



SUMMER 2017

# ALABAMA ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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**SNAPSHOT**  
ON THE QUAD



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44

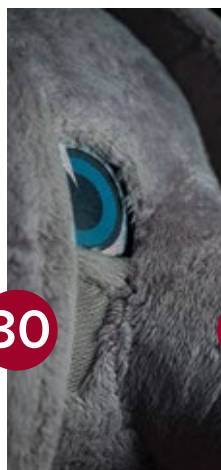
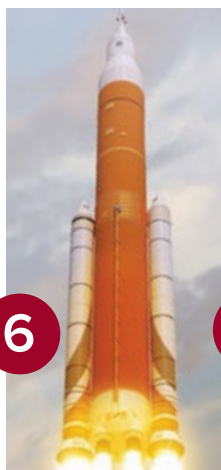
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*Big Al stands with the footprints and handprints of Alabama's football elite at Denny Chimes.*





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Women  
of **NASA**





## UA alumnae have dedicated their careers to space exploration

| by Sarah Mahan |

| illustrations by Joey Guidone |

**W**E HAVE CROSSED CONTINENTS, FORGED RIVERS AND TRAVERSED OCEANS. WE HAVE EXPLORED TRENCHES AND MOUNTAIN TOPS AND RAIN FORESTS. OUR SPECIES IS A SPECIES OF EXPLORERS, AND SURE, WE MAY NOT KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT OUR SUSPENDED BLUE ORB; WE PROBABLY NEVER WILL. BUT WE LEARNED ENOUGH TO GET CURIOUS: WE LEARNED HOW TO FLY. WE REACHED BEYOND OUR PLANET.

“We explore for the benefit of all human kind,” said Jody Singer, deputy director of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, and a 1983 graduate of UA’s industrial engineering program. “This country, this nation, this world has always been explorers. It’s really the heart of who we are and what we do. It inspires us to look around the next corner. It inspires us to try to understand. We’ll always have that inquisitive mind.”

That inquisitive mind has given us electricity, penicillin, the internet, cars, television—and the ability to see our place in the universe. For those who see space as an invitation, peeking around the next corner is a matter of when, not if. More women than ever are accepting that invitation, propelling us even further in our cosmic quest.

The University of Alabama has several alumnae who have front row seats as we reach for the stars. They are women of NASA.



## Jody Singer

Looking back over her career, Singer sees a series of steps that shaped her and guided her career path in tiny, then-imperceptible ways. Other times, it was through clear strokes of luck. All have enabled her to assist in leading one of NASA's largest field installations, with nearly 6,000 civil service and contractor employees and an annual budget of approximately \$2.5 billion.

"Sometimes when you get on top of the mountain, you can see how all the paths connect," Singer said. "I didn't know if I would ever get a chance to, but I knew I would like to work for NASA."

When she graduated, NASA wasn't hiring, so she took a position working as a methods engineer for General Motors. About a year later, she got her lucky break: NASA was taking applications. Singer began her space exploration career in the professional intern program. She worked as an engineer in the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project Office until 1990. From there, she climbed the ranks. She was named the deputy manager of the External Tank Project Office in 2002, and from

2002 to 2007 she managed the Reusable Solid Rocket Booster Project Office.

"It required me to lead a large team that had contractors and civil servants ... to be ready to fly the solid rocket boosters so that we could deliver the astronauts to low Earth orbit," Singer explained. That helped with the assembly of the International Space Station and



*Jody Singer, '83, has worked for NASA for more than 30 years.*



other assignments the shuttle was able to accomplish. “Your ability, and your team’s ability, to deliver humans safely to space is highly stressful but so fulfilling.”

And it is the lessons she learned in her various positions that have shaped her. She went on to manage the Space Shuttle Propulsion Office at Marshall from 2007 to 2011 and was named deputy program manager of the Space Launch System Program Office in 2011. The Space Launch System will be the world’s most powerful rocket and will launch astronauts in the agency’s Orion spacecraft on missions around the moon and eventually to Mars.

Singer, who has received the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Executive Award, the highest honor for career federal employees, became deputy director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in February 2016. She describes herself as a guide for her team’s goals and the go-to to help them break down the barriers keeping them from achieving those goals.

“You’re always asking yourself, ‘Have I done every-

thing I can do?’” Singer said of her job. “It’s more than just pushing the button for launch; it’s making sure that the team has been in the right environment, has had the right skills and the right communication to make sure you’re successful. Pushing the button is just the end result. Making sure your team has the right communication and is on their game is the hard part.”

## Christy Gattis

Though she can’t pinpoint the exact moment—or even the exact reason—Christy Key Gattis, a 1995 graduate of UA’s aerospace engineering program, can pinpoint the year she knew she wanted to have a hand in space exploration. Gattis, now the chief engineer of NASA’s payload glovebox facilities in the International Space Station, has known she wanted to devote her career to exploring the final frontier since eighth grade.

As best she can tell, it was a combination of things that influenced her decision: She grew up near Huntsville and her parents worked for Boeing. As the first person in her family to graduate from college, Gattis

*Christy Gattis, '95, has known she wanted to work for NASA since childhood.*





*The Space Launch System is NASA's newest launch vehicle, meant to replace the retired space shuttle. According to NASA, it is the world's most powerful rocket and may one day be used for missions to Mars, Saturn and Jupiter.*





never hesitated about which engineering degree to aim for.

“I got told a thousand times, ‘Oh but if you have a mechanical (engineering) degree, you could work on other things,’ but I didn’t want to work on other things,” Gattis said. “This is what I have always wanted to work on.”

When Boeing was conveniently granted the contract to build the international space station as Gattis graduated from college, she knew for sure working on the station—versus a rocket or shuttle space vehicles—was for her.

From that moment forward, Gattis has had a hand in an array of ISS projects—from the creation of its modules to its onboard experiment facilities. While at Boeing, Gattis worked as a structural test engineer for its modules, ensuring they could withstand the harsh conditions of space. She even had a hand in verifying the station’s meteoroid debris shield and the large science lab window through which many of the pictures of Earth are taken. After production of the space station wound down, she began her career with NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in 2000.

With NASA, she began focusing on the space station’s



**“It never ends up being exactly what you set out to do, so it’s interesting to get to see it from the beginning to what it actually ends up being.”**

— *Christy Gattis*

payload—the crew, cargo and scientific instruments and experiment structures in the station. Currently, she is charged with managing the technical aspects of two crucial payload facilities projects. The first, the Microgravity Science Glovebox, is an experiment station that has been on board the ISS since 2002 for both materials and life science experiments on the station. She is also working on the Life Science Glovebox, which will handle only bioscience experiments due to high demand and is scheduled to be shipped to the ISS in 2018.

“These two gloveboxes provide the resources and the environment that these payloads need to do all these different experiments,” she explained. They separate the atmosphere of the station from the experiments’ atmospheres, providing astronauts with safe spaces to experiment.

Gattis serves as the hub for all the engineering disciplines on the project and as a liaison to the project office. She and her team are also charged with troubleshooting any minor issues that occur with the MSG while it is in orbit. Through an exact replica on Earth and teleconferencing with the astronauts, any issues are worked out from 220 miles above our planet. It is through testing and identifying discrepancies on Earth that the MSG has had no major issues while in space, Gattis noted, and the LSG is expected to follow suit.

It’s not likely in a person’s career, she said, that you get to see a massive project through from start to finish, but call it conveniently timed job openings, luck, fate or divine intervention, Gattis will likely do just that. Just as she got to witness the pieces of the space station launch, she believes she will get to see it return to Earth during her career as well, which will be the final phase of the LSG she is currently creating.





“We’re going to do the whole lifecycle phase of this project in order, and you normally never get to see it all,” she said. “It never ends up being exactly what you set out to do, so it’s interesting to get to see it from the beginning to what it actually ends up being.”

## Sharon Scroggins

Sharon Scroggins, a 1979 graduate, has told the many students she’s met during college career days that an engineering degree is simply a key—a key to learning to think like an engineer. Once they do that, she tells them, they can adapt to anything.

Her career proves it.

With her civil engineering degree, Scroggins has worked as an engineer in mechanical design and electrical design, served as a mechanical project engineer and was one of two people to create NASA’s environmental engineering operations. Since 1990, Scroggins has dedicated her career to ensuring NASA’s compliance with ever-evolving environmental regulations.

“Some companies want just a mechanical engineer or just an electrical engineer, and I just ask why,” she said, noting she had no intentions of working in space

exploration with a civil engineering degree. “But NASA called me. I like to say the environmental team doubled when I came, and really it did because it went from one to two people.”

Scroggins began her career in environmental compliance with NASA’s shuttle program, which was affected by many of the Clean Air Act regulations that took effect in the 90s. She retired in January 2017 as manager of NASA’s Center for Regulatory Risk Analysis and Communication. In her last position, Scroggins supported the facility operations for NASA, keeping track of state and federal environmental regulations that could affect



**“It’s never an average day with anything environmental; every day’s a new day.”**

*— Sharon Scroggins*




projects at the agency's 13 centers across the country. She and her team stayed abreast of all possible global environmental regulations that could affect NASA's current projects—but also what could potentially be regulated 10, 20 or 50 years down the road, possibly delaying or grounding a future NASA mission.

"It's never an average day with anything environmental; every day is a new day," she said. "But I had a wonderful team that was good at tracking regulations and bringing the ones that might be a concern to my attention. It's a lot of moving pieces, but it's also trying to keep the dots connected."

During her more than 25 years with NASA, Scroggins received a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, a Silver Snoopy Award from NASA's astronauts and an American flag flown over the White House as a present for her retirement in recognition of her team's collaboration. Her most memorable recognition, she said, was being a Space Flight Awareness Launch Honoree in 1997.

"When I went to the shuttle launch, I came back and remembered thinking that it was the greatest gift that NASA could have given me because it was so touching," she said. "The astronauts are so appreciative of everyone that supports them, and my family was there with me to appreciate that I did support that flight. I worked with the people and the program manager." Scroggins was front and center in the grand stands to watch her work launch. "It's just such a humbling experience," she added.

Working for NASA involves high stakes and requires perspective, Scroggins said. "When we lost Columbia, I'll always remember that," Scroggins said. "I had a picture of that crew in my office up where I would see it to remind me every day that I worked to keep our people safe."

It's a unwavering dedication to NASA and to excellence that all three alumnae share. They are pushing us forward, further toward the stars. 

***Sarah Mahan, '16, is a writer for Beasley Allen, a law firm in Montgomery, Alabama.***



## Other UA alumnae with NASA careers:

LYBREASE WOODARD, '82, deputy director, mission operations at Marshall Space Flight Center

TRACY JOHNSON, '96, assistant program manager for the Space Launch System

DR. RENEE HORTON, '11, Space Launch System lead metallics and weld engineer



## Construction Begins on UA Multi-Use Facility for Adapted Athletics

The University of Alabama broke ground on its new Adapted Athletics multi-use facility on Feb. 23, as UA President Dr. Stuart R. Bell and Adapted Athletics Director Dr. Brent Hardin recognized supporters during a ceremony at the site. The new facility will be located along the south façade of the UA Rec Center and will include a NCAA regulation game venue for wheelchair basketball, locker rooms, a workout and training room, strength and conditioning room, team meeting rooms and study halls.

The UA System Board of Trustees approved a \$10 million budget for the facility in January 2016. Per the approval, half of the budget was to be raised through private gifts. The fundraising campaign received a \$3 million gift from UA alumni Mike and Kathy Mouron in February 2016.

## UA Researches Fuels to Improve Engines, Cut Emissions

Engineering researchers at The University of Alabama will be testing how blended fuels can work with advanced engines in an effort to improve combustion engines while reducing harmful emissions. This research team, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, will experiment with different blends of fossil fuels and biomass fuels in a test chamber that mimics an advanced compression ignition engine.

The research teams, led by Dr. Ajay K. Agrawal and Dr. Joshua A. Bittle, are looking for a range of optimal fuel blends that would allow automobiles to use less fossil fuel while producing fewer harmful emissions.

UA was one of eight universities selected to participate in the Co-Optimization of Fuels and Engines initiative. Two offices in the Energy Department—the Bioenergy Technologies Office and the Vehicle Technologies Office—are collaborating on the project. A 1 or 2 percent bump in engine efficiency could save billions of gallons of petroleum gasoline and drastically reduce emissions, Agrawal explained.

“If we can optimize the fuel and the engine at the same time, we can achieve cleaner, more efficient combustion,” said Bittle, an assistant professor. “It will allow for a complementary engineering basis for introducing biofuels that also improve the engine performance.”

To help with the project, the two professors will use a machine they developed to experiment quickly with different fuel blends while monitoring the process with advanced optical techniques integrated with multiple-high-speed camera systems.



## Lanes Along Portion of University Boulevard Temporarily Close

Two lanes of University Boulevard will be closed through Aug. 4 along a one-half mile stretch from the intersection of University Boulevard and Bryant Drive west to Second Avenue. The road will not be fully closed, but traffic will be impacted as UA replaces the road's concrete slabs with asphalt, improves lighting, and adds medians, landscaping, a transit lane and a bike lane.







*From left to right: George Jones, 1973; Judge John England Jr., 1974; Sue Thompson, 1974; Ronald Jackson, 1972; and James "Jim" Blacksher, 1971. Judge England was the moderator of the "Trailblazers Luncheon: The First African-American Law Students" on March 31.*

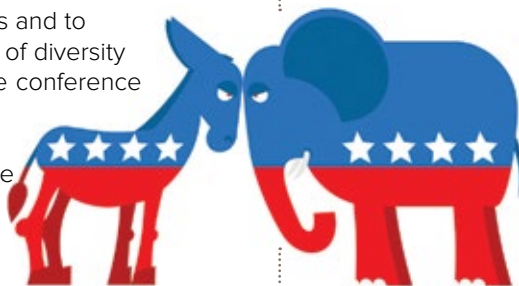
Anniversary of the first African-American law graduates, we should reflect on the advancements realized so far and use the legacy of our African-American alumni to inspire a new set of solutions to the challenges that still remain," said Daiquiri J. Steele, director of diversity and inclusion and assistant professor of law in residence at the UA School of Law.

## UA Law School Honors First African-American Graduates

In 1972, Michael Figures, Booker Forte Jr. and Ronald E. Jackson made history by becoming the first African-American students to graduate from The University of Alabama School of Law. These students' graduation and subsequent legal success demonstrated their perseverance and determination almost a decade after the infamous "stand in the schoolhouse door."

The UA School of Law held the "Bending the Arc of History: African-Americans and The University of Alabama School of Law" symposium on March 31 to commemorate the first African-American graduates and to discuss the experience and history of diversity and inclusion at the law school. The conference explored complex questions about diversity at the law school, highlighted advancements that have been made and provided potential solutions to the challenges, and obstacles that remain.

"As we commemorate the 45th



## UA Professor: Political Identity More Complex than Traditional Labels

Dr. Alexa Tullett, assistant professor of psychology at UA, and Dr. Matthew Feinberg, assistant professor of organizational behavior at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, recently completed a study showing that people's stated political identities correspond to different policy positions—and different voting behaviors—depending on the "redness" or "blueness" of one's location.

The correlational studies, "The Political Reference Point: How Geography Shapes Political Identity," was published in the scientific journal PLOS ONE. It indicates that a person's political identity means something different from place to place. "We think people are using a 'political reference point' ... the idea is that when people figure out their political identity, they look at the people around them," Tullett said. "Of course, deciding that you are relatively liberal requires you to hold less liberal policy positions in the South than it does in California."

The study could potentially impact the methodology for political polling, which came under intense scrutiny after the 2016 presidential election.

## Professor Elected Fellow to American Physical Society

Dr. Andreas Piepke, a professor in The University of Alabama's department of physics and astronomy, was recently elected as a fellow of the American Physical Society for his work in defining the nature of neutrinos, neutral subatomic particles and fundamental constituents of matter.

## UA Army ROTC Wins Brigade Ranger Challenge

The University of Alabama ROTC Ranger Challenge team won the Brigade Ranger Challenge—a regional tournament involving the winners of five Southeastern states and Puerto Rico. UA won five events: fitness, weapons, qualification, hand grenade assault course, casualty care and the ruck march.

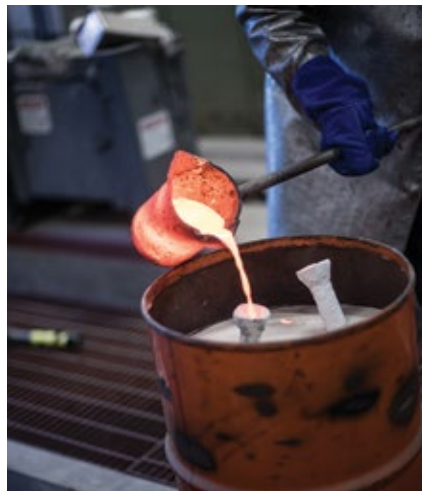




## Recreating History

A few University of Alabama engineering majors are recreating a bit of history as part of their senior project. Working with UA's Office of Archaeological Research and with the permission of Alabama Power Co., the students—Michael Rose, of Kennesaw, Georgia; Danny Massie, of Belleville, Illinois; Hanna Hefley, of Memphis, Tennessee; and Maggie Saylor of Millsboro, Delaware; all metallurgical and materials engineering majors in Dr. Subhadra Gupta's class—have spent the past six months researching and developing a plan to create a replica of an 18th century British Hanger rapier that has been part of UA Museums for the last half century.

The sword was supplied to both the British Navy and infantry and was likely traded or gifted to a member



**Engineering students are creating a replica 18th century sword.**

of the Creek tribe of American Indians sometime in the early to mid-1700s, explained Matt Gage, executive director at UA's Office of Archaeological Research. It was

recovered in 1962 on the banks of the Coosa River. It has since been studied as part of the history of the state and founding of our nation.

The sword was intact with a bronze hilt and a blade so rusty that it disintegrated upon exposure to the air, but not before being photographed and documented. OAR's Jeremiah Stager previously developed a three-dimensional model that allowed researchers to see the artifact's details without handling the object, and tracked down an identical weapon for information on length, width and form of the blade.

The details have proved invaluable to the engineering students who used three-dimensional imagery to create a 3D image of the hilt, to create rubber molds in preparation for the bronze casting and finally, for casting the hilt and forging the blade.



## Professor Selected as Fellow of Materials Research Society

Dr. Arunava Gupta, distinguished university research professor, was recently elected as a 2017 fellow to the Materials Research Society. The society cited his "pioneering research" on the growth, properties, and applications of thin films and nanostructures of magnetic and superconducting oxides as the citation for his fellowship.







## New UA Class Reveals History of Local Lynchings

As part of a new history class, 15 UA students have spent the semester learning about the history of lynching and tracking down the documented lynchings that took place in Tuscaloosa County.

Dr. John Giggie said he got the idea for the class, called “Southern Memory: Lynching in the South,” after talking to the Equal Justice Initiative, a nonprofit, Montgomery, Alabama-based law firm committed to challenging racial and economic injustice. EJI has documented more than 4,000 lynchings of African-Americans in 12 Southern



states between 1877 and 1950—at least 360 of which were in Alabama. Giggie took the firm’s baseline data on the 10 lynchings in Tuscaloosa County and asked his students to research them further.

Giggie said the goal of the class is for students to use their research to create a humanities website that gives testimony to the circumstances surrounding the victims’ murders.

## Tri Delta Donation Establishes Fund for Students in Need

The Tide Together Student Support Fund was recently established for University of Alabama students facing need through a donation from Delta Delta Delta sorority.

The fund provides assistance to UA students in need or crisis who are identified through the University’s Office of Student Care and Well-Being. Funds may be used to purchase food, personal hygiene items, lodging, transportation, gift cards, groceries and other essentials.

Chapter adviser Jeanie King, manager of educational resources in UA’s Career Center, learned there were students on campus who were having trouble paying bills or who did not have funds for purchasing sufficient food and shared that with the Tri Delta officers. The leadership and members of the sorority donated \$40,000 to UA to establish the new fund, which may also be used to provide support for parents or family members of UA students who have been hospitalized.

“It’s so cool to say that the big goal we wrote down in January [2016], we’ve done it,” said Busy Hopper, former chapter president of Tri Delta. “We are so proud to say we’re not just helping our chapter and our philanthropy, but we are going to help the people who are around us.”



## Foundation Honors UA with Tree Campus USA Title

The University of Alabama was recently honored with the 2016 Tree Campus USA recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the second consecutive year UA has received the award.



## Reading Kits Sent to Black Belt Schools

The University of Alabama Center for Economic Development, along with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, promoted the National Education Association’s Read Across America Day by providing Dr. Seuss-themed reading kits to 21 schools in seven counties in the Black Belt Region.



*The Vulcan Values Partners Research Library and Trading Room was made possible through a \$3 million gift by Kelley and C.T. Fitzpatrick.*

## UA Opens Vulcan Value Partners Research Library and Trading Room

The University of Alabama recently opened the Vulcan Value Partners Research Library and Trading Room, which will serve as a home to the Culverhouse Investment Management Group.

The area features a live stock ticker as well as an extensive array of financial research tools, including Bloomberg terminals and meeting areas for students to confer on their stock picks. The complex is a result of a \$3 million gift by Culverhouse alumnus C.T. Fitzpatrick and his wife, Kelley.

“This is an opportunity for the University to create something special that isn’t found elsewhere,” said John Heins, Fitzpatrick Professor of Value Investing and the director of the value-investing program. “The Vulcan Value Partners Library creates a first-class environment for students to collaborate on first-class work.”

Fitzpatrick’s company, Vulcan Value Partners, has been featured in Business Week, the Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg. The partnership is based in Birmingham, Alabama. Kelley Fitzpatrick, a Tuscaloosa native, is the former Kelley Manderson. The Manderson Graduate School of Business at Culverhouse is named for her father, Lewis Manderson.

## Forensics Council Wins National Championship

The Alabama Forensics Council won its 21st speech and debate national championship at the Novice National Championship Tournament at the University of West Florida in March.

The tournament is designed to give first-year collegiate speakers and debaters a chance at national recognition before the rest of the national forensics tournament season. The team also won the Open Division Team Sweepstakes, the Division One Team Sweepstakes and the Quality Award. Ten first-year members of the Alabama Forensics Council competed in 33 events and advanced to the national elimination rounds in 23 of those events.

“The first-year forensics students are one of the most talented groups of any age in our activity nationwide,” said Bobby Imbody, director of forensics in The University of Alabama’s College of Communication and Information Sciences.



## UA Ranks Fourth Among Military Friendly Colleges

The University of Alabama ranks fourth in the latest list of 22 military-friendly colleges released by [www.bestcolleges.com](http://www.bestcolleges.com). This is due to “maintaining a partnership program with GoArmyEd that is designed for first-time students with military background; each student will be paired with an Army Education Counselor to help with college application and admissions, course registration, tuition payments and other key steps for academic success.”



## “Where Legends Are Made” Campaign Wins Advertising Awards

UA’s new branding campaign “Where Legends Are Made” has won multiple advertising awards. The campaign, which launched in September 2016, picked up accolades from judges in the American Advertising Awards competition in two cities as well as a national award from the Higher Education Association.



# MY FAVORITES / Brian Taylor, apparel and textiles instructor



For most people, a shoebox is nothing more than a piece of cardboard. But for Brian Taylor, an instructor in UA's department of clothing, textiles and interior design, shoeboxes recently became much more: a way to showcase students' work.

As part of SHOE PRO-JECT, the College of Human and Environmental Sciences partnered with the College of Engineering to use 3-D projection to project apparel design students' collections onto a giant sculpture of a shoe, made up of more than 100 donated shoeboxes. The project culminated in an exhibit in April.

"I see students when they first come in, getting advised for the first time, and the best thing is watching them grow and learn what we try to teach them," Taylor said. "It's rewarding to see them go through the entire cycle, culminating in their senior show, and then send them out into the industry."

Taylor also is a graduate of the program, earning his bachelor's degree in 1999 and his master's in 2005. After college, he worked at Betsy Johnson in New York City before coming back to go to graduate school and eventually work at UA. "It's amazing to see how much Tuscaloosa and the campus have grown, and seeing these students from all over the country and all over the world come here—it's really special."



## TOP SHOE DESIGNERS AND WHY, IN TAYLOR'S OWN WORDS:

### 1. MANOLO BLAHNIK

"A luxury shoe designer/brand that became a part of pop culture during the airing of HBO's 'Sex and the City.' Sarah Jessica Parker's character, Carrie Bradshaw, was obsessed with her Manolos."



2

### 2. CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

"A luxury shoe designer best known for his bright red soles and gravity-defying high heels."



### 7. SALVATORE FERRAGAMO

"An Italian shoe designer best known for inventing the wedge heel and cage heel designs."



### 8. STUART WEITZMAN

"Stuart Weitzman is a designer for the stars and known for making the most expensive shoes in the world."



### 3. JIMMY CHOO

"Very popular during award season in Hollywood and for the brand's distinct artistic designs."

### 9. CHANEL

"'Coco' Chanel is not only a famous couturier, but is also known for her contributions to the shoe world. She is noted as designing the Chanel Slingback and the two-tone ballerina flats."

### 4. STEVE MADDEN

"He's the founder of a billion-dollar shoe company. His story was made popular in the movie 'Wolf of Wall Street.'"



5

### 5. GUCCI

"Gucci is best known for their loafer with horse bit decoration that represents the brand's equestrian roots."



10

### 10. ROGER VIVIER

"Vivier is known for refining the modern-day stiletto heel by adding a thin rod of steel."







**Emma Castro, '18**  
*"to my job with Google in Mountainview, California"*



**Jessi Bowen, '18**  
*"to be a special education teacher"*



**Hanna Jade Watson, '17**  
*"to Tallahassee to start an internship"*



**William Justin Morgan, fourth-year PhD, and Meaghan Coogan, first-year grad student**  
*"We're going to Spain!"*



**Brad Gardner, '17**  
*"back to St. Louis to be an engineer"*



**Brittany Washington, '20**  
*"to B.B. Comer for Spanish class"*



**Briana Lumb, '18**  
*"to Tennessee for a engineering internship"*



**Bryant Harris, grad student**  
*"home to Alaska"*



**Adam Kinsella, '19**  
*"to Bruno Library"*



**Brooke Carr, staff**  
*"back to work soon"*



**Chelsea Nicholson, grad student**  
*"to a galaxy far, far away"*



**Zach Stolz, grad student**  
*"to new stories"*



**Alex Hasting, '17**  
*"to my car"*



**Rachel Christ, '19**  
*"to a Creative Campus interview"*



**Tiffany Davis, '20**  
*"to the math lab"*



**Kat O'Connell, '18**  
*"to Rowand-Johnson Hall"*



**Claire Ponder, '20**  
*"to dance class"*



**Davan Jones, '18**  
*"to a career as a foot model"*



**Austin George, '18**  
*"to pursue a JD/MBA dual degree"*





Steven Ward, '19  
*"back home to Baltimore for the summer"*



Gwendolyn Lemley, '18  
*"hopefully to graduation next year"*



Nath Tumlin, '17  
*"grad school"*



Hunter Kimbrell, '19  
*"another year"*



Leah Fontaine, '19  
*"Japan"*

# IN THEIR SHOES

From students to staff,  
we asked passersby in UA's Ferguson Center  
"Where are your shoes taking you?"

*by Angel McLellan and Madison Sullivan | photos by Porfirio Solórzano*



Robert Petit, '20  
*"probably to go study"*



Alex Grady, '18 & Capstone Woman  
*"to grab food after leading a tour"*



Big Al



Amaree Mayfield, '20  
*"to graduation"*



Jian Gao, '17  
*"graduate school"*



Jah-Nice Washington, '18  
*"hopefully up north to be a dentist"*



Alexandria Walker, '19  
*"to Paris"*



Jamaica Cooper, staff  
*"to advocate for others"*



Alexandria Hallmark, '20  
*"to the White House"*



Bryan Arthur, '17  
*"to see a friend"*

## LEADING THE WAY

by Madison Sullivan

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**Linda Carmichael Thomas**, 2017–2018 NAA president-elect, is a retired elementary school teacher who lives with her husband, Bob, in Fort Payne, Alabama. Thomas graduated from the Capstone with her bachelor's in elementary education in 1972 and her master's in early childhood education in 1982. Among other positions, she served as the president of the DeKalb County chapter of the association for two years and as NAA District 2 vice president for three. During that time, she served on the scholarship committee and the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award committee. Aside from her contributions to the NAA, she is a member of First United Methodist Church in Fort Payne and serves as the United Methodist Women president. Attending UA changed her for the better, she said. "The top-notch education that I received taught me how to study, discover and think in a more diverse way," Thomas said. "I consider coming to UA as a privilege." As president-elect she hopes to commit, connect and form a community bound together. She intends to visit as many chapters as possible to spread the importance of being a member of the NAA, and inform them of what students are doing at UA. "I want

alumni to know the value of a degree received at The University of Alabama by sharing current statistics pertaining to academics and student activities and organizations," Thomas said.

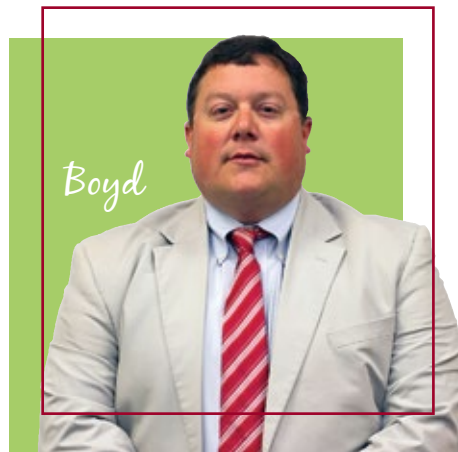
### DISTRICT 10

**Beau Boyd**, District 10 vice president, is a financial advisor in Selma, Alabama. Both Boyd and his wife, Laura Beth, graduated from The University of Alabama. Boyd studied business while at the Capstone and graduated with his bachelor's degree in 1998 and his master's degree in 2002. He is a member of the Dallas/Wilcox chapter's board of directors, and serves with the Selma Rotary Club, the Selma Quarterback Club and Selma Habitat for Humanity. He is also a member of the Church Street Methodist finance committee and endowment committee. He said he hopes to find a scholarship for every qualified student in his district who wishes to attend UA during his time as vice president. The friendships that Boyd made while at UA have made a lasting impact, he said. "I met many lifelong friends during my time at the University and even if I don't see them for years at a time, when we see each other it is like we never missed a beat," he said.



### DISTRICT 11

**Thomas W. Catlin**, District 11 vice president, is a retired teacher and coach who currently resides in Orange Beach, Alabama. He graduated from The University of Alabama with his bachelor's in 1972 and has since been involved in the alumni association in many ways. Catlin was the president of the Baldwin County chapter for two terms and was the vice president of the chapter. He has also served on the scholarship committee and the golf tournament committee. He was named to both the Foley High School Athletic Hall of Fame and the Baldwin County Coaches Hall of Fame. "After 35 years of teaching and coaching at Foley High School, I developed a deep interest in helping students achieve their dreams," Catlin said. He hopes to channel this interest into helping each high school acquire an alum to speak to students about the program and work with the University's admission counselors.







His fondest memories at the Capstone are of his family and their involvement with his education, from orientation to graduation.

#### DISTRICT 12

**Marianne McCraw Russell**, District 12 vice president, lives in Greenville, Alabama, with her husband, Mack, where she works part time in sales. Russell and her husband both attended UA, where she studied art history and graduating with her bachelor's degree in 1984. As vice president, Russell hopes to be a voice for districts such as her own. "Alumni are often the only face prospective students know of UA, especially in rural areas," Russell said. "Student recruitment has always been my true passion within the Butler County alumni chapter," she said. "I hope to encourage all districts to be more active in this process within the UA guidelines." She formerly served as the Butler



County alumni chapter president and currently serves as its student recruitment officer. She is the Kappa Delta adviser to member education at UA and serves on the board of directors for the Sasanqua Garden Club, of which she is a past president. From the moment she arrived on campus, Russell said she was home. "My arrival on campus was incredible," Russell said. "As I moved onto the 11th floor of Tutwiler, I knew I was home. Within a week, I had a new home within my bigger UA home. The idea of the UA family was never lost on me. I had a family academically and socially, mentors and friends—a true home away from home filled with traditions that continue to this day. A wonderful adventure began for me in 1979 and is still going strong today."

#### DISTRICT 13

**Klein M. Jones**, District 13 vice president, lives in Troy, Alabama, with his wife, Ivey. Both attended The University of Alabama. Klein studied accounting while at UA and graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2011 and his master's degree in 2012. He is currently a manager and buyer at Hicks Inc. Jones is a member of the Red Elephant Club, the Swinging Elephant Club, Tide Pride and First United Methodist Church. As vice president, he hopes to increase membership in the alumni association in his area and increase donations by at least \$1,000 each year. "Among my favorite experiences at the University are meeting my wife, meeting lifelong



friends and the arrival of Nick Saban during my first year of college," Jones said.

#### DISTRICT 15

**Nancy Richeson Siniard**, District 15 vice president, lives in Huntsville, Alabama, where she is a managing partner for TotalCom Marketing Inc. She studied advertising and public relations at the Capstone, and graduated with her bachelor's degree in 1976 and her master's degree in 1978. She previously served the Madison County chapter as president, vice president and marketing chair. She is the past president of the Tennessee Valley American Advertising Federation and the capital campaign chairman for Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, where she is also on the executive council and house corporation. She received the University of Alabama Distinguished Alumni Award in 2015. She hopes to support the counties in her district during her time as vice president. Her most meaningful experience at the Capstone was her time as a "Crimson Girl," now known as Capstone Women. "The opportunity to be a 'gracious hostess' to the University was invaluable," she said. "The lessons learned, the contacts made and the friendships formed have had a lifelong impact on me."

#### DISTRICT 16

**Melinda Anderton**, District 16 vice president, is the owner of Interiors by Design and a real-estate agent for Realty South in Oneonta, Alabama, where

she resides with her husband, Steve. Anderton studied interior design at The University of Alabama and graduated with her bachelor's in 1993. She is a former president of the Agigau Women's Club and served on the Oneonta Parks and Rec board for five years. She has been published in Birmingham Magazine and The Birmingham News and participates in the decorator show house and the Birmingham parade of homes. She hopes to increase scholarships and chapter involvement during her time as vice president. She credits her education and degree in interior design for her success over the last 24 years. "It has allowed me to work all over the Southeast and meet many wonderful people along the way," Anderton said.

## REGION 2

**Chad Champion**, Region 2 vice president, lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife, Christine. He studied accounting while at The University of Alabama and graduated in 1993 with his bachelor's degree. He currently works as a recruiter. Previously, Champion was the president of the Charlotte chapter of the alumni association. Along with his involvement in the alumni association, Champion is the vice president of the Kiwanis Club of Charlotte and the head coach of the Let Me Run program. He hopes to serve as an impactful liaison between the alumni chapters and the NAA during his time as vice president. His most meaningful experience at UA was his time spent with Circle K International. "Circle K gave me the opportunity to develop my leadership skills, make permanent friendships and serve my community," he said.

## Letter from the Editor, Lydia Seabol Avant

**S**tamped into the concrete at the Walk of Fame in front of Denny Chimes are the infamous footprints and handprints of some of Alabama football's elite. What it must be like to have lived in their shoes.

Whenever I cross the area, I keep my eye out for the footprint of Bill Cadenhead, one of the first two players who had their prints immortalized at Denny Chimes. He fought in World War II before playing at Alabama. He's now in his 90s and is believed to be the oldest-living Iron Bowl player, having played in the 1948 Iron Bowl.

After graduating from UA in 1949, Cadenhead settled down in my hometown of Florence, where he coached high school football and sold State Farm insurance. His wife, Rachel, was my piano teacher and also taught my sister, mother and uncles over the years. I still vividly remember Bill easily lifting an upright piano like it was nothing more than a toothpick while helping my mother move when I was a kid. He must have been in his 70s at the time. He's helped a lot of people, even delivered Meals on Wheels for 39 years, retiring from his service in 2014.

The idea of shoes and the path that people take in life inspired the theme for this issue, "In Their Shoes." Whether its UA alumnae who are working for NASA, WWI soldiers who trained on campus or even Big Al, everyone has their own path.

Our paths may go down a different route than we originally plan, or we may end up where we always dreamed. Regardless, everyone has their own journey. It's something they travel, in their shoes.



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The National Alumni Association is currently accepting nominations for the Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award. Each year, this award recognizes former University of Alabama athletes whose post-graduation accomplishments have been exceptional. The recipients will be honored at the first home football game against Fresno State, on Sept. 9, 2017.

A nomination form and a biography or personal history on each candidate are required for nomination. The deadline is July 7. Letters of support can be provided, but are optional. The 2016 award winners were Demeco Ryans and Jack L. Bailey Jr.

Forms are available at Alumni Hall. Send nominations to Bryant Award, National Alumni Association, The University of Alabama, P.O. Box 861928, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0017. For more information, contact Robin Elmore at 205-348-1545 or by email to [relmore@alumni.ua.edu](mailto:relmore@alumni.ua.edu).



# Advocating for Alabama's Universities

by Madison Sullivan

Each year thousands of students, alumni and educators across Alabama gather in Montgomery in support of higher education as part of Higher Education Day.

The 15th annual event began Feb. 22 with a banquet held at the Capital City Club. Approximately 200 alumni leaders gathered in support of higher education and to learn from experienced university and legislative leaders about important issues affecting state universities. The University of Alabama had the largest group of alumni at the event. The evening kicked off with the "Take-A-Chance" fundraiser in support of the Higher Education Partnership Foundation. Prizes ranged from a wine and dine basket to a trip to Orange Beach, Alabama.

The Alumni Leaders' Advocacy banquet was opened by speaker Dr. R. T. Floyd, director of athletic training and sports medicine at the University of West Alabama and president of Alabama's Higher Education Partnership, and featured two legislative speakers. State Rep. Terri Collins spoke about the overall value universities have relative to their economic effect in Alabama



and the importance that elected leaders understand this value. Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon provided information on the critical issues facing Alabama and the important role that universities can play in making sure the state continues to move forward. Dr. John Stewart, president of the University of Montevallo, reported from his position as chair of the University Presidents Council of the Higher Education Partnership about the challenges Alabama universities face. Gordon Stone, executive director of the Higher Education Partnership, closed the program

by conveying the importance of the "alumni role in making the case for higher education."

During the event the Alumni Task Force honored State Sen. Gerald Dial with its Leadership Award, which is given to individuals who have helped increase state support and advocated for Alabama universities. "The Alumni Task Force honored Sen. Dial for his exemplified outstanding leadership, experience and vision in making a difference in the performance and direction of our universities and the Higher Education Partnership," said Deborah Parr, chair of the Alumni Task Force, who is also the NAA's manager of alumni scholarships and endowments.

On Feb. 23, more than 2,000 students, alumni and educators gathered on the Capitol steps to show their support for equity in funding. The rally began with a parade of university groups walking toward the statehouse. Each group was accompanied by their university's mascot. The event concluded with a barbecue lunch on the Capitol lawn. "It's great to see so many students come out," Parr said. "It means a lot to us [the alumni] to have them out there. We have the chance to show the legislators that we care about getting our universities the funding we need."



# Recognizing Distinction

by Angel McLellan

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Every year the National Alumni Association chooses one alumna and one alumnus who exhibit extraordinary service to both their communities and The University of Alabama to honor with the Distinguished Alumni Awards. The 2017 honorees are **Shelley Jones** and **Fred Sington Jr.**

A Tuscaloosa resident, Jones earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in 1961 and a master's in education from the Capstone in 1966.

She began her teaching career at Northington Elementary School and went on to become an accomplished school principal in Tuscaloosa for 20 years. Following her retirement in 1995, Shelley was appointed to the Tuscaloosa City Schools Board of Education where she served for eight years—four of which she served as the first female chair. Jones was selected as an Alabama National Distinguished Principal and was recognized by the National PTA as Outstanding Educator. She was inducted into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame and was named Tuscaloosa Citizen of the Year in 2007. Jones has received numerous other awards, including the Phi Delta Kappa Professional Educator of the Year and PILLAR of West Alabama, and her school was thrice named the Outstanding Local Unit in Alabama.

In addition to serving on the Tuscaloosa City Schools Board of Education, she has served on the boards of the DCH Foundation, Community Foundation of West Alabama, Caring Days, Mayor Maddox Pre-K Initiative and Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre. She also served her



*Fred Sington Jr. and Shelley Jones*

church as deacon and elder.

Sington was a member of coach Paul “Bear” Bryant’s first football team at UA. He earned his bachelor’s degree in commerce and business administration from the University in 1959, and his juris doctor in 1962. He received his master’s degree in labor law from Cornell University.

Sington has previously served in the role of president for the A-Club and the Golden Fifties Club. He also served three terms as president for the Etowah County chapter of the NAA, with which a scholarship has been named in his honor. Sington also served as president of the NAA from 1983 to 1984. He is a resident of Gadsden, and has served his community in various capacities, including a 14-year tenure as assistant to the mayor of Gadsden. He has also served as president of the Alabama Retail Association, the Alabama Aviation Council, Northeast Alabama Red Elephant Club, Northeast Alabama Boys’ Club, Alabama Chapter of the

Mississippi Boys’ Club Area Council and Gadsden Downtown Action Council.

Sington has received various honors, including the 2015 Paul W. Bryant Alumni-Athlete Award, the Spirit of Citizenship Man of the Year and the Golden Eagle Man of the Year from the Boy Scouts of America.

## ALUMNI STUDENT AWARDS

The NAA’s Alumni Student Awards honor two exceptional seniors, one female and one male, who exemplify strong character and achievement while attending The University of Alabama. These students have excelled in academics and extracurricular activities, exhibited strength of character and maturity, and displayed exceptional hospitality toward guests and friends of the Capstone. The 2017 recipients are **Anne Stabler Matthews** and **Tyler Merriweather**. Matthews has become an established leader on the University of Alabama campus through her involvement in multiple leadership organizations, including the Black-

*Anne Stabler Matthews and Tyler Merriweather*



burn Institute, XXXI, SGA, The Elliot Society and the Society of Collegiate Leadership and Achievement. She is a member of the Capstone Men and Women, through which she has given more than 150 hours to lead tours. Matthews has also shown leadership as a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, both within her chapter and by serving as a Greek ambassador.

With a dream to eradicate illiteracy and empower underprivileged students to attend college, Matthews has made an impact in the Tuscaloosa community through her involvement with DRIVE Alabama, Reader for Bright Minds Program, Daniel Community Scholars Project, Holt Elementary School and Kickstart College.

Merriweather is the recipient of the 2015 UA Realizing the Dream Horizon Award. He served as a College of Education ambassador from fall 2013 to spring 2016, and continues to serve as a leader within the college. He has spent much of his time giving back to the youth in surrounding communities by volunteering through Crossroads Community Center, Westlawn Elementary, Englewood Elementary, Martin Luther King Elementary, Capitol School and Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama.

Merriweather's passion for the Boys and Girls Club was not founded in his college career, but rather in his childhood. He began attending the club at age 7 and became a volunteer by the age of 15. He was recognized by the Boys and Girls Club of America as the Southeast Regional Youth of the Year in August 2012, an accolade that landed him two visits with President Barack Obama.

The NAA also presented Outstanding Senior Awards to 10 students who exhibited exceptional character and excellence while attending UA. The 2017 recipients were Jeromey Beaman, Sarah Grace Dougherty, Allie Hybart, Chris Lancaster, Justin Lomax, Virginia "Ginger" Morgan, Anna Lee Price, Carlo Rezzonico, Katie Smitherman and Herbert Ke'Shawn Toles.



## Temple Tutwiler NAA's first Alumni Hall

by Lydia Seabol Avant

Temple Tutwiler Hall, which served as Alumni Hall for four decades, was recently demolished to make way for new construction.

The building was built on Colonial Drive in 1949 as a gift from Temple Tutwiler, an 1899 graduate, and was designed by UA alum and Birmingham architect Paul Speake.

The brick, classical revival building featured a large lobby, a "men's lounge" and "ladies' lounge," and offices for the National Alumni Association on the first floor. The second floor featured two apartments and several bedrooms for visiting alumni to stay overnight. The building was completed just in time for a reception to celebrate the new building on Oct. 22, 1949.

During the building's dedication, Dr. John Gallalee, then-president of The University of Alabama, accepted the building on behalf of the University. "We dedicate it solemnly to service of the alumni, to a strengthening of our ties with them, to the people of Alabama and of the country," Gallalee said, according to Alabama Alumni News.

"If this building gives comfort and pleasure to the alumni, I shall be very happy," Tutwiler said at the event.

The building was home to the NAA for almost 40 years until 1987 when the association moved into the current Alumni Hall on Paul Bryant Drive. Since that time, Temple Tutwiler Hall served a variety of purposes, including home of the Blackburn Institute and the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility.

But, with the growth of campus and the increasing enrollment at UA, the land was needed. Temple Tutwiler Hall was torn down mid-March to make room for a larger, new Alpha Omicron Pi house, which will be built on the site, said Tim Leopard, associate vice president for construction administration. The new AOPi sorority house is now under construction and slated for completion in fall 2018.



PHOTO COURTESY OF W.S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

**NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**Officers:**

Chad D. Coker, president; Linda Carmichael Thomas, president-elect; L. Alex Smith, immediate past president; Calvin J. Brown, executive secretary; Lynda Gilbert, treasurer.

**In-state vice presidents:**

Tommy Crosslin, District 1; John D. Troncale, District 2; Scott Thornley, District 3; Mark Burr, District 4; Carol H. Sprayberry, District 5; Mandy Wyatt, District 6; Walter A. Griess, District 7; Richard Bradford, District 8; Kay Jordan Thomas, District 9; Beau Boyd, District 10; Thomas W. Catlin, District 11; Marianne McCraw Russell, District 12; Klein M. Jones, District 13; Charles E. Smith, District 14; Nancy Richeson Siniard, District 15; Melinda Anderton, District 16.

**Out-of-state vice presidents:**

Christopher Hollinger, Region 1; Chad Champion, Region 2; Erik Byrum, Region 3; Annie L. Flettrich, Region 4; Nancy V. Mills, Region 5; L. Lamar Faulkner, Region 6.

**Living past presidents:**

Byrd R. Latham (73-74), Frank H. Bromberg Jr. (75-76), William H. Lanford (76-77), Barrett C. Shelton Jr. (82-83), Fred W. Sington Jr. (83-84), Cecil G. Duffee Jr. (84-85), John W. Martin (85-86), Walt I. Graham (87-88), Ralph P. Loveless (88-89), Reginald T. Hamner (89-90), William S. Poole Jr. (92-93), John D. Clements (93-94), William T. Ventress Jr. (95-96), Margaret Lee Watson (96-97), Calvin J. Brown (97-98), Robert H. Shaw Jr. (98-99), Benjamin F. King IV (99-00), Philip Baker Young (00-01), Robert V. Wooldridge III (02-03), James M. Givan (03-04), André J. Taylor (04-05), Judson W. Wells Sr. (05-06), Robert W. Barr (06-07), Melanie Walthall Chambliss (07-08), Wilbur W. Masters (08-09), Ben H. Shurett (09-10), Eddie Hardaway Jr. (10-11), Dick Coffee III (11-12), Sabrina Skelton Keating (12-13), Charlie R. Schaeffer (13-14), Jimmy Warren (14-15), Lee Watkins Boles (15-16), L. Alex Smith (16-17).



## Travel Preview Reception



The National Alumni Association will host its annual Travel Preview Reception June 9 in the recruiting room of Bryant-Denny Stadium. A cocktail reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will be provided as guests visit vendors to learn about various offerings for 2018 travel. The event will introduce alumni to the 2018 Travelin' With the Tide schedule. This year's schedule includes old favorites such as Sparkling South Pacific,

Cruise the Heart of Europe and Glacial Adventures of Alaska. Young alumni may be interested in signing up for the Iceland Expedition or the Amsterdam and London trip. Tour operators will be available for all trips to showcase travel options and answer questions. The new setup of the Travel Preview Reception will allow guests to ask specific questions about trips they are interested in. Visit [alumni.ua.edu](http://alumni.ua.edu) and click "travel" to see the full lineup of tour packages. To register for the reception or for more information about Travelin' With the Tide, contact Jamie Burke at 205-348-1550 or [jburke@alumni.ua.edu](mailto:jburke@alumni.ua.edu).





# LOOKING BACK



2007



1992



1967



1942

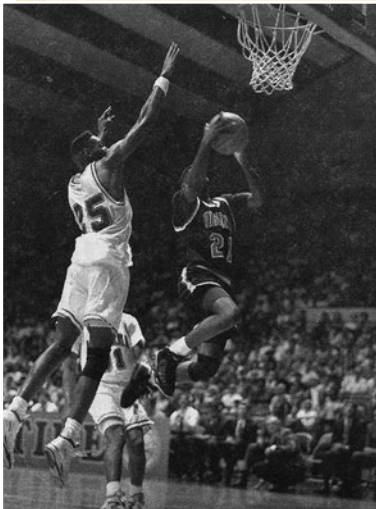
## 10 YEARS AGO

The Summer 2007 issue of Alabama Alumni Magazine featured the rededication of Bibb Graves Hall, home to UA's College of Education, after it was renovated. These renovations provided students with teaching labs and lecture halls with fully integrated multimedia capabilities, a state-of-the-art wing for counseling labs, newly designed offices for faculty and staff, and office suites for graduate students.



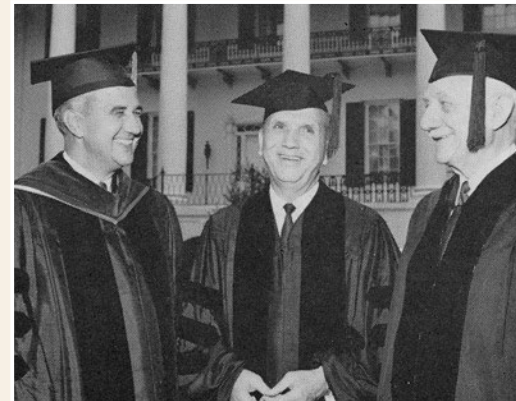
## 25 YEARS AGO

The April/May 1992 issue of Alabama Alumni Magazine highlighted the Alabama men's basketball team as they concluded the 1991-92 regular season. The Tide finished third in its "newly aligned" 12-team conference with a 23-7 record and earned its 10th NCAA tournament bid in 11 years. During this season, senior Robert Horry became the first player in Alabama history to block 100 or more shots in a single season.



## 50 YEARS AGO

The July/August 1967 issue of the Alabama Alumni News boasted that the 1966-67 freshman class was scholastically the best ever admitted to the University with an average ACT score of almost 23. Commencement festivities were also in full force. Baccalaureate speaker Rev. Edwin Kimbrough and commencement speaker John Brantley received honorary degrees from the University while more than 2,000 students received their diplomas.



## 75 YEARS AGO

Despite rumors of war, the University celebrated its 11th commencement, according to the June 1942 issue of the University of Alabama Alumni News. Speakers sounded a clarion call for "victory to come and never-ending peace to follow." This event also prompted Alumni Day, where alumni from all over the country are invited to join together on campus. A representation of every class but seven between the years of 1885 and 1945 was present at the alumni banquet.

# The Elephant *in the Trunk*

by Kayla Montgomery

**AS HE WAS MAKING HIS WAY** home to Dothan, Alabama, Hugh Dye had a few things on his mind. He had just finished his finals for the fall 1979 semester and was daydreaming of sleep, first and foremost, and reuniting with his hometown friends after the finals fog had faded.

As he zipped along U.S. Highway 231 in his Mercury Bobcat—with its large glass hatch on the back—he began noticing the stares and inquisitive eyes of passing drivers on the four-lane road that weaves its way south from Indiana to the Gulf of Mexico.

He didn't think much about it until he stopped at a gas station. "I stopped to get a Coke and walked around my car to get in the front, and that face was right in the center of the glass," Dye laughed. "I thought, well, no wonder people are staring."

Those curious Alabama drivers had just become the first to get a glimpse of The University of Alabama's official new mascot, Big Al, with his large elephant head staring at them through the back of the Bobcat.

For a mascot that now has his own introductory song played by the Million Dollar Band to welcome him into stadiums, Big Al had a rather unceremonious welcome to the state of Alabama. In the summer of 1979, several groups at the University came together and decided that it was time to give the school its own official mascot, which may or may not have been

slightly influenced by the fact that Auburn University had created its own official mascot a few months prior.

Students had been wanting a mascot for quite a while, said Kathleen Cramer, then-cheerleading coordinator who retired as senior associate vice president of student affairs from the University in 2012. Cramer was one of the contingent







00 MYR 1 BALL 0 1 2  
DOWN 10 GO 10

KING

working on the elephant's creation. "Coach Bryant objected because he found elephants slow and clumsy, so the students passed a resolution saying they wanted a mascot," Cramer said.

Student leaders and an alumni affairs representative went to meet with Bryant on the issue, Cramer explained. "He predictably said, 'Thanks so much for your enthusiasm, but The University of Alabama doesn't have a mascot and that's the way I plan on keeping it.' A student leader said, 'Coach, if that's true, then why do you have an elephant lamp on your desk and why are there elephants on the athletic tickets?'"

Bryant ultimately agreed to the idea, Cramer said. Various incantations of an elephant had been worn to represent the University before,



but this new version, created by Disney in New York, became the first official Big Al.

Although he was hesitant to try out for the role originally, Dye relented to

the urging of friends and decided to compete for the gig. What he didn't know at the time was that tryouts would be a pantomime performance in front of a panel and a crowd of students, as the pachyderm suit had not yet arrived. "I was petrified—I'd never done anything like that before," Dye said. "I'd played sports in front of crowds before, but nothing like



that. My GBA 490 professor was on the panel, too, so I knew I was in trouble."

Dye was the sole student selected to wear the suit, which was slated to arrive by homecoming, but instead arrived at the Birmingham Airport at the end of the fall semester just in time to debut at the 1979 Sugar Bowl. It was decided Dye would pick up the suit on his way home to Dothan following finals. He didn't think twice about fitting an elephant into his car until he arrived. "I get to the airport thinking I'll be able to pick up this package and be able put it in my car," Dye said. "It's actually in this crate that is at least 8 or 9 feet tall."

Dye and airport employees cracked the crate open and there, on the sidewalk of the Birmingham Airport, Big Al made his Alabama debut before being stripped from the mannequin and stuffed in the trunk.

**T**hey say an elephant never forgets, but since Big Al is forbidden to speak, no one will ever know if he remembers his ride in the back of Dye's Bobcat. But if he does, he certainly doesn't carry a chip on his shoulder. Big Al is a happy-go-lucky, fun-loving mascot, said Jennifer Thrasher, two-time Alabama graduate and former cheerleader who is now the coordinator of spirit groups. Today's Big Al operation consists of five students, each with their own suit to accommodate the more than 400 appearances Big Al makes each year.

To land a spot as Alabama's beloved Big Al, students interview with Thrasher before they even demonstrate their in-suit skills. "I want to make sure this is someone who will be a good ambassador for the University—a positive representative," she said. "When they go to an appearance, they're by

*When Huge Dye arrived at home, he donned the suit to show his family.*















themselves. The first impression people get is not who Big Al is, but who that student is.”

While 85 of those 400 appearances are required athletic events—all football games, men’s and women’s basketball home and postseason games, and gymnastics and volleyball home games, the remaining 300-plus run the gamut from countless other Alabama athletic events to weddings, birthdays and visits with children. “They have the ability to reach out and make the day of so many young kids—so many sick kids,” Thrasher said. “We’ve had so many sick kids whose wish is to see Big Al. There’s been experiences where (the students) told me they were in tears and glad nobody could see through the suit.”

While some events, like football games, require constant movement from the mascot and extreme coordination between all five team members to ensure that no one is in the suit for more than an hour, others are much quieter and much

calmer, like the visits with children. “We had a little girl last summer who has since passed away, and all she wanted to do was rub the fur,” Thrasher said. “So Big Al sat there and let her do that as long as she wanted to do it.”

Justin Sullivan, who spent five years with the organization between his undergraduate and graduate careers, said that these calmer, quiet moments are the loudest memories.

He participated in a wide

variety of events as Big Al: appearing at multiple national championships, performing a coordinated dance at a wedding, traveling to New York City to participate in ESPN productions and performing in the Country Music Awards and in a music video for a Brad Paisley song “Country Nation.” But, his favorite memory is starkly different. A family friend requested that Big Al surprise a child who was losing his sight. “His parents wanted him to see Big Al before he lost his vision,” Sullivan said. “I knocked on the door, and he answered. The appearance was not jumping around—the little boy just sat in my lap for an hour. His parents cried, and I had crocodile tears in my eyes in the suit.”

**A**fter a pit stop in Dothan for the holidays, Dye packed up the pachyderm once again to head to New Orleans where Big Al would make his official debut—this time in front of a stadium full of eager Alabama



fans ready to cheer the Tide on to a national championship at the 1979 Sugar Bowl.


The debut didn't come without a few snags, though, as Dye's roommate had to engineer a coat hanger contraption to secure the head in place and Dye had to learn to not only to maneuver in the suit, but maneuver inside a refrigerator box—the method used to smuggle Big Al onto the field for his presentation. When the box came off in the center of the field, a semester's worth of anticipation came to a head. "I had all these ideas of what I was going to do, and I didn't do any of them," Dye laughed. "After five minutes, I realized this was the most fun I've ever had. People were so positive and kids were so excited. It was really such an exciting experience."

While the exterior of Big Al may have changed in the four decades since Dye originally wore the suit—the wool sweater he originally wore was not conducive to avoiding a heat stroke—and the Big Al contingent has now multiplied by five, the spirit of the mascot is still the same. "This is not about yourself; it's about the University," Dye said. "I was hoping and praying that there was a legacy there for Big Al, and that it would become part of the institution."

Over the years Big Al has become a vital part of the Alabama tradition. "I love the students who are involved with it," Cramer said, "but also that it was a gift to Alabama's legacy. It means a lot to me to have a role in this."

While Big Al is recognized as a symbol of the Capstone, to Sul-

livan, Big Al's legacy changes with each and every fan, supporter and alumnus.

"When people think of the University, they think of the 'A,' they think of football and they think of Big Al," Sullivan said. "To a kid, it's a friend; it's where my mom and dad went to school; it's kindness. To an adult, it's my alma mater; it's, 'I'm proud of that.' It's athletics, it's football and it's academics. Whenever you see him, every single memory and dream you had at the University comes to you in a heartbeat. Whatever you associate with the University in your mind, it's him." 







# TIDE TALES

## UA alumni reminisce on commencement

“On the day of my doctoral graduation, all the PhD candidates were packed into a room with the faculty who were participating in graduation. We all were wearing our robes and caps. I overheard one of the organizers say, ‘I can’t tell who is a student and who is a professor anymore.’ That felt fantastic. That’s when I finally felt like I’d accomplished the impossible. I almost didn’t walk in graduation. I’m so glad I did,” said **Jenn Burleson McKay**, PhD ’08.

“On Aug. 6, 2016, my little girl, Jordan Graves, was able to see me walk across the stage. I have three degrees from UA, and the best was seeing my daughter’s face when I finished my second master’s degree. She told me that she was so proud of me,” said **Nancy Cora Boyd**, BA ’01, MS ’09, MLIS ’16.



“One of my favorite memories from senior year was completing my ‘Senior Year Bucket List,’ which was full of adventure and several items to do or see before graduating. My closest friends and I spent the whole year checking items off this list.

There were two items that related to commencement. The first was a photoshoot of us in Bama colors and our caps and gowns, where we took pictures all over campus. It was a great way to celebrate graduating and also all the accomplishments we had made over the past few years.

The last item on the list was walking across the stage at graduation. After we each walked across the stage, I took out our list and checked off our last item. I’m so happy I got to make so many memories throughout my years at UA, and this list made my senior year so much more fun,” said **Charlotte Olson**, BA ’15.

“During our college graduation I actually sat right next to a girl I went to kindergarten with, who I also sat next to at our high school graduation,” said **Jill Sealy Salter**, BA ’03.



“My graduation memory is probably somewhat different from many others. Since this was during the Vietnam War, and guys didn’t know from day to day when they would be called up to serve, I married my high school sweetheart right before my senior year.

Finishing was a struggle, since we lived about 45 minutes away from the campus. But I finished a year early, still eating at my sorority house for lunch, enjoying all my friends and going home at night to cook supper, be a wife (we’ve now been married 50 years) and study.

Back then, seats at graduation were first-come, first-served, and my entire family sat in the sweltering heat.

My paternal grandparents, immigrants from Scotland, were especially excited since I was the first grandchild to graduate from college, although both of their sons had graduated from UA. We had so much fun celebrating together,” said **Denise McLellan Phillips**, BS ’68.

“At my undergraduate graduation, The Tuscaloosa News did a story on me being a sixth generation UA graduate. My parents knew about it, but didn’t tell me, or my husband, Zac, who I was dating at the time. While sitting in our chairs, a journalist quietly knelt beside my chair, introduced himself and asked if he could take some pictures. I said sure and he followed me across the stage with his camera and stayed by my side throughout the ceremony. Zac noticed and was very confused,” said **Elizabeth Riddle**, BS ’03.

**Have a favorite football memory?** Share your story for possible inclusion in the Fall 2017 issue. Email it to [Lavant@alumni.ua.edu](mailto:Lavant@alumni.ua.edu).



## MAKING OF A MILESTONE

*Alabama softball coach Patrick Murphy secures 1,000th win*

*by Kayla Montgomery*

**T**he 2016 Alabama softball season was special; it saw the program net its 1,000th win—a fitting milestone to mark the program’s 20th season and two decades of history, filled with five SEC regular-season championships, five SEC tournament titles, multiple regional and super regional titles, and a national championship to boot.

Not to be outdone, the 2017 season has also secured its spot in the milestone memoirs. Almost one year after the team secured its 1,000th win, head coach Patrick Murphy struck the 1,000th win of his career.

“I was part of his 800th and 900th win, too, so he can’t get rid of me—I’m part of all his historic victories,” laughed senior pitcher Sydney Littlejohn, who struck out 10 on the March 28 5-3 victory over Kent State. “It was a great feeling to be a part of that type of milestone in a coach’s history.”

The team’s sophomore class has yet to see a season without a major milestone, a feat not lost on Merris Schroder.

“It’s amazing being a part of a program like this,” Schroder said. “The fact that you can stay at the level we’ve been at for so long is a testament to Coach

Murphy and all the players he recruits.”

The win did not come without a fight as Kent State took a quick lead in the game. The score was tied going into the bottom of the sixth, when sophomore Mari Cranek hit a home run that gave Alabama the lead. “She’s been a role player her first two years and was forced into a starting lineup when someone got hurt,” Murphy said of Cranek. “She’s the epitome of what we’ve recruited over the years—number one, a great kid, and number two, a great athlete that has bought into everything that we’ve done. To have her be the one that kind of won the game



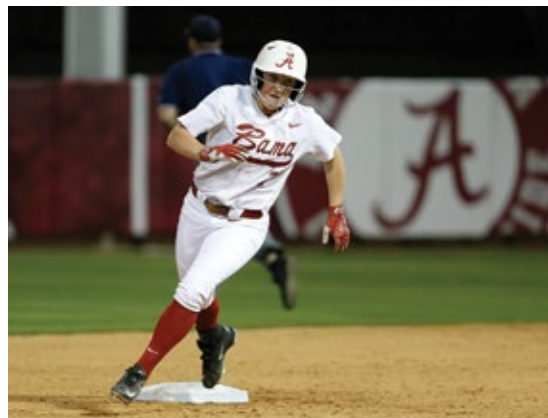
for us was really cool. We have so many people like that that have played for us year after year after year, and they make it all worthwhile.”

Making the milestone all the more special was that it happened at home, Littlejohn said. Alabama’s fan base is a key component in the program’s continued success and sharing that experience with them was an added bonus, Murphy said. “It was a culmination of so many great players, assistant coaches, staff members and fans,” he said. “When you have the biggest attendance in college softball, you want to send everybody home happy, and for the most part we’ve done that. In turn, they’ve helped us win so many games, and that night was one of them.”

Protecting their home turf has become an important goal of this team, Murphy said, which, comprised of only three seniors, is a relatively young group. Ultimately, he said, taking care of business at home rewards you later in the season. “That’s number one,” Murphy said. “When it comes down to it, if you do your homework down the season you get rewarded and get to play at home. We want to take advantage of 4,000 people cheering for us, not against us.”

The team is well on its way to accomplishing that goal, Murphy said, and has done a good job with two of the three elements needed to win a game—getting off to a great start from the pitcher and playing great team defense—and is working on becoming more consistent at the plate to improve the third element—getting a key hit. The intangibles, he said, are already there. “I’ve been pleased with the chemistry and how well they get along,” Murphy said.

This team’s dynamic is like nothing she’s ever experienced before, Schroder said, and will be a strength down the stretch. “We all work together really, really well,” she explained. “We all want to play for each other, and how well we work together will be huge this year.”



On March 28, coach Patrick Murphy notched his 1,000th win. Senior Sydney Littlejohn, No. 28, struck out 10, and sophomore Mari Cranek, No. 10, hit a home run. So far, both of sophomore Merris Schroder’s, No. 7, years with the team have been historic ones. (UA Athletics/Crimson Tide Photos)



# EXPANDING THE EQUESTRIAN EXPERIENCE

by Angel McLellan

**W**hen the University of Alabama Equestrian Team first began less than a decade ago, it wasn't an official team at all.

Instead, a group of students who got together with an interest to ride. "Although the University did not support them and they were not recognized by the Rec Center as a club sport, they formed a group, paid for everything and rode as the University of Alabama Equestrian Team," said Diane Harrison, interim director of equestrian operations and fundraiser for UA's Office of Financial Affairs.

Things have changed. The team now consists of 28 riders and competes in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association. The program has a mission to make a difference in the lives of students, special populations and the Tuscaloosa community.

Pam Poist, marketing director for the program, said the mission of IHSA, founded by Bob Cacchione, goes hand in hand with that of this program: to provide access to the opportunities and benefits of equestrian activities. "His vision was to create an environment for equestrian riders who financially may not be able to afford showing, but give them the competitive edge in college to do that," she said.

That competitive edge is not all riders take with them, Harrison said, as horseback riding has the potential to change a person's life. It's an experience she has witnessed as a riding instructor. "It taught (riders) responsibility through caring for their horses and empathy for animals," Harrison said. "It taught them leadership, how to work with something that doesn't always cooperate, patience, understanding; there are so many char-



Ashley Morrison is the interim hunt seat coach for the UA equestrian team. She was a founding member of the UA club team.

acteristics that a horse teaches you, let alone the love and relationship you develop with your horse."

Although it is a competitive team, the equestrian program is rooted in the kinesiology department, which has offered horseback riding classes to all students for the last two years. "Kinesiology is looking into adding a sports management degree and they want to have an equine industry management concentration," she said.

The program also plans to introduce a therapeutic riding facet this summer for students and special populations. UA's School of Social Work is in the process of adding a degree-granting program for equine therapeutic instruction. Equine-assisted therapy contributes to the well-being of special needs individuals. Once up and running, the therapy program intends to benefit organizations such as Brewer's Porch, Capstone Village and adapted athletics. "The horses themselves are truly therapeutic," Poist said. "You have to develop

a trust both with yourself and the animal."

To keep up with the program's proposed expansion, construction plans for a new facility are underway. The team currently keeps its horses at River Oaks Farm, but the facility only allows them to grow so much. Harrison said having its own facility is vital to the continuing success of the program. "Over time, as our current program expands into the various equestrian disciplines and our therapeutic riding division grows, we will most certainly outgrow our current facility."

The equestrian program has something to offer everyone, regardless of prior experience, Harrison said. "Whether you're competing, taking a class to learn more about horseback riding or a special population—horses are therapeutic even if you're just having a bad day," she said. "It's taking a human and an animal and creating an empathetic moment."





During the 2016–2017 season, the University of Alabama Equestrian Team had four team members qualify for nationals, and the team finished second in the region. “My aspiration for this team, which I feel as though we might be able to achieve this next year, is for us to be number one in our region and go to nationals,” Diane Harrison said. “We came close this year; we tied for first place in points. The tiebreaker is that they drop the lowest two scores from all the shows and that is what hurt us.”

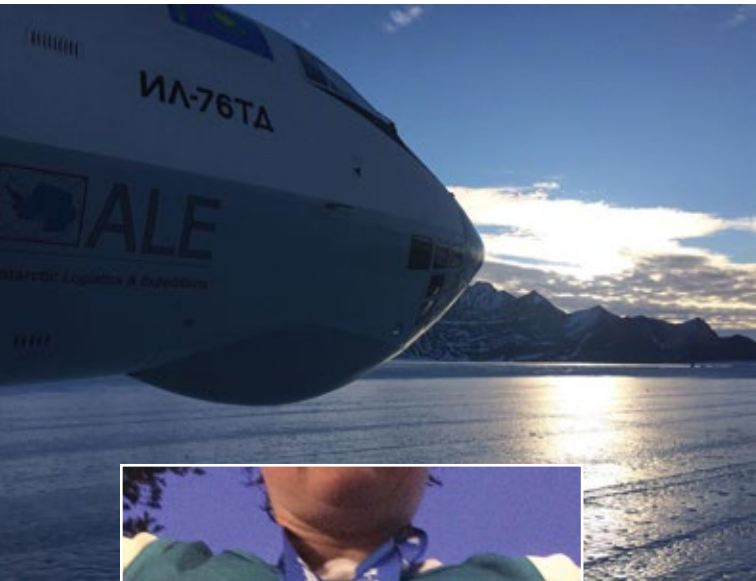
The following riders qualified:

- Courtney Poist qualified directly to nationals for the Cacchione Cup. She also qualified to nationals as an individual rider in open equitation on the flat.
- Lindsey Cayce qualified in intermediate over fences.
- Kelsey Martin qualified in walk trot canter.
- Caelan Douglas qualified in walk trot.

# RUNNING FOR A REASON

## UA alumna completes World Marathon Challenge

by Madison Sullivan



Sarah Ames ran the World Marathon Challenge, also known as the 777 Challenge, in 2016. The 777 requires competitors to run seven marathons on seven continents in seven days.

Statistically, only 0.5 percent of the U.S. population has run a marathon. Far fewer have, or will ever, run seven marathons in seven days, on seven continents.

University of Alabama alumna Sarah Ames, of Heidelberg, Germany, has done just that.

Ames ran in the World Marathon Challenge, also known as the 777, which begins at the frigid Nova Base in Antarctica. Following the start of the first 26.2 miles, runners have a mere 168 hours to run 157.2 additional miles across Punta Arenas, Chile; Miami, USA; Madrid, Spain; Marrakech, Morocco; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and finally, Sydney, Australia. Each marathon is unique, from running while surrounded by penguins on blue ice, to slugging through hot and humid temperatures; 777 runners trek through it all.

“Every marathon was different. For example, I was really looking forward to Antarctica because I’d been there and it’s a beautiful place,” Ames said. “On the way I was really excited to run there, but then once the run started nervous-

ness kicked in. Once we started running in Antarctica the clock started ticking.”

Ames completed the World Marathon Challenge in 2016, making her the first woman in the world to run a marathon on each of the seven continents, five times. She also became the first German woman to run on all seven continents and the first German woman to complete the World Marathon Challenge.

Ames is a partner at Quarles & Brady LLP in Chicago, where she advises foreign companies about investing and doing business in the United States as well as corporate, commercial, employment and immigration law for clients from New Zealand to India. She received her master’s from the Capstone in 1994 and her juris doctorate from The University of Alabama School of Law in 1997.

She has run a total of 46 marathons over 18 years and claims she isn’t running them to race, but running them to have a great time. It took a year to train for the World Marathon Challenge, including both physical and mental prepa-





Ames' last marathon of the 777 was in Australia. Members of the Hamlin Fistula came out with inflatable zebras and cowbells to cheer her on.

ration whenever possible. She also had to make sure she had all the necessary logistical items for her to travel from country to country. Even then, the best plans sometimes went awry.

While in Miami running the third marathon of the trip, her bag was stolen. She no longer had her passport or glasses and was without her asthma medication. Still clad in her running gear and medal, she and a friend rushed to the German consulate to get a temporary passport for her to finish the challenge and then hopped on the plane to Madrid, running the next marathon that same night. During the World Marathon Challenge, runners typically have only a shower and a flight to recoup before they change in the airport and are driven to the next starting line.

Although the race was high pressure, Ames said she had mentally dedicated herself, pushing through it. "Even though it might sound crazy running the 777, if you set your mind to it, you can do it," Ames said. "I'm the best example of that."

Ames ran the 777 as a personal challenge, but also did it



to raise roughly \$35,000 for Hamlin Fistula, a hospital based in Ethiopia. The hospital is a global center for fistula rehabilitation, treatment and prevention, saving women's lives. In Ethiopia, an obstructed birth means that labor can last for several days, with life-altering consequences, including stillbirth and debilitating physical injuries, such as obstetric fistula. "That's really what kept me going," Ames said, "Thinking if these women can get through this, the trauma of obstructed labor, I should be able to finish these seven marathons."

## A NEW NATIONAL CHAMPION

**U**niversity of Alabama senior Lakan Taylor won the NCAA women's pole vault national championship on March 11. The senior cleared a school-record height of 14-7 1/4 (4.45m) to defeat 15 other competitors and earn Alabama's first national championship—indoors or outdoors—in the women's pole vault.

"When I cleared the second height (14-7 1/4) on the first attempt, it just felt really great," Taylor said. "I just had to trust in my jump and trust in my coach. Michael Bartolina is an outstanding coach, and I wouldn't be here without him or all the coaches I've had before. They got me to this moment. It was a great jump. I knew I could get the heights I cleared, but I wasn't expecting to come out on top." (UA Athletics/Crimson Tide Photos)









# FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

The Great War shaped the University and its students. A century later, the effects are still present.

*by Haley Herfurth*









**I**t was 1918, and the World War I-era campus of The University of Alabama was swarming with military life, a hive of khaki uniforms and shined shoes. Dormitories had been vacated to make room for soldiers in the Student Army Training Corps; some students lived in tents. On the Quad, where students today throw Frisbees to clumsy labrador puppies, cadets held bayonet and grenade practices, sweating in the Alabama sun.

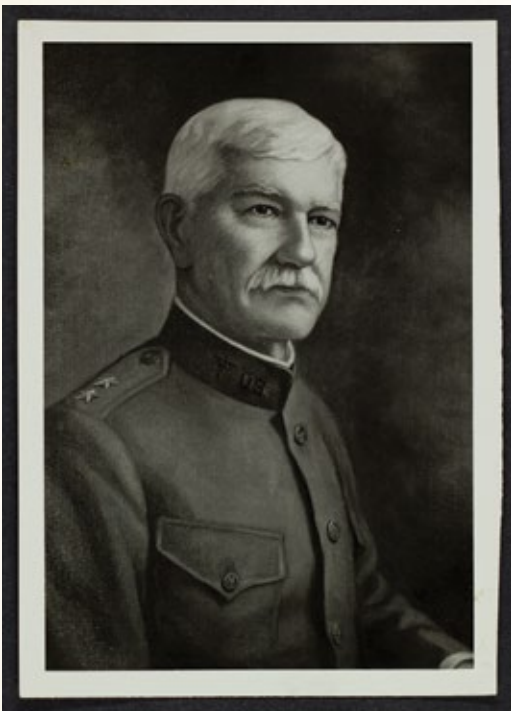
Popular University of Alabama President George Denny was in Washington, D.C., called up to work with the U.S. Food Administration regulating supplies and rations. Left to look after the militarized campus alongside acting-President Charles Barnwell was U.S. Army Maj. Edward Otho Cresap Ord II, son of the Union major general

of the same name.

An uncompromising military man unused to overseeing a civilian population, Ord imposed a sort of martial law over the campus, instituting mandatory study hours every night and temporarily shutting down all Greek life and athletics. He was noted as saying that “the prime object of the University this year is to turn out soldiers as efficiently as possible,” according to UA alumnus and historian Earl Tilford, author of “Turning the Tide: The University of Alabama in the 1960s.”

The harsh adjustment to a more militarized campus was difficult for many. According to a 1918 *Crimson White* article, Ord once commandeered a group of students headed to class, taking them instead to a fraternity house, where they, still wearing school clothes, were put to work bailing water out of the basement.

After Ord’s failed attempt to siphon a portion of the campus supply store’s profits for the Student Army Training Corps, the editors of the *Crimson White*—who were also SATC members—penned an open letter in a fall 1918 issue, expressing displeasure



*William C. Gorgas, above, was a surgeon general of the U.S. Army during WWI. To the right, students target practice outside Toumey Hall on the quad.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF W.S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY





*Students train with military equipment on the University of Alabama campus in 1918.*

with his behavior.

Ord's response? He arrested the editorial staff and threw them "in detention" in the campus stockade, housed in Barnard Hall, where they remained until the armistice the following week.

Stories about the University and WWI, like the feud between Ward and the CW, were long reduced to faded photos in yearbooks from the era, or campus landmarks whose original intents are often forgotten. University of Alabama students recently enrolled in a public history internship wanted to change that.

## LITTLE-KNOWN LEGACY

William C. Gorgas, the son of former UA President Josiah Gorgas and beloved librarian and postmistress Amelia Gayle Gorgas, is often best remembered for his work in the early 1900s, when he was instrumental in the opening of the Panama Canal after implementing sanitation programs in Cuba to drastically reduce the impact of yellow fever and malaria epidemics. But his medical career didn't end there—Gorgas was a physician in the U.S. Army Medical Corps

and appointed Surgeon General of the U.S. Army in 1914.

In March, the Gorgas House and the Office of Veteran and Military Affairs opened two coordinating exhibits covering UA in WWI, curated entirely by students from the history department's Public History Initiative. The Gorgas House exhibit, titled "William C. Gorgas and the Great War," houses WWI paraphernalia, including Gorgas' gas mask, canteen and other items.

After U.S. troops were mobilized, Gorgas inspected camps from Georgia to France and found them overcrowded, which affected sanitation standards. The Army chief of staff did not always follow the Medical Corps' recommendations, according to Chandler Padgett, a senior majoring in history and anthropology who researched Gorgas' life for the exhibit. The camp issues led to a congressional investigation, in which Gorgas defended his Corps, but eventually took responsibility for the problems.

Gorgas expanded the number of Medical Corps physicians from 400 before the





*Students practice throwing grenades on the Quad, 1918. Below, Walter B. Jones is shown in France.*



war to nearly 32,000 by 1918, Padgett said, and was also instrumental in convincing his superiors to build field hospitals. The increase in physicians, hospitals and modernized camp sanitation standards had a drastic effect. During the Civil War 50 years prior, nearly 15 percent of all who fought died due to disease. But during WWI, only a little more than 1 percent of Americans who fought died from diseases.

Padgett said Gorgas only ended up in the medical field because his other plans fell through—which is now ironic, because his advancements in medicine are what he is most remembered for.

“He was in Charleston when Ft. Sumter was fired upon and in Richmond during the Civil War because his dad

[Josiah Gorgas] was a Confederate general,” Padgett said. “That’s where he got interested in the Army. He didn’t get accepted to West Point—it might have been because his dad was a Confederate general—so he joined the Medical Corps. It’s interesting now how he was famous during that time and is well-known now for being a physician. What was a means to an end became a passion that he kept throughout his life.”

During the war, Gorgas worked with many famous physicians, including William and Charles Mayo, founders of what would become the Mayo Clinic. He recruited the Mayos to join the Army—they both served as colonels and were alternated as chief adviser for U.S. Army surgical services in Gorgas’ office.

Gorgas also signed Anne Mae Beddow into the U.S. Army. A nurse anesthetist who trained at Birmingham’s St. Vincent’s Hospital, Beddow served from 1918 to 1919 in Italy in the first unit of the Army Nurse Corps. She later developed a technique for administering pentothal sodium intravenously, radically changing the field of anesthesiology.



PHOTO COURTESY OF W.S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY



Information about Beddow and other WWI nurses is featured in the Gorgas House exhibit. The Veterans and Military Affairs exhibit, housed on the third floor of Houser Hall and titled “Lafayette, We Are Here! America Enters the First World War,” highlights other women in service as well as the University’s and the state’s contributions to the war effort.

When Gorgas suffered a stroke in London in 1920, he was visited in the hospital by King George V, who knighted him in his bed. After he died in July, he was given a funeral service at St. Paul’s Cathedral, after which a full military cortege, including the Coldstream Guards playing Chopin’s “Funeral March,” proceeded through London.

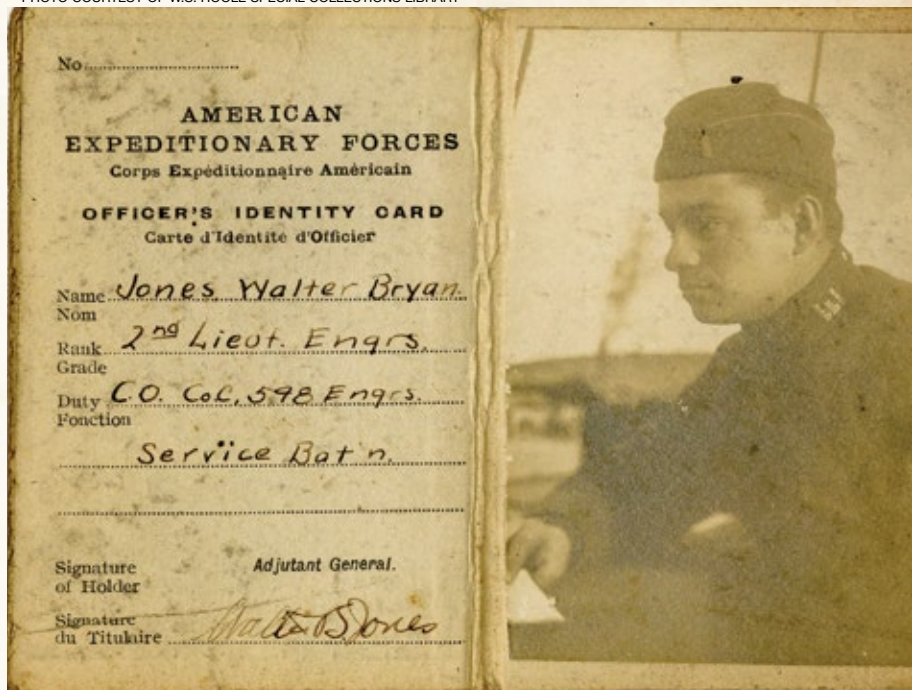
## CROSSING COUNTRIES

When a UA student or alumnus thinks of Walter B. Jones, they probably think of W. B. Jones Hall, which houses the Alabama State Oil and Gas Board and the Geological Survey of Alabama, or of his tenure as state geologist from 1927 to 1961. But before that, Jones, a UA alum, served in the U.S. Army’s C Company, 548th Engineer Service Battalion in the 20th Engineer Regiment of the Corps of Engineers during WWI, achieving the rank of first lieutenant. In 1919, after the war ended, he spent about a year in France. The Hoole Library of Special Collections on campus houses Jones’ WWI uniform, now on loan as a part of the exhibit at Gorgas House.

“Jones was an engineer, and his unit didn’t arrive in Europe until after the war ended,” said Liam Adkison, a senior majoring in history whose primary focus during curation was researching Jones. “They would have spent the winter helping create living quarters and other structures for use by the American Expeditionary Forces.”

Jones, a popular cross-country star, was missed on campus while serving. Yearbooks in the early 1900s often featured short, humorous passages about each member of the senior class. Jones’, in the 1918 Corolla,

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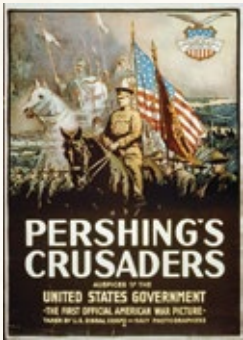
read, “Why join the aviation corps when equipped with a pair of light-running, cup-winning feet like Walter’s? Always busy with something, whether of consequence or not; maybe that’s why you see so little of him about the campus.”

*University of Alabama alumnus Walter B. Jones, above and left, served in WWI before becoming state geologist of Alabama.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF W.S. HOOLE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY





## CAMPUS IN WARTIME

The wartime campus, as evidenced by the story about the 1918 CW editors, was intensely militarized. Denny encouraged the trustees to establish the R.O.T.C. following the National Defense Act of 1916, and in spring 1918, class schedules were rearranged to make time for a noontime drill. The Student Government urged the trustees to make R.O.T.C. involvement mandatory for freshmen and sophomores—a decision that stood until 1966, said Tilford, who earned his bachelor's and master's in history from

UA in 1968 and 1970, respectively.

Tilford said the College of Engineering also opened its doors to train mechanics. “The Army before World War I was very small,” Tilford said. “Suddenly it was an army that had over a million men, and it needed motorized transport instead of horse-drawn transport. The Tuscaloosa News encouraged locals to bring their trucks to campus to let cadets work on them for practice.”

The University was also home at that time to the SATC, three companies who came to UA for special training and college experience under the supervision of unpopular Maj. Ord.

“It was interesting to see just how militarized the campus became,” said Matt Culver, a junior majoring in history and computer science who helped curate the exhibits for the public history internship. “[The SATC] was unique for WWI. The point was to train soldiers, but also give them a college or vocational education in the hopes of making them useful in society after the war. Soldiers held the rank of private, but were living as college students in military uniform.”



*Two WWI-related exhibits will be displayed on campus through Sept. 29, one in Houser Hall and the other in the Gorgas House.*



## IN REMEMBRANCE

Twenty-six UA alumni died during the Great War. One of the deceased was a woman, Marian Louise Walker, who died while on duty in Philadelphia, likely from influenza, said Tilford. Women had only begun attending UA 25 years prior.

Denny Chimes was originally conceived as a memorial for fallen soldiers, but lack of funding delayed the project until the late 1920s, when students fundraised enough to dedicate a bell tower to Denny, following a rumor he might leave the University.

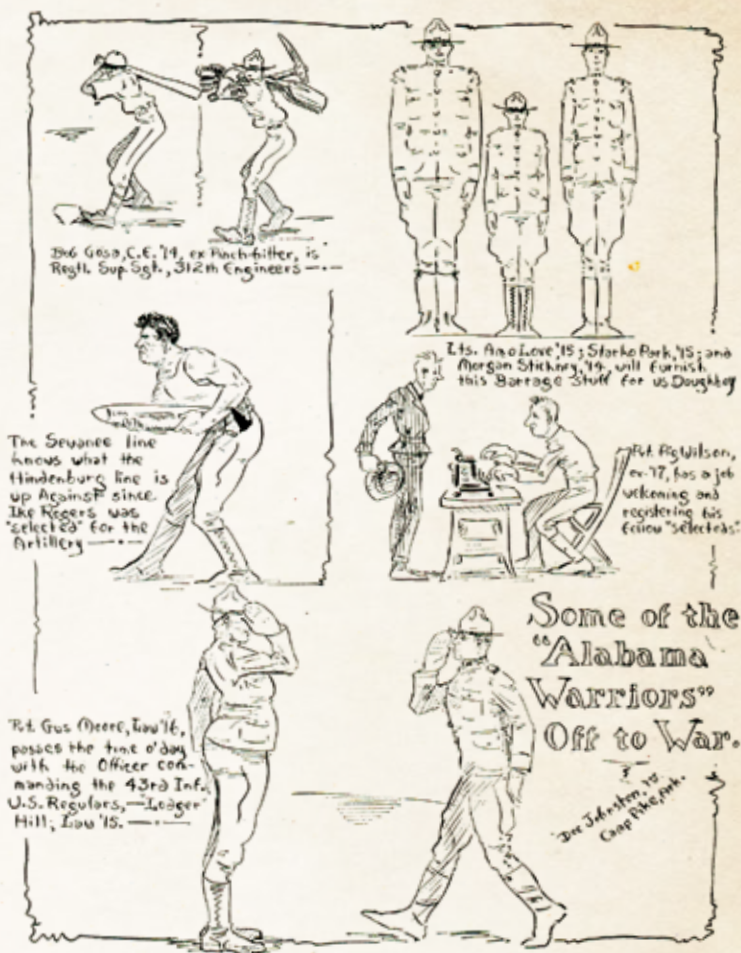
To further honor those who had served, the American Legion and the Million Dollar Band raised money to plant rows of oak trees along University Boulevard, each for an individual veteran. The last three, added in 1922, were in honor of black soldiers whose names did not appear in the initial listing.

However, some of the best memorials of the UA alumni who fought in WWI are not monuments or towering oak trees. They instead live on in the people whose futures they influenced, like Tilford, who came to campus in 1964.

Originally from Atlanta, Tilford's father had accepted a pastoral position at a church in Mt. Hope, Alabama, when Tilford was in high school. On their first day in their new home, the high schooler met a man who, over the course of a few years, changed the direction of Tilford's life.

"This old man came to breakfast the first day we moved in, named Olin Robertson," Tilford said. "All he ever talked about was UA and President Denny. It was incessant."


Robertson was a WWI veteran who attended UA after the war and was president of the class of 1928. Fifteen-year-old Tilford was a Georgia Tech fan and "thought 'Bear' Bryant was a monster." Nevertheless, Robertson persisted. Finally, Tilford applied, was accepted and headed off to Tuscaloosa. After enrolling, Tilford said he came to admire Bryant—and decades later, when teaching history classes at Grove City College in Pennsylvania, he would open each class with



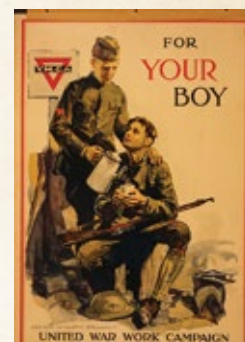
The cartoon shown above is from the 1918 *Corolla*.

a quote from the famous coach.

When Tilford graduated in 1968, he invited Robertson to the ceremony. He didn't know it at the time—didn't discover it until nearly 50 years later, in fact, while looking through old issues of the Alabama Alumni News as research for "Turning the Tide"—but that year was Robertson's 40th class reunion.

"That was the man who convinced me to come to UA," Tilford said. "I applied mainly to shut him up—but I ended up loving it." 

**Haley Herfurth, '13, is an editor at UAB and managing editor of Literally, Darling, an online publication for young women.**



## Jim Reed

Living with purpose | by Peyton Shepard

### THE BUILDING THAT HOUSES

Reed Books in downtown Birmingham has been around since 1890 and often acts its age.

Jim Reed stood among the walls of alphabetized fiction and puzzled over whether that light panel in the back left would decide to be temperamental. It could have just decided never to come on again. Reed then turned on his heel, navigated a few quick turns to the back of the building, and fiddled with a few switches in a fuse box until finally, the panel flickered to life.

“Let there be,” Reed said with a small, grateful shrug.

The little things are what matter to Reed. He might not know how much money he made in April of last year or the exact square footage of his store, but he knows the stories behind everything in it—every book, every vinyl, every plastic Santa Claus statue.

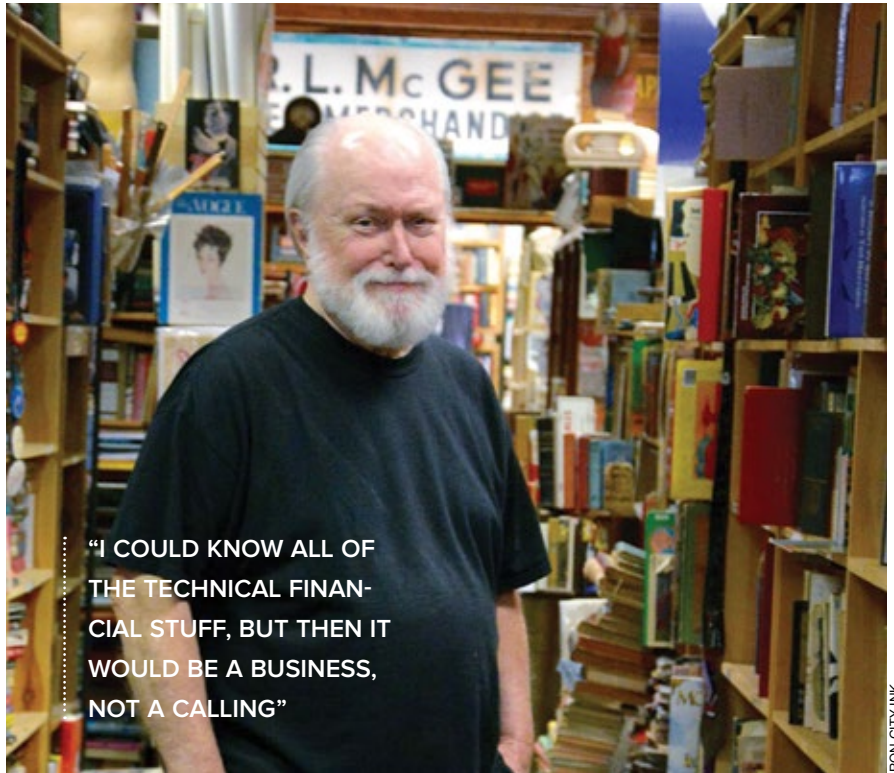
“I could know all of the technical financial stuff, but then it would be a business, not a calling,” Reed said. “Sure, we pay our taxes and everything, but ultimately, this is a calling.”

Though not the only calling in Reed’s life, Reed Books is one of the most significant. After graduating from The University of Alabama in 1969, Reed tested the waters of media until he found a sweet spot in curating books and antiques.

Founded in 1980, the store is a culmination of years of reading and dealing, packed from front to back and side to side with every genre and title imaginable.

“I’m a hoarder with a purpose,” Reed said. “But don’t let the term ‘hoarder’ fool you; hoarders keep the history of the universe. This place is just a testament to history, a place to store memories.”

Reed’s hybrid museum has a



“I COULD KNOW ALL OF THE TECHNICAL FINANCIAL STUFF, BUT THEN IT WOULD BE A BUSINESS, NOT A CALLING”

IRON CITY INK

history of its own, weathering 37 years in downtown Birmingham, even surviving the economic downturn in 2008 when nobody was really looking to buy books.

But people look now. At any point in any day, Reed said, there is someone in one of many nooks and crannies of the store, holed up among the looming stacks of books that touch the ceiling and mismatched shelves that both designate and create the dividing aisles.

“Somebody told us we had to come here if you’re a book lover,” said Atlanta native Susan Roe, who stopped by to kill time before attending a relative’s wedding. “Had I more time, and more patient companions, I could have been here for hours.”

While Reed wants to spread his

love of books to everyone who comes in his store, he said he recognizes that books aren’t for everyone, though he does his best to ignite that spark.

“You can spot them immediately, the people I call ‘book dead,’” he said. “They don’t get excited ... they’re standing with that zombie look, drool dribbling from their mouth. They don’t care. I have to let them know where they are, that there’s something here that they’ll probably never see again. That’ll usually get their attention—let ‘em hold a 500-year-old book just to say they’ve done it. Of course, some just don’t care, but you have to have hope.”

*Peyton Shepard, ’17, is a Birmingham, Alabama-based freelance writer.*



# Janet Cobb

Educating the public about heroes | *by Brian Hudgins*

**JANET COBB'S DEEPEST DESIRE** was to become a high school history teacher. Following a 42-year career with the U.S. Army that saw Cobb rise to the rank of major general, the USS Alabama played a part in giving Cobb the title she always wanted—educator.

Education is one component of Cobb's mission as the executive director of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama, telling folks about the specifics and history of the USS Alabama and the submarine USS Drum. In addition to her duties with the park, Cobb is also the executive

director of the USS Alabama Battleship Commission. "When the state Legislature created the battleship commission in the early 1960s, the Legislature said we have a two-fold mission," Cobb said. "One is to honor and remember all Alabama citizens who have worn the uniform of every branch of the armed forces. The Legislature also requires us to educate the public on the sacrifices of these heroes."

It is a directive that Cobb carries with her daily, as visitors of all ages enter the park. She lays out facts about the ship and its history as a World War II vessel. The late Bob Feller, the Hall of Fame baseball pitcher for the Cleveland Indians, was assigned to the ship as a gun captain. "The most fascinating thing about my day is ... I love it when people say, 'I never knew that about the USS Alabama,'" Cobb said.

Those visitors play a vital part in that process. The park is a state agency, but the operational funds and maintenance funding come in via visitor fees. The education is not a one-way street from Cobb to the visitors. Even with her military career and being an Alabama native, Cobb continues

to have many learning moments. "I learn something every day," Cobb said.

One major aspect of Cobb's education is reading about and directly hearing stories told by the people who served on the ship. The Alabama Crewman's Reunion is an annual event that sheds light on the day-to-day events during World War II in both the North Atlantic and the South Pacific. "When you sit down with those guys who served aboard the ship in combat, it's amazing," Cobb said.

Those amazing moments are part of the U.S. military history that Cobb first experienced through her family. Her dad served in the Navy during World War II and then retired after a 20-year Coast Guard career. An uncle served in the Army in Japan during the Korean Conflict. "In 42 years, I spent seven on active duty and two years deployed overseas," Cobb said. "I was an enlisted soldier for about 2 ½ years, and I got my ROTC commission from The University of Alabama. Then I was working and doing my Army Reserve duty until Desert Storm."

Cobb graduated from the University in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in broadcast and film communications. The first female general officer from the University worked in the nonprofit world and in real estate in addition to her Army Reserve duties. "My only regret at the University was the number of interesting courses that I never had time to take," Cobb said. "Our tactical officers and the legendary team of the late Col. Paul O' Mary and the late Command Sgt. Maj. Curtis Duco made sure we were prepared to lead."

*Brian Hudgins is a freelance writer based in Lafayette, Louisiana.*

"MY ONLY REGRET AT THE UNIVERSITY WAS THE NUMBER OF INTERESTING COURSES THAT I NEVER HAD TIME TO TAKE."



# »» MILESTONES

Since its inception a century ago, the Pulitzer Prize has been the pinnacle achievement for writers, journalists, poets, composers and more. Formed in June 1917 by newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer, to promote excellence in journalism, the prize is today awarded in 21 categories.

In its storied, century-long history, seven individuals and one organization connected with The University of Alabama have received the award, while two more alumni were awarded the finalist distinction. Ranging from feature stories on life in the rural South to editorials advocating for change in the midst of opposition, these 10 winners and finalists have created large shoes to be filled by the coming generation of Alabama graduates.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA ARCHIVES

## 1933

- T.S. Stribling won a Pulitzer for the novel “The Store.” Stribling earned a bachelor of laws from UA in 1905.



## 1961

- Harper Lee, who studied law at UA in the 1940s, won a Pulitzer in fiction for “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

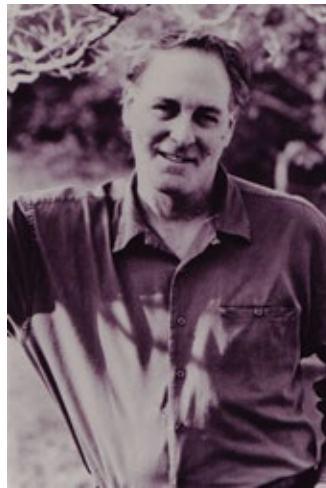
## 1964

- Hazel Brannon Smith, who graduated from UA’s journalism program in 1935, received the Pulitzer for her editorial writing at the Lexington (Mississippi) Advertiser. In her editorials she denounced violence against African-Americans and activists during the height of the Civil Rights movement.



## 1984

- Winston Groom, who graduated from UA in 1965 with a BA in English, was named a Pulitzer finalist with Duncan Spencer for “Conversations with the Enemy.” Groom is most notably known for his fiction work, “Forrest Gump.”



## 1979

- E.O. Wilson won a Pulitzer in general nonfiction for “On Human Nature.” Wilson, who holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in biology at UA, won another Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction in 1991 for “The Ants.”

“The thrill for the second Pulitzer was as great as for the first.” — E.O. Wilson







## 1992

- Howell Raines, a 1979 UA graduate, won a Pulitzer in feature writing for “Grady’s Gift,” a story about the author’s childhood friendship with his family’s African-American housekeeper and the lessons he learned from that relationship. The article ran in The New York Times, where Raines would eventually become executive editor from 2001 to 2003.



## 1996

- Rick Bragg received the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for his “elegantly written stories about contemporary America” that appeared in The New York Times. Bragg is now a journalism professor at UA.

## 1991

- Ron Casey, who graduated from UA’s journalism program in 1973, won the Pulitzer Prize in editorial writing along with Harold Jackson and Joey Kennedy for their Birmingham News editorial campaign that analyzed Alabama’s tax system and proposed needed reforms.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE

## 2000

- Rodney Jones, who graduated with a UA degree in English in 1971, was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his poem “Elegy for the Southern Drawl.”

## 2012

- Staff of The Tuscaloosa News won the Pulitzer Prize in breaking news for their coverage of the April 27, 2011, tornado that devastated Tuscaloosa.

UA alumni on the award-winning staff included Lydia Seabol Avant, Michelle Lepianka Carter, Andrew Carroll, Mark Hughes Cobb, Dusty Compton, Corey Craft, Tommy Deas, Chase Goodbread, Keli Goodson, Wayne Grayson, Cecil Hurt, Jason Morton, Brian Reynolds, Ken Roberts, Amy Robinson, Edwin Stanton, Aaron Suttles, Janet Sudnik, Robert Sutton, Stephanie Taylor and John Wallace.

“This is work we have prepared our entire careers for, and the staff came through without hesitation, giving up endless hours to get the news first, fast and above all, accurately, not least because this is a city we all know and love, and we were telling the stories of our neighbors and friends.” —Katherine Lee, then-city editor, told The Tuscaloosa News.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE TUSCALOOSA NEWS

## *Battle on the Border*

*Winston Groom releases first novel in 18 years*

by Don Noble

After publishing seven novels, including the mega-hit “Forrest Gump” in 1986, Winston Groom turned to nonfiction. He published 10 works of history, mainly on military subjects, from the Civil War battles of Shiloh and Vicksburg to WWI fighting in Flanders to the darkest period of WWII, the year 1942. Groom has ventured into popular biography with his books on famous American admirals, generals and aviators.

Readers and reviewers of these nonfiction works have remarked that he has a powerful skill at storytelling and a novelist’s ability to draw living, believable characters, whether the character in question is Charles Lindbergh or Ulysses S. Grant.

Groom has reversed direction again and published his first novel in 18 years.

In the novel “El Paso,” Groom brings all those fictional skills and a historian’s grounding in the events along the U.S.-Mexico border in the year 1916 when Mexico was in turmoil. Revolutionaries like Pancho Villa led armies across northern Mexico, fighting Mexican federal troops loyal to President Venustiano Carranza.

There is considerable uncertainty over how we should view Villa. Was he a true revolutionary, like the Washingtons and Adamses of our American revolution, fighting for freedom for his people? Was he a kind of Robin Hood, stealing from the rich gringos, reclaiming railroads, mining operations and huge tracts of land owned by foreigners? Or was he something of a psychopath, a violent killer?

In this sweeping novel, Groom builds his story around the Irish Shaughnessys. The colonel has come to the U.S., worked his way up and now owns the New England & Pacific Railroad Co. Arthur, his adopted son, manages the line. Arthur is modern, and even owns a plane.

The colonel and the family will visit their immense holding in Mexico, preposterously large we are told, nearly a million acres, with over 200,000 head of cattle. For sport, Arthur races his father from Chicago to El Paso, Arthur in his plane, the colonel in his private railroad car. This is a

satisfying novella all by itself.

Villa appears at the hacienda to steal cattle for his army and we get a look at Pancho. He has been a hero to many, but can be very moody. In a fit, he had 600 Chinese immigrants killed because they were taking Mexican jobs.

Villa is a disturbed man, filled with wrath and cruelty. Over the course of “El Paso,” he will commit a number of fascinating atrocities, killing his enemies creatively, sometimes sadistically. Villa will kidnap Arthur’s son and daughter, among others, and the bulk of this novel is the story of chasing Villa around Northern Mexico, across the desert, into the Sierra Madre Mountains, up to the U.S. border.

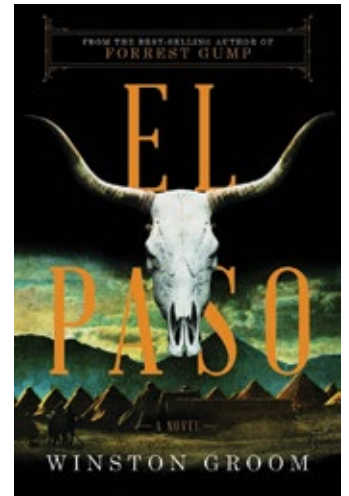
In Villa’s entourage, Groom has placed a number of colorful real-life characters, including Tom Mix, who with his wonder horse, Tony, will later be a Hollywood star; John Reed, the communist who is reporting on Villa for the papers; a German spy/provocateur here named Claus Strucker; and the famous cynic/writer Ambrose Bierce.

There are also cameo appearances by General George Pershing and a young George Patton, who did in fact serve in 1916 on the U.S.-Mexico border.

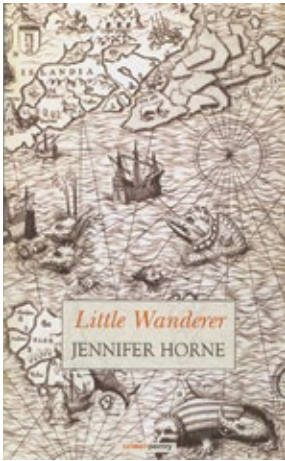
This is an action story that never slows down. At one point there is a bloody bullfight in a box canyon. At another point, Villa’s men are slaughtered by Federales who have machine guns and throw dynamite.

This Father’s Day, instead of a necktie or a barbecue apron, buy the real man in your life “El Paso” by Winston Groom.

*Don Noble is host of the Alabama Public Television literary interview show “Bookmark with Don Noble.”*

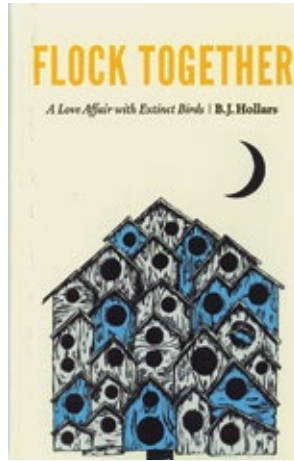






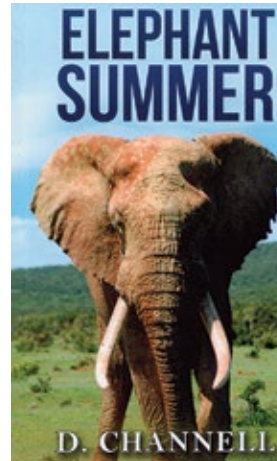
**Little Wanderer**  
by Jennifer Horne, MFA '90  
Salmon Poetry, Cliffs of Moher, County Clare, Ireland, 2016

“Little Wanderer” is a book of travel poems, many set in Europe throughout Greece, Italy, Romania, England and Ireland. The final section focuses on the Southern United States and is mainly set in Alabama. These chronicles explore what one poem calls “the etiquette of the traveler” and ask what responsibilities the traveler has to the people and places they meet and to their histories. Despite the common vagaries that come with traveling, Horne manages to find kinship wherever she goes. A resident of Cottdale, Alabama, she has published several books of poetry as well as a collection of short stories.



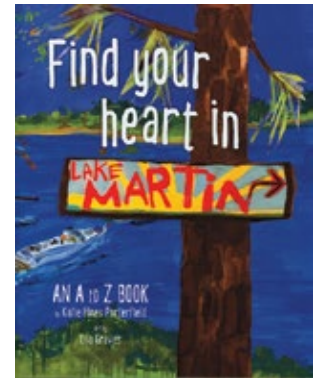
**Flock Together: A Love Affair with Extinct Birds**  
by B.J. Hollars, MFA '10  
University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2017

After stumbling upon a book of photographs depicting extinct animals, author Hollars became fascinated by the creatures that are no longer with us—specifically extinct North American birds. He found himself asking how we could beautifully preserve something in film but not in life, and thus the idea for “Flock Together” was born. This book is a memoir that shows how knowing the world, even just a small part, illuminates what it means to be a global citizen and how only by embracing ecological responsibilities do we ever become fully human. Hollars is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and has authored numerous books.



**Elephant Summer**  
by D. Channell, '94, EdD '03  
CreateSpace, North Charleston, South Carolina, 2010

“Elephant Summer” is a contemporary look at the age-old issue with elephant conservation. Viewed through the eyes of Taylor, Jackie and Smiley—three best friends from a small Texas town—this story details how they become intimately involved with various elephant families in the Amboseli region of Kenya and along the borders of Tanzania. Danger often graces their presence while participating in the research and study of the elephants and their habitats. They face various issues of survival and conservation related to the elephants and their interaction with people, including native population, researchers and the poachers. Channell has earned several awards for his writing, and is currently teaching and writing in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



**Find Your Heart in Lake Martin**  
by Katie Hines Porterfield, MA '04  
Mascot Books, Herndon, Virginia, 2016

Letter by letter, discover what makes Alabama’s Lake Martin such a special place. “Find Your Heart in Lake Martin” is an A to Z illustrated children’s book that teaches early readers about the lake, its history and why people love it so much. The story follows a dragonfly around the lake as it travels to hot spots like Goat Island and Chimney Rock, and participates in everyone’s favorite lake activities. This book brings to life 26 reasons why families from Alabama and beyond cherish their time and memories at Lake Martin. Porterfield said she chose Lila Graves to illustrate the book because Graves possessed the same love for the lake as she does. She extends thanks to her family “for making Lake Martin one big family tradition since the 1960s.”

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

## PROFILE

**'65 Larry Chesser** was re-elected as mayor of Fort Payne on Aug. 23. Chesser said he is proud of the projects he has accomplished over the last four years as mayor and looks forward to continuing some of those projects and bettering the city's financial security.

**'68 Richard Lee Kitchen, MA '69**, recently published a collection of humorous emails in a first collection titled, "Online With God (G-Mail) The Ultimate Icon," under the pen name Bronco Cucina. Kitchen is the author of seven full-length plays, two one-act plays and ten 10-minute plays.

**'75 Steve Tucker, MA '76**, has been named chairman of the board at Capstone Bancshares Inc. and Capstone Bank. Tucker has been a director of the bank since its inception in 2007, serving most recently on the loan committee, as chairman of the audit committee and as a member of the executive committee.

**'80 Mark Heinrich** retired as chancellor of the Alabama Community College System on April 1. He served in the role since 2012. Acting Chancellor Jimmy Baker fills the role until a permanent replacement is selected.

**'84 Carin M. Barth** was chosen for the board of directors for Group 1 Automotive Inc., an international Fortune 500 automotive retailer that serves the United States, the United Kingdom and Brazil. Barth is the co-founder and president of LB Capital Inc., a private investment firm established in 1988.

- **Theo Lawson** was tapped to be the first African-American to lead Jefferson County's legal department. Lawson has served as an assistant attorney in the department for more than a decade.

- **Judge William Cooper Thompson** celebrated 20 years of service on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and a decade as the presiding judge of the court.

**'86 Edward Aldag Jr.** recently began serving on the board of trustees for Children's of Alabama. A Eufala native, Aldag opened the Real Estate Investment Trust in Birmingham in August 2003 and has since served as its chairman, president and chief executive officer.

**'89 Lea Dowling** was named vice president—business banker by Robertson Banking Company. A Tuscaloosa native, she brings more than 25 years of commercial banking experience to her new position. Robertson is based in Demopolis and operated four offices.

- **Tim Lufkin** joined BB&T Capital Markets as a managing director in the financial sponsors

**Brad Watson**, a 1985 graduate of The University of Alabama, was awarded the 2017 Harper Lee Award for Alabama's Distinguished Writer of the Year. The award is given to a living, nationally recognized Alabama writer who has made a significant lifelong contribution to Alabama literature. Watson received the honor during the gala dinner at the Alabama Writers Symposium on April 20. Watson received his MFA in creative writing from the Capstone and has worked as a reporter and editor for state newspapers, including The Montgomery Advertiser. He is currently an associate professor in the creative writing program at the University of Wyoming. Watson has received many awards for his novels and short-story collections. His first novel, "The Heaven of Mercury," was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2002 and won the Southern Book Critics

Circle Award in Fiction. His most recent novel, "Miss Jane," was longlisted for the National Book Award last year. "Brad Watson is most deserving of the Harper Lee Award," said Don Noble, host of "Bookmark," Alabama Public Television's literary interview show. "He is the best Southern fiction writer of his generation."



group. Lufkin brings more than 20 years of investment banking and sponsor coverage experience to BB&T, and previously served as managing director at American Capital Ltd. in the firm's sponsor finance group.

**'90 Christine Davis** has been named associate medical director for Compassus. Compassus is a nationwide network of community-based hospice, palliative and home health programs. In her position, Davis will work with a team of physicians to develop care plans that meet patient needs, while overseeing the entire hospice care team and protocol for pain and symptom management.

**'96 Dr. Darrell Ray, MA '97**, was selected as the vice president for student affairs at the University of Memphis. For the past eight years, Ray has served as the assistant vice president for student affairs at Louisiana State University.

**'97 Dr. Gordon Fears, EdS, EdD**, received a commendation of exemplary service from the State of Alabama Board of Education following his retirement after 31 years with Fairfield City Schools. Fears is an advocate for school-based comprehensive health/support services for all students and has been listed in Who's Who Among American teachers three times.

- **Brandy B. Hydrick** has been appointed as a new shareholder of Welch Hornsby Investment Advisors. Hydrick joined Welch Hornsby in 2014 and serves as head of financial planning for the firm. She is the past president of the Financial Planning Association of North Alabama and is a current member of the Charlotte Estate Planning Council in North Carolina.

**'98 Paul Davis, MS**, joined the board of directors for Canuc Resources Corporation. He also serves as vice president-technical services and as a director for Rogue



Resources Inc. Davis comes to Canuc having more than 25 years of exploration and mine management experience in base metals, precious metals and industrial minerals.

- **Marisa Ann Galick Moazen**, MA '00, was selected by the Greater Knoxville Business Journal for its 10th 40 Under 40 class. Those selected for this list share a passion for making Knoxville and its surrounding areas better communities. Moazen is active in community and professional service.

- **'00 Gaines Brake**, MM, JD '06, joined the health care practice group of Birmingham's Maynard Cooper & Gale as of counsel. He brings experience working with long-term care and other senior living providers, and will continue this work in his new position. In addition, Brake's practices will focus on counseling clients regarding regulatory, compliance, Medicaid and Medicare, and HIPAA issues.

- **Jerri Daniels**, MS, was promoted to senior associate of Dewberry's office in New Orleans, Louisiana. Dewberry is a privately held professional services firm. Daniels has more than 16 years of experience and manages flood risk projects for FEMA, the state of Louisiana and other Gulf Coast communities.

- **Mark Fillers** was hired as Renasant Corporation's South Alabama president. He joins the group with more than 15 years of commercial banking experience. As president, Fillers will be responsible for leading the company's banking team in the South Alabama region and establishing a loan production office.

- **'01 Gary Hester**, MS, was chosen to serve as the police chief of Haines City. Hester is the deputy county manager for public safety of Polk County and the former chief of police in Winter Haven.

- **Bryan Lee** was chosen as the new chief executive officer of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center. Lee brings extensive hospital operations and strategic physician relations experience to the position. He most recently served as chief operating officer and interim CEO of Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee, Florida.

- **Jenny Stubbs** was hired as Main Street Wetumpka's new executive director. She brings experience in both marketing and leadership to the position. Stubbs has lived throughout the South working as a writer and editor of numerous publications, including River Region Health and Fitness and LEAN magazine.

- **'02 Mitchell Dobbs**, MS '06, was sworn in as a foreign officer for the U.S. Department of State. Officers formulate and implement

the foreign policy of the United States as diplomats.

- **Andrew "Andy" Freeman**, JD '05, transaction attorney at Adams and Reese, has been named partner in charge of the firm's Mobile office. Freeman joined Adams and Reese in 2005 as a member of the firm's transactions and corporate advisory services practice group.

- **'03 Shellie M. Gifford** has been promoted to partner at CohnReznick's Atlanta office. CohnReznick is an accounting firm that provides clients with forward-thinking advice that helps them navigate complex business and financial issues.

- **David Knight** was selected to participate in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program, which provides entrepreneurs with education, capital and business support

services. Knight is CEO of Knight Eddy, a Birmingham-based sports marketing firm.

- **'04 Kari Comer**, MS '05, received one of the 2016 Ten Outstanding Young Americans awards from the nonprofit Junior Chamber International's USA organization. Recipients are accomplished in their fields and give back to their communities. Comer is a clinical educator and adjunct professor in the speech and hearing department at George Washington University.

- **Heath Phillips** was named chief executive officer of Medical Center Enterprise after having served as interim CEO since June 1, 2016. Phillips is a former COO of Flowers Hospital in Dothan and has worked with many hospitals across the Southeast in the past several years.

## PROFILE



ADAM BRIMER/UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

**Tonjanita Johnson** was recently appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer of the University of Tennessee System. She attended the Capstone as a New York Times Scholar, earning her bachelor's in mass communication in 1991 and her master's in 1996. Johnson joined the UT System in 2013 as vice president for communications and marketing. As EVP and COO, Johnson has primary responsibility for assisting the UT president in maximizing the system's operating performance and achieving its strategic goals and objectives. She also oversees the system's strategic plan, initiates and manages strategic alliances, and participates in the development of operating and capital budgets. She has executive oversight of five system level offices, including academic affairs and student success, communications and marketing, facilities planning and capital projects, human resources and institutional research.

## PROFILE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Steve Marshall** was named Alabama's 50th attorney general by former Gov. Robert Bentley. A 1990 graduate of The University of Alabama School of Law, Marshall graduated in the top 10 percent of his class. He has been the Marshall County district attorney since 2001. As attorney general, Marshall will stand up for the most vulnerable members of society and protect the rule of law for all Alabamians, according to the attorney general website. "It is a great honor to be named attorney general and I am thankful to Gov. Bentley for the opportunity to serve the people of Alabama," Marshall said. "The time spent working alongside law enforcement for the last 20 years has been a remarkable privilege. As attorney general, I will continue to support their efforts to keep Alabamians safe and free from violent crime." Marshall is a past president of the Alabama District Attorney's Association and currently serves as commission chairman of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center.

'05 **Maridi Huggins**, JD '08, has opened Maridi Huggins Law LLC in Mountain Brook. Her 10-year career includes various roles practicing defense, and her new practice will focus on serving injured individuals.

'06 **Darren Erasmus** joined GrowLife Inc., one of the nation's most recognized indoor cultivation service providers, as its national sales manager. Erasmus joins GrowLife from House & Garden Nutrients.

'11 **Theresa Berry-Franks**, MS, was hired as the women's volleyball coach for Beville State Community College's Fayette campus, of which she is an alumna. Berry-Franks previously served as assistant volleyball coach at Faulkner University.

- **Michael Ward** was hired as the new executive director of the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council. In recent years, the council has joined with local partners on a project to remove the Dillon Dam near Stanfield, Oregon. Ward previously led the county chamber of commerce of Leadville, Colorado.

'14 **Jeremy Baham**, EdD, was appointed as the new assistant vice president for student affairs at Mississippi State University. Baham has served as the associate dean of students at MSU since 2011.

'15 **Nicholas Vanderpool**, MA, welcomed his son, Brantley Alexander Vanderpool, on Sept. 26, 2016.

- **Emily Wood**, MS, was selected by the

University of Arkansas college of engineering to serve as director of development and external affairs. She is responsible for fundraising, communications and alumni engagement activities for the college.

'16 **Moriah S. Smoot** was selected as the 2017 recipient of the Donald W. Banner Diversity Scholarship for law students. Smoot was awarded \$5,000 by Banner & Witcoff Ltd., a national intellectual property law firm that procures, enforces and litigates intellectual property rights throughout the world.

## DEATHS

'50 **Sen. John Malcolm Tyson**, JD '55, passed away on Nov. 7, 2016, at the age of 91. During his time as a senator, he was the chief sponsor of the legislation to bring the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship to Mobile as a war memorial. Tyson also sponsored the legislation and was a founder of the University of South Alabama, where he resided on the board of trustees for more than a decade.

'55 **Dr. Milton H. Donaldson** passed away on Dec. 16, 2016, in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

'58 **William Davis Lawley** passed away on Feb. 14, 2017, at the age of 84. While attending the University, he was a catcher

## PROFILE

**Briana Westry-Robinson** became the youngest African-American female judge in Alabama history. She was elected to serve a six-year term as district judge in Wilcox County, and turned 28 years old just two days after taking her oath of office. Born in Germany and raised in Camden, Westry-Robinson said she has wanted to be a judge since the second grade. She earned her bachelor's degree from The University of Alabama in 2008, and her juris doctor from Southern University in Baton Rouge in 2013.





for the Alabama baseball team and was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity. Lawley's 40-year business career was dedicated to manufacturing specialty steel products, and he served as president and board member of both the Southern-Eastern and Texas Hardware Associations.

**'64 Jimmy T. Kirkland** passed away in Gadsden on Nov. 28, 2016, at the age of 74. Kirkland was active in the Covington County chapter of The University of Alabama National Alumni Association. His late wife, Jeanice Paul Kirkland, not only served as a chapter president, but as president of the NAA from 1991 to 1992.

**'65 Mary Joyce Granade Mason** passed away on Jan. 11, 2017, in Fancy Gap, Virginia, from complications associated with early-onset Alzheimer's. Mason was a pioneer and a leading force in her chosen field of nursing and psychiatric care, her obituary stated. She taught nursing at The University of Alabama and eventually led the school as acting dean of the Capstone College of Nursing.

**'70 Barry Ray McCulley**, age 68, passed away on Feb. 3, 2017, after an extended illness. McCulley was a 1970 graduate from The University of Alabama, where he served as athletic trainer for the Crimson Tide under Paul "Bear" Bryant. He served on the Home-wood City Council for several years and as mayor for the city from 1996 until 2008.

## FRIEND

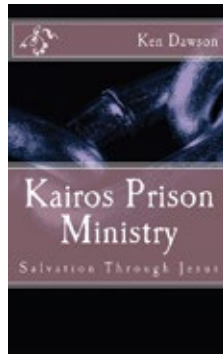
**Norman J. Singer** passed away on Oct. 31, 2016, at the age of 78. Singer was professor emeritus of law and anthropology at the Capstone, and for 40 years held full tenured professorships in both departments without taking salary or benefits from the College of Arts and Sciences.

## FORMER STUDENT

**Major General George Fleming Hamner** passed away on Oct. 17, 2016, at the age of 99. In 1980, he was named Alabama's Outstanding Citizen Soldier by Gov. Fob James. Hamner was named Tuscaloosa's 1990 Citizen of the Year by the Civitan Club, and in 1991, was honored by the University with the Outstanding Fellow Award and was named a distinguished engineering fellow.

## PROFILE

**Ira Kenneth Dawson** published the book "Kairos Prison Ministry: Salvation Through Jesus," a memoir that details various memories and moving events throughout his life. The book is dedicated to his late son who passed away from cancer at the age of 36. Dawson has been involved with the Kairos Prison Ministry International Inc. for more than 20 years. The ministry is an interdenominational Christian ministry dedicated to



providing spiritual support for incarcerated individuals, and reaches approximately 25,000 people each year. He graduated from the University with a bachelor's in commerce and business administration in 1975 and with a master's in education in 1995.



## PROFILE



**John Hollis Jackson Jr.** was recognized by the Alabama State Bar Association in celebration of 50 years as an attorney. A member of The University of Alabama President's Cabinet, Jackson received his bachelor's degree from UA in 1963 and his juris doctor in 1966. He opened his own practice in Clanton in 1967. The following year Jackson was approached by the Chilton County Board of Revenue and Control to serve as the attorney for the entire county. On Jan. 1, 2017, he retired after holding the position for 48 years. He will continue to serve as the lawyer for the city of Clanton and the Chilton County Board of Education. Jackson practices civil law with his son, Hollis, and together they represent the town of Thornsby and the Chilton Water Authority.

MEMORIAL

Former Alabama **Gov. Albert Brewer** passed away on Jan. 2, 2017, at the age of 88. Thrust into the governor's office following the death of Lurleen B. Wallace, he became the first person in Alabama state history to serve as speaker of the house, lieutenant governor and governor in succession. Brewer is well-known for his strides toward reshaping public education. He improved funding for public schools by enacting the state utility tax, created the Alabama Commission on Higher Education to coordinate programs at Alabama universities, raised teacher salaries by 21 percent over two years and got a constitutional amendment passed



to elect the State Board of Education. Brewer graduated from the Capstone with a bachelor's and juris doctor in 1952, and was given an honorary doctor of humane letters in 1998.

PROFILE

**Connie Rowe**, a 1986 graduate of The University of Alabama, was recently elected as the vice chair of the Alabama House Republican Caucus. Rowe is the first female to hold a Caucus leadership position. Prior to her election to the Alabama House in 2014, Rowe served as the police chief in Jasper, Alabama, and was previously employed as an investigator for the Walker County District Attorney's Office for more than 20 years. Along with graduating from UA's College of Communication and Information Sciences in 2009, Rowe is a graduate of The University of Alabama's law enforcement academy. She currently holds seats on the Public Safety and Homeland Security committee, the House Rules committee and the Children and Senior Advocacy committee.



DAILY MOUNTAIN EAGLE

MEMORIAL

Leaving behind a lasting legacy on the city of Tuscaloosa, **Jonathan "Jack" Westervelt Warner Sr.** passed away on Feb. 18, 2017, at the age of 99. Warner began collecting art in the 1950s, making himself known as a major

player in the art world at auctions and major museums. He amassed one of the greatest privately held collections of American art, antiques and furnishings in the world, and was named



THE TUSCALOOSA NEWS

one of the top 100 collectors in the United States by American Art Review. The Westervelt Collection is housed in the Tuscaloosa Museum of Art, previously known as the Westervelt Warner Museum of American Art, where Warner was often known to drop everything and conduct tours for visitors. "Jack Warner has been transformational on so many levels and in so many ways in the life of our city," said Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox. "He is a Tuscaloosa legend whose contributions will serve future generations to come." Warner earned an honorary degree from the University in 1976. His influence had a hand in the creation of the University Club, the Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway and the first Mercedes-Benz plant in the U.S.



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**Alabama Alumni Magazine** encourages alumni to send information about new jobs, promotions, retirements, honors and achievements, marriages, births and deaths for the "Personals" section. Submissions must include graduation years and degrees received. Mail entries to Alumni Publications, P.O. Box 861928, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-0017 or email to [lavant@alumni.ua.edu](mailto:lavant@alumni.ua.edu). We may shorten and edit entries to conform to space constraints and style guidelines. Because of the high volume of material received, it may take two or three issues for a submission to appear. Changes of address should be emailed to [bioupdate@advance.ua.edu](mailto:bioupdate@advance.ua.edu).

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 Hammond*

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## JUNE

### Through September

*William C. Gorgas and the  
Great War Exhibit*

The Gorgas House Museum  
Monday–Friday  
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

### June 2–June 30

*Smoke on the Mountain*  
SummerTide Theatre  
George C. Meyer Performing  
Arts Center  
Gulf Shores, Alabama  
Tuesday–Sunday, 8 p.m.  
summertide.org

### June 5

Second session of summer  
classes begins

### June 5–9 or June 10–14

Indian Summer Day Camp  
Moundville Archaeological  
Park  
9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
moundville.ua.edu

### June 19–24

Museum Expedition 39,  
Old Cahawba Archeologi-  
cal Park Public Archeology  
Camp  
Alabama Museum of Natural  
History  
Drop off, Monday, 2 p.m.  
Pick up, Sunday, 10 a.m.  
almnh.ua.edu

### June 9

Alabama Alumni Travel  
Preview Reception  
Friday, 5:30 p.m.  
Recruiting Room of Bryant-  
Denny Stadium  
205-348-1550



## JULY

### July 4

Independence Day  
University Offices Closed

### July 19-21

Alumni Chapter Workshop  
205-348-1550

### July 22

American Ballet Theatre  
Summer Intensive  
Showcase Performances  
Moody Music Concert Hall  
Saturday, noon, 1:30 p.m.

## AUGUST

### August 5

Summer Commencement

### August 23

Fall Classes Begin

## SEPTEMBER

### September 4

Labor Day  
University Offices Closed

## YEAR-ROUND

(Summer Hours)

### Alabama Museum of Natural History

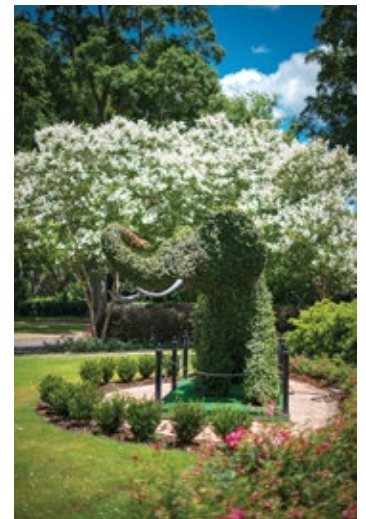
Monday–Saturday  
10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
205-348-7550

### Bryant Museum

Daily, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
205-348-4668  
Bryantmuseum.com

### Paul R. Jones Gallery

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–  
5 p.m.  
First Friday of the month,  
noon–8 p.m.  
205-345-3038  
art.ua.edu/gallery/prj



*An elephant topiary in front of the Rose Administration Building flourishes in the summer weather. The Student Services Center, shown on top, is home to University of Alabama Undergraduate Admissions.*





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- ▶ Dependents of National Alumni Association members are eligible for UA Early College partial scholarships
- ▶ Dependents of National Alumni Association members are eligible for alumni book scholarships

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- ▶ Passing grade in the prerequisite UAEC 200: College Readiness Course

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JUNE 2-8  
The American West  
JUNE 20-29

### JULY

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JULY 16-24  
Glacial Adventures of Alaska  
JULY 23-AUGUST 2  
Imperial Splendors of Russia  
JULY 30-AUGUST 8

### AUGUST

Iceland Expedition | **Young Alumni**  
AUGUST 1-5  
Majestic Great Lakes  
AUGUST 14-23  
Baltic & Scandinavian Treasures  
AUGUST 18-29

### SEPTEMBER

Australia & New Zealand  
SEPTEMBER 1-22  
Pearls of Italy  
SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 1

### OCTOBER

Glorious Greece  
OCTOBER 13-24  
Passage along the Blue Danube  
OCTOBER 13-25  
Cuban Tropical Rhythms  
OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 5

### DECEMBER

Holiday Markets  
DECEMBER 4-12



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