



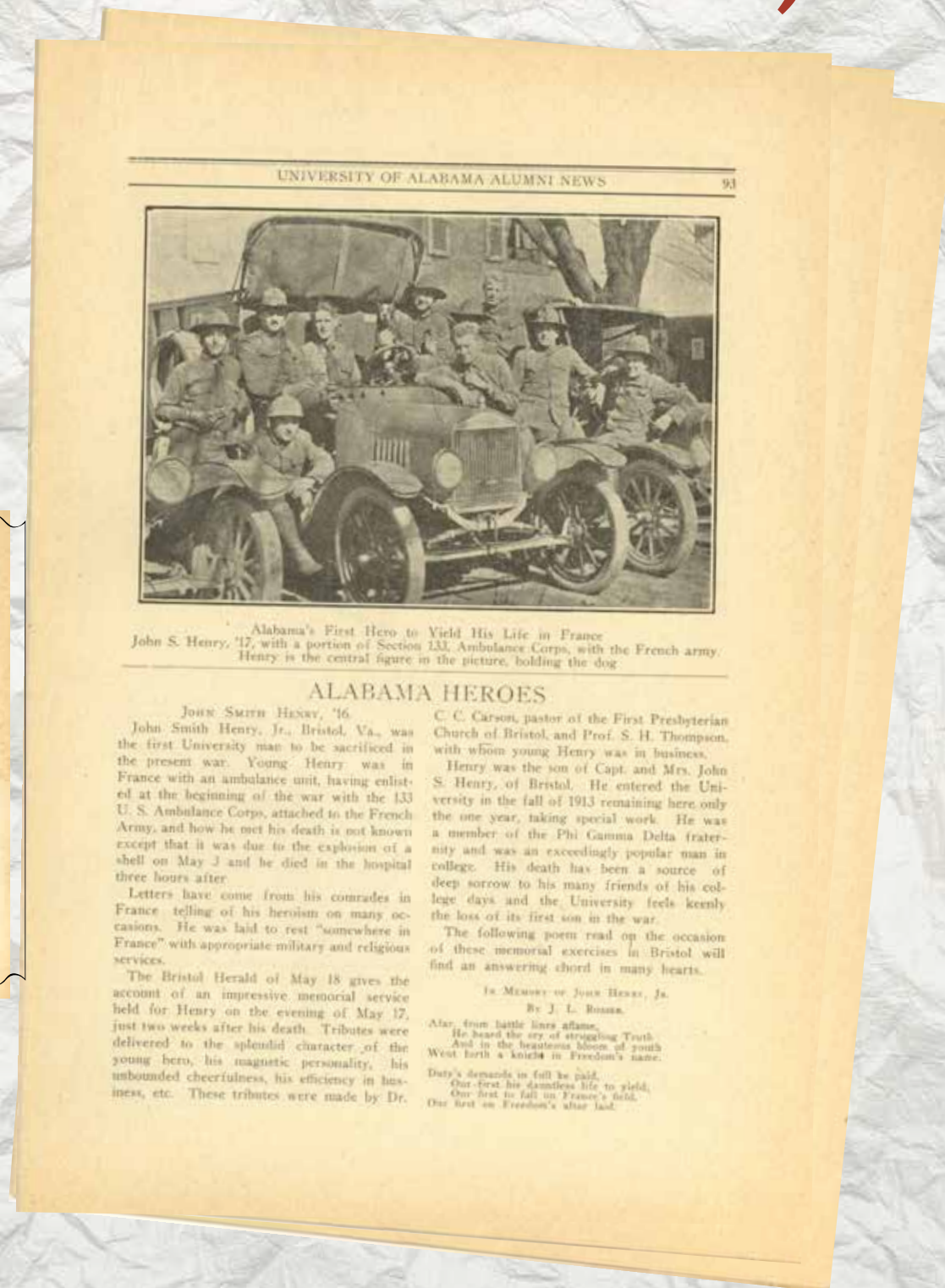
our place in the world

Follow along as the Alumni Publications Department
charts the *Capstone* across the map.



Editor *and* Designer: Haley Herfurth | Manager *of* Publications: Janice Fink

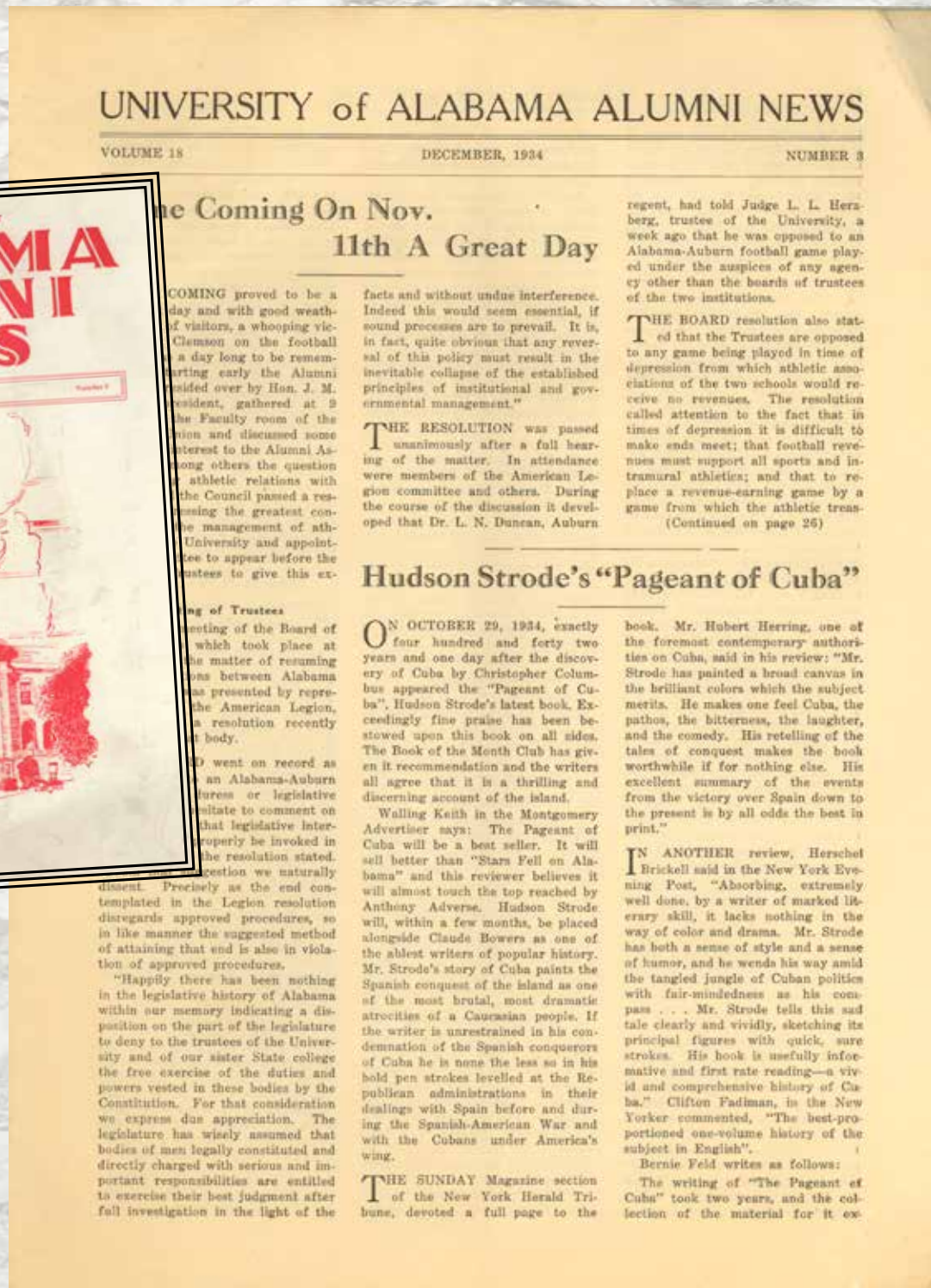
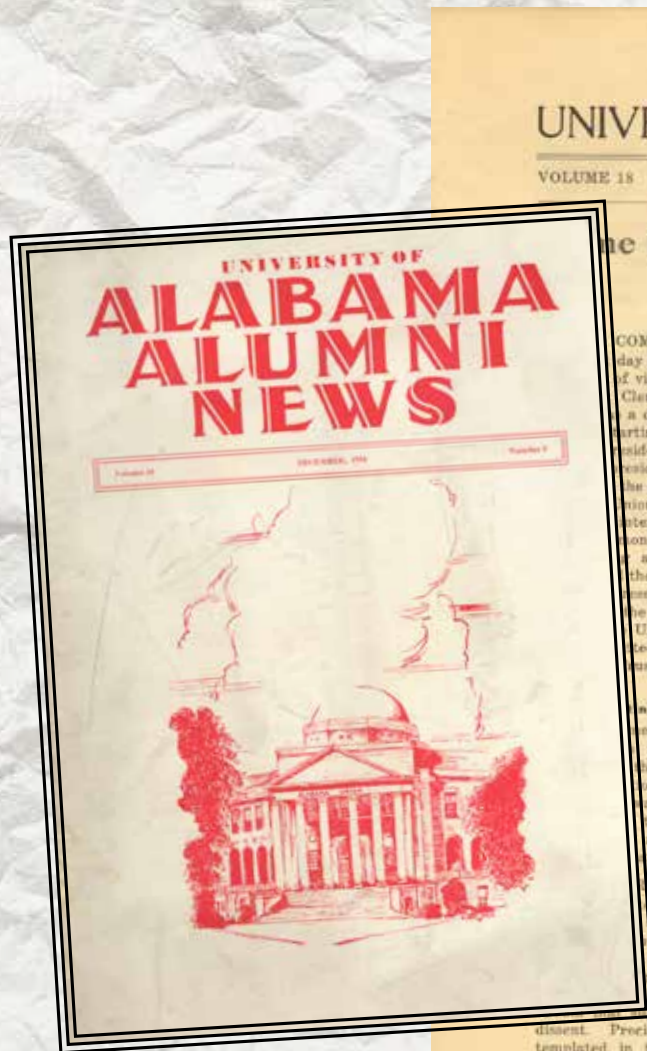
We served
in France in
1918,



and traveled
to Manchuria in
1924,



and to Cuba in
→ 1934.



We started again
from Germany in
→ 1945,

visited with Mexican amigos in 1950,

and studied in Finland in 1963.

Mexican U. N. Women's Official Speaks At Capstone

Senora Amalia de Castillo Ledon of Mexico, vice chairman of the U. N. Commission on the Status of Women delivered an address on April 18 in Foster Hall. Her topic was "Inter-American Commission of Women." She was introduced by Mrs. Alice Billings Walker of the Birmingham News staff. Senora Ledon is considered one of the most outspoken and outstanding feminists in Mexico. She is an author, lecturer and playwright. She stated that the purpose of the Inter-American Commission of Women is to work for the extension of civil, political and social rights of women of the 21 American republics, study their problems, and offer means of solving them. The University was fortunate in having Senora Ledon as a visitor in Alumni Hall and speaker on the campus when she agreed to come to the Capstone during her stay in Birmingham for "Women's Week."

Joy McCann Culverhouse, State Golf Champion

Joy McCann Culverhouse, '42, began playing golf at the age of fourteen and won her first tournament, the Bermuda Knolls Invitational Tournament in 1935 when she was 17. In that same year, she was also finalist in the Alabama Women's State Golf Tournament. However, she won her first State Championship in 1941, and at that time became the youngest Alabama Women's State Golf Champion in the history of the tournament. The 1941 state tournament was the last held for the duration of the war. In 1946 a state tournament was held, but she did not enter. Mrs. Culverhouse won the State Championship in 1947. She was medalist in these two State Tournaments and her qualifying score for the 1947 tournament, a 72, is the lowest qualifying score in the history of the state tournaments.

Mrs. Culverhouse is married to Hugh Culverhouse, who received his LL.B. degree from the University in 1947, and went to Montgomery after his graduation to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Culverhouse now reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he is serving as a tax attorney for the Bureau of Internal Revenue. They have a daughter, Gay, and a son, Hugh, Jr.

DANISH LAWYER VISITS CAMPUS—Miss Magna Norgaard from Denmark was a guest of the University on April 24. She holds the international study grant from the Alabama Branch of the AAUW, and is studying at the New York School of Social Work. She holds a law degree from the University of Copenhagen, is employed by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs, and is sub-director of the Maternity Aid Institute in the South appearing as a guest speaker at the regional meeting of the AAUW held in Louisville.

Ralph Bishop --- My Husband

By Lenore Bishop

On Friday, April 13, 1945, Ralph Bishop, then a Marine Corps Platoon Sergeant, was blinded by a Jap sniper's bullet in the Okinawa campaign while leading his platoon out from under fire. Things looked black for him then but today there is no doubt in my mind that his future is assured.

After spending a year in hospitals, where he underwent many operations and rehabilitation, including the learning of the Braille system of reading and writing, he was once again a civilian. It was at the United States Naval Hospital in Philadelphia where I was fortunate enough to meet my handsome husband. He went immediately from Philadelphia to Sebring, Fla., where he obtained his dog Poochie, training with her there for a month. Then, after spending a short time at home, he enrolled at the Alabama School for the Blind at Talladega, studying handicrafts in the Adult Department there. At Talladega life would have been miserable without Poochie for she took him to school every day and any place else he wanted to go. Although he is not very dependent on her any more, since we go everywhere together, she is still his devoted and constant companion, going to school with us every day and will, no doubt, receive a "pedigree" when we receive our BS Degree in Secondary Education.

On July 9, 1947, we were married at Woodbury, New Jersey, with all the "trimmings." In September of that same year we both enrolled in the College of Education at the University of Alabama and have taken identical courses. Through the combination of a high I.Q.

and a lot of hard work, my husband has never made below a B in his college work and during the past Winter Quarter made all A's. This fact, plus a marvelous disposition and a perfect outlook on life, is why I say that his future is assured.

We both hope to become teachers in a school for the blind upon graduation. No matter what happens, however, our goal in life remains the same—to lead a rich, full, and happy life TOGETHER.

Ralph Bishop, born July 20, 1921 at Murraycross, Ala., son of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Bishop, presently residing Route One, Henagar, Ala. Graduated from Pisgah High School, Ala. 1940. Enlisted voluntarily in the U. S. Marine Corps on April 7, 1942. Description: 5 ft. tall, blonde, 160 pounds.

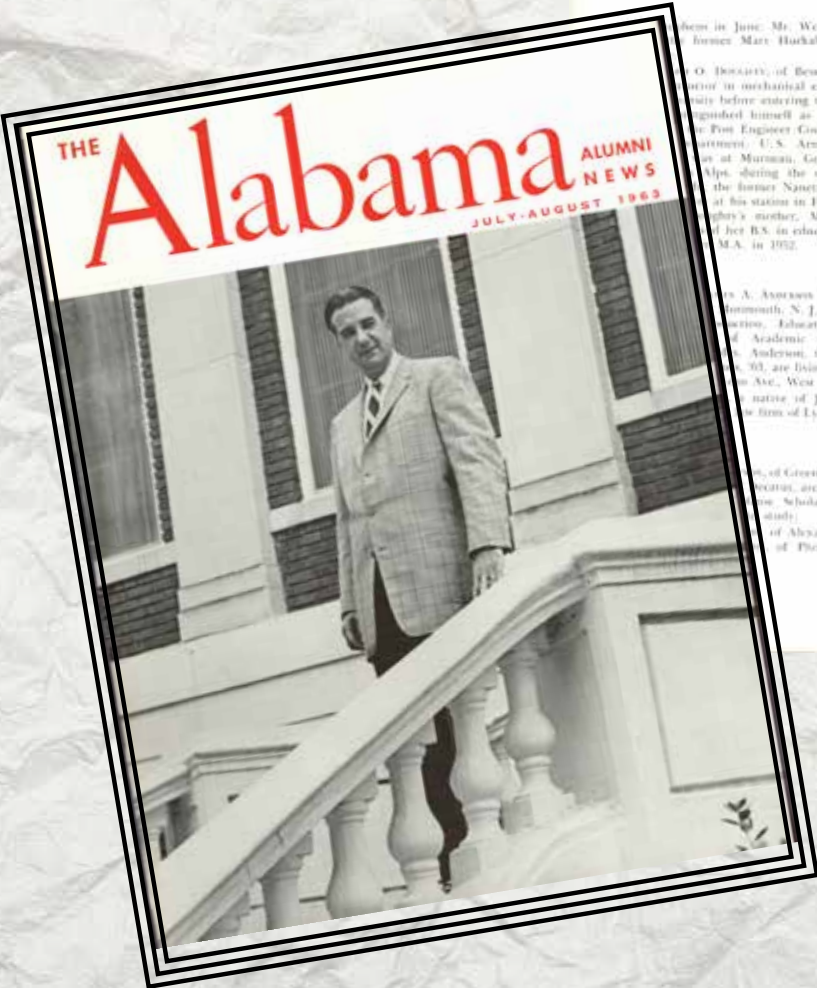
Lenore Bishop, nee Hoffman, born January 20, 1922 at Swedesboro, New Jersey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hoffman, presently residing with 312 24th St., Tuscaloosa, Ala. Employed by the Philadelphia Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from November, 1940 until May, 1947 as stenographer. Description: 5 ft. 11 in., blonde, weight unmentionable.

NEW RESIDENCE HALL—Hardy Construction Co. of Mobile entered the low bid for construction of a 150-capacity men's hall at the University of Alabama. Bids were opened by Prof. R. Maxwell, Jr., University of engineer.

The Jones and Hardy has the new dormitory was \$226,000, total of 12 bids were entered.



An outstanding trio: Mrs. Lenore Bishop, Poochie, the faithful guide, and Ralph Bishop, honor student in the College of Education.



RAY HITCHCOCK, '63, of Miami, Fla., has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship for study in Finland this year. Ray received his M.A. in June, with a major in sculpture, the field in which he will be working during his year abroad.



MARTHA WINSTON, '63, of Tuscaloosa, home economics major, is the first University of Alabama student to go in training for the Peace Corps. Martha is in Albuquerque this summer at the University of New Mexico and will go from there to Costa Rica.

have accepted summer journalism internships with the Atlanta Journal. This is a program in which outstanding journalism students get on-the-job training.

Mrs. CAROLYN LEE KENNEDY CATE, Gilbert Ferry Road, Attalla, has taken a job with the Brind City Hospital, Tuscaloosa.

YVONNE SUE GILES, 506 North Street, Talladega, has a teaching job in the secondary schools of the Dickson school system in Attalla for the fall of 1963.

RENEE WHITTE HARVEY, 955 Prince de Leon Avenue, Montgomery, will be employed at the Communalist House, Center in Atlanta.

LEONARD BROWN, of Birmingham, has taken a job as traveling secretary with Delta Zeta society.

RENEE CHENE, of Hong Kong, China, has accepted a district internship at the Harper Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. LEO FAYE BROWN, of 309 West Washington, Dothan, expects to do hospital work in Interdenver.

KATHLEEN BOWSER KELLY, 4209 20th St., Haleyville, will be teaching microbiology at Wallace Hospital Nursing School this summer and in September will be a laboratory instructor in chemistry and microbiology at the Extension Division in Birmingham.

CAROL ANN MURPHY, of Carrollton, has accepted an internship in medical technology at the University Medical Center in Birmingham.

Mrs. VERA JANE PERK, of 1332 Gardner Drive, Hartselle, S. C., will be doing graduate work at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C., with a teaching assistantship in the Department of Botany and Zoology beginning in September.

MELISSA SHERMAN BROWN, of Birmingham, will be doing graduate work at the University of Texas next year.

CHARLES HENRY GORDON, of Gadsden, Ala., is planning to do graduate work in physics at the University of Alabama. Charles has a National Defense Fellowship in physics.

WILLIAM ANTHONY DUNN, of Huntsville, has accepted a position at Redstone Arsenal.

ROSEMARY ELLIS, of 2001 Sunset Strip, Gadsden, will be employed at the B. F. Goodrich Company in Akron, Ohio.

Dr. CHARLES NOEL GUNNY, of Birmingham, will be interning at Hattiesburg Hospital, Hattiesburg, Miss., this year.

LEONARD ANN SMITH, 802 Owen Avenue, Bessemer, has accepted an internship for medical technology at Birmingham Raptist Hospital.

LENA E. HENDERSON has been appointed to a district internship as 2nd lieutenant in the U. S. Army, with Letterman Hospital, San Francisco, Calif.

EDWARD McBRIDE, of Tuscaloosa, will be teaching art in Pensacola, Fla., beginning in September.

JOHN KIM, of Gadsden, has an appointment to a district internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

MARGARET L. JONES, of Enterprise, has accepted a job as house for Delta Art Lines.

DELA VANDER, of Bessemer, will attend the Rapid World Youth Conference in Beirut, Lebanon, this summer.

DAVID ZICKLER, of Tuscaloosa, is planning to do graduate work in marine biology, and will begin his research in the new marine biology laboratory on Dauphin Island in September.

PAUL JO WILSON, of Bessemer, will attend graduate school at the University of Alabama.

Mr. and Mrs. HARRY LOUIS WOODMAN (the former RENEZEE WOOD) of 47C Bakerfield, Tuscaloosa, will both be doing graduate work at the University next year—Renée in bacteriology and Harry in chemistry.

Dr. JERRY BAKER BERRY, of Auburn, Dr. LEO WATKINS, of Birmingham, and Dr. JOHN WAYNE LORNEY, of Mobile, will intern at Mobile General Hospital.

JOHN CRANFORD, of Northport, has accepted a position as assistant home demonstration agent for Mobile County.

Dr. EMERY GILLES, Jr., of Greenville, is planning to intern at Catholic Methodist Hospital, Birmingham.

MARGARET McBRIDE, of 50 Alameda Drive, Tuscaloosa, plans to spend the summer in Europe.

PATRICIA ELIZABETH LAMORE, of 1212 Quindlen Avenue, Anniston, will do graduate work at Iowa State University.

Dr. BETTE NORMA MARY III, of Tuscaloosa, has been accepted for internship at the University of Virginia Medical School.

We trekked across Europe in 1971,

UNIVERSITY DEAN SERVES AS ENGINEER-AMBASSADOR

by Delores Boyd
University News Bureau

Dr. E. P. Segner, Jr., associate dean of The University of Alabama College of Engineering, returned from a three-week, five-country European trip duly impressed by all the scenic sights and sounds, naturally invigorated by the professional contacts and knowledge made available, and rather strangely moved to a stronger attachment to and love for his own country.

"You can talk to some people who find lots of fault with America," he commented thoughtfully, "but we all came back with a much greater appreciation of America and what it stands for. There's far more right with America than wrong."

Dean Segner and twenty-nine other structural engineers were selected to form the United States Concrete Leaders People-to-People Delegation to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland, and the Soviet Union this summer.

St. Basil Cathedral, on Moscow's Red Square, and other religious buildings are called "museums of past religions" by the Russians.



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Designed to promote mutual understanding and relations among nations, the tour brought together engineers from all phases of the concrete field to compare and exchange professional ideas, methods, and procedures.

In his traveling the dean detected a "definite respect for the United States throughout Europe." "In many cases they feel we might be making mistakes," he added, "but they still regard us as leader of the free world."

According to Dean Segner, two particular aspects of American behavior were consistently regarded highly—our willingness to discuss and debate issues so publicly, and the advance publicity accorded our space missions. "Our NASA publicity just made a tremendous impression on the Scandinavian countries," he explained. "They felt it was a reflection of the true strength of America to have the courage to inform the world in advance of each mission."

Of the five countries, Switzerland was judged to be the most advanced technologically by the dean with respect to its generally high living standards, the professional quality and workmanship of Swiss concrete projects, and its unique approach to ecological problems. One major axiom of Switzerland's environmental policy: whenever you cut down a tree, another must replace it. The total area covered by timber must remain constant.

"But there's no question about it," Dean Segner declared, "the Soviet Union was the most interesting country to me."

The group toured Leningrad for four days before visiting Moscow for four days. A certain "stillness" seemed to pervade Leningrad in contrast to busy Moscow, and the dean said the former city was "like walking into a book back in the last of the nineteenth century." The apparent ab-

sence of passenger cars in Leningrad accentuated the impression.

A special highlight of the Moscow tour was a visit to the television tower containing the entire television and radio communication system for the city and surrounding areas. Over 1,700 feet tall, the tower was of pre-stressed concrete and steel, and although it only opened within the past year, Dean Segner was amused to learn that the revolving restaurant in the tower has a waiting list for lunch or dinner of four and one half years.

It was also in Moscow that the delegation witnessed a grand "Pioneer Day" celebration held annually in Red Square for some 100,000 youth from all over the Soviet Union. Ranging in age from approximately eight to fifteen years, they were being honored for scholastic and other achievements during the school year.

"These young people obviously felt their country was the best in the world as was their system of government," the dean mediated. After a reflective pause, he continued: "We in the United States must continue to teach this same type of patriotism and love of country."

Dean Segner on Napoleon Square in Leningrad. The Red Army headquarters are on this square.



Alabama Alumni News



Above: Practically no automobiles are seen in Leningrad, a city far behind Moscow in visible progress. Right: The car in the foreground is typical of those in Moscow. The identical, 6-18 story, cement high-rise apartment buildings in the background are being constructed mile after mile in Moscow; by 1975 the entire population of the city is to be housed in these dwellings.

As for personal contacts with the Russians aside from his professional counterparts, Dean Segner discovered their natural curiosity and desire to converse on a one-to-one basis, but a natural inhibition for group conversation or discussions.

"I was having a friendly conversation on a Hydrofoil (a hull that enables the ship to ride above the waves) in the Gulf of Finland with a Red Army soldier," he recalled. "Just small talk—he spoke broken English. Sud-

denly one of his buddies came up, and he just froze up, stopped talking altogether, and pretended not to know me."

Dean Segner brought back a friendly suggestion for strong women's liberation advocates—"Go to Russia first." "Frankly," he said, "I was amazed at the amount of work required of women. We saw very few men in the factories, and if there was a dirty job to be done, it was invariably done by a woman."

Russian visitors to Lenin's tomb line up daily in front of the Kremlin walls. Foreigners are permitted the privilege of seeing the tomb for only one hour per day. Large parades, such as "Pioneer Day," are held on the huge courtyard in the foreground.



November-December 1971



Russian women, nonetheless, are increasingly cosmopolitan, as evidenced by an obvious style-consciousness in their dress. "We saw where," the dean said.

From Moscow, the delegation traveled over in Budapest, where Dean Segner remembered a similar incident.

"We'd just gone and we met a teen-ager in the airport. I'd been wearing the American flag, and he wanted it offered to exchange some valuable possessions."

Dean Segner did not doubt the boy's sincerity in doing so, but a symbolic emblem of the American flag had attracted visitors in his travels, and he kept it throughout.

One of the most interesting construction projects seen in the Soviet Union was a reinforced concrete bridge built near the top of a mountain near Leningrad. The way to reach the car or cog train, and the bridge, was entirely by helicopter.

While this 30-mile trip was the first for some of the foreign

Alabama ALUMNI NEWS



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EDITOR MORRIS RESIGNS – TO TEACH IN EL SALVADOR

Michele Martin Morris is going places. Having served as editor of the *Alabama Alumni News* for the past five years, she recently left The University with her husband, Jim. They are off to San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America, where she will teach English at a bi-national secondary school in which only twenty percent of the students are American and the remaining eighty percent consists of Salvadorians and third country nationals such as Germans, Swiss, Japanese, and Mexicans.

Michele's husband, Jim, who has completed his doctoral course work at The University, will serve as principal of an elementary bi-national school in San Salvador.

This will be the second trip to the Southern Americas for the Morrises.

Alumni News

In 1973 Jim went to Columbia, South America, to serve as Director of a bi-national school under the sponsorship of The University of Alabama internship program in international education, and Michele took a six-month leave of absence from *Alumni Publications* to join her husband and teach in Colombia.

Michele is accustomed to moving about. Born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, she moved with her family to Alabama when she was 15. She graduated from Geneva County High School in Hartford in 1965 and attended Auburn University for two years before transferring to Troy State University to obtain her B.A. in English. At Troy she met Jim, who was teaching Spanish there.

Michele feels that the experience of

international travel will broaden her outlook on life. She and Jim particularly like the Latin way of life because of the "easy going attitude which prevails."

"Because progress and mechanization have been slow in coming to Latin America, the people don't feel the pressure to succeed and to be highly efficient," she said. "Their culture is more family and people oriented than ours, which is goal oriented."

As an avowed advocate of women's liberation, Michele may have to make some adjustments to a society in which women have traditionally been sheltered as they are in Central America. But she says that planned orientation seminars for all families involved in the international program should help ease the culture shock. Although the

rumblings of women's lib have begun in Central America, Michele says she has no plans to lead a liberation movement in San Salvador.

"Jim and I are embarking on an educational experience," she said. "We are not going to transform the Latin culture to fit our own. We enjoy theirs as it is."

D. H.

September-October, 1974



and sunbathed on the beaches of
- EL SALVADOR in 1974.

We brought Australia back home in 1975,

"When we call the words and meanings of our list new, we are not necessarily saying they first occurred during the current year," Russell continued.

"Rather, we have chosen from a large number of possibilities mostly those for which there are several illustrations on file and which are still not entered in the most recent dictionaries."

defensive medicine, n. A doctor's practice of requiring more x-rays and laboratory tests than are considered medically necessary, as a protection against possible malpractice suits.

empty nest, n. The family home after the children have grown up and moved into their own homes.

firestorm, n. Fig. A violent outburst of protest.

Fordonomics, n. (Probably by analogy with "Nixonomics") The economic views of President Gerald R. Ford.

letter bomb, n. An explosive device triggered by the opening of the letter carrying it.

linear park, n. A long, narrow park; usually located on a river bank or along the right of way of a disused railroad or canal.

new, adj. Specif. Said of oil from wells not in operation before 1972.

no-frill(s), adj. Without extras, such as free meals and liquor on an air flight.

petrodollars, n. pl. The favorable balance of trade of an oil producing country expressed in dollars.

spaceship earth, n. The earth viewed as a spaceship with limited resources.

streak, v.i. Specif. To make a dash, usually of short duration, naked in public. Streaker, n.

surround-sound, n. Four-channel.

veto-proof, adj. Said of a U.S. Congress able to override presidential vetoes.

So there you have it, and undoubtedly many nominations of your own for the new-word candidates of 1976. Your state University has the mechanism for making tomorrow's dictionary just a tad larger.

E. B.

Rugby—An Old Kind of Rough Sport Hits The University Campus

Photos and Story
By Carl Carter

An alumnus down for the Clemson game might well have thought an intramural touch football game was about to get under way. Spectators were seated on the ground, watching the two teams line up on opposite sides of the make-shift field drawn off on the quadrangle in the center of The University campus opposite Gallia Hall.

But it was soon obvious that something different was beginning. Upon taking the opening kickoff, the ball carrier ran several yards, then pitched the ball back to a teammate, who promptly kicked the oversized football right back.

The game is rugby, and the hundred or so spectators who had dropped by, most of them out of sheer curiosity, were getting their first taste of the sport that makes most Britishers prefer the sport over football.

The goals of the two games are basically the same—to get the ball over the goal line at the end of the field and prevent the opponents from doing the same. The rugby ball is similar in shape to a football, though more rounded on the ends and much larger, making it more difficult to throw. But that makes little difference, because there is no forward pass in the traditionally British sport.

Other characteristics of American football that are missing in rugby are protective padding, helmets, huddles, substitutions and time outs. With the exception of the five minute halftime, which divides the two 40-minute halves, the only time the action stops is when a player is penalized or when the ball goes out of bounds. But even getting out of bounds is harder than in football, because the field is 75 yards wide and 120 yards long.

Each of the fifteen players on the team is a running back, a kicker,

and a tackler. The ball carrier has no blockers to protect him. When he gets into heavy traffic, he has three basic options. He can toss the ball back to a teammate, kick it down the field or go down under a mass of flesh and give up the ball.

Those who watched the debut of the Alabama Rugby Team, saw them get spanked by an older and more experienced Birmingham Rugby Club, Birmingham, who has fielded a team for more than eight years, clipped Alabama 16-0.

However, player-coach Richard Bunch, who started the team when he came to The University from Tennessee last spring, wasn't discouraged by the opening loss. "That was the first rugby game ever for most of those guys. We only have two other experienced players," said Bunch, who played for Tennessee for the past three years.

The most important attribute for a rugby player, according to Bunch, is conditioning. Though size is a major factor because of the game's roughness, he says a fast and well-coordinated team can usually beat a bigger one. Speed and coordination become important because everybody runs the ball at one time or another.

"There's a lot of strategy, probably more than in football. There's not time for a huddle. You've got to be able to recognize different situations. It looks harem scarem, but it's usually not. It's a different kind of hitting. It's just as violent as football, but you have fewer one-on-one situations since you have no blockers," Bunch said.

Anytime the ball is loose in bounds, a player may kick it or grab it and try to run with it. When a ball carrier is tackled, he must release the ball and the opposing team im-



Big Man Almost In Clear

mediately sets out to move it in the other direction.

Should anybody ever make it to the end of the field, he touches the ball to the ground and tallies up a "try," which gives his team four points. He then tries to kick the ball through the goalposts, similar to those used for football, for an extra two points.

Injuries are common in the sport. One student who went out for the team in the spring gave up after breaking three teeth in four weeks. Usually, if a player is seriously injured during a game, the referee will allow his teammates time to get him off the field. But in a serious game, one where it really counts, the victim's comrades are given but two minutes to drag him out of the way and continue playing one man short.

But even after all that violence, everybody remains friendly. Rugby is a game of tradition, and one of those traditions is that the home team sponsors a party after the game for the visitors. There is drinking and the singing of gusty, drinking songs, according to

Bunch, and that is probably the only reward the players will ever get. Bunch says there isn't a paid rugby player in the world.

"A lot of players would really rather it not become a varsity sport where they gave out scholarships," said Bunch, though he admitted that some schools, particularly in the Northeast, presently offer rugby scholarships.

Another tradition makes scheduling for the young Alabama team difficult. Rugby teams take turns visiting each other, and since Alabama has yet to play a major team, it is hard to ask other teams to come to Tuscaloosa to play. Team members have to pay their own expenses to go elsewhere for most of the games, which will include contests against Atlanta, Ft. Benning, Georgia, the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, and The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

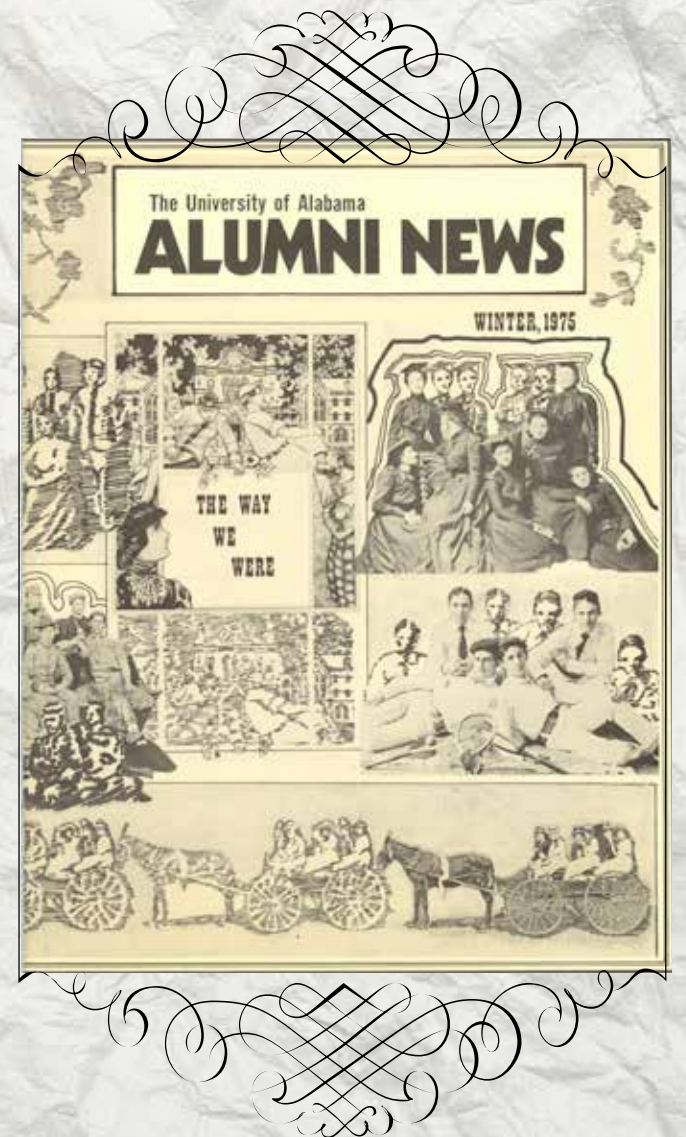
Could rugby make it as a big time sport? That depends on how strongly British attitudes carried over into the United States, and, presumably, how tough Americans can be for this knock-down, drag out sport.

A Low Tackle Stops The Action

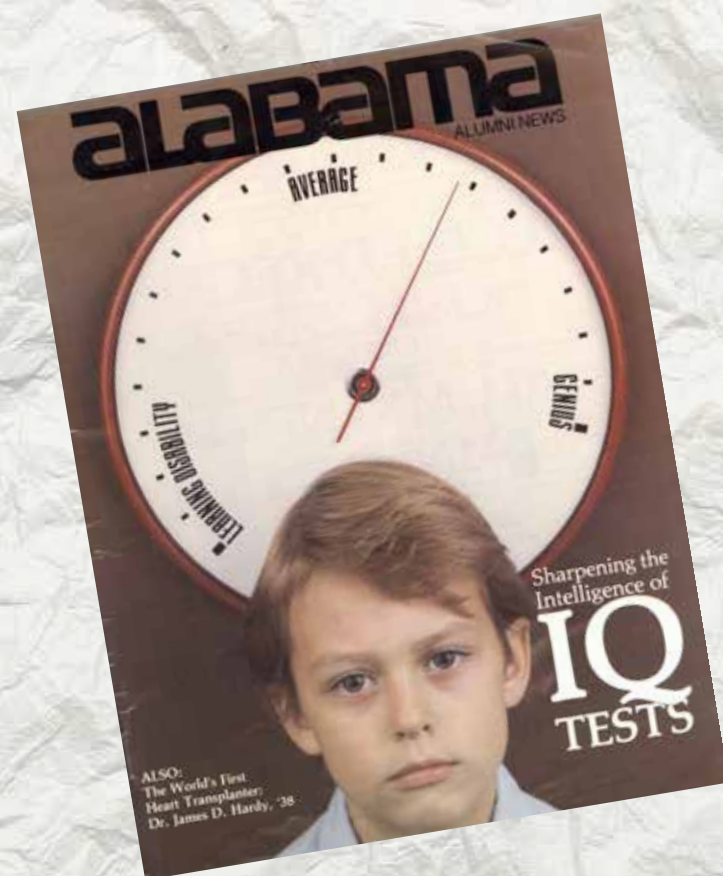


Winter, 1975

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✈ explored Bangladesh in 1985,



From Bama To Bangladesh

DR. ROBERT NORTHRUP - GLOBAL PRACTITIONER

By James M. Kenny

The Northrups—Robert and Quincy—have been investigating yet another strange culture for six years now. They've totally immersed themselves in the lifestyle, just as they did in East Pakistan and Indonesia. They've pretty well mastered the language; they've made a lot of friends.

Just ask any Northerner—getting to know Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama isn't the simplest challenge in the world.

As Chair of the University Department of Community Medicine, though, Rob has made it his business to know both the land and the people extremely well. "I enjoy Alabama a great deal. Both Quincy and I have gotten very involved in the community. We sure would hate to leave here."

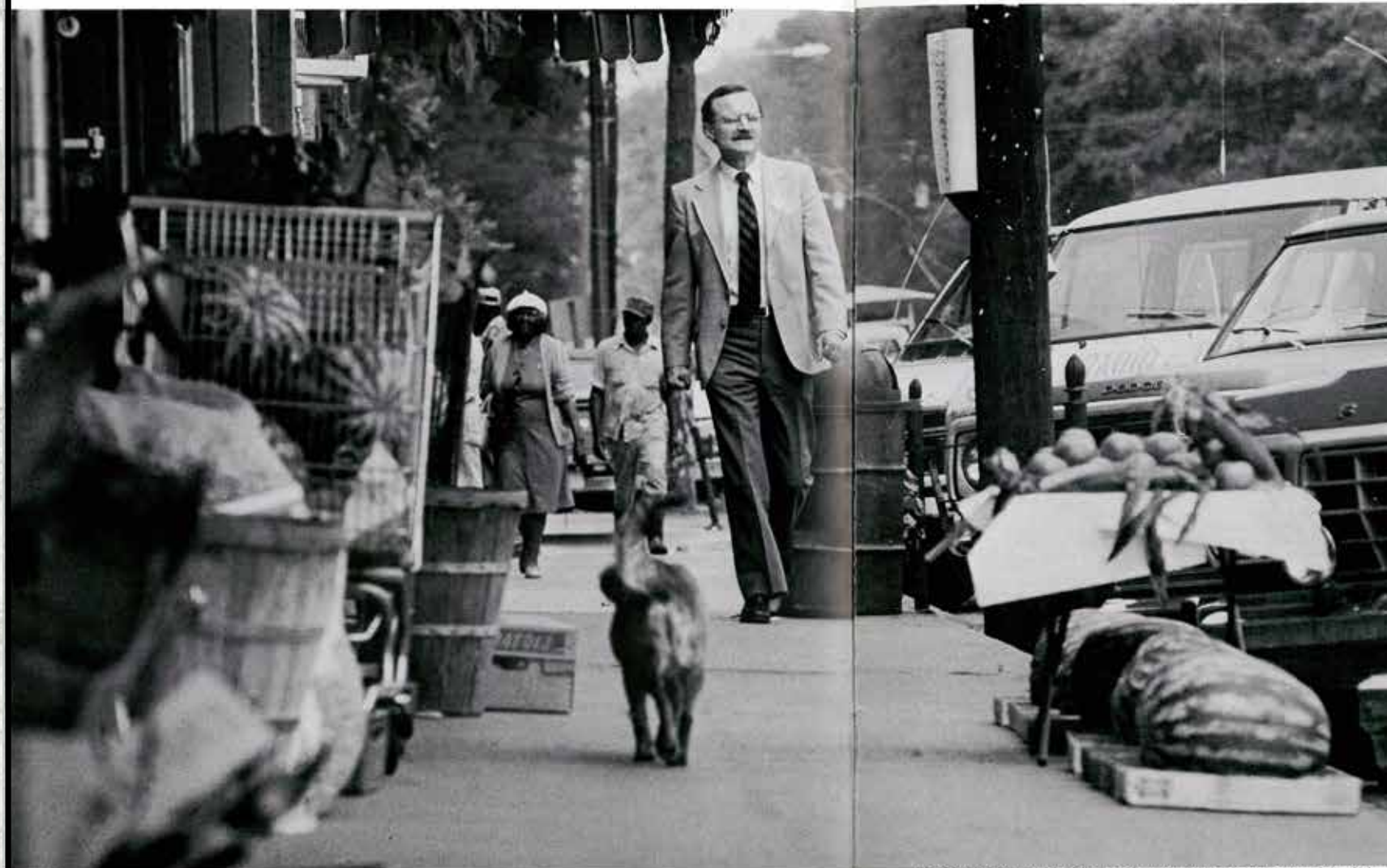
The health community of West Alabama would loathe that as well. Just as the dance community would be much the loner without the exotic Eastern experience of Quincy.

The journey the Northrups took to the University was long and exhausting. Rob was plucked out of a life of distinguished-yet-unsatisfying medical research in 1972. That was the year he wrote a chapter of a book on the medical problems of Bangladesh, a country where he had worked from 1966 to 1969. As he wrote, he realized that all the brilliant research in the world wouldn't help anybody if medicine couldn't be more effectively brought to the people. That realization changed his life.

He explained, "I saw that what I was doing was not relevant to the most important needs of the people. Another decision that got made along the way was that it wouldn't be relevant for me to be a direct health care provider. To do that would be to limit myself to help those who were standing in front of me. I could do an awful lot more as a teacher, perhaps even more if I could set up the systems in which other people could work."

The background for the change from a life of research to one of education was established in the three years after his graduation from Harvard Medical School in 1964. That was when he, accompanied by his wife, the former Margaret Lockett, better known as Quincy, and their two small children, Robert Jr. and Anne, went to East Pakistan to do conventional research work at the Cholera Research Laboratory. By working steadily, he and a team of doctors helped to develop an oral treatment for frequent diarrhea that afflicted the region.

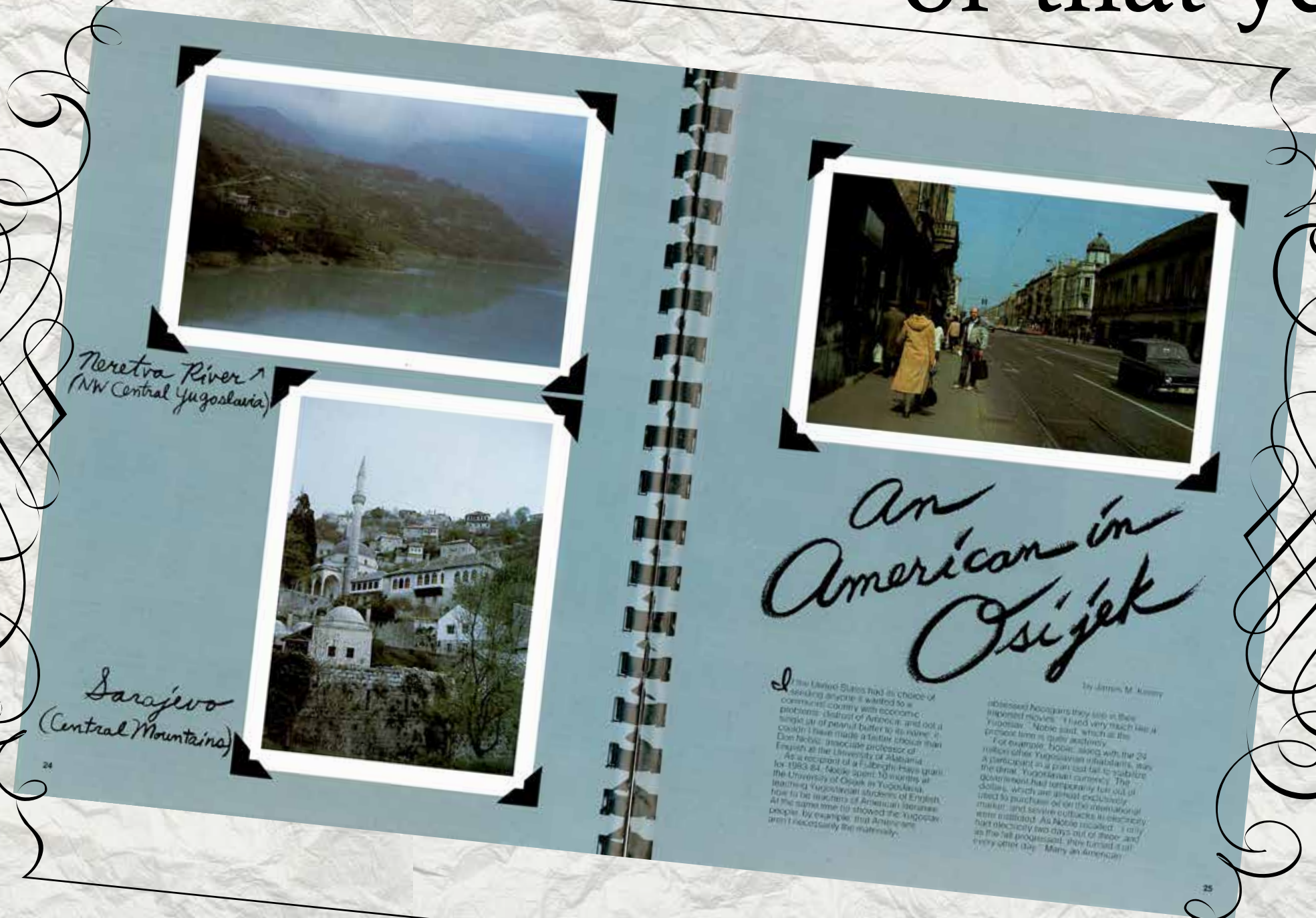
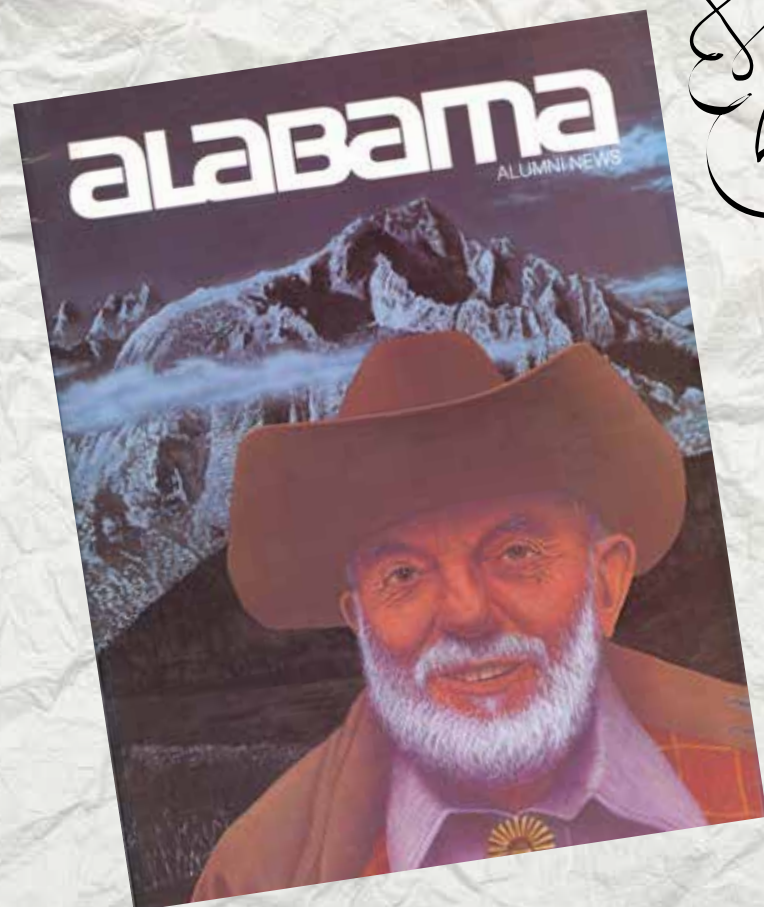
Even then the Northrups were pursuing their total-immersion lifestyle that has

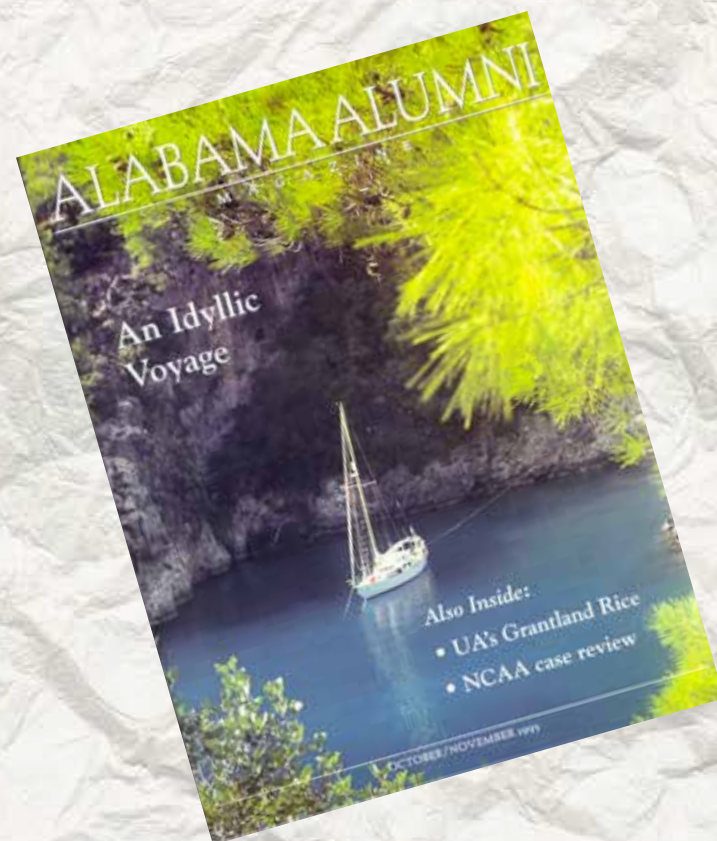


Chip Cooper

Dr. Robert Northrup has plied his trade in many places, including Greensboro, Alabama.

----- ➤ and taught in
Yugoslavia at the end
of that year.





Around the World in 2,038 Days



By Pamela T. Burt

The 35-foot sailing vessel known as the Arion pulled out of port in October 1989, its two-person crew headed down the East Coast to Beaufort, N.C., via the inland route to get in south of Cape Hatteras. From there they voyaged down the Caribbean chain in what would be the first leg of an incredible journey that would make even the most staunch landlubber envious. For when the Arion returned up the Maryland coast in May, more than five and a half years had passed and Kent Island, Maryland, residents Doug Brown '69, and his wife, Ann Westergard, had visited 39 countries on five continents—logging almost 40,000 miles.

And, yes, they would do it again. How else would one chance to celebrate Mohammed's birthday as a guest in an Indonesian sultan's palace, drink tea with soldiers in a hut along the Egyptian coastline or glimpse the famed Komodo dragon?

But while it may sound like an idyllic odyssey, Doug cautioned, "The reality is there's a lot of work involved. A lot of your time is spent doing everyday things

like laundry, cooking and shopping. The sailboat is just a nice leisurely way to travel and have your home with you."

Having a good boat is the most important aspect of sailing, according to Doug, no matter the length of a trip. "Your life does depend on it, so you've got to have a good boat and you've got to keep it in good repair. That's your biggest expense—the boat. And your first consideration no matter where you are is a safe place to keep the boat. We have seen several that have come to grief for any number of reasons," he said.

With limited storage on a 30-year-old, 35-foot sailing boat, the couple packed light. Necessities such as tools, boat parts, radios, navigational equipment and nonperishable food were combined with clothing for cold and hot and humid climates. Two folding bicycles, a typewriter and later, a laptop computer, a videocassette recorder and books were considered luxuries, but were included nonetheless. The cabin held a small stove, icebox, toilet facilities and bunks.

During long passages, they sailed day and night, timing their arrival in a new country for the daylight hours. When

the couple was at sea for weeks at a time, one slept while the other kept watch for ships and other boats during nighttime voyaging. "A boat our size can go 100 miles in 24 hours. If it's a 2,000-mile trip it will take 15 or 20 days, maybe longer," Doug said.

The couple plotted their course with the aid of a satellite navigator, which gives latitude and longitude. As a standby, they also took sights with a sextant, charting course by the stars. Doug and Ann avoided storm seasons by wintering, for up to six months, at locations away from storm areas. "A lot of long-range sailing as far as the weather goes is sailing the right direction at the right time of the year," Doug explained. "There are certain sailing routes that are commonly known in the sailing world and certain times of the year that you take them, either for the wind or the current or both."

"We didn't run into any hurricanes, but we had some minor gales. At most, it's uncomfortable and a little scary at times. Mostly, the boat will take care of itself. There are storm techniques, using small or stronger sails as the wind blows harder, but it's not the wind as much as the sea conditions that are dangerous."

From the Caribbean chain Doug and Ann sailed to Venezuela, along the coast to Dutch ABC islands and took a downwind passage to the islands in the Gulf of San Blas, between the Panama Canal and the Colombian



border. These islands, governed by the Cuna Indians, were an interesting lot, Doug said. The Indians have local autonomy and run the islands with little interference from the Panamanian government. Cuna women still wear traditional native clothing including intricately sewn molas worn over the bodice of their attire. Molas, as Ann described, are handsewn layers of multicolored fabrics folded into intricate shapes with parts cut away to reveal colors under-

neath. The women also wear beaded leggings on their legs and forearms and a tattooed marking on their noses.

From these islands Doug and Ann traveled along the coast to the Panama Canal and through the canal on to the Las Perlas islands in the Gulf of Panama. "Most of the islands we

visit have everyday people doing everyday things," Doug said. "That's kind of the beauty of boating, you get to go into the back door and see real life rather than what's been groomed for you to see." After a short stop in the Galapagos Islands, the couple dropped anchor at the Marquesas in French Polynesia with stops at other islands in that chain before sailing on to the Samoa and Tonga Islands.

"We dropped down to New Zealand

because it was time for storm season in the upper latitudes. We spent six months there. It's a wonderful country," Doug said. "Clean and green they say. It's a relatively small country with a small population and there's a big variety in terrain and climates, and we speak the language, which is a plus. The people are really nice, and it's outdoorsy, and we like to hike and camp and that sort of thing, and there's quite a bit of that there, especially on the South Island."

After storm season had passed, the couple visited Fiji, Vanuatu and New Caledonia before stopping in Australia for another storm season. They then sailed from Sydney along the Australian coastline en route to Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand before dropping anchor at Sri Lanka off the southern coast of India.

Indonesia has more than 400 volcanoes, of which 128 are active, and with its chain of 3,667 islands stretching across 3,200 miles, it "seemed like a master's degree in cruising," Ann said. "No one else was going our way. There are no cruising guides, the charts are outdated, tides and currents inconsistent and sometimes fierce, weather forecasts nonexistent." In addition to numerous unlighted fishing nets and boats the couple "contemplated a host of other dangers, volcanic eruptions and subaquatic lava flows, said to be among them."

A stop at the island of Alor revealed a landscape of "classic cone-shaped volcanoes port and starboard, one spitting real smoke," Ann recalled. "And the village was a beauty, march and tin on rocks over the water, shrouded with smoke from the morning cooking fires." There, too, the couple saw the Komodo dragons, which Ann said, "live in Darwinian isolation" on the Komodo Is-

Doug Brown and his wife, Ann Westergard, top left, rest on the steps of a monument in the Marquesas in French Polynesia. A rug vendor, above, in Fethye, Turkey, displays colorful wares. At left, Brown guides The Arion along the Australian coastline.



We sailed
the
ocean
blue
in 1995,

visited family in ✈️ - -
Ireland in 2001,

He also is a member of the Mississippi Forestry Association and past president of the Tennessee Forestry Association. Education of forestry issues to children is a goal he actively pursues. Wallace, his wife, Carolyn, and daughter Mary are actively involved in managing the farm.

'77
Boyle Engineering Corp. recently promoted **Thomas Brown** as managing engineer of its Orlando, Fla., office, where Brown will oversee business operations and business development. Brown is a licensed engineer in

Georgia, previously employed by Cubbin has been marketing and EarthCare Solutions, distributor, located in the state and sales.

Montrose, Ala., JD, Fellow in the Alabama Bar Association for the fellowship of the state upon demonstration to the legal community. Crosby is of Stone, Granade has offices in Bay, Ala.

Previously, she was a successful firm of Albright & Cook.

She is a member of the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association, the Alabama State Bar, the American Corporate Counsel Association and is a board member of the Alabama Chapter of the ACCA. She is married to **Bob Shaw**, JD '84, a past president of the UA National Alumni Association, and they have three sons.

'79
Randall Publishing Co. recently named **Hank Brown**, MBA, as the company's new

director of marketing. Before joining Randall, Brown previously served as vice president of marketing for Designer Checks Inc. and as circulation manager for Cooking Light and Southern Accents magazines and general manager of special craft publications for Oxmoor House, all divisions of Southern Progress Corp. in Birmingham.

'80
Ernie Blair, MBA '81, director of the Huntsville-Madison County 911 Center, was elected president of the Alabama chapter of the National Emergency Number Association at the annual Gulf Coast NENA conference held in Orange Beach, Ala. Blair previously worked in the aerospace industry and was a principal/owner of several small businesses in Huntsville.

**Keller/Daugherty families
Travel to Ireland for reunion**

Three generations of the Keller family recently traveled to Ireland to attend the O'Dochartaigh Clan Reunion for descendants whose surname is Daugherty, Dougherty, Doherty or any of variations of that name. **Kim Keller**, '62, and his wife, **Cookie (Daugherty)**, '63, of Huntsville, Ala.; and their daughter, **Suzanne**, '88, and her husband, **Kevin Ammons**; the Kellers' son, **Tommy**, '90, and his wife, **Andrea**, '90, and their daughter, **Morgan**, made the trip to Banerana, Republic of Ireland where they stayed at the Westbrook House Bed and Breakfast, a 200-year-old English Manor house. From the house the family could walk through Swan Park along the Crania River to the O'Doherty Keep, an old O'Doherty residence and where a famous ancestor, Sir Cahir Rue O'Dochartaigh and his wife were married.

The reunion committee held an Honors Banquet to honor Daughertys who had brought distinction to the family name; planned tours; performed a play showing how families put on farewell parties for their kinfolk leaving for "Amerikey"; and arranged for Irish dance lessons. A farewell party was held at St. Columba's Hall, built in 1882, in Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

The Keller family toured five castles that the O'Dochartaigh Clan had lived in during their three-century reign of the Inishowen Peninsula, two of which were visible from the Grianan of Aileich. The castles were in ruins, but some of the original structure remained. They also toured other towns in Northern Ireland. The family is pictured at the Grianan of Aileich, a fortress with walls 17 feet high and 13 feet thick and a diameter of 77 feet, located on a mountain 803 feet above sea level. Those visiting the fortress can see five countries from its spectacular view point. The Grianan, whose name means the "stone house of the sun," dates back to the early Celtic Iron Age, about 1,700 years before Christ.

The Kellers learned about the reunion via the Internet and are making plans to attend the next reunion in 2005. The clan Web site is at <http://dohertyclan.homestead.com>.



'81
Glenn E. Brandon Jr. of Birmingham has been appointed senior vice president at PaineWebber Inc. following the merger of J.C. Bradford and PaineWebber. Brandon was a partner at J.C. Bradford. Lt. Col. **Michael Thome** and his wife, **Selma**, announce the Sept. 11 birth of triplets: son, **Caleb Michael**; and daughters, **Madison Faith** and **Hannah Ruth**. The family resides at Fort Hood, Texas, where Thome commands, 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment (Attack).

'82
Tom Brantley has been appointed to the Civil and Environmental Engineering Advisory Board of FAMU/FSU College of Engineering in Tallahassee, Fla., where he received a master's degree in civil engineering in 1995. He resides in Tallahassee.



From left are **Kevin and Suzanne Ammons**, **Kim and Cookie Keller**, and **Andrea Keller holding Morgan**, and **Tommy Keller**.

For the CHILDREN



An engineering alum helps restore school buildings and hope in war-torn Iraq.

by Anna Thibodeaux

It was not Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's numerous, lavish palaces that stood out in Jim Peak's mind, but rather the sight of them standing near so many neglected schools.

"They were tired of giving to Saddam," Peak observed of the Iraqis nearly six months after the U.S. government invaded their country and deposed Hussein. "They were just looking for some help, basically. The people were very hard working and were looking for the same things we look for—a good education for their family and to make a good living."

Peak, 51, is a 1975 civil engineering graduate from The University of Alabama and 28-year civilian employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who now works in St. Paul, Minn., as the assistant chief of engineering. The Double Springs, Ala., native recently returned from a near three-month mission to help restore schools in northern Iraq.

"The idea of helping restore freedom to an oppressed people appealed to me... appeared to be a very noble cause," he said of volunteering for the mission. Peak also felt it was answering destiny's call, offering his experience from earlier work

in Saudi Arabia and Japan, as well as with the contractor. "It was a little like the *Forrest Gump* movie... all these seemingly unrelated events seemed to be converging toward a destined purpose. And I felt it was the right thing to do... spiritually, morally and idealistically."

As expected, it was very hot as Peak's four-member team entered southern Iraq's flat, desolate region on June 25. As they traveled further northward, the terrain was slightly greener, and more so as they made way into the River Valley. Villages lined the way with a few camels crossing the road and lots of goods for sale. Baghdad was more modern than Peak anticipated, although there were some sites bombed by the U.S. military in the war, and others simply in need of ordinary maintenance. Peak observed that Hussein apparently didn't spend much money on public facilities.

After a short stay in Baghdad, the team continued north until they reached their destination of Mosul, the country's third largest city of about 1.7 million people. Work began there and extended into four surrounding major northern cities: Dahuk, Arbil, Kirkuk and Sulamaniyah.

"It was so hot," he recalled. "The military was out there with battle gear.

Those guys were cooking and they never really flinched. They were always out there doing what they needed to do."

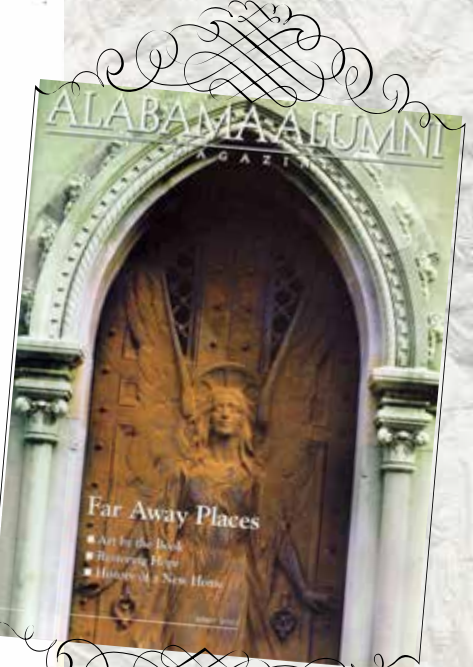
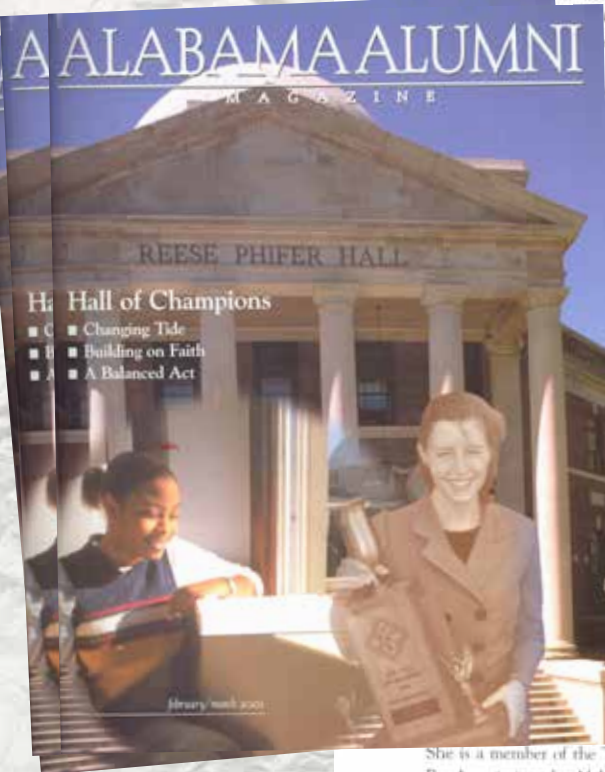
Peak's team, of which he was project manager and team leader, assisted the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in its \$680-million reconstruction contract with U.S.-based construction contractor, Bechtel National, as part of the Quick Fix Program. His team's mission was to serve as a technical arm in arranging minor restorative work on about 150 schools in order to reopen them for the new school year in October.

Peak said nearly half of the country's population is under age 15, further emphasizing the importance of schools in this country.

At last count, some 1,595 schools nationwide had been restored through the program. The government contract also included public buildings, bridges and roads, railroads, utilities and transportation.

On an average day, Peak said they accompanied Bechtel employees to assess schools. They met with local Iraqi officials who provided a list of candidates, and with education groups located by the U.S. military. Only schools (kindergarten

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and handed out
hope in IRAQ in ✈️ - -
2003.

THROUGH THE CURTAIN

By Danny Halberstam

Feature Story

After more than 20 visits to Russia, Carl Egan has witnessed many changes in the country since the fall of communism, and has come to see it as his second home.

Spreading a world map across the wooden table, smoothing the creases over the pink and green and orange countries, Dr. Carl Egan, Ed.D. '89, indicated with thumb and forefinger that the distance between Moscow and Krasnoyarsk is almost the same as that between New York and Los Angeles. He pointed out that Krasnoyarsk is only halfway across the great expanse of Russian countryside, which makes Russia nearly twice as big as the United States.

Krasnoyarsk is one of the cities that Egan, professor emeritus of construction management at Minnesota State University-Mankato (MSU), visited during the six months he spent living in Russia, from January to July in 2003, as the first Fulbright Scholar at State Technical University-MADI in Moscow. While there, he gave lectures to students, faculty and community leaders, presented at an international conference in Omsk, and traveled to Ivanovo and Volgograd in addition to his trip to the Siberian interior.

Below: The Yenisey River

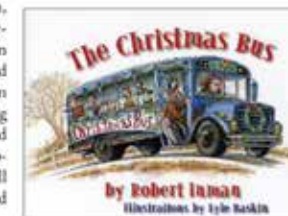
and impressed the
locals in **Venezuela** in
2006.

**The Fighter Pilot's Wife:
A Military Family's Story**
by *Gilberta Guth*
Call Sign Press, Novato, Ca., 2006
paperback, 295 pp., \$24.95

Guth offers a gripping portrait of military family life; the challenges faced by military families are unfamiliar in the civilian world, and she relates these through the storyline of her own life. She recounts her speedy courtship and marriage to Air Force pilot Joe Guth, their resultant globetrotting lifestyle while raising four children, and their lives framed by military aviation and the constant specter of death. After her first husband's death, the author married Howard "Oscar" Pierson, a UA graduate and former Crimson Tide football player with a distinguished military career serving in the Navy in World War II and in the Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Enriched with letters, photos and newspaper clippings, Guth's well-documented story will appeal to lovers of history, biography and military accounts.

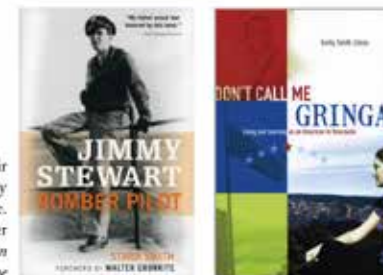
The Christmas Bus
by *Robert Inman*, '65
Novello Festival Press,
Charlotte, N.C., 2006
hardcover, 77 pp., \$19.95

Christmas is coming to the Peaceful Valley Orphanage where kindly Mrs. Frump is in charge of a gaggle of rowdy kids. Frump decides that her orphans need real families to fill the emptiness in their lives. So, on the day before Christmas, she loads the kids onto a rickety old bus and sets off to deliver them to their destinations. In what is sure to become a modern Christmas classic, Inman weaves a heartwarming tale of love, laughter and serendipity. With illustrations by Lyle Baskin, *The Christmas Bus* will appeal to every member of the family.

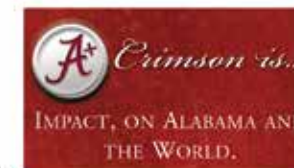


Jimmy Stewart: Bomber Pilot
by *Starr Smith*, '52
Zenith Press, St. Paul, Minn., 2005
hardcover, 287 pp., \$21.95

Of all the celebrities who served their country during World War II—and they were legion—Jimmy Stewart was unique. At the height of his fame in 1940, after starring in *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and earning an Academy Award for *The Philadelphia Story*, Stewart saw war on the horizon and enlisted. By the time Pearl Harbor woke so many others to the reality of the war, Stewart was already serving as a private on guard duty at the Army Air Corp's Moffet Field, south of San Francisco. *Jimmy Stewart, Bomber Pilot*, chronicles the star's long journey to becoming a pilot in combat.

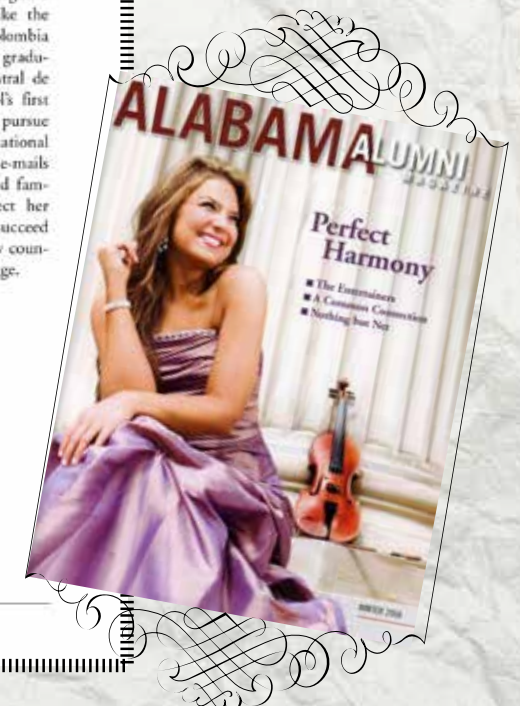


"Bookshelf" provides reviews and descriptions of new books with University of Alabama connections. To submit a publication for consideration, mail a review copy to Alumni Publications, The University of Alabama, Box 870148, 206 Alumni Hall, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.



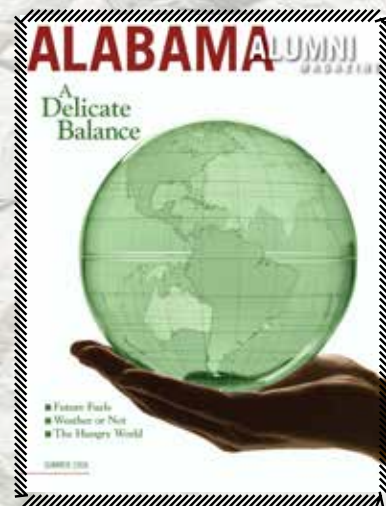
**Don't Call Me Gringa:
Living and Learning as an
American in Venezuela**
by *Emily Smith Linds*, '03
AuthorHouse, Bloomington, Ind., 2006
paperback, 314 pp., \$15

Tag along with 22-year-old Emily Smith as she leaves the United States and immerses herself completely in the Latin American culture. Through an Ambassadorial Scholarship from Rotary International, Smith travels to South America for graduate studies while serving as an ambassador of good will. During her stay, she is determined to break negative American stereotypes and live like the locals she meets in Venezuela, Colombia and Argentina. She enrolls in graduate school at la Universidad Central de Venezuela, where she's the school's first foreign student to pursue a master's in international relations. A series of e-mails written to friends and family back home reflect her determination to succeed academically in a new country with a new language.



We lectured in
RUSSIA in
2004,

We fed
Kampala, Africa,
in 2008, - - - - -



and made sure to
take photos on our
journeys. - - - - -



Worldwide Tide

Each year, UA's Capstone International Center sends students abroad to learn about cultures very different from their own, and to have the experience of a lifetime. Each spring, a photo contest is held for former study-abroad students to enter their most artistic and creative shots documenting their travels.

The winners of the 2009 Capstone International Photo Contest:

Commercial Category

1st Place—Susan Gorin, China
2nd Place—Kelley Bailey, Thailand

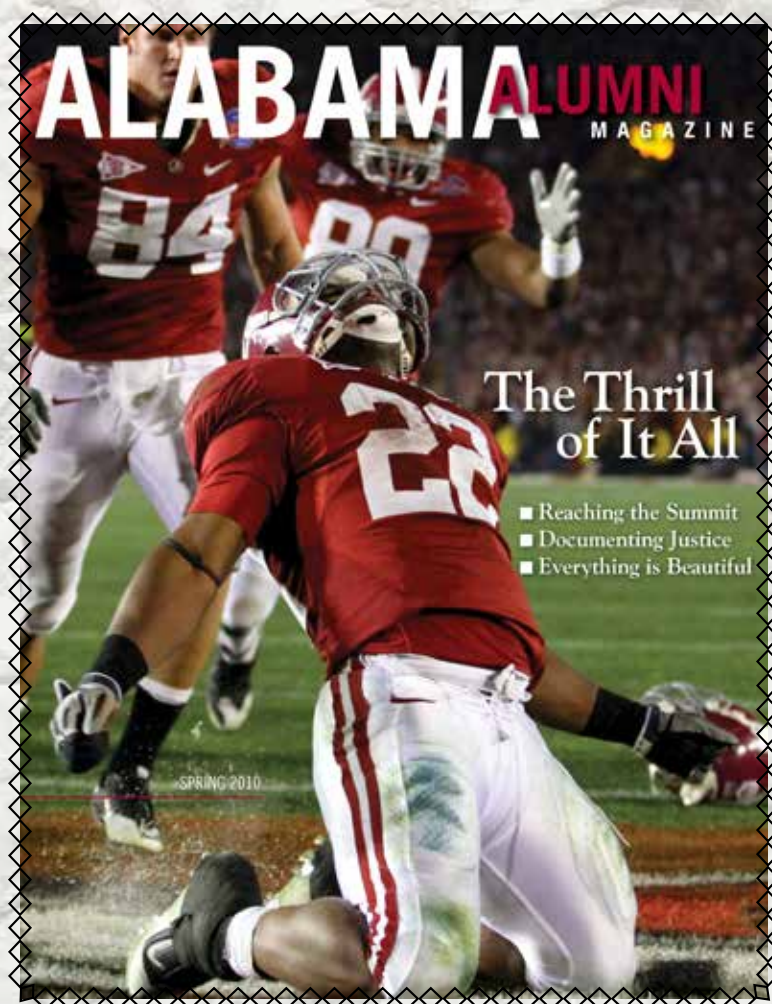
Artistic Category

1st Place—Glynnis Ritchie, Italy
2nd Place—Jonathan Lancot, Brisbane



We climbed

the highest mountains in 2010, -----



FEATURE

The TOP of the WORLD

by Eric Apalategui

Life after college has brought plenty of University of Alabama graduates to dizzying heights—literally, in the case of the following alumni, who separately found their ways into the thin air on top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

For some, climbing Africa's tallest mountain was an inspirational stop along life's journey. For others, reaching the summit was transformational. All have had professional careers but, for the moment at least, traded their climate-controlled offices for the uncontrollable wonders of nature at high altitudes. Two plan to go on until they climb the highest mountain on every continent, what veteran climbers revere as the Seven Summits. Two others don't aspire to reach the top of the world again, but have mapped out lives filled with adventure.

THE ACCIDENTAL CLIMBER

Kent Stewart had never been much of an outdoorsman. He remembers being completely ill-prepared when he and wife Julie reached the 19,340-foot Kilimanjaro summit as part of an African vacation in 2006.

"I was hating, I was hallucinating. I was just not in very good shape. It really caught up with me on summit day," said Stewart, who earned his bachelor's degree in business in 1978 and his law degree in 1981, both at UA, and later founded Reli Title in Birmingham, Ala., where he is CEO. Julie attended UA as well, but finished the final credits to earn her English degree at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"We got to the bottom two or three days later, and I said I would never, ever climb another mountain," Stewart said. "Then, it's really weird, but every day that goes by after you get home, you remember more and more about the



(Facing page) Kent and Julie Stewart press toward the top of Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina, and (above on left) summit Mt. Elbrus with two Russian guides.

good part and less and less about the bad part."

So he and Julie next climbed Russia's Mount Elbrus in the summer of 2007, and the idea of climbing the world's Seven Summits seemed within reach. "Once you've done two, then it really starts to become an obsession," he said. "I think about the next mountain every day."

In the past few years, they conquered the high points in Australia, Antarctica and South America.

Mount Kosciuszko in Australia's Snowy Mountains is a modest climb, nontechnical like Kilimanjaro but at much lower altitudes. Vinson Massif in Antarctica is so inhospitable and remote that if something bad happens, "you might as well be on the moon," Stewart said. Temperatures there dipped to minus 41 degrees. And Argentina's Aconcagua, like Elbrus, routinely claims the lives of climbers, without much publicity.

In fact, on their climb to the summit of Aconcagua in early 2009, the Stewarts and their guide passed one corpse and thought they spotted another near the top—until it moved. They ended up saving the Romanian climber, who was dehydrated, disoriented and had given up hope. "We were the only people who summited that day so if we hadn't, no one would have found him."



won medals in
the Bahamas in - - -
2011,

and did some
shopping in Israel in - - -
the fall. ← - - -



The People's Medal

Pauline Davis-Thompson dedicates her much-delayed Olympic gold to the country she loves.
by Donald Staffo

For Pauline Davis-Thompson, it is certainly better late than never. A University of Alabama 1988 national indoor track champion in the 200 meters and 1989 record-setting outdoor champion in the 400 meters, Davis-Thompson placed second in the 200 meters at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games. Already a Bahamian 4x100

strive to be as great as you can be, and to represent your country is the greatest feeling in the world. My government did its very best to make the ceremony as joyful and as special as possible for me, but I would have much preferred to receive the medal on the podium in 2000 during the Olympic Games and see my country's flag raised and hear my country's national anthem."

Davis-Thompson explained that throughout the ordeal, Bahamians kept asking, when are we going to get "our medal?" "I was floored that so many people kept asking that, and it dawned on me that the whole nation was rocked. So I dedicated the medal to the people of the Bahamas and said, 'I hope I have made you proud.'" Calling it "the people's gold medal," she then presented it to Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham.

A five-time Olympian, Davis-Thompson won a silver medal as a member of the 400m relay team in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. As a seven-time competitor in the World Championships, she was outdoor champion in the 4x100 relays, a silver medalist in 400m and an indoor silver and bronze medalist in the 200m. And now, a decade after her winning performance on the track, she is an Olympic double gold-medal winner. "It is unbelievable, especially being a female and coming from such a tiny nation where females are not encouraged to play sports. It feels good to overcome that, and to prove wrong all the people who told me that I couldn't do it," she stated.

relay team gold medalist, Davis-Thompson finally was awarded the 2000 Olympic gold medal in the 200 meters when the International Olympic Committee stripped American Marion Jones of her first-place medal for admitting in 2007 to using performance-enhancing steroids. Davis-Thompson received the belated gold medal on June 10, 2010, during an elaborate dinner reception at the Bahamas Government House.

It was an emotional evening for the former Crimson Tide star as she related the joy of being an individual gold medalist, but the disappointment of missing her Olympic moment. "I was ecstatic, but had mixed feelings when I received the medal," she said. "As an athlete you

Since earning her UA degree in 1989 in communications with a minor in English, Davis-Thompson has held several significant positions in athletics administration, including district manager of marketing sports tourism for the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. In 2003, she was elected to the IAAF Women's Council and currently serves on the IAAF Council that sets track



UA senior Pauline Davis was included in a 1988 alumni magazine article titled "Our Olympic Heroes." Left, Davis-Thompson displayed her gold medal during a reception at the Bahamas Government House in 2010.

and field policies for the entire world. In 2008 and 2009, she coached women's sprints, jumps and hurdles at the University of Tennessee, nurturing six Lady Vols who earned 17 All-American recognitions en route to earning NCAA Assistant Coach of the Year accolades. Despite working at UT, Davis-Thompson assured, "I'm a Bama Girl!"

In March 2010, she started the Bahamas High-Performance Track Academy that has the goal of producing high-caliber student-athletes who are well-mannered and can compete for an American university that has high academic and athletic standards. "This was something that I've always wanted to do. To coach and be an entrepreneur," stated Davis-Thompson, who besides scouting for and developing talent is also involved in mentoring and consulting work for the Bahamas Ministry of Youth Sports. Recognized as a heroine in her country, in 1998 she married Jamaican Olympian and Brown University graduate Mark Thompson, whom she met at the 1992 Olympics.

Dr. Donald Staffo covers Alabama sports for the Associated Press and Touchdown Alabama Magazine.



TIDE IN THE HOLY LAND

Tanner Latham, '99, was immersing himself in Jerusalem's culture during a business trip to Israel, experiencing an entirely different world than the one he was accustomed to in Birmingham, Ala. Then he stumbled across something familiar: tucked away among the stores and stalls of King David Street was a Tide-themed shop called Alabama



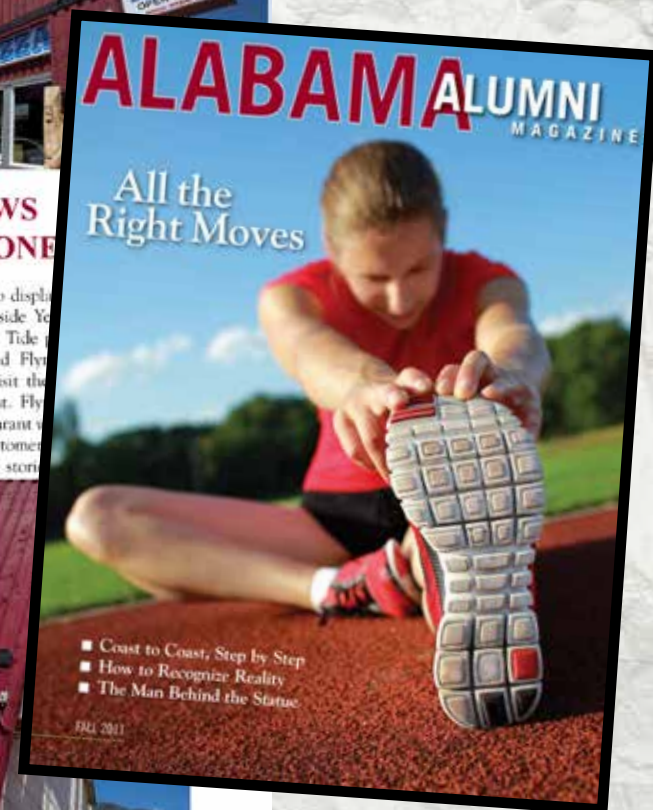
in the frame of mind where you expect to be flooded with completely new things at every turn," he said. "The familiar is jarring at first, and then absolutely comfortable."



CRIMSON FLOWS AT YELLOWSTONE

Larry Flynn, '78, isn't afraid to display his K-Bar Café, located just outside Yellowstone Park, isn't afraid to show off its Tide-themed merchandise. A Yellowstone employee noticed Flynn's T-shirt during his visit to the K-Bar in Gardiner, Mont. Flynn believed what he found. The restaurant's memorabilia, and welcomed customers.

"Roll, Tide, Roll!" Flynn traded stories with owner Zabun Burton, '89. A teacher at Paul W. Bryant High School in Cottondale, Ala., Burton splits his time between Tuscaloosa and Gardiner, and is part of a core group of Alabama fans in the Montana community. For Flynn, the discovery was both a welcome surprise and a chance to bond with those who share his UA roots. "I expect to find Tide fans in many places, but the threshold of Yellowstone National Park wasn't on my list," he said.





ARTIS BROWN

Graduate goes global

by Haley Herfeth

Artis Brown has only ever worked for one company since graduating from The University of Alabama, and he doesn't mind. His career at Exxon Mobil Corp. has allowed him to live in five U.S. cities and in Singapore, a place Brown and his wife, Kim, 37, have called home since 2010. He was hired as a project engineer straight out of college, after earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1996.

ExxonMobil has a long history of recruiting students from campus—a process for which Brown served as UA's recruiting team captain before moving to Singapore—and he felt himself drawn to the company for several reasons. "I honestly did not have a detailed understanding of the energy industry," Brown said. "I was interested in a company that was challenging, global and stable. Part of my decision was also driven by my desire to make my mother proud and to eventually be in a position to attempt to repay her for the many sacrifices she made for me and my four siblings."

Now, Brown has been with ExxonMobil for 15 years, and said he hopes to work 20 more. The company operates on six out of the seven continents and employs around 80,000 people. In Singapore, which serves as a hub for the Asia Pacific region, it operates refineries, chemical plants and lubricant businesses, among other enterprises.

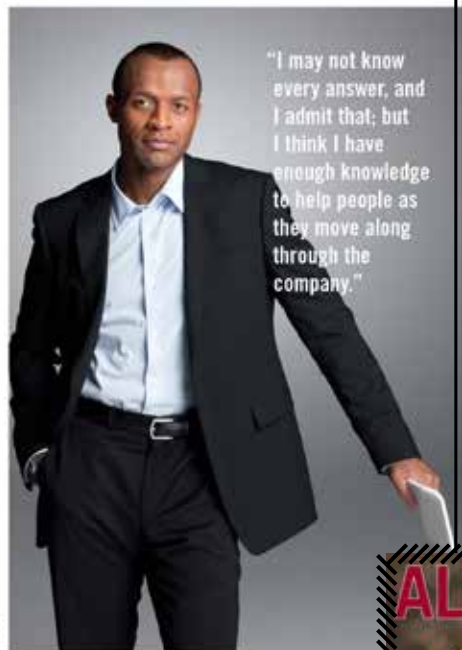
Many ExxonMobil employees assigned to Singapore have responsibilities throughout the region; Brown works in sales, supervising six area managers who work with six teams in six different countries. Some of his previous assignments include working in project engineering, retail management

and chemical supply chain management.

More recently, Brown was filmed for an advertisement regarding how ExxonMobil and its affiliates are developing efficient technologies that will reduce the environmental impact of oil sands production. "Based on my technical training as well as some of the assignments I have held, I was in a good position to speak on the issue," he said. "I have never done anything like that before, and was pleased to be selected to comment on this important topic. It was enjoyable and stressful at the same time."

In addition to his daily work, he is passionate about mentoring newer members of the business. "I came in not necessarily knowing any engineers from my community or any of the elements that come into play in corporate America," he said. "I may not know every answer, and I admit that; but I think I have enough knowledge to help people as they move along through the company."

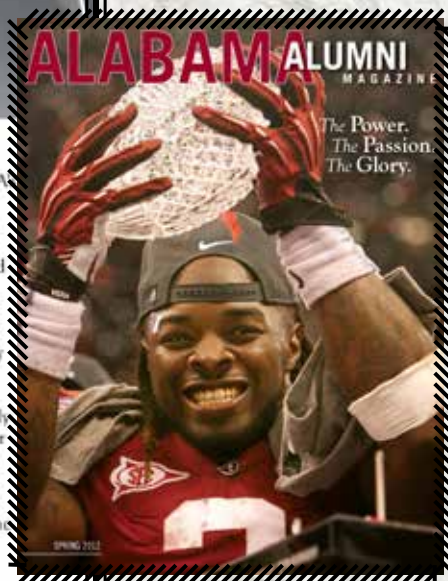
ExxonMobil supports service initiatives throughout the world, such as one signature program that provides bed nets and malaria medicine to exposed African communities. At one point in his tenure, Brown was community service chairman of the Black Employee Success Team, which is also supported by the corporation. "We brought high school students into the company to show them a day in the life of an ExxonMobil employee," he said.



"I may not know every answer, and I admit that; but I think I have enough knowledge to help people as they move along through the company."

Brown said that he was well-equipped for his career following his time at UA. He was challenged by UA engineering school, he said, a place where he gained analytical skills that have served him well. Extracurricular activities at the University also helped shape him; he served as the president of the National Society of Black Engineers, the Engineering Executive Council President and the community service chairperson of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi.

"When I arrived at Alabama, I only knew five people," he said. "It's similar coming into the corporate world. You have to form bonds and relationships. Being at Alabama definitely prepared me for the work I'm doing now and the work I've always done."



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We set off
from Singapore in
2012,

and made a stop
in China on our
way back.

CHARLES LI

An unexpected path

by Bill Gerdes

It's about 8,350 miles from Tuscaloosa to Hong Kong, a city-state on China's south coast. But distance has not lessened the affection Charles Li, MA '88, has for the Alabama community.

Li is chief executive of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing (HKEx), the region's only stock and futures exchange and Asia's third largest stock exchange in market capitalization. Li, 50, has been chief executive since Oct. 16, 2009. Prior to that, he was president of Merrill Lynch China, practiced law in New York, worked as an offshore oil worker in the North China Sea and was a reporter and an editor at the *China Daily*.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Xiamen University of China and a law degree from Columbia University School of Law. But the time he spent in Tuscaloosa earning a master's in journalism at UA was special, he said. "Tuscaloosa has a special meaning in my life because my wife and I were married there 25 years ago," Li recalled. "The fondest memory I have about Tuscaloosa is the people I met. You would never know what Southern hospitality is until you spend real time with real people in the Deep South."

Li said his journalism degree has been instrumental in his success. "The most obvious influence is that it helps me to handle media and publicity with greater ease. As a former journalist, I can build relationships with the media much more easily because I can understand their position, speak their language and be their friend."

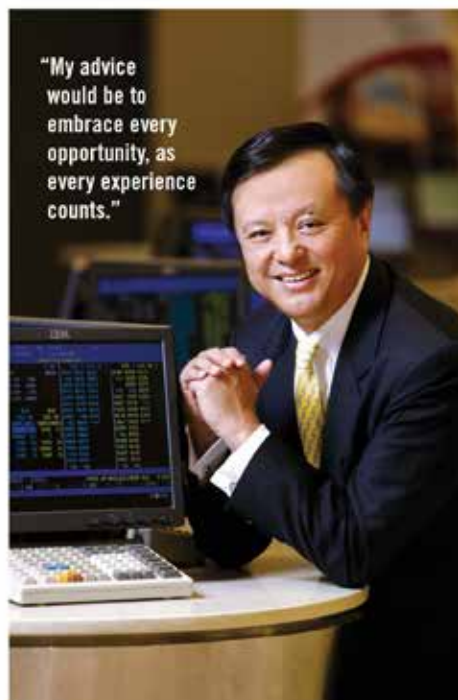
The structural imbalances of the world economy—large trade surpluses and large trade deficits—cause him the most concern in his current role. "After a decade of relaxed fiscal and monetary policy, Europe is now facing a solvency issue that I doubt could be thoroughly solved in the short term," he said. "The other driver of the world

economy—the 'China-merica' partnership—has been disintegrating since the 2008 financial crisis. The United States is struggling to get back on its feet, and the consumption-driven growth in the past decade will be gone for good. China, on the other hand, needs to find a new growth model and shift away from the export-oriented economy. And it needs to find it fast, before its political and social problems catch up."

However, Li said, he is conservatively optimistic about the world economy. "Take China, for example. The fact that China will no longer rely on exports and FDI [foreign direct investment], and will put more emphasis on consumption and ODI [outward direct investment], such as Chinese investors going overseas, presents great opportunity for the world," he explained.

Li said his vision for HKEx is based on a structural transformation of China's economy. "China is already the second largest economy in the world. If China can make this turn successfully, it could provide another growth engine for the world economy in the foreseeable future," he projected.

Li said he thinks 2012 will be a tough year, especially for graduating college seniors. "My advice would be to embrace every opportunity, as every experience counts," he said. "Take myself, for example. When I got my journalism degree, there was no way I could know that I would go on to become a lawyer, then an investment banker and then the CEO of an



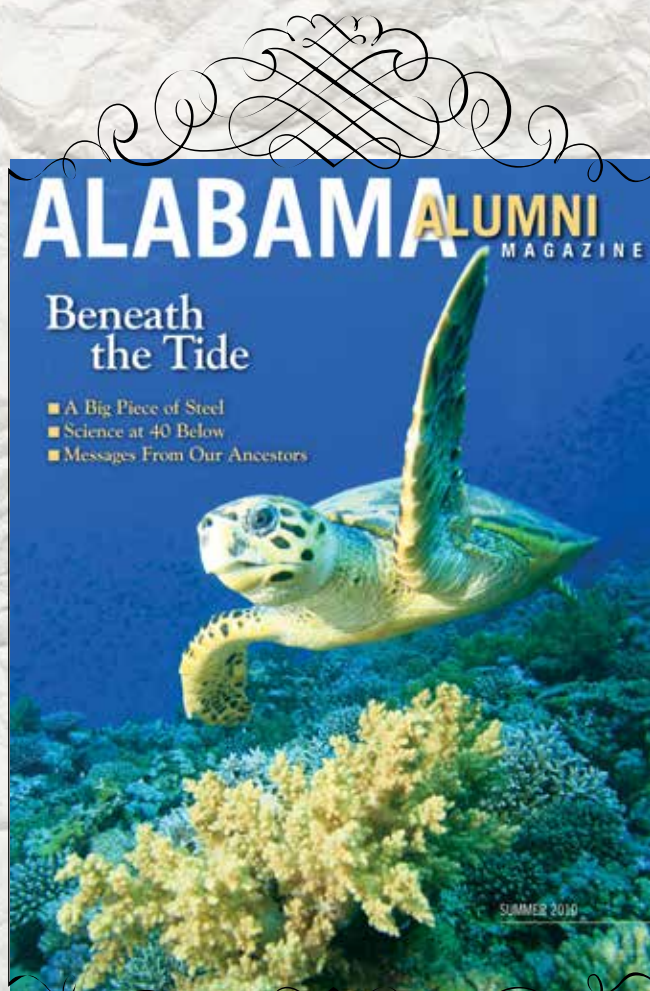
"My advice would be to embrace every opportunity, as every experience counts."

exchange. I didn't and couldn't have my own career path planned out at that point of time. But when I look back, every role contributed to who I am today.

"In a time when the economy is down and finding a job is tough, one's choice would be limited: instead of getting three offers, one might only get one. My advice is to take it, and make the best out of it. In the long run, you would be grateful for the experience, even though it is not what you planned."

Bill Gerdes is a senior communications specialist with UA's Culverhouse College of Commerce.

----- ✈️ *And while*
we've traveled the surface of the Earth,
we've also traveled below it... -----



→ above it...



Waaaaagh!

Bama alumni seek a minute of airborne pleasure

by Mark Hughes Cobb

After discovering digits and spitting up lunch, the first real human stunt occurs when we begin to defy gravity, stumbling forth on wobbly legs like John Wayne on a rippled sidewalk outside the Triple X Saloon. Bolstering the instinct to walk, there's faith: Faith that our semi-hard head is at most two feet from the ground; faith that our testing grounds have been baby-proofed of precarious glass, unpadded surfaces and sharp-cornered tables; and faith that when we fall down, mommy or daddy will kiss the "owwie" away.

Several UA alumni, though grown-ups in the physical sense, have retained a love for primal challenge, the muscular thrust into the void, for the biggest leap of faith: One heck of a belly flop from 10,000 feet, screaming at 200

miles per hour toward terra firma. They are the club members of Bama Skydivers, a group of normal people with an extraordinary hobby.

"People always think you get this



Barbie Cleino demonstrates an unusual Father's Day greeting. Photo by Scott Dulaney

roller-coaster ride kind of feeling, but in free-fall you don't really notice you're falling," said Barbie Cleino, '82, a club member and orthopedic case manager

at DCH Regional Hospital. "Once you get used to it, it just feels like an all-over pressure, like if you put your arm outside a car, except all over your body."

But those first few times....

"Your brain sort of gets into sensory overload," said Scott Dulaney, '86, JD '93, an associate at Hubbard, Smith, McIlwain and Brakefield. "It's sort of like having a 220-volt current running through your body. Your brain goes 'Waaagh!' You have to rely on your training to remember everything."

There is that cushioning parachute at the end of the ride, but still, why throw life out on the line for 42 seconds of hurtling back toward a place you can't escape without the aid of NASA?

Jack Alford, '82, a Bama Skydivers member since 1976 and a certified instructor, said, "For the short period of time you're in free-fall, the rules that apply to you—the physical rules you know from running, playing tennis,

swimming—are entirely different. For that short time you get to be almost an entirely different animal. You have to relearn your reactions to things. Maybe it takes a few hundred jumps, but for that short time, you get to be something other than a human being. Add to that the incredible visual beauty that you see in free-fall.... Of all the sports I've ever participated in, none come within 10 percent of that intense thrill."

Dulaney, who started in '89 and has since racked up more than 700 jumps, added, "I find it somewhat therapeutic. If you've had a bad day at the office, you can go to the zone, get out and just forget everything once you're in the air."

"After you get over the initial rush, you begin to appreciate the beauty of the day. Some days it's just nice to be over Alabama."

Alford, a 2,000-jump veteran, trained many of the current members of the loosely knit club. Dulaney has also been certified with the United States Parachute Association as a trainer, and he also takes students up.

Since the death in 1993 of pilot Jerry Montgomery, the Bama Skydivers have been without a home drop zone (just like it sounds, a "drop zone" is where jumpers, well...drop), but members, in good weather, congregate on Pell City, where they compete for airspace with jumpers from Birmingham and environs.

Lacking a home zone, exact numbers are impossible to know, but the skydivers have about two to three dozen members currently, many from the Tuscaloosa area, but some from places such as Birmingham, Centerville and Decatur. The Bama Skydivers also make flashy demonstration jumps at special events, such as Tuscaloosa's CityFest, the Greensboro Catfish Festival and Fourth of July celebrations. This year they will jump into International CityFest in Tuscaloosa Oct. 29.

UA CLUB TEAM

Surprisingly, the club has roots as a University-sponsored organization. In the 1970s, the Skydivers club and the UA Sport Parachute Team were practically the same organization, reaching a peak of participation and recognition.

"We owned the gear, so all

the training fees went into that," Alford said.

The club atmosphere nurtured several champion jumpers, who dropped out of school and joined the Army's Golden Knights elite parachute corps, largely to get in daily training without the expense. But the club eventually broke away from the University because of lack of support.

"Most universities are not going to sponsor what is, let's face it, a high-risk activity," Alford said. "And most people don't get good enough in this sport by the time they get out of undergrad school, unless the sponsor's a club, providing the plane and time to let you make an unlimited number of jumps."

Drop zones such as the one in Pell City charge about \$13 per jump for experienced jumpers. They also rent equipment and provide training to beginners. Multiply those charges by five or six jumps on a sunny day, add in the cost of \$3,000-\$4,000 worth of good new or used equipment, and the number of jumpers plummeted to include only the serious skydivers.

When Alford came to Tuscaloosa to attend the University in 1976, Montgomery, a 900-odd jump veteran himself, had bought a plane for the UA club team. Montgomery, who had "led a rough, interesting life," according to Alford, operated as the club's pilot until his death. Currently, a local pilot is considering purchasing a plane for the group. The club members themselves are reluctant to purchase a plane because none of them are pilots, and, Alford said, "none of us want to give up jumping."



(Page 20, L-R) Darren Evans-Young, Donald Sullivan and Randy Carnahan assume a basic formation above the drop zone. Photo by Scott Dulaney



Scott Dulaney drops in with a winter message. Photo by Jack Alford

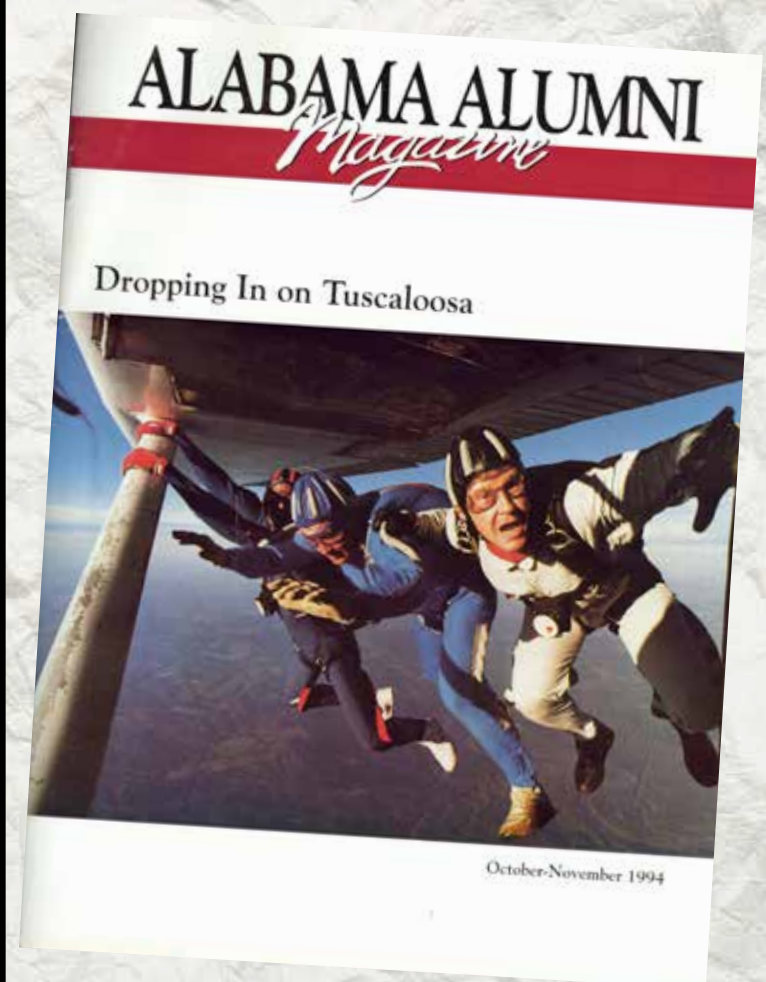
to be in charge of a plane."

PACKING UP

Learning the sport today is less daunting to the beginner because of the modern equipment, Alford said. "In the late '70s, first-time students looked like they were dressed in old army-navy surplus. Things are much more streamlined now," he said. "It's lighter, you don't feel as overwhelmed by it."

"When Barbie (Cleino) first went up, she maybe weighed 110 pounds, and her gear probably weighed 55. But that didn't faze her. Barbie, even though she's soft-spoken, she's made of some pretty stern stuff."

Cleino started skydiving around the time she graduated from college and is now a 700-jump veteran, having jumped consistently over the years except for a period when she got involved in competitive water skiing, but she said she "always goes back to skydiving."



and beyond it.

MAN'S NEXT STEP

UA graduates with NASA probe the next generation of possibilities

The Eagle has landed!

On July 20, 1969, four days after launch from pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, two-thirds of the world's population watched as Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins accomplished what even the most optimistic had said could not be done.

Today, 25 years after the lunar landing, Americans cling to that moment as both a reflection of our past and a motivator for the future of the space program and mankind.

July 20, 1969, played out like a scene from a science-fiction thriller. For all the people who sat entranced in front of their television sets, the implications of what was happening were, in many respects, beyond comprehension.

Few would absorb the full meaning of what they were witnessing until many years later.

Like the rest of America, Alabama graduates

remember what they were feeling during the 1969 moon landing, especially those who were then or are now employed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Marshall Space Flight Center flight systems engineer Charles Darby, '82, was 9 years old. "I wasn't aware of the significance of man landing on the moon, but I do remember it very well," he said. "That night there was a full moon. I remember looking up and trying to see if I could actually see a man on the moon."

Howard Burns Sr., '47 and JD '50, now has retired from NASA, but he was involved with the entire Apollo program, which led to the moon landing. Burns, who prepared test requirements for the launch vehicle and the Apollo spacecraft, recalled, "My most vivid memory is when they landed and the astronaut stepped onto the surface and made his tracks out of the dust on the moon. At that time I forgot about the eight years I had put into the program."

The significance of Armstrong's bold steps onto the rocky lunar surface was twofold: Not only was this the first time space explorers had landed on another body in space, but America had accomplished it. Having watched Russia race ahead with numerous space "firsts," Americans finally had reasserted their superiority, and they basked in an overwhelming sense of pride and patriotism.

"The lunar landing, maybe for the first time, showed us what we can really accomplish if we all work together," said

By Michelle Franklin

Alabama Alumni Magazine



Jonathan Campbell of NASA's Program Developments, the department that determines project feasibility, at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville.

In addition to swelling the collective ego of the American public, the moon landing also laid a foundation for scientific and technological advancement that continues to this day. Darby, a NASA employee since 1983, develops hardware for payloads, including the International Lab that was launched in July. According to him, the development of such things as satellites and deep space probes would have been highly unlikely without NASA's initial success with the lunar landing.

The overriding consensus, however, confines the original motivation for putting a man on the moon to strictly political objectives. With Russia dominating in space exploration, NASA's rocket engineer Wernher von Braun convinced Vice President Lyndon Johnson that America must put a man on the moon to regain the lead. In a surprise statement just three weeks after Alan Shepard's 17-minute flight, President John F. Kennedy issued a mandate for the United States to put man on the moon by decade's end. "It will not be one man going to the moon...it will be an entire nation. For

all of us must work to put him there."

Despite the magnitude of this project, NASA accepted the challenge, and six months before the end of the decade the United States achieved its goal. Although politics may have driven it, the moon shot was not entirely a selfish mission, according to Mack Herring,

science we learned in the effort would go for the betterment of people all over the world—not just in America."

David Garrett, '57, retired from NASA Public Affairs in Washington, agreed the lunar mission contained political overtones, but emphasized that it simultaneously became the "building



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin poses beside a deployed U.S. flag during the Apollo 11 mission.

'57, a NASA historian at Stennis Space Center in Hancock County, Mississippi. "The lunar landing was done for the benefit of all mankind," he said with conviction. "All of the technology and

blocks" for American excellence in the scientific and technical fields.

But the space program encountered its share of stumbling blocks, too. In 1966 Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger



Mission officials relax in the launch control center following the successful Apollo 11 liftoff.

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