Going Global

Three study abroad programs in College are a first for UA

For the first time students at The University of Alabama can spend an UA semester at a major university in Cuba, China, or England. UA’s College of Arts and Sciences has launched the University’s first UA-supervised semester abroad programs at the University of Havana in Cuba and Central University for Nationalities in Beijing in the 2008-2009 academic year and will launch the University of Birmingham’s Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-upon-Avon in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Tegrity

New Web-Based Course Capture System Keeps Lectures Coming

Straining to decipher chicken-scratch notes the night before a test, a student may find herself wishing she could go back and hear her professor’s lecture again. Now, at The University of Alabama, she can.

The College of Arts and Sciences has instituted an electronic “course capture” system called Tegrity that will allow students to review lectures online throughout a semester.

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Dean’s Message

I saw so many different ways of living and being, more than I had imagined. It’s one thing to read about other cultures. But seeing other cultures and how those worlds work made me look at everything differently. I came back home with a new me.

That is how one student I recently spoke with described enthusiastically her time of study in another culture and how that experience jump-started her personally and intellectually. If I had one wish, it would be that every student would have that type of experience. With the addition of three new programs this fall, we’ve reached a milestone that gets us closer to that goal.

As you will read in this issue of the Collegian, the College has launched the University’s first, three semester-long study abroad programs.

For many years University students have traveled abroad for course credit as part of the University’s three-week interim term. The University’s Capstone International Program and many individual departments do a superb job of enabling UA students to enroll in overseas universities. Now, however, we have semester-long, University of Alabama planned programs in Cuba, England, and China. Each program, directed by a College faculty member-in-residence and includes courses designed by our faculty, will offer several real advantages that other study abroad programs could not.

First, students are earning UA course credits. There is no question how or if they will transfer to the University. Our students also have the advantage of being advised in advance by our faculty directors, ensuring that their semester abroad courses will dovetail with their curriculum back at UA.

They are assured that they will get the same quality teaching and courses in their abroad experience as they would at the Capstone. They do have a UA faculty member in residence not only as a teacher but as a mentor. It’s a little less daunting to head off for a semester abroad when you have the company of fellows.

It was very important to us to make these experiences a semester long. Time in another culture, however brief, is instructive. But extended study stays can be transforming. In these new UA programs there is time enough for students not just to visit, but to immerse themselves in the daily rhythms of another culture and learn about this new world in thoughtful ways.

Finally, the big picture: Our graduates are stepping into a marketplace of multinational companies, overseas customers, and workforce teams with many languages, customs, and ways of getting things done. We want them to be prepared with a global education, however brief, is instructive. But extended study stays can be transforming. In these new UA programs there is time enough for students not just to visit, but to immerse themselves in the daily rhythms of another culture and learn about this new world in thoughtful ways.

Going long…touchdown

Commencement marks the conclusion of an important journey in learning. Every graduate’s story of accomplishment is special, and I’m always moved to hear what it took in sacrifice, time, hard work, and determination to achieve that diploma. I stand in particular awe of individuals raising families and working full-time careers who return at a later age to the books. It takes a strong will to study part-time, when the goal of graduation stretches far into the future and progress is measured one course at a time.

So it was a particular pleasure for me to shake the hand of graduating student Joe Namath at our December commencement. In recent years I have been aware of this student’s steady progress through the External Degree program, part of New College. As one semester moved into the next, we all began to sense an athlete’s determination as Joe navigated a demanding professional schedule and family responsibilities to mail in the next assignment, complete the next paper, visit or phone conference with faculty, sign up for the next course…and then the next course. He was known for reworking what his professors considered already acceptable assignments.

He wanted to meet not just the expectations of the course, but to meet his expectations for himself as well.

When asked by reporters why he worked to get his degree after highly successful careers in professional football and sports broadcasting, he said because he promised his late mother that he would finish his degree and that he wanted to do it for his daughters.

But this dean thinks he also did it for himself—the personal aim of a man accustomed to making his goals. As Joe said at the press conference, earning that degree just made him feel good. It made us all feel good.

Roll Tide! 🏈

Alumna Harper Lee Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

Harper Lee (1926–2016), author of the internationally best-selling novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the president’s highest civil honor.

“One reason *To Kill a Mockingbird* succeeded is the wise and kind heart of the author, which comes through on every page,” said President George W. Bush, during the White House ceremony on Nov. 5, 2007, according to an Associated Press story. “This daughter of Monroeville, Alabama, had something to say about honor and tolerance, and, most of all, love—and it still resonates.”

Lee, 81, was one of eight people who received the medal for their contributions to national security, the cause of peace and freedom, science, the arts, literature, and other fields. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published in 1960 and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961.

Harper Lee pictured with President George W. Bush. Photo credit Associated Press.
“International study is vital for students who are entering today's global economy,” said Bob Olin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “We want to provide students with opportunities to experience different cultures, which will enhance what they are taught in the classroom.”

UA faculty members serving as program directors say there is an intense sense of adventure with the new programs.

“We are starting this program from scratch and are charting new territory,” said Michael Schnepf, professor of Spanish in the College's Department of Modern Languages, who is directing the program in Cuba. “As I’ve told some students, life in Cuba isn’t going to be like a study abroad program in Europe. There are going to be times when water service may be limited or there may be a power blackout. But the students I’ve talked with like the idea of it being an adventure and being different.”

Fifteen students will be admitted to the program in Cuba, which will begin in January 2009. Students will live in an apartment complex in Havana—the country's capital city with 2.1 million inhabitants—and attend classes at the University of Havana as well as take educational excursions to locations around the island.

The UA program in China has already filled with 22 students who are on a monthlong immersion program before formal classes begin in the fall semester. This includes two weeks of classes followed by a two-week trip to a remote rural Chinese village where the students will live in village conditions.

The students will take two courses on Chinese history taught by a UA professor and four hours of Chinese language lessons five days a week. Central University for Nationalities, one of China's top five universities, is located in the heart of Beijing, a highly coveted location for international study-abroad students.

“In their history courses, they will learn about a site in China and then visit the site. They will be learning about the history of Beijing—from a Mongolian city to a 21st-century Olympic site—while living in the city,” said Tony Clark, assistant professor in the College's Department of History and director of the China program. “And it’s going to be an intense language experience. Many students will start the program not knowing any Chinese; at first they won’t be able to tell a cab driver where they would like to go. By the end of the semester they will be having discussions with cab drivers about politics.”

Last spring's devastating earthquakes will not directly affect plans for the semester in China. “In terms of distance, the area of the quake in relation to Beijing is farther than the distance between San Francisco and New Orleans,” Clark said.

The UA program in England, which will begin in the 2009-2010 academic year, will give about 20 UA students the opportunity to study Shakespeare at the University of Birmingham's Shakespeare Institute in the town where the famous playwright was born.

In addition to participating in a milestone of UA's academic programming, students who enroll in the China and England programs will experience China's historical turning points. Students will be in China during the first significant political change its citizens have seen in nearly 50 years.

“They are going to get an experience you can’t get anywhere else in terms of a country that has been closed off to the United States for so long,” Schnepf said. “Historically, politically, and socially, this is a key moment in time for Cuba. I think the students who are interested in the program realize how special this experience will be.”

Likewise, China is in the midst of an industrial and cultural revolution, Clark said.

“It will be an amazing opportunity for students to live in Beijing and in a remote Chinese village where they will really get a sense of traditional Chinese culture,” Clark said. “This trip may be the last time UA students will be able to see ‘old Beijing’ because the Chinese government is tearing down the traditional neighborhoods in the city.”

“Many of the students who are enrolled in these programs have never traveled outside of the southern United States before. Their whole universe is going to be completely shifted,” Clark said. “These students have an adventure ahead of them.”

For more information on the Cuba program, contact Michael Schnepf at 348-5059 or mtschnepf@bama.ua.edu. For more information on the England Program, contact Carmen Burkhalter, senior associate dean, Office of the Dean, 348-7007. For more information on the China program, contact Professor Tony Clark at aclark1@bama.ua.edu or visit http://www.bama.ua.edu/~aclark1/UA_in_China_2008.html.

The semester abroad in Cuba is the latest in a number of partnerships with the University of Havana by College of Arts and Sciences faculty and students as a result of the Alabama-Cuba Initiative. Started in 2001 with leadership from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Initiative seeks to provide opportunities for UA students to pursue their education under a special academic license granted by the U.S. government.

In the summer of 2007 archeologist from the College led a team of researchers and graduate students on an excavation in eastern Cuba, making them the first Americans to conduct archaeological digs in Cuba since the Cuban Revolution of 1959.

The joint U.S-Cuban archaeological expedition, which was funded by the National Geographic Society, sought to learn more about the native people Christopher Columbus encountered on his first voyage to the New World. The expedition also provided a historic opportunity for two UA graduate students, Brooke Persons and Paul Nae, who worked alongside professional Cuban archaeologists.

“This is the first ever international U.S.-Cuban partnership in archaeology to involve U.S. students,” Knight said. “The license encourages the kind of work that we’re doing.”

Another project that came about because of the Initiative occurred this past spring when Professor Tom Wolfe, director of jazz studies and associate dean of humanities and fine arts in the College, and the UA Jazz Ensemble performed alongside Cuban musician Pablo Menendez for a free concert held at the Moody Music Building on UA campus. Wolfe met Menendez, the youngest founding member of Grupo de Experimentacion Sonora del ICAIC (Experimental Song Collective of the Cuban Film Institute), during a trip to Cuba in 2007 under the terms of the University’s special academic license.

Since 2001 the College has led a series of strategic University faculty trips to Cuba as part of the ongoing Cuba-Alabama Initiative. Many University faculty members, the majority from the College of Arts and Sciences, have travelled to Cuba to explore with colleagues in Cuba the creation of structured educational programs that can be applied toward the degree requirements of students enrolled at the University.
Tegrity, continued from page 1

The program was introduced in the 2007–2008 academic year to students and faculty University-wide with the support of Provost Judy Bonner and the UA Office of Academic Affairs.

Tegrity is an Internet-based tool that automatically records classroom lecture audio and synchronizes it with any visuals displayed through a classroom projector, including Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, Web sites, and images from a document camera. Students can then view class recordings using a link through the University’s eLearning course management system.

The program is intended to supplement classroom lectures and be a study tool for students. Professors also can use Tegrity to prerecord lectures and release them at a later date on eLearning.

“I use it for the students,” said David Brommer, a professor in the Department of Geography, “but I also use it for myself. I try to pay attention to how I teach.”

Tegrity was piloted in a dozen classes by the College for the 2007 spring semester and quickly gained popularity among faculty and students. The results of the pilot were so positive that the University purchased a campuswide Tegrity license. The College’s Office of Educational Technology (eTech) is helping with the University-wide initiative.

“I was surprised at the enthusiasm shown by faculty and students alike,” said Carmen Burkhalter, College of Arts and Sciences senior associate dean and senior information officer. “I am also surprised how quickly faculty members embraced the technology, even those who are not tech-savvy.”

The fall 2007 semester started out with 27 faculty members using Tegrity in 58 course sections to make 868 recordings of class content. Throughout the semester, more than 2,100 students viewed Tegrity online class content 30,038 times for a total of 8,794 hours.

In the spring 2008 semester, Tegrity recordings grew to 1,168 lectures in 84 course sections. Those recordings were viewed 44,957 times by 10,777 users for a total of more than 15,000 hours.

Angela Collins, assistant professor in the Capstone College of Nursing, said her students rely on the technology to help them deal with the work volume. Collins allows her students to download her lectures so they can play them on portable electronic devices such as an iPod or MP3 player.

“In my most recent course evaluation 80 percent of the students said Tegrity is what was getting them through pharmacology, at least in a less stressful manner,” Collins said. “The repetition of the lectures, which Tegrity provides, is important for the students when learning new terminology.”

Sophomore Jess Lee used Tegrity to view biology lectures she missed when she had walking pneumonia.

“I find it useful because it’s a good backup if you are sick or you need to review information you’ve learned in class,” she said.

Many UA students say Tegrity is a helpful tool when studying for a test.

“I definitely think it has helped my test scores,” sophomore Lauren Cabral said. “Instead of just looking at PowerPoint or reviewing my notes, I can listen to the lecture again, which helps if I am having trouble with a concept.”

Some faculty expressed fears that students would view course content online rather than attend class, but none of the faculty interviewed who use the program said they had seen a decline in attendance.

“If a student is not willing to stop by for a 50-minute class three times a week, then he is not going to sit down and listen to 12 hours of lectures the night before a test,” Brommer said.

Tegrity is part of an ongoing initiative in the College to introduce into the classroom educational technologies that have been shown to improve student learning.

“As we did with Pearson Education, the company that developed the MyMathLab software that is used in our computer-based Math Technology Learning Center, we are working with Tegrity executives to give them feedback on our use of Tegrity so that they might make their product even better,” said Bob Olin, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
Pioneering College transition program launched for students with autism spectrum disorders

Soon after Laura Klinger joined The University of Alabama as a clinical psychologist in 1993, she met a preschool child with Asperger syndrome for the first time.

Since then, the worldwide number of diagnosed cases of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), which include autism, Asperger syndrome, and pervasive developmental disorder, has exploded and the disorders have received widespread media attention. As the founder and director of a UA research clinic specializing in ASD, Klinger has evaluated and provided therapy services to hundreds of children.

As for the child Klinger met in 1993? Well, that student enrolled as a freshman at The University of Alabama during the 2007–2008 academic year.

This past academic year UA developed and launched a college transition program, known as UA-ACTS, for students with an autism spectrum disorder. Graduate students and staff from Klinger’s ASD Research Clinic provide academic, social, emotional, and daily living skills support to undergraduate students with ASD. UA is one of only five universities in the nation to have such a program, according to Klinger.

Individuals with ASD have IQ scores that range from developmentally disabled to gifted. Those with average IQs or higher have the academic skills necessary for success in college, but often face difficulties when it comes to social interactions, such as not knowing how to make friends, poor conversation skills, and obsessive interests. The mission of the new UA program is to provide the social skills support needed to bridge the gap for such students and help them achieve the dream of going to college.

The program, which is made possible by a one-year grant from the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities, began in the fall semester 2007 with three full-time freshmen students. Between five to 10 students are expected to enroll in the program this fall and dozens more are interested in enrolling years down the road, according to Sarah O’Kelley, UA-ACTS program coordinator. Klinger envisions the UA program becoming self-sustaining and eventually expanding to serve 16 students; however, the program is in need of a permanent funding source. A clinic goal is to raise scholarship funds to assist the families of future students in paying the program’s $3,000 per semester fee.

“Our daughter was an honor student in high school but had problems with social skills,” said Gina Wilson, whose daughter is in the UA-ACTS program. “We are so pleased that The University of Alabama has a program like this because I don’t know if she would have been able to attend college without it. She has just thrived here.”

School of Music Brings Song of Healing to Enterprise

Students and faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences’ School of Music have created a song in memory of the eight students who were killed at Enterprise High School when an F4 tornado swept through the small Alabama town on March 1, 2007. The storm has been described as the worst disaster in Enterprise history.

The piece, entitled “Enterprise,” was commissioned through the office of UA Provost Judy Bonner and supported through the UA Creative Campus Initiative. Ken Ozzello, professor and UA director of bands in the School of Music, initiated the project. Ira Hearshen, a Los Angeles composer and arranger in the film industry, wrote “Enterprise.”

The music and lyrics of “Enterprise” represent band and choir members who were killed in the storm. The lyrics include quotes from a poem published in the Enterprise High School Year Book and from “Amazing Grace” and “Carry On,” songs that were popular with the Enterprise High School students. School of Music students performed “Enterprise” on Jan. 11 at the Moody Music Building Concert Hall in conjunction with the Alabama Music Educators Association Conference. The students also performed two concerts in Enterprise on Feb. 29 to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the tragedy.

To view a video of the concert, visit www.ua.edu/features/enterprise.html.
Brewer-Porch Children’s Center Grows, Gets a Face-Lift

SARAH COLWELL

A $10 million renovation of the Brewer-Porch Children’s Center, which is part of the College of Arts and Sciences, has enabled the center to expand to meet growing demands for treatment of severely emotionally disturbed children. The center is located on six acres of the former University of Alabama golf course near the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The project included the construction of three new buildings, an addition to the administrative building, and a renovation of the cafeteria. The new facilities added 31,500 square feet of space to the campus, which allows 36 additional clients to be served in a residential setting. The three new residential buildings’ state-of-the-art facilities are helpful in the treatment and care of clients from ages 8 to 18, said the center’s director, Jimmy Thompson. The new residential buildings can house clients in secure zones that promote safety and individual treatment. Each resident has his or her own bedroom and private space, which creates a more homelike environment.

Classrooms, offices, and a library were added to the administration building to accommodate an increase in the client population. All the classrooms are equipped with computers, televisions, and Internet connections, which provide entertainment and educational resources for the center’s residents. New offices allow the center’s professional staff of about 300 to be within close proximity to clients so immediate care can be provided if needed. Counselors are available around the clock to address client needs and implement crisis intervention.

The center’s grounds were landscaped, covered walkways between buildings were installed, and parking lots were expanded. New picnic tables, covered porches, and other amenities provide areas that help promote relaxation, therapy, and fun.

Brewer-Porch Children’s Center was established by the Alabama legislature in 1970 to provide a model treatment program for Alabama’s special needs children and adolescents, and their families. Treatment is based on an interdisciplinary approach that combines psychology, education, nursing, psychiatry, social work, and counseling. The center also is a clinical teaching/learning site for undergraduate and graduate students from UA and other colleges and universities.

Sabans Support Brewer-Porch Children’s Center

Youth at The University of Alabama’s Brewer-Porch Children’s Center received new games to play with this year thanks to a generous Christmas gift by UA head football coach Nick Saban and his wife, Terry Saban.

Through the Sabans’ nonprofit organization Nick’s Kids Fund, the Sabans donated $5,000 to the Brewer-Porch Children’s Center, which operates six mental health service programs in Tuscaloosa for children and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. The center, located near the Tuscaloosa Veterans Affairs Medical Center, is part of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Sabans donated the money for games, which are important in the development of the children’s social and cognitive skills, according to Jimmy Thompson, director of Brewer-Porch Children’s Center. The games will be used in recreation areas of new residential cottages.

With the donation, the Sabans join a group of nine other individuals, known as the Friends of Brewer-Porch, who have donated more than $100,000 during the past 14 years for gifts and holiday events for the Brewer-Porch children.

The Nick’s Kids Fund was established in 2000 by the Sabans on the principle that “no man stands as tall as he who helps a child,” said Terry Saban. In 2007 the fund raised more than $300,000 for charitable organizations in Alabama.

Blount Initiative Sets 10-Year Reunion

The Blount Undergraduate Initiative will host a 10-year reunion in the fall of 2009 for the alumni of the program’s first graduating class.

The reunion will take place at The University of Alabama on Friday and Saturday during the first week of class, which will coincide with the traditional Friday afternoon signing of the Blount Book of Scholars. All Blount Initiative alumni are invited to the book signing, which will start at about 4 p.m. that Friday, and to the reception for new freshmen that will immediately follow. Later that night a special reception will be held for the first Blount Undergraduate Initiative class, the class of 1999.

On Saturday all Blount Initiative alumni and current students are invited to an afternoon barbecue followed by a reception later that evening.

“We’re excited to bring back to campus the more than 1,000 Blount scholars who, through their accomplishments in the program and after graduation, have added so much to the Blount Initiative’s enviable reputation in higher education,” said Joe Hornsby, associate professor in the Department of English and program director of the Initiative. “We’re planning a fun weekend, especially for the first class of 1999.”

Blount alumni will receive further details in a mailing. All program alumni are encouraged to contact the Blount office and provide current contact information. Call Joe Hornsby at 205-348-1730 or at jhornsby@bama.ua.edu. For more information about the 2009 Blount reunion events, contact Hornsby or visit the Blount Undergraduate Initiative Web site at www.as.ua.edu/blount.

Minor in Natural Resources Management Offered

Thanks to a partnership between the College of Arts and Sciences and the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration, The University of Alabama now offers a natural resources management minor for undergraduates.

The minor supports the interests of many UA students from rural backgrounds whose families may have interests in timber or hunting lands, as well as students who have a passion for land-related outdoor activities. Students who select the new minor are expected to develop an appreciation for the ecological diversity of Alabama, understand the historical importance of natural resources in the economic development of Alabama, and learn the guiding principles of land stewardship and economic sustainability. Students will also learn how lifestyle changes can affect land management and the economic base of the state. Students will go on field trips and be exposed to hands-on learning experiences that will supplement the basic guiding principles of ecological systems taught in the classroom.

For more information, contact John Roboski, director of the natural resources management minor, at 348-5972 or jroboski@as.ua.edu or visit www.as.ua.edu/naturalresources.
The blast from dozens of brass instruments and the rapid rumble of drums filled the Four Points Sheraton on the evening of April 4 as guests of the 2008 Arty Party clapped along to the Million Dollar Band’s rendition of “Yea Alabama.” The band, part of the School of Music, made a surprise appearance at the Arty Party, an annual event sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board to benefit fine and performing arts programs in the College.

This year’s Arty Party, which featured the School of Music, was themed “A Night at the Moulin Rouge.” Guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner, as well as music performed by faculty and students from the School of Music. They also bid on more than 75 one-of-a-kind auction items, including art by William Christenberry, fine dinners, trips, and the opportunity to conduct the Million Dollar Band at a Crimson Tide home football game.

This year’s Arty Party raised more than $35,000, a record for the event. Proceeds will provide School of Music students with new instruments, support scholarships, and help fund priority academic needs in other fine and performing arts departments in the College. Since its inception in 2003, the Arty Party has raised more than $120,000 for the College’s fine and performing arts departments.

The event is a project of the Leadership Board’s Fine Arts Committee.
Amanda Penick Honored for 54 Years of Teaching

Amanda Penick, professor of music and coordinator of the piano area in the College’s School of Music, received many honors during the 2007–2008 academic year, which also marked her 54th year of teaching at The University of Alabama.

“On rare occasions in life do the commitments, achievements, and vision of a single individual become so indelibly aligned with a particular discipline that terms such as ‘institution’ and ‘legacy’ become appropriate,” said Skip Snead, director of the College’s School of Music.

“Amanda Penick is precisely such an individual. She has taught thousands of students and bestowed on many of them a dynamic sense of musicianship and definable artistry.”

“A Heritage of Excellence,” a program of piano recitals in Penick’s honor, was presented in Tuscaloosa and Birmingham last spring. The recitals featured performances by 11 of Penick’s former students who have gone on to distinguished musical careers.

The UA alumni performers were Melinda Brooks, Syble Coats, Lynn Fetzer Faulkner, Pam Gordon, Drew Mays, Melinda Parrish, Anthony Pattin, Pam Penick, Cynthia Perry, Frances Schwemmer, and Ron Shinn.

Mays, a Birmingham ophthalmologist, won the Van Cliburn Foundation’s Fifth International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in June 2007.

The concert coincided with Penick’s winning the Music Teachers National Association’s (MTNA) Teacher of the Year Award. Penick received the award on April 2 at the MTNA National Conference in Denver. Candidates for the award are submitted from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Penick was the unanimous choice of a three-person selection committee for her service to MTNA, her abilities as a teacher (including the success of her students), and her abilities as a performer.

“It was inspiring to read of the many ways that Amanda has influenced the lives of her students, friends, and colleagues,” said Geri Gibbs, past president of the Southwest Division of MTNA and a member of the award committee. “Simply by reviewing her life through her portfolio, I was deeply touched and personally inspired.”

This past spring some of Penick’s former students established a scholarship in her honor. Barbara and Cris Stone of Birmingham, Drew Mays of Vestavia Hills, Carleton and Bruce Sokol of Birmingham, Frances and Ed Schwemmer of Huntsville, and Gloria Moody of the Gloria Narramore Moody Foundation of Birmingham initiated the scholarship with their early participation and generosity. Inspired by the gesture, Penick herself contributed a significant amount to the scholarship fund, bringing the initial gifts and pledges to more than $550,000.

The Amanda Penick Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to students in the School of Music, with particular emphasis on piano students. The College has set a goal to raise $1 million for the scholarship fund.

“I love the opportunity to help students. I just feel that to nurture and help students with their music is one of the nicest jobs you could have. That is why I am still here after all these years,” Penick said. “I’m proud to walk out of a recital where a student just played and know I had a small part in making that student better.”

Penick joined the UA faculty in 1953 and does not have plans to retire anytime soon.

This is how college is meant to be...

This is how college is meant to be...
Metka Zupancic, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, has been inducted as a knight, or chevalier, in France’s Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms).

The Ordre des Palmes Académiques is an international honor society reserved for those who have made substantial contributions to French culture. Zupancic was nominated by the French consulate in Atlanta. UA French and linguistics professor Michael Picone prepared a letter of support and other material.

Zupancic recently published a collection of her essays in French titled Helene Cixous: texture mythique et alchimique; they examine the writings of Cixous, a French feminist writer and philosopher known for her work on the relationship between sexuality and language.

Originally from Slovenia, Zupancic received a doctorate in romance philology from the University of Zagreb in Croatia in 1988 and a doctorat de 3e cycle from the University of Strasbourg in France in 1977.

Zupancic teaches undergraduate courses in French studies, French phonetics and English-French translation, commercial French, and French civilization, as well as courses in contemporary French and Francophone literature. Her graduate courses include the 20th- and 21st-century French and Francophone novel, critical theory, feminism, myth and literature, and film and literature. She also teaches a seminar, “Yoga: East and West,” for the Blount Undergraduate Initiative. Zupancic can be reached at mzupanci@bama.ua.edu.

Guy and Kim Caldwell received the first HudsonAlpha Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Life Sciences. Presidents of Alabama’s six public research universities could nominate up to two teams or individual candidates from their respective institutions. All six research universities—Alabama A&M University, Auburn University, The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and University of South Alabama—submitted nominations.

In announcing the award UA President Robert E. Witt said, “The Caldwells’ exceptional work on neurological disorders serves the HudsonAlpha Prize’s goal of raising awareness of the significance of biotechnology research in Alabama and provides a fine example of how innovative research can translate into practical application, mitigation of human suffering, and marketplace opportunities.”

Funding for the annual HudsonAlpha Prize for Outstanding Innovation in Life Sciences is provided through a grant by the Alpha Foundation.

Clinical psychology doctoral faculty in the College’s Department of Psychology were recently ranked 25th in the nation in average productivity, according to a study published in the June issue of Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice. The program was ranked 12th in total number of publications.

The study rates almost 2,000 faculty members’ output at 166 American Psychological Association–accredited doctoral programs. The researchers ranked scholarly productivity as one of the many possible evaluation measures of clinical psychology programs.

“We knew our faculty were published quite often, but we couldn’t put it in context until this study,” said Kenneth Lichstein, professor and chair of the Department of Psychology. “The rankings reflect the quality research here.”
American Studies Professor Wins Award, Gives “Last Lecture”

Jim Salem, professor in the Department of American Studies, recently received the national American Studies Association’s prestigious Mary C. Turpie Award and was selected to be the 2008 Last Lecture speaker at UA.

The Turpie Award was established in 1993 to recognize excellence in American Studies teaching, advising, and program development. Salem was selected for the award based on testimonials from colleagues, as well as from current and former students, regarding his dedication to teaching and the quality of his departmental leadership, including his development of a new course, American Culture.

Salem also was selected by students, from all UA faculty members, to give the 2008 Last Lecture. Salem had to answer one question in the form of a highly engaging lecture: “If this were your last time to address a group of students, what would you say to them?” The title of Salem’s talk was “Bye, Bye Miss American Pie: Why I Study American Popular Music.”

Salem, who has published plays, songs, articles, and essays, is also the author of 18 books including several reference works on drama in America. The Late Great Johnny Ace and the Transition from R & B to Rock ‘n Roll was published in 1999 by the University of Illinois Press as part of its Music in American Life series.

Salem’s work on American popular music and the 1950s has appeared in Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies; American Music; American Studies Journal; Columbia Journal of American Studies; American National Biography; Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History; and the Encyclopedia of the Blues.

He is a past recipient of the UA National Alumni Association’s Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. He stepped down as chair of the College’s Department of American Studies after 30 years, making him the longest-serving chair in the College. Salem retired in June 2008. He can be contacted at jsalem@tenhoor.as.ua.edu. To view Salem’s Last Lecture talk, visit graduate.ua.edu/events/lastlecture.

Fischer Elected to Leadership Role with Lessing Society

Barbara Fischer, professor of German in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics, has been elected vice president and president-elect of the international Lessing Society.

The Lessing Society, which has an international membership, was founded in 1966. It is named after Gotthold Ephraim Lessing who was the leading 18th-century German Enlightenment writer, and, along with Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller, is one of the canonical German cultural figures. The society sponsors symposia, scholarly lectures, annual seminars, and meetings at such major conferences as the annual conventions of the Modern Language Association and the Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. In 1969 the society published the first volume of the Lessing Yearbook, recognized internationally as a vital and respected publication of current research in eighteenth-century studies.

The Lessing Society tries to have the presidency and vice presidency split between a German and a U.S. university. The current president of the Lessing Society is Monika Fick, a professor in Aachen, Germany. This is the first time in the society’s 42-year history that it has had women as president and vice president.

Political Scientist Earns Prestigious Guggenheim Grant

Douglas Gibler, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, received a prestigious Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Research Grant in the 2007–2008 academic year for his research on global conflicts.

Gibler, who joined the UA faculty in 2006, will use the award to support his work on international conflict and state development and to complete research on a book-length project. It is the first grant the Guggenheim Foundation has given to a researcher in Gibler’s area of study in more than five years.

The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation seeks proposals from scholars in the natural and social sciences and the humanities who are studying the causes, manifestations, and control of violence, aggression, and dominance in the modern world. Gibler can be contacted by e-mail at dgibler@as.ua.edu.

History Professor Robert Johnson Dies

Robert Erwin Johnson, longtime history professor with the College, died Jan. 28, 2008 after a short illness. He was 84.

Johnson, who taught in the Department of History from 1956 to 1993, specialized in U.S. naval history. He served a term as chair of the department in the early 1990s. He received numerous awards for his publications on naval history. Johnson also was the faculty sponsor of the College’s publication Southern Historian.
Amy Ward, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and director of UA’s Center for Freshwater Studies, was named chair of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges’ ecology section. NASULGC is the nation’s oldest higher education association.

Founded in 1887, NASULGC is an association of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and many state public university systems that is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery, and engagement. Ward also has been instrumental in having areas of the Talladega National Forest selected as a candidate core site by the National Ecological Observatory Network, known as NEON. At these locations scientists will measure such things as soil and water properties, air quality, and weather conditions. They also will track patterns and changes in organisms including small mammals, insects, birds, fish, and plants. These findings will be tallied with the findings from 19 other selected locations in the United States, which comprise this national observatory network, to determine the impacts of changes in climate, land use, and invasive species throughout the country.

“This will set the stage for us to have various collaborations with people in the other domains,” Ward said. “I think it is going to open the door to a whole new level of research for our students.”

Ward heads the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT) program, a graduate education program to support students in freshwater studies. UA faculty members from biological sciences, geography, and geology participate jointly with faculty in similar areas from the University of New Mexico. The program allows students from the two universities to travel to the other region and study freshwater environments in contrasting climates.

Ward also is the founder and director of UA’s Center for Freshwater Studies, which is dedicated to understanding and preserving water and the plants, animals, and people that depend on it. Ward can be contacted at award@biology.ua.edu.

Lochman Selected for Burnum Award

John E. Lochman, professor and Saxon Chair in the Department of Psychology, is the recipient of The University of Alabama’s 2007 Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award.

One of the highest honors the University bestows on its faculty, the Burnum Award is given each year to a faculty member who has demonstrated superior scholarly or artistic achievements and has a profound dedication to the art of teaching.

Lochman is nationally known for his work with youth behavioral disorders, particularly aggressive conduct, and related “bullying” behaviors. A discussion of his work is included in the best-selling book Emotional Intelligence by the New York Times science reporter Daniel Goleman. He is co-developer of the Coping Power program that provides a structured intervention into the lives of children in late elementary school and middle school who are the most aggressive and disruptive. Lochman notes that these children are at high risk for substance abuse—cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana use—in middle school and beyond.

Lochman, who directs the UA Center for the Prevention of Youth Behavior Problems, is involved with projects totaling more than $19. 3 million in research grants. His research has been continuously funded by federal agencies since 1984.

Lochman came to the College in 1998. He has published more than 150 scholarly articles, more than 75 book chapters, and seven books. He is president of the American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and is a member of the board of directors of the Society for Prevention Research. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and the American Psychological Association Society of Clinical Psychology. In 2004 Lochman received an honorary doctorate from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands and UA’s Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor Award.

Chunmiao Zheng, professor of hydrogeology in the Department of Geological Sciences, was elected president of the International Commission on Groundwater (ICGW). The ICGW is part of the International Association of Hydrologic Sciences. The ICGW is responsible for the advancement of the science of groundwater hydrology, including the scientific basis for groundwater resource assessment and groundwater management.

Zheng was elected president at the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) 24th General Assembly held in Perugia, Italy in July 2007. He will serve two years as president-elect and four years as president. Zheng can be contacted at czheng@ua.edu.
This is how college is meant to be...

Leaders of the Pack

CATHY ANDREEN AND RICHARD LECOMTE

The University of Alabama made history this year when seven of its students became part of the 2008 USA Today All-USA College Academic Team, earning UA the record for the most team members of any university in the nation. Of those seven team members, four are students from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Renee Rivas, a senior biology major in the College, was named to the First Team. Second Team members from the College include Dana Lewis, a junior public relations and political science major, and Jackson Switzer, a senior chemistry major. Alexander Flachsbart, a senior political science and economics major in the College was named to the Third Team.

Other USA Today All-USA College Academic Team members from UA are Michelle McGaha, a senior industrial engineering major, Second Team; Dylan Whitenhunt, a senior chemical engineering major, Third Team; and Adam Harbison, who earned his degree in healthcare management in December 2007, Third Team.

UA students accounted for more than 10 percent of the students nationwide named to USA Today’s First, Second, and Third Teams in 2008.

This year’s team brings UA’s total for the past six years to 31, a figure that tops all other colleges and universities. UA had the most students on the list in 2006 with six, and in 2005 and 2003, with five each year. In 2007 UA tied with Washington University-St. Louis for the most team members with four. In 2004, with four students on the team, UA came in second only to Harvard University.

The USA Today All-USA College Academic Team honors the "best of the best" undergraduates all-stars from across the nation. The team recognizes college students who not only excel in scholarship, but also extend their intellectual abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society.

Sophomore Kyle Lee Wins National Biology Award

A sophomore in the Department of Biological Sciences who aspires to be a neurologist, Kyle Lee of Millry, was named a 2008 recipient of the prestigious Benjamin Cummings Biology Prize.

Lee, who has been conducting research into the molecular basis of epilepsy in the lab of Guy and Kim Caldwell in the College’s Department of Biological Sciences since the first semester of his freshman year, was one of only four recipients selected nationally by the publisher of general biology textbooks.

Benjamin Cummings, a publishing brand of Pearson Education, publishes books read by more than 100 million people worldwide. Competition for the award is open to students of any institution where Benjamin Cummings biology texts are used. Each of the four awards includes a $1,000 grant.

Lee joins University of Alabama students Renee Rivas and Cody Locke, past recipients of this honor. UA is one of the few universities in the country to have three students win the Benjamin Cummings Prize within five years, said Guy Caldwell, associate professor of biological sciences.

Thus far in his college career, Lee has been awarded the Arts and Sciences Collegiate Scholarship, the Mary Petrea Marsh and Albert Hopkins Marsh Memorial Endowed Scholarship, the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, and the Halliburton Scholarship. He is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the University Honors Program.

The University of Alabama led the nation with seven students named to the 2008 USA Today All-USA College Academic Team, four of whom were from the College of Arts and Sciences. College winners stand with Dean Bob Olin in front of Clark Hall on the UA campus.
For the second year running three students from the College of Arts and Sciences have received one of the country’s most elite academic scholarships.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation selected two sophomore biology majors, Kalen Berry of Hartselle and Susan M. DeLeon of San Antonio, Texas, and junior Eric R. J. Edwards, a physics and mathematics major from Memphis, Tenn., as 2008 Goldwater Scholars.

The three UA students were among 321 mathematics, science, and engineering students selected nationwide to receive the scholarships, which will cover the costs of tuition, books, fees, and room and board up to $7,500 per year.

Grad Student Selected for Unique Research Opportunity

Doctoral student Ed Geisweidt in the Department of English was one of only 14 graduate students in the country to be selected to participate in the Folger Institute’s yearlong dissertation seminar “Researching the Archives” at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington in the 2007–2008 academic year.

Geisweidt, assistant to the director for the Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies in the Department of English, had access to the world’s largest and highest quality collection of Shakespeare resources and other rare Renaissance books, manuscripts, and art. Geisweidt used the archives to conduct research for his dissertation, “Cherishing a Loathsome Excrement: The Cultural Coding of Hair in Early Modern England,” in which he looks at cultural beliefs and practices surrounding hair.

The Folger Institute, a center for advanced study and research in the humanities, was founded in 1970 through a collaborative effort between the Folger Shakespeare Library and two Washington-area universities. The Hudson Strode Program is the only privately endowed program in English Renaissance literature in the United States. It is named after the late Hudson Strode, a notable author and teacher of Shakespeare and creative writing who taught at UA from 1916 to 1963.

Robertson Receives Prestigious German Exchange Scholarship

William Robertson—a political science, German, and American studies major in the College of Arts and Sciences—has received a prestigious German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Scholarship to study in Germany.

Robertson is one of 58 undergraduate students from 46 Canadian and U.S. universities selected by a panel of experts in higher education to receive the scholarship, which is the German equivalent of the Fulbright Program, according to Thomas Fox, professor and chair in the Department of Modern Languages and Classics. Robertson, who is from Ozark, graduated from the George W. Long School in 2003 and Enterprise-Ozark Community College in 2005.

The DAAD Undergraduate Scholarship Program is designed for students who want to spend part of their third or fourth year of college in Germany. The students may study their for a semester or a full academic year, participate in an internship or conduct senior thesis research. According to Fox, the scholarship is an honor for both Robertson and UA as the DAAD grants are generally reserved for advanced graduate students.

“The smallest and most competitive percentage of grants is reserved for students who are still undergraduates, as is the case with Mr. Robertson. His receipt of the grant speaks to the quality and maturity of his work, as well as to the mentoring he has received at UA,” Fox noted.

For more information on DAAD programs go online to www.daad.org.
Recently elected National Academy of Sciences member Michael Oldstone said the fundamentals he learned in the College of Arts and Sciences helped drive his successful career in medical research.

The desire to answer why something happens has motivated and propelled Michael B. A. Oldstone's internationally distinguished career in immunology and virology. And it is a desire he acquired while he was a student at The University of Alabama.

“When I went to The University of Alabama, I had a teacher in biology who raised the issue of thinking about how or why something happened, and that was very instrumental in developing my intellectual curiosity,” Oldstone said. “Those were questions I asked very early on in my career and they helped me immensely when I attended the M.D.-Ph.D. program at The University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins.”

Oldstone (biology, 1954) is now professor and head of the viral-immunobiology laboratory in the Department of Immunology and Microbial Science at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, Calif. In May he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences—one of the most prestigious honor societies in the world, recognizing scientists who have made monumental achievements in original research.

His research interest in viruses and infectious diseases began in junior high school after he read Microbe Hunters by Paul de Kruif and Rats, Lice, and History by Hans Zinsser.

“Those tales of adventures and accomplishments by early microbiologists, as well as how history and civilizations were altered by infectious agents, led to my lifelong fascination with infectious disease,” Oldstone said.

He enrolled at The University of Alabama in 1950. The University of Michigan offered him a history scholarship, but he was attracted to Tuscaloosa because of the small size of UA’s campus, some 4,000 students at that time, and because he had friends who attended the Capstone.

“They were very happy years, maturing years,” Oldstone said of his undergraduate experience at UA. “Going to college was like four years under an ether cup—no worries, just learning. It was a wonderful time to scholastically and socially—and for becoming football fanatic.”

After serving in the U.S. Army, Oldstone entered medical school at The University of Maryland. During his second year there Oldstone saw “enormous gaps in the understanding of diseases.” After he received his medical degree in 1961, Oldstone decided to pursue a career in medicine that focused on laboratory research.

“It wasn’t enough for me to make the diagnosis and treat the illness. I wanted to know why,” Oldstone said. “I was interested in why people got sick. Why one person got sick and another person didn’t.”

He entered the combined M.D.-Ph.D. program through The University of Maryland and the McCollum-Pratt Institute of Johns Hopkins University, where he studied biochemistry and microbiology. He trained at Walter Reed Army Medical Center under the guidance of senior experts in virology and then at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation (now the Scripps Research Institute) in the Department of Experimental Pathology. There he worked in the laboratory of Frank Dixon, one of the giants in immunology. In 1966 he became a faculty member at the Scripps Research Institute, one of the country’s largest private, nonprofit research organizations engaged in basic biomedical science.

While at Scripps, Oldstone has focused primarily on negative-stranded RNA viruses, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV), and measles virus, as well as infectious folding protein disease.

His studies changed the once-accepted dogma that a virus that persists in the body causes tolerance of the immune system; he extended these findings to human infections. Oldstone defined both LCMV and measles virus as infections that lead to a suppression of the immune system. His research has proven instrumental in the understanding of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), various types of hepatitis virus, and other human persistent virus infections.

“Michael is in the top tenth of 1 percent of people in neurology and viral biology worldwide,” said Thomas Edgington, M.D. and professor in the Department of Immunology at Scripps. “The depth of his knowledge is greater than most. And although he is very well recognized internationally, he does not toot his own horns or push his fame. He is a quiet powerhouse.”

Oldstone was one of 72 scientists to be chosen for the National Academy of Sciences in 2008. His selection was based on his dedication to fur-
Alumni and Friends

College alumnus and Leadership Board member John Holaday (Biology, 1968) was presented The University of Alabama’s 2008 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award by President Robert Witt in February. The award is given annually to one man and one woman of that year’s graduating class and to one nonstudent recognizing his or her excellence of character and service to humanity. Holaday was this year’s nonstudent recipient.

Holaday has spent his entire career working to make life better for others through his work in the biosciences. He is widely known as a co-founder of Medicis Pharmaceutical Corp. and EntreMed.

He enjoyed a career as a neuropharmacology research scientist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and as a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine as well as the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He has authored more than 200 publications and holds more than 30 patents. Holaday is the managing director and chief executive officer of QRxPharma, a clinical stage specialty pharmaceutical company whose preclinical and clinical pipeline includes technologies in the fields of pain management and central nervous system disorders.

John Holaday Receives UA Premier Award

Alumnus Joe McInnes Delivers Mills Lecture

Joe McInnes, director of the Alabama Department of Transportation (DOT) and an alumnus of the College (chemistry, 1966), presented the spring 2008 Helen Crow Mills and John Carroll Mills Lecture in Morgan Auditorium in March.

His talk, titled “How I Got Here From There: The Reinvention of One’s Life and Career,” discussed leadership and the evolution of his career. He was a chemistry major at The University of Alabama and a law student at Jones School of Law, went to work for an international construction company, and is now employed by the state.

Before working at DOT, McInnes was an executive with Blount International for 23 years, eventually serving as the company’s executive vice president and chief administrative officer. During his time with Blount he played a key role in transforming the business from a construction company to a multi-industry conglomerate.

McInnes is a member of UA’s National Advisory Board and President’s Cabinet.

Scenes from the 2008 Benefactors Dinner on March 7 at North River Yacht Club. Some 230 people attended the event. The next Benefactors dinner will be held March 6, 2009 at the Bryant Conference Center on the UA campus. For more information contact the College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office at 348-7007.

John Holaday

Alumni and Friends
### The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board

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

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### Dance Scholarship Honors Alumna

Robin and Richard L. Ward Jr., of Birmingham, have established a dance scholarship in memory of their daughter, Meredith Ashley Ward. Meredith, who died in August 2006, was a dance major in the College of Arts and Sciences and studied extensively with Cornelius Carter, director of the dance program in the Department of Theatre and Dance. Meredith was a teaching assistant for three years with the Radio City Rockettes Summer Intensive. She also was a member of UAB’s two dance companies, the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre and Dance Alabama.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in 2004, Meredith was the tap director at Exclusively Ballet and Dance in Birmingham. She later moved to Las Vegas where she performed in the stage show Jubilee and taught dance at Fern Adair’s Conservatory of the Arts and the Jr. Dance Zone. She won the gold medal for tap choreography at the Los Angeles Dance Force National Convention.

“Any current dance students will be honored to receive support in Meredith Ward’s name. Her accomplishments and the enthusiasm with which she embraced her very promising career serve as an inspiration to us all,” said Dean Bob Oldshue.
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Artist Frank Fleming
Endows Scholarship

Nationally known artist and UA alumnus Frank Fleming (MFA, 1969) has donated $20,000 to establish the Frank Fleming Endowed Scholarship Fund in the College of Arts and Sciences. The scholarship is designated for ceramics students pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in the Department of Art.

Fleming said he grew up "poor, poor" in rural Alabama but was able to attend UA graduate school because of numerous fellowships he received. He hopes to make part of some students’ semesters a little easier with this scholarship, he said.

"That’s all I can hope for, just to give a helping hand to someone who might just be in that period of time where they need it real bad. The University did that for me," Fleming said. "I wanted to give something back to the institution that I hold quite near and dear.”

Fleming, a widely collected artist in ceramics and bronze, is best known in Alabama for his public artworks throughout Birmingham, including The Storyteller sculpture fountain at Five Points South. Fleming’s work has been shown in galleries throughout the country including the Smithsonian, the Birmingham Museum of Art, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

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Bennett Supports Theatre and English Students

Mary Fitzs Bennett (English, 1951; MS home economics, 1963) has pledged $80,000 to the Mary Shiras Fitzs Bennett Endowed Arts and Sciences Scholarship for students in the Department of Theatre and Dance and the Department of English—an existing scholarship Bennett established in 1997 in honor of her mother. Bennett, a Tuscaloosa resident, is retired from the Tuscaloosa County Board of Education.

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The Collegiate Fund supports scholarships, teaching grants, and other value-added activities of the College. 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, 2007 and May 31, 2008.

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A member of the College of Arts and Science's Leadership Board made an anonymous gift of $25,000 to the Collegiate Fund Scholarship Endowment in 2008. The endowment, which was established in the early 1990s, has been funded in part by gifts to the College's annual gift fund from alumni and friends, the Collegiate Fund, and Leadership Board members. The Leadership Board has set a goal of $500,000 for scholarship endowment during the University's Capital Campaign. With the $25,000 gift, the endowment is now at $440,700, which is more than 80 percent of the board's goal. The endowment currently provides a total of $22,000 in annual scholarships to students majoring in the College. Individual scholarships, which range from $500 to $2,000, are used to support highly deserving students based on need when other avenues for scholarships are exhausted.
Scholarship Honors New College’s First Dean, Wife

Friends of Anne and Neal Berte, the first dean of UAB’s New College, have established the Anne and Neal Berte Endowed Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. More than $25,000 has been received in gifts and pledges in honor of the Bertes. The College’s goal is to raise $300,000, which would provide five, half-tuition scholarships to outstanding students enrolled in New College based on their academic merit and potential for leadership.

Neal Berte was instrumental in the conception and establishment in 1970 of New College—an interdisciplinary liberal arts program at The University of Alabama. He also served as vice president of educational development while at UA. In 1976 he became president of Birmingham Southern College, a post he held until his retirement in 2004. He earned bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from the University of Cincinnati, with a research interest in the use of learning contracts in higher education. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and one of the youngest inductees into the Alabama Academy of Honor.

The Bertes live in Birmingham and have four children and 12 grandchildren.

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William G. Anderson has given $40,000 to benefit the William Garnett Anderson Scholarship in the Department of Art, the Department of History, and the Collegiate Fund Scholarship Endowment. Anderson is the president of Anderson Oil & Gas Inc. in Shreveport, La., where he lives with his wife, Grace.
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UA Alumnus Establishes Faculty Fund

Graham McClintock (Bachelor of Science, 1955) has given $25,000 to establish the Paul Graham McClintock Jr. Endowed Faculty Enhancement Fund in the College of Arts and Sciences. McClintock was born in Montgomery, the son of Louise and Paul McClintock, University of Alabama graduates who excelled in athletics. McClintock, who received a doctorate of dental medicine from The University of Alabama School of Dentistry in 1958, is a retired pediatric dentist who practiced in Mobile for 36 years. He was an active member of the American Dental Association, president of the Alabama Pediatric Dental Association, president of the Southeastern Society of Pediatric Dentistry, and diplomat of the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. McClintock and his late wife, Jean Aird Pill, together had three daughters, Louise, Jeanie, and Margaret.

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The University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences
Rhett and Melanie Murray Establish Scholarship

Rhett Murray (Chemistry, 1983) and his wife, Melanie H. Murray (College of HES, 1983), have pledged $20,000 to establish the Dr. Rhett B. Murray Endowed Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences. The scholarship will give priority to students participating in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative Program. Rhett Murray, who received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, is a neurological surgeon with the Spine and Neurosurgery Center in Huntsville. He specializes in degenerative spine, spine and brain trauma, brain tumor, complex spine, and normal pressure hydrocephalus surgeries. The Murphys live in Huntsville and have four children.
Pearson Establishes Mathematics Education Scholarship

Pearson Higher Education, Addison-Wesley has pledged to establish the Pearson Endowed Scholarship fund in the College of Arts and Sciences to benefit students interested in pursuing a career in mathematics education.

The endowment recognizes the Mathematics Technology Learning Center (MTLC) in the College's Department of Mathematics. Under Dean Robert Olin's leadership, the College opened the MTLC, a 240-computer math leaning community in UA's largest residence hall, in 2001. The center received a Special Award of Merit from the Alabama Quality Council. The MTLC is part of an ongoing initiative in the College to introduce into the classroom educational technologies that have been shown to improve student learning.
Scholarship Honors

Former Geography Chair

Jan S. Weaver of Tuscaloosa has given $10,000 to establish the David C. Weaver Endowed Support Fund to honor the memory of her late husband. The endowment will be used to support students, preferably graduate students, studying geography in the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Alabama. David Weaver, born in Dudley, England, came to The University of Alabama as an associate professor in 1977 and was promoted to professor in 1982. He was instrumental in creating the Department of Geography’s Cartography Lab and The University of Alabama Map Library. Weaver became chair of the Department of Geography in 1987. After stepping down from this position after an unusually long term of 13 years, he continued to teach until his death in 2006.

The Weaver family and Department of Geography have a goal of making the endowment fund grow to $100,000. Those interested in contributing to the fund can contact the Office of University Advancement at 205-348-4767.

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Dr. Kenneth J. Tucker
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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 leadership and artists with a Lifetime Membership for their role in advancing the arts in Alabama and the Southeast. The Society annually awards membership at the state level and recognizes state and community leaders and artists for their contributions to the arts. The SFA also recognizes the following friends to the Leadership Board:

Mr. William Ahrenholz Tuscaloosa, AL
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Mrs. Marjorie Aronov Montgomery, AL
Mr. Brandt Ayers Anniston, AL
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The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board consists of 120 alumni and friends who support the College through their time, influence, and minimum annual dues. The board meets twice a year on campus. The fall board meeting will take place October 3.

Leadership Board


The Leadership Board appointed new officers for 2008-2010:

Fred Crown Chairperson
Frank and Rebecca Gregory Vice Chairpersons
Pam McCollough Secretary-Treasurer

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board consists of 120 alumni and friends who support the College through their time, influence, and minimum annual dues. The board meets twice a year on campus. The fall board meeting will take place October 3.

Leadership Board
Other Contributors

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, 2007 and May 31, 2008.

$50,000 and Above

Dr. Dan E. Douglas
Birmingham, AL
Mr. Paul R. Jones
Atlanta, GA
Gloria Narramore Moody
Foundation Tuscaloosa, AL

$10,000 to $49,999

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Tuscaloosa, AL
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Ms. Farley Moody Gaithbra II
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Mr. Donald A. Brown
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Tuscaloosa, AL
Alabama Federation of Music Clubs
Huntsville, AL
The Education Trust
Washington, DC

$100 to $499

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Clarke
Montgomery, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Noel Barrett
Birmingham, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Rex R. Dowling
Tuscaloosa, AL

This is how college is meant to be...
Jeff Levitz (New College, 1980), the founder of Florida-based Purity Wholesale Grocers, has made a lead gift to establish the Jerome “Jerry” Rosenberg Endowed Scholarship in New College. Rosenberg is a professor of psychology in New College and director of UA’s New College Radio Lab in the College of Arts and Sciences. He also is the faculty advisor for the UA chapter of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology.
This is how college is meant to be...

Other Contributors

George Lindahl III (Geology, 1968) has pledged $1 million to establish the George Lindahl III Endowed Professorship and the George Lindahl III Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Geological Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Lindahl is managing partner of Sandefer Capital in Austin, Texas. He worked at BP Amoco for almost 20 years before serving as president of Union Pacific Corp. from 1996 to 1999. He then was president and chief executive officer of Union Pacific Resources Group for a year before serving as vice chairman of Anadarko Petroleum Corp., where he retired.

Lindahl is a member of the College's Geological Sciences Advisory Board and UA's President's Cabinet. He lives in Woodlands, Texas, with his wife, Catherine.
1953
Marie Sinclair (English) retired as assistant supervisor for the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education. Since retiring, Sinclair has enjoyed traveling, gardening, and spending time with her three cocker spaniels.

1954
Marjorie Edwards Donchey (journalism) recently retired after working in publishing for nearly 40 years. She lives with her husband, Elliott, near Atlantic City, N.J. The couple’s son, Arthur, is married to Dawn Williams and they have three sons, Andrew, 9, Michael, 6, and Adam, 2. Their daughter, Amy, is married to Larry Turmel and they live in Austin, Texas. The Turmels recently celebrated the adoption of Seth Jose Alejandro Turmel, 10 months, who was born July 4 in Guatemala.

1971
Charles Casmus III (broadcasting) retired from Liberty National and has been busy playing softball. Casmus participated in the Softball Players Association’s 55+ AA division National Softball Tournament in Dalton, Ga., Sept. 6–9, 2007, with his team the Birmingham 55s. The team finished second in the nation and was named 1st Team All-Tournament.

1974
Richard “Scott” Price (anthropology/history), a retired major in the U.S. Army, was recently named project historian for Old Abilene Town Renovation Project. He is charged with restoring one of Kansas’s premier historic sites to its former glory. His son John Edward Price II recently completed his first year of pharmacy school at the University of Kansas. His other son, Sterling, is on active duty with the U.S. Army’s 35th Military Police company. Price lives with his wife, Fiona Kathleen, in Abilene, Kan.

1980
William G. Hyland Jr. (political science) was promoted to vice president of Earth Balance, an environmental services company in Florida. He is a licensed professional geologist in Alabama and Florida.

1982
Karen Rheams-Burnett (geology) was promoted to vice president of Earth Balance, an environmental services company in Florida. She is a licensed professional geologist in Alabama and Florida.

1984
Renee Blackmon Hagler (psychology) was recently appointed an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration (SSA). Her initial duty station will be in Mobile. Hagler began her career with SSA as a staff attorney in 1990.

1989
Perry “Wee” Wesley Gwin Jr. (political science) is an engineer with Gwin Construction and Engineering. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps reserves from 1990 to 1998.

1993
Kevin Hayes (biology) was elected chief of staff and ER medical director at Pioneer Community Hospital in Aberdeen, Miss. He also was appointed medical director of the care center of Aberdeen Nursing Home.

1994
In June 2008 Kevin L. Helms (political science; MPA, 1995) was elected President of the Tennessee City Management Association in Fayetteville, Tenn., by a unanimous vote of membership. Helms also will serve on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Municipal League.

1998
Keith E. Brashier (political science) has become a partner in the law firm of Reddin, Mills & Clark, LLP in Birmingham. Brashier joined the firm as an associate following his graduation from The University of Alabama School of Law in 2001. He serves on the Volunteer Lawyer Program Committee of the Alabama State Bar Association and will continue his practice in the areas of white collar criminal defense, criminal defense, domestic relations, family law, employment law, general civil litigation, and appeals.

2003
Marianne Bartlett (interdisciplinary studies/New College) received her master’s degree in counseling in December 2004 from the University of New Mexico. She is a hypnotherapist for her own practice Right Sight and is a counselor for children at Sierra Community Counseling Center.

2004
Stacey Proffitt (environmental science) married Brad Jernigan.

Douglas Honors Mother with Piano Scholarship

Dan Douglas (Biology, 1948; Master of Science, 1949; Doctor of Dental Medicine, 1953) recently provided $50,000 to establish the Lois Boozer Douglas Endowed Scholarship in the School of Music, in honor of Douglas’s mother, to support performance majors whose principal instrument is piano. Douglas is an active member of the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board as well as a charter member of UA’s Denny Society. He is a co-chair of the College’s capital campaign.

Tania Melody Noles Skillin (English; social work, 1992) was a case manager with the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fl., before becoming a stay-at-home mom for her sons ages 7 and 5.

Collegian
A team of University of Alabama chemistry professors has developed a cleaner, safer liquid that could replace the hazardous mercury currently used in most thermometers. With patent in hand, UA administrators are hoping to license the technology to a company and, ultimately, make money from the invention.

“If you look at the possibilities for the thermometer and the fact that we can devise fluids with ranges that vastly outstrip any other known liquid, then you have the ability to design thermometers with very high-tech applications,” said Robin Rogers, Robert Ramsay Chair of Chemistry and UA Distinguished Professor in the College’s Department of Chemistry. Rogers also is the director of UA’s Center for Green Manufacturing. “This is something we set out to make because this is green chemistry at its best.”

The thermometer was developed by a team at the Center for Green Manufacturing led by Rogers; Ramana Reddy, ACIPCO Professor, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in UA’s College of Engineering; and John S. Wilkes, professor of chemistry at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Other members of the team included former UA postdoctoral researchers Banqui Wu, John D. Holbrey, and Hector Rodriguez, and U.S. Air Force Academy student Margaret Williams.

The thermometer is part of the center’s push to find uses for ionic liquids, a class of liquid salts known for their stability, which could replace certain industrial solvents. They are generally seen as more environmentally friendly than the chemicals they replace. Rogers can be contacted at rdrogers@bama.ua.edu.