the University from 1944 to 1957 and at Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville (SIUE) during its formative years. She died in 1989 at the age of 69.

Williams Going was born in Birmingham. He received his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Alabama in 1936. An outstanding student, he served on the staff of the Corolla and the Crimson White and was a member of the Glee Club and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and other honor societies.

Going earned a master's degree at Duke University as a scholar and fellow in English, and received an Ed.D. from the University of Michigan. He taught at The University of Alabama from 1939 to 1957. He was hired by Southern Illinois University to help establish its branch in Edwardsville, Ill. Going retired from Southern Illinois University in 1980 as professor emeritus.

This is how college is meant to be.
Dorothy Hermann, the wife of the late John Vernon Hermann, died on January 6, 2006. John Patrick Hermann, is a professor emeritus in the College’s Department of English. A gift from the estate of Dorothy Hermann of Tuscaloosa, Ala., will be used to support the Don Hendrie scholarship was established in 1999 to honor the memory of the novelist and UA

**Hermann Donation Supports Scholarship to Aid Graduate Students in Fiction Writing**

A gift from the estate of Dorothy Hermann of Tuscaloosa, Ala., will be used to support the Don Hendrie Jr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship provides financial aid for students in the Department of English who are pursuing a master’s degree in fiction writing. Mrs. Hermann’s son, Dr. John Patrick Hermann, is a professor emeritus in the College’s Department of English.

The Hendrie scholarship was established in 1999 to honor the memory of the novelist and UA professor emeritus Don Hendrie Jr. Hendrie, head of the College’s creative writing program in the 1980s, was recognized for expanding the graduate creative writing program and solidifying its reputation as one of the top writing programs in the nation. He was the author of five novels.

Dorothy Hermann, the wife of the late John Vernon Hermann, died on January 6, 2006.
In Memoriam

The College of Arts and Sciences lost these beloved faculty members during the 2009–2010 academic year.

Dr. Robert Young
Dr. Barbara Fischer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Modern Languages and Classics</th>
<th>Jan. 31, 2010</th>
<th>May 24, 2010</th>
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Dr. Douglas E. Jones spent 38 years, his entire career, at The University of Alabama, and friends and colleagues of the professor emeritus and administrator remember his unwavering allegiance to the University and his easygoing good humor.

“He probably placed the University above self,” said Dr. E. Roger Sayers, former UA president. “He had that much love and respect for its history and traditions and certainly did everything he could to help strengthen the University during his long career in many different roles.”

Jones, a professor emeritus of geological sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences and curator of invertebrate paleontology at the Alabama Museum of Natural History, died April 2, 2010, after a brief illness. He was 79.


“The College of Arts and Sciences and The University of Alabama have lost one of our finest citizens,” said Dean Robert Olin.

Dr. Jones retired from UA in 1996 but maintained close ties with the university. In recent years he had been reorganizing and cataloging the Museum of Natural History’s invertebrate collection of more than 10,000 specimens. He was also involved with the College’s Department of Geological Science’s advisory board and Moundville Archaeological Park.

A memorial service was held at First Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa with burial at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville. Memorials may be made to the Douglas E. Jones Scholarship at The University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870122, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35478-0122; the First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa; or Hospice of West Alabama.

Dr. Douglas E. Jones
The following friends have made gifts to individual departments or programs in the College that are not included in the previous lists. All gifts were received between June 1, 2009, and May 31, 2010.

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Alumni Notes

1954
James Lester Pate (psychology; M.A., Ph.D., psychology) was elected a charter fellow of the Midwestern Psychological Association and a fellow of Division 24 (Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. He has completed terms as president-elect, president, and past president of the Southeastern Psychological Association. Pate continues as the council representative for the Society for the History of Psychology (Division 26 of the American Psychological Association). He is a professor emeritus of psychology at Georgia State University.

1960
Dr. Milton Frank III (biology) and his wife, Cookie A. Frank, live in Atlanta. In 2008 he retired from his private cardiology and internal medicine practice in Atlanta after 40 years. He served as a cardiologist and medical consultant for the Atlanta Hawks professional basketball team for 25 years.

1963
Fred Marchman (fine art) published a new poetry anthology *Word in Space & Duets with Erato* in 2008 that includes his own illustrations. He lives in Fairhope, Ala.

1967
Joan DeGuire North (M.A., English; Ph.D., educational administration) retired in August as dean of the College of Professional Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point after 25 years of service. She had also worked at the University of Alabama and private colleges in Iowa and Pennsylvania. She is an avid tennis player, raises worms for composting, gardening, and enjoys artistic endeavors such as jewelry making. She is married to Storm North, an independent Mac computer consultant.

1968
Dr. Warren H. Mory (marine science/geology) recently accepted the position of manager of the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Guntersville–Tims Ford Watershed located in Guntersville, Ala.

1972
William H. Purnell (political science) lives in Florence, Ala., with his wife, Sherri, who teaches in the Lauderdale County School System.

1975
Patrick Hughes (history) lives in Anniston, Ala., where he has practiced law since 1978. He has a solo practice specializing in personal injury, workers compensation, and social security disability.

1979
Tommy Dean Morgan (M.A., English) is an Intensive English Program/English as a Foreign Language instructor at Box Hill College Kuwait and the American University of Kuwait.

1980
Susan Jackson Epstein (M.S., speech pathology) published her first book, *The LIFE Program for MS*: Lifestyle, Fitness, Independence, Energy (Oxford University Press), in April 2009. After she graduated from UA, she received a second master’s degree in exercise physiology. Both of these degrees led to her writing the book. She lives in Amherst, N.Y., with her husband, Dr. Leonard H. Epstein, and two daughters ages 9 and 13. Epstein, who was a UA scholarship track athlete, has been nominated for induction into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. In 1984 she was ranked 10th in the world in the USA Women’s Marathon, narrowly missing a spot on the U.S. Olympic Team. She went on to represent the United States at the inaugural Goodwill Games held in Russia in 1986.

1984
David Gray Brewer (marine science/geology) recently accepted the position of manager of the Tennessee Valley Authority’s Guntersville–Tims Ford Watershed located in Guntersville, Ala.

1987
Frank Goodwin (biological sciences), his wife, Michelle, and their three sons live in Millbrook, Ala. He works for the State of Alabama in engineering, where he is involved with stimulus funding. Frank is also an EMT with the Millbrook Fire Department. For the last nine years, he has been involved with the Boy Scouts as a leader and parent at the local and district level. The couple’s oldest son plays trumpet and percussion in the Stanhope-Elmore High School Marching Band; their other two sons are involved in Scouting.

1988
Todd McLeroy (political science) and his wife, Kathryn Hefley McLeroy (accounting, 1988), live in Cullman, Ala., with their three children, Meghan, Molly, and Myles. Todd has practiced law with the firm of Knight, Griffith, McKenzie, Knight, and McLeroy since 1993. He is the immediate past president of the Cullman County Bar Association. He also serves as a director and vice president of Cullman Regional Medical Center.

1994
Christopher S. Paslawski (history) decided after summiting Mount Kilimanjaro in 2008 to leave his job as a budget officer for the federal government in Washington, D.C. He volunteered for a month in Kathmandu, Nepal, where he worked at an orphanage and taught English to Buddhist monks. He traveled to Argentina to scale the highest peak in the Americas, Mount Aconcagua. In March 2010 he returned to Nepal to continue his volunteer activities and mountain climbing pursuits.

1998
Kari Ard (American studies) began work as a career center specialist at the Alabama Career Center in Hanceville, Ala., in October 2009. She helps people get federal funds for college and skills training through the Workforce Investment Act.

Deondra Lynise Richardson (criminal justice) married Eric N. Griffin on October 3, 2009, at a ceremony held at The Club in Birmingham, Ala. The couple honeymooned in California, where they visited her brother Jacoby A. Richardson, a 2003 graduate of the College of Communication and Information Sciences; he is an assistant editor for the CBS sitcom *Gary Unmarried*.

1999
John Hardy Wilson (history/English) was accepted into the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership Candidate Training Program at the University of Virginia. Focused on the fundamentals of a winning and ethical campaign for political office, the program brings together diverse individuals with a passion for politics and public service. Wilson works for Novartis.

2000
James Powell (marine science and biology) and Raegan Tomashek Powell (restaurant and hospitality management, 2002) welcomed a daughter, Macy Elyse Powell, into the world on September 25, 2009. The Powells live in Charleston, S.C., where Raegan works as a district manager with Starbucks Coffee Company and James is a marine wildlife biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Marine Mammal Stranding Assessment Project.

2006
Margaret Case Little (political science) has joined National Retail Federation (NRF) as its communications manager, responsible for executing NRF’s social media strategy along with Retail’s BIG Blog. She also manages several communication vehicles, including NRF Update and NRF SmartBrief. Before joining NRF, Little served as a legislative staff member for Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL), working on banking, tax, and commerce issues, among others. Little minored in public relations. She currently resides in Arlington, Va., with her husband, Michael.
University of Alabama students who minor in natural resources management will soon have access to a learning pavilion at the J. Nicholene Bishop Biological Station in Hale County. The 480-acre site is also known as the Tanglewood Outdoor Classroom.

The pavilion, which will have classroom space, a lab/kitchen, and a covered outdoor meeting area featuring a large stone fireplace, will provide an all-weather staging area for students to study and conduct research at the heavily forested site. “We felt like we needed a gathering place for our students,” said John C. Roboski, director of the natural resources management minor. “This pavilion will provide a place to go in inclement weather; we can have short lectures there before we begin laboratory classes; and students can go there to work on the samples they have collected in the woods.”

The nature reserve plays a prominent role in the College’s recently established natural resources management minor, helping to further undergraduate and graduate research in biodiversity and environmental processes. The minor, which is offered through the College of Arts and Sciences, is available to students majoring in either the College or the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration. It addresses a growing need for professionals trained in best practices of land management.

Students who complete the natural resources management minor will be prepared for professional opportunities in environmental monitoring, such as endangered species and wetland delineation, restoration of disturbed land, and forest and wildlife management decision making. Graduates may work for land management and planning agencies at the federal, state, or local level, or for nongovernmental organizations or legislative bodies concerned with land use policies and laws.

A multipurpose pavilion will be built at UA’s J. Nicholene Bishop Biological Station in Hale County. The 480-acre site is the primary field classroom for the College’s minor in natural resources management.