

Collegian

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Trudier Harris

Scholar, Teacher, Mentor: Trudier Harris Returns Home

By Kelli Wright

Coming home at the end of a long journey is a theme that **DR. TRUDIER HARRIS** has contemplated, taught, and written about many times in her award-winning books and in the classroom.

Recently, Harris found herself in the midst of her own homecoming, the central character in a narrative that is a familiar part of southern life and literature. When she retired from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was the J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of English, she was not looking for other work. But her homecoming resulted in an unexpected “second career” as a professor in the College’s Department of English and a chance to explore new intellectual territories. In addition, it has meant a return to many of the places of her youth, this time in the role of change agent.

Raised on an 80-acre cotton farm in Greene County, Ala., Harris was the sixth of nine children. Though her parents had to work hard to make ends meet, they always stressed the importance of education. Harris attended Tuscaloosa’s 32nd Avenue Elementary School, now known as Martin Luther King Elementary School. In the late 1960s she entered Stillman College in Tuscaloosa. Initially she considered a career as a physical education teacher or a psychiatrist. But losing an intramural race to a young woman who was half as tall as she dampened her desire to teach PE, and the realization that she did not want to listen to people’s problems soured her plans in psychiatry.

A summer exchange program at Indiana University convinced her to continue her studies in English. She received her master’s and doctorate from Ohio State University. Harris has become one of the foremost African American literary and cultural theorists. She has published more than 20 volumes, including *Black Women in the Fiction of James Baldwin*, for which she won the 1987 College Language Association Creative Scholarship Award. In 2002 she was awarded the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Literary Scholar.

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College Leadership Board Sponsors Nobel Laureate Lecture Series

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board and Office of the Dean have collaborated to sponsor a new lecture series that will bring Nobel Prize winners to campus.

DR. ROBERT H. GRUBBS, the Victor and Elizabeth Atkins Professor of Chemistry at California Institute of Technology, will inaugurate the series this spring. He will lecture on physical organic and main group chemistry and will interact with students and faculty.

“The Leadership Board is excited to have a part in bringing someone of Dr. Grubbs’s stature in the scientific community to The University of Alabama,” said **PAM MCCOLLOUGH**, chair of the board. “The board looks forward to continuing our support of this prestigious series.”

In 2010 the board helped launch the series with an initial contribution of \$10,000 and a commitment of \$5,000 annually for its continued support. The Leadership Board consists of some 190 alumni and friends who support the College’s students and faculty with their time, influence, and annual member gift.

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

"Why am I taking *this* class?" That's a question our academic advisers hear occasionally from students who are fulfilling their liberal arts core requirements by taking a class that is not part of their major. Translation: a class that is not part of the program that will, they hope, get them a job upon graduation.

This fall, the College held a contest that spoke directly to that question. Students were asked to reflect on the value of a College of Arts and Sciences class they are taking this semester. "Class with the Dean" asked participants to state why the dean should attend class with them. They could tweet the dean via our Twitter account or post their response on the College's Facebook page. The first-place winner had \$100 credited to his or her university account, and I attended one class with that student. Five runners-up received \$50 in their account.

Selecting the winner was one of the most difficult tasks I've tackled in some time.

While reviewing the student submissions, I was reminded that this question is also being asked by some public institutions of higher education, albeit in a slightly different form. The question goes something like this: Should universities seek to provide education for public good or for economic progress? Recently, a front page article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, "All about the Money," questioned whether the worth of a college degree should be measured by using starting salaries of graduates. To demonstrate fiscal responsibility in tough economic times, must public universities turn to the market-driven, corporate model, where resources for programs are allotted based on how successful a program is at attracting tuition-paying students, whether its graduates get good (and good-paying) jobs, and how effective the program is in meeting global market workforce needs? This inevitably leads to, what's the point of all those humanities programs anyway? How will philosophy, literature, cultural studies, anthropology, or art history programs add to the institutional or job-seeking bottom line? If you're going to cut programs to balance a budget, why not start here?

Fortunately, this dean doesn't have to entertain that argument to do his job. The University of Alabama is wisely in the camp of institutions that recognize that the type of study involved in the humanities develops intellectual strengths and abilities that translate across occupational or disciplinary lines, enabling young men and women to exercise critical thinking to solve whatever problems they encounter now or in the future. Or as Geoffrey Galt Harpham, president and director of the National Humanities Center, put it, "The humanities elicit and exercise ways of thinking that help us navigate the world we live in."



Dean Robert Olin

The students in the contest certainly get it, I'm happy to report. Some of their replies:

"French 322, advanced French grammar, taught by a real Frenchman, the launch pad to my future as a physician in West Africa."

"Psychology 352 with Dr. Parker. Today we talked about nature vs. nurture through the story of Pinocchio, so interesting!"

"Love my Philosophy 140 class. We actually get into theories and our own personal opinions on the law topics brought up in class."

"English 311, Cormac McCarthy, great American novelist. Come confront 'the question of evil. . . .'"

"Acting II class with Professor Seth Panitch. ...We learn not only acting skills but also major life lessons."

"Join me for Spirit in Colors, a seminar with Dr. Thomas Herwig. Exploring the Judeo-Christian tradition through art opens up whole new lines of discussion about faith. And the

meaning and the symbolism embedded in the great masterpieces we study are fascinating. After one class you will walk away with a greater appreciation for art and a deeper understanding of the Judeo-Christian faith."

This academic year, the Department of Religious Studies and the College are sponsoring a series of lectures and roundtables by guest scholars on the relevance of research and teaching in the humanities. I hope that students and anyone else who still asks the "why" question will be in the audience.

The College is fortunate to have many highly accomplished teachers and scholars in the humanities. To recognize their expertise and the contributions they make to a high quality university education, the College has recently established the Dean's Distinguished Humanities Fellow. The fellowship will provide a research stipend of \$3,000 a year to selected premier scholars in the humanities. The fellows will be selected by the College's dean and associate deans. They will work with the College's student body to help them understand the value of the humanities in today's society and will develop innovative ways to incorporate the humanities throughout the curriculum.

What's the point of all those humanities programs? It is that the true educational "bottom line" is an institution's success at producing *thinkers*. If a student doesn't know why he or she is going to college other than to get a job, all the more reason to incorporate courses into their curriculum in which they discover that the most valuable currency they possess is the content and quality of their minds. *A*

Legacy Lives on in Robel Asian Studies Seminar Room

Last fall, the College revealed a new look for its Ronald R. Robel Asian Studies Seminar Room in ten Hoor Hall. The renovation of the room was made possible by donations from the estate of **DR. RONALD ROBEL**; Robel died in 2007. An assistant professor in the Department of History and director of the Critical Languages Center, Robel served the UA community for more than 40 years.

The room is a dedicated seminar space for students of Asian studies, a topic Robel was passionate about. The centerpiece of the space is a large bookcase that houses many of Robel's personal books and artifacts from his travels, which provide a wealth of information about the cultures he studied.

Many of his former colleagues and students gathered in August 2011 for the dedication to remember Robel, who was widely respected as a teacher, student mentor, and authority on Asian history and culture.

Dr. Sarah Wiggins, a retired professor in the Department of History, shared the office next to Robel for much of her tenure at UA. She said he taught her many things about cultures outside of her own. She remembers him not only as a colleague but also as a friend, a sentiment that was shared by many in attendance at the room's dedication ceremony.

Robel was known for his custom ties, which were made from fabrics with elaborate patterns on them that he had gathered from all over the world. As a special tribute to Robel, many attendees wore ties from his personal collection.

Dr. Kari Frederickson, chair of the Department of History, said she hopes the room serves as a place for Robel's mantra of "start here, make a legacy" to live on. She is seeking photos of Robel with which to adorn the walls of the room. If you have photos of him, please email them to her at kfrederi@as.ua.edu. *A*

Love of Innovation Takes Robert Abernathy to Global Markets

A fascination with invention was a key factor in taking **ROBERT ABERNATHY** from a youngster with a local mindset to a global executive with Kimberly-Clark, a Fortune 500 company specializing in consumer products with annual sales of \$19.7 billion.

Along the way, Abernathy helped invent a softer Kleenex tissue, helped build and start-up manufacturing facilities, and has visited more than 130 countries for business expansion. Today, as group president of North Atlantic consumer products, Abernathy manages the company's \$10 billion consumer products business in North America and Europe. This includes the manufacturing, marketing, research, engineering, sales, and distribution of such consumer brands as Huggies, Kleenex, Scott, Cottonelle, Viva, Kotex, Poise, and Depend.

Abernathy, who grew up in Mobile and Birmingham, said his worldview as a young college student was relatively limited when he enrolled at The University of Alabama in 1972. The campus had far more diversity than he had encountered before. "What I remember most is meeting people from so many places, other states and foreign countries," he said. "That may be commonplace today, but in 1972 it was quite intriguing."

Naturally inclined toward science, Abernathy was a chemistry major by the time he was a sophomore. In his upper level chemistry courses he learned about molecular structures and new compositions of matter, which appealed to his inquisitive nature. "Each reaction and experiment was like solving a puzzle."

After graduating from UA in 1976 with a B.S. in chemistry, Abernathy was accepted into a graduate chemistry program at the Institute of Paper Chemistry in Wisconsin, marking one of the first times he had traveled outside the southeastern United States. Abernathy excelled there, focusing on surface chemistry, a specialized area of physical chemistry. Surface chemistry looks at chemical reactions that produce various effects on the surface of substances, such as paper. While still in graduate school, he decided he wanted to work in industry so he could combine his interest in research with real-life applications.

At the time, the U.S. paper industry was growing rapidly as consumer demand for disposable and innovative paper products burgeoned. Abernathy joined Kimberly-Clark Corporation as a research scientist in 1982. His early research included finding ways to make a softer, more appealing facial tissue for consumers. By investigating different methods of treating cellulosic fibers, Abernathy and his research team developed a super-premium Kleenex brand tissue. Abernathy not only helped develop the product but also market it. "At Kimberly-Clark, researchers get a lot of

exposure to the marketing part of the business because the company likes to link everything back to the consumer experience," he said. "We want to understand what the consumers want and then invent products or innovations that deliver on that promise."

After just a few years in research and development, Abernathy became a plant manager first in South Carolina and later in Oklahoma. Since the mid-1990s Abernathy's work has taken him to different parts of the globe to manage and develop markets for Kimberly-Clark products.

As his job title changed so, too, did the industry around him. When he first began working for Kimberly-Clark, the company's primary focus was on products suited for more affluent U.S. consumers. Now, he said, the whole industry is globally focused. Much of his work in recent years has been in developing countries in Asia, Africa, Central America, and South America.

Abernathy had the support of his family on his professional journey. His wife, Laura, also a native Alabamian, received a bachelor's degree in biology from Judson College, an associate's degree in nursing from Samford, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Wisconsin. Both are members of the College's Leadership Board.

They and their children, Elizabeth and James, have moved 15 times. It was not always easy to move around, particularly when the children were young, but now they look back with gratitude on their experiences living around the world. "Everyone says the four years we spent in Sydney, Australia, were probably the most enjoyable years of our life. The opportunity to travel the world as a family was very meaningful."

Today, Abernathy operates from the company's Neenah, Wisc., headquarters. Globetrotting for him and his family has slowed for the time being; they recently moved into a house they built in Neenah.

One constant throughout the world, Abernathy observed, is the challenge to motivate and lead people. "A challenge for any business leader is to set a vision for the business and to inspire teams to deliver results. That's true whether you are building a business in China, Brazil, or Kazakhstan."

Abernathy noted that the path to leadership begins with hard work, dedication, and a good education. "There is no substitute for good grades," he said. "When looking at job candidates' résumés, people go straight to your GPA, so don't ever shortchange yourself in terms of delivering very strong academic credentials."

When he thinks about the place that first instilled in him a love of innovation, Abernathy said there was more to his education at The University of Alabama than just science courses. The key to success, he said, is a well-rounded education. "Everything I learned at Alabama, I use every bit of it. Courses at the time that seemed like electives have been so much more valuable than I ever anticipated." For example, when interacting with people from different cultures, he draws upon his knowledge of languages and history.

Abernathy said his strong academic background has served him well. He has moved up in his company, which has allowed him to be a part of significant improvements in communities all around the world. "One of the most rewarding parts about working for a global



Robert Abernathy

company is seeing investments change communities for the better. For each new factory constructed around the world, there is a community that benefits. Jobs are the most immediate improvement, but those jobs can later lead to infrastructure improvements, and the construction of schools and hospitals," he said.

And there is something else that keeps him invested in his work: science. "I still really enjoy the innovation. I am a scientist at heart," he said. "I enjoy creating products that are built on new science and patentable ideas. That's still the most enjoyable part of the business to me." *A*



Robert H. Grubbs

Grubbs was awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of a new method in organic synthesis, known as alkene metathesis. This reaction allows chemists to selectively break certain bonds in molecules and then reassemble the pieces into new molecules. In this way, a molecule can be custom-built with specialized properties. Some of the applications of this method are better drugs for the treatment of disease and better electrical conducting properties for specialized plastics.

Prior to Grubbs's work, metathesis was poorly understood and of limited value to scientists. Grubbs developed powerful new catalysts for metathesis that enabled custom synthesis of valuable molecules. The Royal Swedish Academy, which is involved in the selection for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, said Grubbs's work represents "a great step forward for 'green chemistry,' reducing potentially hazardous waste through smarter production."

Dr. Kevin Shaughnessy, chair of UA's Department of Chemistry, said the department "is pleased to partner with the Leadership Board to bring Professor Grubbs to campus as the 2013 Anthony J. Arduengo lecturer and the inaugural speaker in the Leadership Nobel Lecture Series. His visit provides a wonderful opportunity for the UA community to meet and learn from one of the leading scientists in the world."

Grubbs, a native of Kentucky, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Florida. He completed his doctorate at Columbia University and spent a year at Stanford University as a post-doctoral fellow. He joined the Michigan State University faculty in 1969 and joined the faculty at Caltech in 1978. Grubbs has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1989 and was the 2000 recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Medal. *A*

College Alumna Wins Fulbright Scholarship to Study in Spain



Seema Kumar

SEEMA KUMAR of Shreveport, La., a recent graduate of the College, received a Fulbright Scholarship to study abroad during the 2012-2013 school year. While at The University of Alabama, Kumar majored in Spanish and biology. She has been studying in Santander, Spain, where she teaches local students ages 13 to 15. She has also served as a mentor for the Global Classrooms program.

During her time in Spain, Kumar will conduct several projects that she presented to the Fulbright Commission during her application process. These projects are aimed at improving cross-cultural understanding and exchange. Kumar was the recipient of the UA's 2012 Morris Lehman Mayer Award, and the 2011 William P. Bloom Scholarship Award. She served as a Creative Campus intern and a College of Arts and Sciences Student Ambassador. She was a member of The Other Club, The XXXI, and Mortar Board Society.

She also excelled in campus involvement and service to the community as a University Fellow within the Honors College working to improve lives in rural Alabama. As part of the Honors College initiative First Friends, she has partnered with international students coming to UA to extend a welcoming hand and to introduce the new students to University life.

After completing this Fulbright, she will begin medical school in fall 2013. *A*

Harris, Continued from page 1

Harris said her teaching post at UA gives her the chance to explore new intellectual territories. This fall, Harris is teaching a graduate course on African American drama, a genre that does not receive as much attention as other forms of African American literature. Drama is close to Harris's heart. She has been writing her own plays since she was a young girl. When her high school social studies teacher asked her to present a news item as part of a current events lesson, she chose to present a skit instead of the traditional oral recitation.

Harris is always looking for ways to help students use their creativity in assignments, which helps them build what she calls a "textured curiosity" about the material they are learning. She encourages students to go out and experience the world as part of their education, rather than limiting themselves to the knowledge in a textbook or on the Internet.

"The thing I think that is most missing from contemporary students is valuing knowledge for the sake of knowledge," Harris said, recalling her childhood on the cotton farm where hard work was essential but learning was considered the most important work of all. "You've got to get something in your head, because they can't take that away from you," was a refrain Harris heard frequently from her mother, Unareed Burton Moore Harris. Despite periods of poverty and living on welfare, all of the Harris children completed high school. Several went on to receive terminal degrees.

Harris grew up in a household that was in constant motion, a place she lovingly describes as "noisy." She remembers picking cotton as a family and running about the farm playing games with her siblings. They had their fair share of disagreements and fights, as all families do. "But it was a great sense of community, and any time you needed to pull together as a family, that's what you did."

When Harris was six, her father died. Her mother was the pillar that held the family up in hard times. With only a 10th grade education, Unareed Burton Moore Harris supported her family with any job she could find: elementary school cook, janitor, domestic worker. "One thing that becomes clear to anyone who spends any time with me is that my mother was my greatest inspiration," Harris said. To extend her mother's inspiration to future generations, she established the Terrell Harris Sr. and Unareed Burton Harris Endowed Scholarship at UA. "It was important to me that I, in my parents' memory, provide resources to other young people who might have been in situations like we were and thus help them achieve their objectives," she said. She has also set up endowments at Emory University and Stillman College.

Harris's mother taught her that if much is given to you, then you need to give back. This altruistic spirit is reflected in Harris's approach to teaching: She mentors as many of her students as possible. Harris's longest mentoring relationship began with a fourth-grade student who is now 24 years old. The two are still in contact. Before accepting a full-time position at UA, Harris tutored students at Tuscaloosa's Martin Luther King Elementary School, her elementary school alma mater. Harris has made a career out of gaining knowledge and sharing it with others.

"When I left the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill I wasn't necessarily looking to go out and do something again," she said. "But I'm still energetic and enthusiastic, and there is a lot of knowledge that I can share with students." *A*



UA Luminaries Became “Stars” for Leadership Board’s Arty Party

Three well-known University of Alabama officials took to the dance floor with student dancers in March to wow the audience at the eighth Arty Party, sponsored by the College’s Leadership Board to benefit scholarships in the dance program in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

This year’s theme, “Dancing with the Bama Stars,” featured student dancers partnered with special guests **KELLEE REINHART**, vice chancellor for system relations for the UA system; **PAT WHETSTONE**,

past director of the University of Alabama Alumni Association; and **ROBERT OLIN**, dean of the College. The fund-raiser included silent and live auctions, with such popular items as a round of golf with pro golfer and UA alumnus Jerry Pate, tickets to a VIP box at Dallas Cowboys stadium for the Alabama vs. Michigan game, and a road trip with the Million Dollar Band. The Arty Party will be held again April 5, 2013 to benefit the creative writing program. *A*



Clockwise from top: Guests at the Arty Party in the dance studio of Clark Hall. Bama Star Dean Bob Olin dances the Rumba with Vivian Reach. Bama Star Kellee Reinhart with student partner J. J. Butler who danced with her to “Stars Fell on Alabama.” Dr. Judy Bonner, UA provost and vice president of academic affairs, with guest Tommy Davis at the silent auction. Former National Alumni Association director and Bama Star Pat Whetstone with student partner Savannah Reach. Professor Cornelius Carter (background) and Professor Rita Snyder (right) with dance students who helped host the evening.

(Right) Leadership Board member Pat Hall of New York with guest Irvin Grodsky. (Far right) Mike Florence and Gary Jackson of Tuscaloosa, and Leadership Board members Rebecca and Frank Gregory of Wetumpka at the silent auction.



A Passion for ‘How Things Work,’ Drives LeClair’s Teaching and Research

In 2005, while **DR. PATRICK LECLAIR** was doing his postdoctoral research at MIT, he taught physics to non-science majors at a nearby college. In 2011 he earned UA’s Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award, the University’s highest honor for excellence in teaching. He is also responsible for revamping the advising system for undergraduate students.

When not teaching or advising, LeClair is making advances in experimental physics. His research focuses on innovative ways to make electrical or magnetic devices more efficient. Known as spintronics, this area of research is developing hybrid electrical and magnetic devices such as hard drives for computers.

LeClair maintains an active research laboratory in UA’s Center for Materials for Information Technology and is the principal investigator on three grants from the National Science Foundation and one from the U.S. Department of Energy. One of the principal goals of his lab is to move away from narrowly focused issues into more general problems whose solutions can have wide-ranging implications. He believes this shift to broader issues will also build stronger ties with other researchers on campus.

Science has been appealing to LeClair since he was young. “I was always curious about how things work, and I loved to take things apart and try to put them back together.” In school, he embraced the scientific and mathematical disciplines and explored the fields of biology and chemistry. But the root cause of the chemical reactions and biological principles he was learning about soon became the focus of his scientific study. “I guess I

always wanted to get to the bottom of things,” he said.

LeClair received a bachelor’s degree in materials science from MIT and a PhD in physics from Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. From 2002 to 2005 he was a postdoctoral researcher at MIT in the Francis Bitter Magnet Laboratory. His passion for research has been a common theme throughout his academic career. “Doing research means you are not doing the same thing over and over again,” he said. “The thing I like about the job is that nothing is static. It’s completely new every day.”

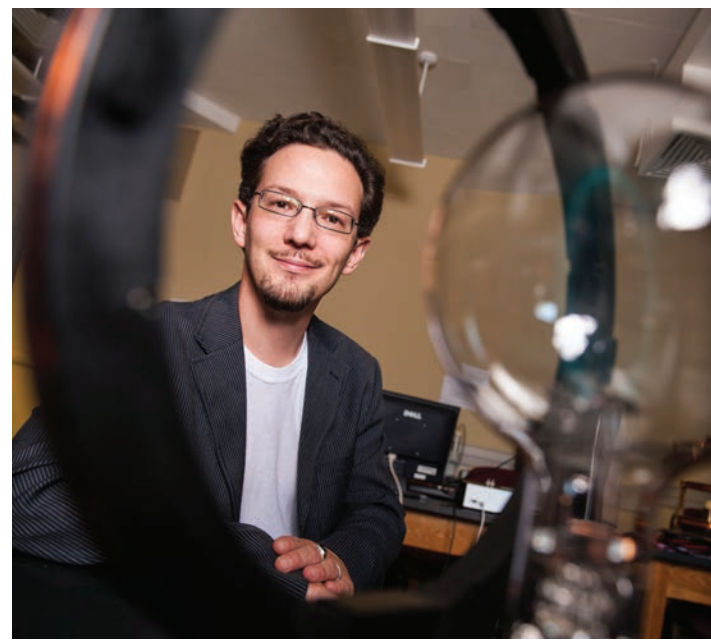
LeClair embraced something new in classroom teaching this past spring when he collaborated with Dr. Scott Hestevold, chair and professor in the Department of Philosophy. They teamed up to teach a course on physics and philosophy, aptly named Physics and Metaphysics, which garnered significant interest from students in both academic areas.

One of Hestevold’s areas of interest is the philosophy of time. He had long wanted to compare his philosopher’s approach to the theory of relativity to determine where the two areas were consistent and where they diverged. This led him to sit in on one of LeClair’s introductory physics courses. Soon after, the pair began planning a course that would consider issues of time, space, and the nature of existence from two seemingly opposite approaches. “Essentially we were working on the same kinds of problems from different angles,” LeClair said.

Physics asks questions from the perspective of limitations. It attempts to apply logic to the chaos of the universe using experimental

and mathematical methods to explain how our universe works. Philosophy begins without these limitations in mind and seeks to imagine how the universe logically must be. Using a point-counterpoint approach to teaching, the two professors were able to present material that was both engaging and thought-provoking for the students. They plan to teach the course again at some point.

“Team-teaching with Professor LeClair was among the finest classroom experiences I have had in my 34 years with UA,” Hestevold said. “I found the classroom stimulating but relaxed: guided by a common, passionate commitment to understand problems at the interface of physics and metaphysics. Professor



Patrick LeClair

LeClair is as conscientious as he is intelligent, and team-teaching with him was a joy.”

This is not the first time LeClair has taught a course with interdisciplinary connections. He and Dr. Patrick Kung, in UA’s College of Engineering, taught a course on optics. LeClair said the tag-team approach they used greatly benefited the students. *A*

College Forges International Partnerships with Academic Institutions

As part of the growing trend toward global learning, the College of Arts and Sciences has reached out to academic institutions around the world to build connections between students and faculty.

In February 2012 the Alabama-Cuba Initiative celebrated its 10th anniversary with a weeklong trip to Cuba during which 35 University of Alabama faculty researchers met with their Cuban counterparts. The meetings took place at the University of Havana, the Institute of Art (Instituto Superior de Artes), and the University of San Gerónimo. UA faculty members presented proposals for future educational and research collaborations and discussed projects with Cuban educators working in comparable areas.

Dr. Gustavo José Cobreiro Suárez, the president of the University of Havana, presented a medallion and resolution to the College and The University of Alabama in honor of the long-standing relationship between the two universities.

In May 2012 Cristina Díaz López, provost of the University of Havana, visited UA to continue the dialogue between the two institutions.

This summer, the College made significant progress in expanding a long-standing relationship with the University of Ghana. A two-week course, Alabama-in-Ghana, has been led by Dr. Seth Appiah-Opoku, associate professor in the Department of Geography, for nine years.

In May 2012 Dr. Robert Olin, dean of the College, Dr. Luoheng Han, associate dean of the College, and Dr. Appiah-Opoku met with officials from the University of Ghana to discuss future academic exchange programs. Plans are under way for students from the two universities to pursue courses at either university. A key component of the exchange program will be the use of technology such as video conferencing to enable students to interface with one another. The Alabama-in-Ghana semester-long study experience is scheduled to begin this academic year.

The College also embraced plans for the Alabama Greece Initiative to move beyond summer study-abroad trips and to develop an ongoing relationship with Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, one of Greece’s major research universities. Dean Olin, Dr. Han, and Dr. Russell McCutcheon, a professor in the Department of Religious Studies, visited with officials at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in May 2012. The trip marked the culmination of several years of smaller projects in Greece. *A*

Robert Mellown Uncovers the Story in UA's Architectural History

By Kelli Wright

Architectural historian retires after 40 years of teaching, but his quest for the stories behind historical structures will continue.

Much has changed about the campus at The University of Alabama during **DR. ROBERT MELLOWN'S** 40-year career. Students no longer gather in Foster Auditorium to register for classes; Bryant-Denny Stadium has been enlarged five times; and impressive buildings like Shelby Hall and the Science and Engineering Complex now border the campus. But very little has changed about Mellown's dedication to teaching and his curiosity about the world around him.

Mellown grew up in Livingston, Ala., a small town 60 miles southwest of Tuscaloosa and home to several prominent examples of antebellum architecture. An interest in these extraordinary structures planted the seed for what would become a lifelong love of architecture and the history of beautiful places.

On paper, Mellown is an expert on historical Alabama architecture, a prolific researcher, and an honored preservationist. In person, however, he is much more. He is a storyteller.

Mellown is the teller of stories that date back nearly two centuries, hidden in the bricks and mortar of some of the state's most impressive architectural masterpieces. He can tell you stories about Reconstruction-era graffiti on the porch walls of Garland Hall or the kind of grass that was planted on the quad more than 160 years ago.

become a seminal reference for anyone interested in the campus's history. Mellown believes this kind of research is important to understand how the campus has evolved and to show the sense of tradition that the Capstone embodies.

"The beauty of the campus really lies in the fact that for 182 years, designers and planners have thought about how things should look and how they should be arranged," he said. "One of the most gratifying things about working on these books is that they are being used now by the campus planners." He was recently asked to update his previous architectural research and do a full-scale guide to the campus. That book will be published by The University of Alabama Press next year.

Mellown has not limited his architectural investigations to the UA campus. He was a principal investigator and project manager during renovation of the Jemison–Van de Graaff Mansion in downtown Tuscaloosa. He also wrote a historical structures report for the Bryce Hospital building, which had him crawling through the basements and attics of the state's oldest and best-known mental health facility. Unfazed by the physical labor these investigations involve, Mellown also lent his assistance to the development of Capitol Park, the site of the former state capitol.

He has been a regular contributor to Alabama Heritage magazine, writing on topics ranging from Civil War-era portraiture to early Alabama photography. He noted that few people realize that the first photographs in the Southeast were taken by F. A. P. Barnard in 1840 on the University of Alabama campus using then revolutionary technology developed by Louis Daguerre in France a year earlier. Barnard taught at UA from 1837 to 1854.

Mellown began his career as an undergraduate studio art major at the Capstone. He remembers coming to freshman orientation in the summer of 1963 when Gov. George Wallace made his now infamous stand in the schoolhouse door and being required to sign an antiriot agreement. Mellown, ever a collector of history, still has his copy of the document. He was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, his senior year.

In 1967 he accepted a full graduate fellowship in art history at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. In the PhD program he studied Renaissance, baroque, 19th-century, and ancient art; he wrote his dissertation on American art. He joined UA's Department of Art and Art History in 1971 and has taught courses in all these areas at the Capstone.

Over the past 40 years, Mellown saw great changes in the way he prepared for and taught his courses. He and his colleagues used to spend hours with books laid out on the porches of Garland Hall taking photos of artwork to create slides for their courses. Producing a slide show now is much simpler. One of the projects he may take on in his retirement is to convert a cache of approximately 80,000 slides into digital images.

That is, of course, if he has time.

Mellown, now professor emeritus, does not plan to give up on the work that has interested him for so long. He says there are many his-

torically fascinating places around Tuscaloosa that have not been researched, and he wants to be the one to uncover those stories.

In many ways, Mellown is not unlike the historical buildings he has admired for so long. He has been a part of the UA tradition, and his tenacity and desire for knowledge led him to be a relevant and constant force in his field. And like any good storyteller, his stories are the ones that will be told for generations to come.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
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7



Robert Mellown

Mellown's involvement in telling the story of the UA campus started with his contributions to Suzanne Rau Wolfe's 1983 book *The University of Alabama: A Pictorial History*. He spent more than a year drawing detailed, historically accurate renderings of the campus from different eras. He even described what kind of trees—oaks, cedars, and sycamores—were planted on the grounds.

This research led to the publication in 1988 of *The University of Alabama: A Guide to the Campus*, a pocket-sized guidebook that has

Alumni Association Honors Three College Professors with Teaching Award

The Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award is the University of Alabama National Alumni Association's highest honor for excellence in teaching. Three of this year's recipients are from the College of Arts and Sciences: Associate Professors Lawrence F. Kohl, Patrick R. LeClair, and Seth Panitch.

DR. LAWRENCE F. KOHL, who joined the Department of History in 1987, has taught 30 different courses in the Honors Program, the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, and UA's Study Abroad Program. He has served as the director of both undergraduate and graduate studies and as interim chair in the Department of History.

Kohl's scholarly research focuses on the decades immediately preceding the American Civil War. His book on the age of Jackson, *The Politics of Individualism: Parties and the American Character in the Jacksonian Era*, is now in its sixth printing. He has served on the advisory board for the Papers of Andrew Jackson, evaluated manuscripts about the era, and judged film projects for the National Endowment for the Humanities. Kohl has been a historical adviser for novelists, painters, and filmmakers working on the Civil War and has appeared in television documentaries about the Irish in the Civil War on the History Channel and the Smithsonian Channel.

He received a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard University and a master's and PhD in history from the University of Michigan. He was named a Lilly Teaching Scholar, is the recipient of UA's Last Lecture Award, and is a Distinguished Teaching Fellow in the College.

DR. PATRICK R. LECLAIR joined the UA Department of Physics and Astronomy in 2005. He teaches introductory and midlevel physics courses and oversees a research group in magnetic and electronic materials.

Since 2008 LeClair has been the undergraduate director for the Department of Physics and Astronomy, where he has implemented personal, face-to-face advising for every department major each semester.

He also enhanced the physics–electrical and computer engineering double major, which has been instrumental in increasing majors nearly threefold in the last four years. With the help of a teaching grant from the College in 2006–2007, he developed and implemented a computerized laboratory system for introductory electricity and magnetism labs. In 2009–2010 he redesigned the sophomore modern physics laboratory with entirely new equipment and a customized laboratory manual. In the fall of 2009 he and Dr. Ray White, professor of physics and astronomy, developed a freshman seminar to introduce potential physics and astronomy majors to the latest developments in the field.

LeClair's research focuses on electrical and magnetic properties of novel materials and devices; he has a research laboratory in UA's Center for Materials for Information Technology. He is the principal investigator on three National Science Foundation grants and a U.S. Department of Energy grant. He received his bachelor's degree in materials science from MIT and his doctorate in physics from Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands.

SETH PANITCH, an associate professor of acting, directs the MFA and BA acting programs for the College's Department of Theatre and Dance. He retooled the undergraduate and graduate acting curriculum to include technique coursework in musical improvisation, the Suzuki training method, classical clowning, character mask, film and television performance, comedic styles, and stage combat. While his specialty is the study of classical theatre in performance, he has also developed on-camera acting courses in conjunction with UA's Department of Telecommunication and Film in the College of Communication and Information Sciences.

He has directed 10 departmental productions and directs the yearly MFA/Senior Showcase in New York City, which offers graduating seniors the opportunity to audition before New York agents, producers, and casting directors. In 2008 Panitch became the first U.S. director in decades to produce a professional theatre production for the Cuban Ministry of Culture when he directed a Spanish language production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* at La Sala Teatro Adolfo Llauradó in Havana. The following year he brought a company of professional Cuban actors to Alabama to work with UA students on a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Panitch received a bachelor's degree in theatre from Occidental College and an MFA in classical performance from the University of Washington School of Drama Professional Actor Training Program. *A*

Raphael Awarded Fellowship for Italian Renaissance Studies

DR. RENÉE RAPHAEL, an assistant professor in the Department of History, was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies to complete research on her work about science and Galileo's philosophy in Counter-Reformation Italy. She is one of 15 scholars selected worldwide to spend the 2012–2013 academic year at the Villa I Tatti in Florence, Italy. The villa was part of the estate of Bernard Berenson, an art historian and a connoisseur of Italian Renaissance paintings and drawings. Berenson attended Harvard University as an undergraduate. He bequeathed the bulk of his estate, including

I Tatti and its library of more than 50,000 volumes, to Harvard to establish a center for the study of the Italian Renaissance.

Raphael's research interests also include early modern science and technology, science and visual culture, and the history of the book. Raphael was a National Science Foundation graduate fellow, a Fulbright Institute of International Education Scholar in Italy, and a Clare Hall research fellow at the University of Cambridge. Raphael joined the College's faculty in 2010 after receiving her doctoral degree from Princeton University in 2009. *A*



Renée Raphael

Dance Film Picked for San Francisco Film Festival

A film by **SARAH M. BARRY**, assistant professor of dance in the Department of Theatre and Dance, was selected for the 2012 San Francisco Dance Film Festival. Based on a dance first performed by the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre in its fall 2010 concert, *there, again* was one of 25 films selected for the festival. It was also included in the Screendance Shorts program at San Francisco's Ninth Street Independent Film Center in March. The film was produced in collaboration with Christian Coleman, a UA graduate who shot and edited the project. *A*

NSF Grant Funds Peacock’s Participation in International Workshop

DR. MARGARET PEACOCK, an assistant professor in the Department of History, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund her participation in the Second International Workshop on Lysenkoism in Vienna. Lysenkoism refers to a biological inheritance principle developed by Trofim Lysenko in 1920s Soviet Russia that describes ways in which the scientific process may be manipulated to reach predetermined conclusions as dictated by an ideological bias, which is often related to social or political objectives. Sponsored by the History of Science Society, the conference brings together scholars from throughout the world to discuss the global impact of Lysenkoism. Peacock’s research interests include Russian and Soviet history, semiotics and visual culture, and the Cold War. She is working on a book titled *Cold War Kids: Images, Childhood, and the Collapse of the Cold War Consensus in the Soviet Union and the United States, 1945–1968*. Peacock joined the College’s faculty in 2009 after earning her doctoral degree from the University of Texas in 2008. *A*



Margaret Peacock

Ulmer Given Eugene Current-Garcia Award



William A. Ulmer

DR. WILLIAM A. ULMER, a professor in the Department of English, was awarded the 2012 Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Literary Scholar. The award recognizes Alabamians who have distinguished themselves in scholarly reflection and writing on literary topics. Ulmer has concentrated on the poetry of the British Romantics. He is the author of articles on Percy Bysshe Shelley, William Wordsworth, and Samuel Taylor Coleridge in such distinguished journals as *English Literary History*, *Studies in Romanticism*, and *Studies in Philology*. He is the author of *Shelleyan Eros: The Rhetoric of Romantic Love and The Christian Wordsworth, 1798–1805*. Ulmer, who joined the UA faculty in 1980, has served as director of the Honors Program and chair of the Department of English. He is a former College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teaching Fellow and a winner of the UA Alumni Association’s Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. *A*

Faculty Briefs

Rable Selected for Burnum Award
DR. GEORGE C. RABLE, holder of the Charles Grayson Summersell Chair in Southern History in the Department of History, received the 2011 Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award at UA, one of the highest honors the University bestows on its faculty. Established by Celeste Burnum and the late Dr. John F. Burnum of Tuscaloosa, the award is presented annually to a professor who is judged by a faculty selection committee to have demonstrated superior scholarly or artistic achievements and profound dedication to the art of teaching. Rable is a nationally recognized, award-winning Civil War historian.

Two Chemistry Faculty Members Named Fellows of Prestigious Science Organization
The world’s largest general scientific society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, named two College of Arts and Sciences professors as AAAS Fellows for 2012. **DR. ARUN GUPTA**, a professor in the Department of Chemistry and a researcher at UA’s Center for Materials for Information Technology, and **DR. ROBIN ROGERS**, holder of the Robert Ramsay Chair in the Department of Chemistry and director of the Center for Green Manufacturing at UA, were selected for the honor by a vote of their peers.

Criminal Justice Professor Receives Buford Peace Award
DR. BRONWEN LICHTENSTEIN, associate professor and graduate director in the Department of Criminal Justice, is the winner of the 2012 Lahoma Adams Buford Peace Award. The award is given annually to a UA faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional involvement in mediating human disputes, helping overcome prejudice, promoting justice, and establishing peace.

Dixon First to Receive SEC Outstanding Faculty Award
DR. DAVID DIXON, holder of the Robert Ramsay Chair in the Department of Chemistry, is the first UA recipient of the SEC Faculty Achievement Award, a new award honoring professors in the Southeastern Conference who have outstanding records in teaching and scholarship. Dixon will receive a \$5,000 honorarium and become UA’s nominee for SEC Professor of the Year. The winner will receive a \$15,000 honorarium.

College Biologist Honored with UA’s Blackmon-Moody Award
DR. MARTHA POWELL, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, was named the 2011 Blackmon-Moody Outstanding Professor. The award is presented annually to a UA faculty member whose contribution in his or her field of study brings “credit and recognition to the field of study, students’ education, and The University of Alabama.”

College Biologist Recognized by National Scientific Society



DR. ARTHUR BENKE, a professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences, was awarded the 2012 Award of Excellence in Benthic Science by the Society for Freshwater Science for his work on benthos, organisms that live on or near the bottom of a body of water. Benthos, which live in the ocean as well as in freshwater sites and range in size from microorganisms to snails and crabs, are important indicators of water quality. A UA faculty member since 1984, Benke has been widely known as a leader in the ecology of freshwater benthic invertebrates for more than 30 years. His research focuses on the role of insects in aquatic ecosystems and the theory and practice of estimating invertebrate production. A longtime member of the Society for Freshwater Science, Benke has served as its president, a member of the executive committee, and editor of the *Journal of the North American Benthological Society* (now titled *Freshwater Science*). Benke has played a significant role in the advancement of river conservation in North America and is coeditor (with Albert E. Cushing) of two award-winning books, *Rivers of North America* and *Field Guide to Rivers of North America*. Benke received his PhD in zoology from the University of Georgia in 1972. He was a faculty member in the School of Biology at the Georgia Institute of Technology from 1971 to 1978. *A*

Arthur Benke

Ryan Flamerich Named 2012 Truman Scholar

RYAN FLAMERICH, a junior majoring in political science and chemical engineering, has been named a 2012 Truman Scholar. The Truman Scholarship was created by Congress to identify and support future leaders in public service. Flamerich is one of 54 scholars selected from among 587 candidates to receive up to \$30,000 for graduate study.

A student in UA's Computer-Based Honors Program, Flamerich came to the Capstone to study chemical engineering. He began to envision a career in public service after serving as a senator in the Student Government Association, doing volunteer work for various organizations, serving as a Blackburn Fellow, and studying political science.

Flamerich has volunteered with READ Alabama, which works to improve reading skills in West Alabama elementary schools; the Boys and Girls Club, where he tutored students after school; and the American Red Cross, where he helped raise money for Haitian earthquake victims. He also served as a social media coordinator for state-level political campaigns during the summer of 2010. He has worked with other UA student leaders on a proposal to ban smoking on campus and with state leaders to push for a statewide ban on smoking in government buildings.

A native of Miami, Fla., Flamerich graduated from Chelsea High School near Birmingham. Flamerich will graduate from UA in 2013. He plans to attend law school and obtain a master's degree in public policy before pursuing a career in environmental, patent, or civil rights advocacy law. *A*



Ryan Flamerich

UA's Goldwater Scholars Have Ties to the College

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship is given each year to the brightest young minds in the country. This year three students from The University of Alabama were selected to receive the prestigious scholarship; another student received an honorable mention. All the students have ties to the College of Arts and Sciences. The \$7,500 scholarship is given to students studying mathematics, science, or engineering. It is the premier undergraduate award of its type in these fields.

HISHAM K. ALI, of Muscle Shoals, Ala., is an aerospace engineering major with minors in computer-based honors and mathematics. After completing graduate work, he plans to pursue a career as a research engineer and college teacher focusing on spacecraft development, specifically propulsion and structural design. Ali has received the Computer-Based Honors Outstanding Sophomore award, the Dr. Charles L. Seebeck Memorial Endowed Scholarship, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Outstanding Junior award.

SARAH E. JOHNSON, of Mesquite, Tex., is majoring in history and mechanical engineering with a minor in computer-based honors. Johnson is researching combustion systems aimed at improving the efficiency and emissions of alcohol-gas fuel blends during engine cold starts. She plans a career in research at a university, focusing on combustion and propulsion systems. A 2011 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Hollings Scholar, she is as an officer in the UA chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.

STEPHEN A. WALKER, of Trussville, Ala., is a chemistry major with a minor in computer-based honors. Walker is conducting research on ways to store nuclear waste and reprocess spent fuels. He hopes to establish a research career in neuropharmacology, focusing on treatments for neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. Walker has a fellowship in the Computer-Based Honors program and has been the recipient of UA's Presidential Scholarship and the Million Dollar Band Scholarship.

CHELSEA "RAULIE" RAULERSON, of Houston, Tex., is majoring in biological sciences with a double minor in chemistry and computer-based honors. Her research focuses on the swimming performance of *Kryptolebias* (formerly *Rivulus*) *marmoratus*, a neotropical fish commonly known as mangrove rivulus or mangrove killifish. She plans to get a PhD in cancer biology and then pursue a career as a researcher in epigenetics as it relates to an individual's susceptibility to certain cancers. Raulerson has received the Michael L. McDaniel Memorial Endowed Scholarship from the Department of Biological Sciences and the Jane Nix Outstanding Service Award from the Computer-Based Honors program. *A*

UA Goldwater Scholars Hisham Ali, Sarah Johnson, Chelsea Raulerson (honorable mention) and Stephen Walker all have ties to the College.



Adam Hill Works to Preserve the Art of Craft

While many of today's students are looking toward the future by becoming experts in the latest technology, at least one recent Alabama graduate is looking to the past to plot out his career path.

ADAM HILL, who graduated in May with a BFA from the Department of Art and Art History, found inspiration in learning the craft of metalworking, which earned him a prestigious Windgate Fellowship from the University of North Carolina Asheville's Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design.

Hill is one of only 10 students in the country to receive the \$15,000 fellowship, one of the largest awards offered to art students nationally. More than 70 universities from across the country were each invited to nominate two graduating seniors with exemplary skills in craft for the fellowship; Hill was chosen from a pool of 114 candidates.

Hill did not always plan on becoming an artist. In fact, he was recruited to The University of Alabama by former UA head football coach Mike Shula as a punter and kicker for the Crimson Tide. Hill played for two seasons but found that something was lacking. He missed the creative outlet that his high school art classes in Douglasville, Ga., had afforded him.

"I've always liked to get my hands dirty and to make things, and I just didn't see any kind of future in where I was going in school or with football," he said. He shifted his focus back to what had appealed to him before coming to UA: drawing, painting, and printmaking. Then he took a ceramics class and found a new artistic path that led him to pursue three-dimensional sculpture.

"I walked into the Department of Art and Art History's metal shop and was just blown away," Hill said. "I felt like I had to learn how to use these tools." He changed his major from psychology to art and set out to become as proficient as possible with all the tools in the metal-working studio. "I needed to learn to use the tools to be able to fully express my creativity," Hill said.

Hill first learned the art of metal casting, a painstaking process that involves making a series of molds. There is no room for error when



Adam Hill

making a mold. Because of the stressful nature of the metal-casting process and the expense associated with the materials, Hill decided to learn how to weld metal, which led him to produce some of the award-winning work that earned him his fellowship.

One such piece, titled *Catch*, is a large sculpture made of sheets of steel that were individually cut and welded together to form an undulating curve resembling a wave. The sculpture took more than 150 hours to complete.

In his artist's statement for the Windgate Fellowship, Hill said he is inspired by human social interactivity. The forms he creates often reference boats or other watercraft that for him signify containment, safety, and battle. He uses these forms as metaphors to depict his observations of people's personality traits.

The most important part of the artistic journey for Hill is the opportunity to work with his hands, a skill he says is lost on many in his generation. In rediscovering some of the lost arts of craftsmanship, Hill hopes to preserve an important part of this country's heritage.

Hill says his family has been completely supportive of his metamorphosis from a young athlete into a talented and promising sculptor. "They always knew that I needed to be involved with the creative process," he said. "They wanted me to do something that made me happy, and they're the kind of parents who want to see you succeed in doing something that you love."

With his Windgate Fellowship, Hill will spend the next several months setting up a studio and producing works to enter in art shows. He has moved to North Carolina and is planning to continue his education at Penland School of Crafts, as well as with Ron Young, a well-known artist in California. He may also start to work in new mediums, such as wood.

But no matter what material he chooses to work in, Hill said he will always be focused on the craftsmanship that goes into each piece he creates. "I think a lot of times people over-conceptualize their artwork. They tend to forget about the processes that go into the actual making of it." *A*



Lauren Marsh

Marsh Receives Boren Scholarship for International Study

LAUREN MARSH, a senior in the Department of Anthropology, was awarded a prestigious Boren Scholarship, which is given by the U.S. Department of State to provide college students with resources and encouragement to acquire language skills and experience in countries critical to U.S. security.

Marsh, of Prattville, Ala., will use the scholarship to study in Chengdu, in the Sichuan province of China, during the 2012–2013 academic year. She will complete a service requirement by providing global public health aid with the Peace Corps, the Centers for Disease Control, or the U.S. Agency for International Development. Marsh has already spent a year helping children with serious health problems in a village near Beijing and a summer in Nairobi, Kenya, which sparked her interest in a career in global health.

"Those experiences, along with the knowledge that I cannot achieve Mandarin language fluency without immersion, made me realize that the Boren Scholarship would be a great opportunity. My studies abroad will allow me to experience the culture of the various minority groups in rural southwestern China, study advanced Mandarin language, and take elective courses in anthropology," said Marsh. *A*

Shrimp Shells Used to Develop Antibacterial Bandage

Most people who eat shrimp toss away the shells without a second thought. For a group of scientists in the College of Arts and Sciences, those shells are a critical component in creating a new kind of bandage that may help facilitate healing.

DR. GABRIELA GURAU, a research scientist, **LEAH BLOCK**, a first-year graduate student, both in the Department of Chemistry, and **DR. WHITNEY HOUGH**, a College alumna, have been working on a process to extract chitin from shrimp shells. Chitin, which gives shrimp shells their texture, is a naturally occurring antibacterial substance.

The researchers are employed by 525 Solutions, a faculty start-up incubated at UA. They have been working on ways to make chitin into fibers to create a bandage for people with chronic wounds such as diabetic ulcers. According to Hough, diabetic ulcers result in 100,000 amputations a year. An antibacterial bandage that promotes healing could help ulcer sufferers avoid amputation.

Although chitin is produced commercially, Gurau said, the 525 researchers have been able to obtain a purer form of chitin with a new extraction method. They use a class of solvents called ionic liquids—liquid salts with unique and desirable properties that traditional solvents do not have. Gurau has collaborated on ionic liquids research with Dr. Robin Rogers, the Robert Ramsey chairholder in the Department of Chemistry, director for UA's Center for Green Manufacturing, and one of the founders and owners of 525 Solutions.

Using shells from the Gulf Coast Agricultural and Seafood Co-op based in Bayou La Batre, Ala., the researchers grind



Dr. Whitney Hough, Leah Block, and Dr. Gabriela Gurau collaborated on a new process of extracting a substance from shrimp shells that can be used to manufacture better bandages.

down the shells to a fine powder, add a specific ionic liquid to extract the chitin, and heat up the ionic liquid/shrimp shell mixture in a microwave oven. The last stage in getting a pure chitin form involves putting the ionic liquid solution through a water bath, followed by filtration and drying of the precipitated chitin. Although the process is labor intensive, Block says she is happy to do the work. "I really like the idea of taking something that is essentially garbage and making it into something that is useful," she said.

The idea for the research was prompted by a solicitation four years ago from the U.S. Department of Defense, which was looking to develop new bandages for military personnel. When that proposal was not funded, Gurau pitched her idea to other agencies and companies. This year, the project was awarded a \$150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation Small Business Innovation Research Fund.

The research team plans to use the SBIR grant money developing a process that combines chitin with alginate, a compound found in seaweed, to produce a fiber that will be woven into a bandage. There are already bandages that have chitin in them and bandages that have alginate; the group hopes to create and

market the first bandage with both chitin and alginate.

The project is not yet in the prototype development stage but 525 Solutions has already gotten calls from people who want to try the new bandages. For example, a nurse in the Tuscaloosa area heard about the bandage and hoped it could help her numerous patients with diabetes. "It's really rewarding to think about this project generating something people can benefit from," Hough said. "That's what keeps us going."

The project is currently housed in a lab at UA's Alabama Innovation and Mentoring of Entrepreneurs (AIME) building. The researchers plan to move beyond the current incubator model and contract with companies to manufacture the bandages. Hough says one of the best things about the project has been the blending of entrepreneurship and science. "Scientists don't typically get any exposure to entrepreneurship or general business practices during graduate school," she said. "AIME offers opportunities to blend science and business, to bridge the gap between research and a commercial product."

An important component of the researchers' mission is the use of green technology, which is reflected in the company's name: 525 represents the wavelength of green light on the color spectrum. According to Gurau, using ionic liquids may help eliminate the need for chemicals and processes that are harmful to the environment while creating more sustainable and more energy-efficient technologies. "Our society's increased concern for the environment has triggered a boost in green technology research," said Gurau. Clearly, the 525 researchers are in the vanguard of that research. *A*



In order to extract the substance, known as chitin, the shrimp shells have to be ground into a powder in small batches.

School of Music Benefits from Rock Group’s State-of-the-Art Studio Equipment

MICHAEL WILK, the keyboardist with the rock group Steppenwolf, has brought his state-of-the-art recording studio to the College’s School of Music. Wilk wants to give music students firsthand experiences in recording and film scoring using the most modern and sophisticated recording equipment available.

Last fall Wilk and Steppenwolf’s founder, John Kay, gave a multimedia performance in the Concert Hall of the Frank M. Moody Music Building. The concert highlighted some of Kay’s solo work as well as Steppenwolf favorites such as “Magic Carpet Ride.” The group now performs as John Kay and Steppenwolf. That performance came about after Wilk met Charles “Skip” Snead, director of the School of Music, at an audition for Wilk’s daughter, Mandy, who is now studying music therapy at the Capstone.

Wilk said he was “blown away” by the music program at UA. “I had really fallen in love with the music program, and Skip put an incredible amount of faith in me on this project sight unseen,” Wilk said. At the time, Wilk was operating a state-of-the-art recording studio in Oregon while touring with Kay. Wilk suggested moving his entire recording operation to Tuscaloosa, where he felt the equipment would get more use. Snead didn’t hesitate to take Wilk up on his offer.

The new studio space is housed in the basement of the Frank M. Moody Music Building. Wilk has also volunteered his sound mixing expertise to the Million Dollar Band this fall. Wilk said he is delighted to work with the group to make their performances sound as good as



Michael Wilk, the keyboardist for the rock group Steppenwolf, has set up a state-of-the art recording studio in the Frank M. Moody Music Building.

possible. One technique he plans on using is to have an iPad hooked to his equipment to adjust the instrument levels from a distance so the band doesn’t drown out some of the other instruments like keyboard.

This is just the beginning of the collaborations between Wilk and students and faculty in the College. He plans to be involved with recording courses taught in the jazz studies program and has already begun working with faculty members to develop ways the studio can be used for teaching. Wilk is looking forward to creating new opportunities in the School of Music. “The possibilities,” he said, “are endless.” **A**

Geological Sciences Advisory Board Honors Gary Hooks

This spring the College of Arts and Sciences and its Geological Sciences Advisory Board (GSAB) joined forces to honor one of the College’s best-loved faculty members, Dr. Gary Hooks, professor emeritus in the Department of Geological Sciences. He is pictured here with his family (from left): Stephen Hooks, Gary Hooks Jr., Peggy Hooks, and David Hooks.



Hooks was honored for his many years of service and his outstanding commitment to students with a gala dinner. Dean Bob Olin announced that Dianne and George Lindahl (pictured above with Hooks, center), the College, and the GSAB had funded the Gary Hooks Endowed Scholarship in Geological Sciences. The endowment, which stands at approximately \$80,000, provides funding for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in geological sciences.



Alumni, faculty, students, friends, and family came from all around the country to honor Hooks. Pictured above are Dr. Sidhartha Bhattacharyya, manager of the Geochemical Research Laboratory, Department of Geological Sciences; GSAB member Tom Joiner; Dr. Ibrahim Çemen, chair and professor, Department of Geological Sciences; GSAB member George Lindahl; Pam Çemen; and Virginia Joiner.

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board

The College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board is made up of alumni and friends who support the College and its students with their time, influence, and minimum membership gift of \$1,000 annually. This list recognizes board members as of June 30, 2012.

Mrs. Laura C. Abernathy
Neenah, WI
Mr. Robert E. Abernathy
Neenah, WI
Mrs. Arlene Ashe
Sheffield, AL
Mrs. Pam Askew
Tuscaloosa, AL
Ms. Emily L. Baker
Tuscaloosa, AL
Dr. James Haywood Baker
Mentone, AL
Mrs. Bette Anne LeBlanc
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Birmingham, AL
Dr. Brenda K. Baumann
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Dr. T. Lee Baumann
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Mr. Dan Blakley
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Dothan, AL
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Birmingham, AL
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Birmingham, AL
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Dr. Miller Bonner Engelhardt
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Dr. Andre J. Fontana
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Dr. John T. Hagood
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Dr. Luoheng Han
Tuscaloosa, AL
Mr. Billy Hargett
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Dr. Phillip Harmon
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Dr. Trudier Harris
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Mr. Robert Hayes
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Dr. Marcia Hay-McCutcheon
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Friends and Family of Anna Gordon Establish Endowed Scholarship

The friends and family of the late Anna Gordon have given more than \$30,000 to the College to establish the Anna E. Gordon Memorial Endowed Scholarship, which will be used to support students studying psychology. A 2009 graduate of The University of Alabama, Gordon earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and Spanish with summa cum laude honors; she minored in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative. In the spring of 2009 she was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. During a period of remission, Gordon worked as an admissions counselor for UA. She died in May 2011.

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Memorial Fund Honors Cherished Faculty Member

A memorial fund has been established in honor of **DR. KAREN STECKOL**, a professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders who died in November 2011 after a three-year struggle with cancer.

In addition to serving as department chair, Steckol was clinical director of UA's Speech and Hearing Clinic, Alabama's oldest audiology clinic, which serves more than 9,000 Alabamians each year. During her tenure and with the help of the faculty, clinical services such as an autism clinic for babies and a neonatal hearing screening program were initiated. It was also possible to expand speech and hearing services for adult clients and increase the size of the

department's faculty and clinical staff under her leadership. She was instrumental in securing a new building for the department and its clinic in 2004, which greatly expanded public access to the clinic's services.

She served as president of the UA Faculty Senate for three terms and was known for developing a strong and productive working relationship with UA's senior administration.

Steckol's research interests focused on the development of child language. These interests led her to expand the clinical services provided to the students in the Tuscaloosa city and county school systems. She was a member of the American Speech-

Language-Hearing Association, the Society for Research in Child Development, the Jean Piaget Society, and the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences.

Memorials can be made to UA's Karen Steckol Memorial Fund at Office of the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Box 870268, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487. Memorials may also be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN, 38105; the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, 26 Broadway, 14th Floor, New York, NY, 10004; or the Steckol Foundation at the Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 833 East High Street, Suite 263, Lexington, KY, 40502.



Karen Steckol

Society of Fine Arts Lifetime Members

The Society for the Fine Arts (SFA) was established in 1975 to advocate for and support fine and performing arts programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. The society annually honored state and community leaders and artists with a Lifetime Membership for their role in advancing the arts in Alabama. In 2003 the SFA was incorporated into the College's Leadership Board.

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American Studies Professor Had a Passion for Pop Culture

He was known for his laid-back Age of Aquarius demeanor, his delight in American culture, and the cards he sent to friends far and wide each year on Valentine's Day.

DR. JAMES M. SALEM, professor emeritus in the Department of American Studies, died unexpectedly on July 6, 2012, following routine surgery. He served the department for more than 40 years and continued to teach in the College following his retirement from The University of Alabama in 2008.

Salem joined the College's faculty in 1967 as the first professor in the newly formed Department of American Studies. Under his leadership—he was chair for 30 years—the fledgling department grew into one of the most successful American studies programs in the country.

Salem loved to teach and took great pleasure in igniting a passion for learning in his students. His skill in making his classroom experience both educational and memorable was recognized in 1998 when the UA National Alumni Association honored him with its Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. In 2007 he received the prestigious Mary C. Turpie

Prize from the American Studies Association, the flagship professional organization in his field. The prize is given periodically to “the candidate who has demonstrated outstanding abilities and achievement in American Studies teaching, advising, and program development at the local or regional level.”

The Late Great Johnny Ace and the Transition from R&B to Rock 'n' Roll, Salem's critically acclaimed biography of the early postwar rhythm and blues artist, was a Ralph J. Gleason Music Book Award finalist. But his greatest honor came from University of Alabama students who, in 2008, selected him as speaker for UA's Last Lecture series. In an auditorium packed with admirers, he delivered what would become his legendary explication of composer Don McLean's “Bye, Bye, Miss American Pie.”

Students, colleagues, and friends recall his passion for popular culture in general and popular music in particular, interests he pursued inside and outside the classroom. His course offerings included classes on the Beatles, American popular song, and the pop culture of 1950s America. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast, and the Crimson Tide held a special place in his heart.

According to Dr. Lynne Adrian, chair of the Department of American Studies, as teacher, adviser, colleague, and friend, Jim Salem enriched the lives of a wide array of people who cherish his memory and honor his legacy. A memorial fund has been established in Dr. Salem's honor. Donations can be made to the American Studies Jim Salem Memorial Scholarship, The University of



James M. Salem

Alabama, Department of American Studies, P.O. Box 870214, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0214 or by calling Kathy Yarbrough, director of development, at 205-348-0696.



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The Collegiate Fund supports scholarship, teaching innovations, and value-added student activities. It provides scholarships to deserving students with need when no other avenue of support is available. Donors to the Collegiate Fund help provide the margin of excellence that keeps the College in the forefront of liberal arts education. The college gratefully acknowledges the following friends who made gifts to the Collegiate Fund between June 1, 2011, and May 31, 2012.

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Ainsworth \$1 Million Estate Gift Endows Math Scholarship

A gift of more than \$1 million from the estate of Edith Wetzel Ainsworth has established the Ainsworth Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Applied Mathematics in the College's Department of Mathematics. Ainsworth and her husband, the late Oscar Richard Ainsworth, were faculty members in the math department. Oscar Ainsworth earned a bachelor's degree in 1945 and a master's in 1946 from the University of Mississippi. He got his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950, and then joined the College's mathematics faculty. He spent his entire 36-year career with the UA system. Edith Ainsworth earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkley, where she first met her husband. She taught math at UA and also tutored students for many years.

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James Cummings Honors Father with Chemistry Scholarship

DR. JAMES M. CUMMINGS, of St. Louis, Mo., has given more than \$20,000 to the College to establish the James Morgan Cummings Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship to honor the memory of his father. Dr. Cummings graduated from The University of Alabama in 1978; he currently serves as a faculty physician in the Department of Surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. The endowment will fund scholarships for full-time undergraduate students pursuing a degree in chemistry.

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Carnaggios Establish Premed Scholarship

DR. AND MRS. VINCENT CARNAGGIO, of Birmingham, have established the Vincent and Jean Carnaggio Endowed Scholarship with a gift of more than \$20,000. The scholarship will support undergraduate students enrolled in UA's premedical program. After serving in World War II, Dr. Carnaggio attended The University of Alabama, where he received his bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1950. He attended the Medical College of Alabama in Birmingham (now UAB School of Medicine), where he received his medical degree in 1954. He was a pediatrician in Birmingham until his retirement. Mrs. Carnaggio attended Howard College (now Samford University). The Carnaggios have four children: Joseph and Mary Lou, both UA alums, and Clemmy and Richard.

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Miller Estate Augments Henry C. Miller Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund

The College has received a gift of more than \$300,000 from the estate of Dr. Henry C. Miller Jr., a longtime faculty member in the Department of Mathematics. The funds will be added to the Henry C. Miller Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund, which was established by Miller during his lifetime to provide scholarships for students in the Department of Mathematics and the School of Music and its jazz studies program. Miller graduated from Hueytown High School in 1941, then earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Howard College (now Samford University). He served in the South Pacific as a navigation officer. After his tour of duty with the navy, Miller earned his master's degree in chemistry from UA, a master's degree in mathematics from The University of Chicago, and a doctorate in mathematics from The University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill. He joined the College's faculty in 1950. He retired in 1990 and lived in Birmingham until his death in 2009. Math Scholarship

A gift of more than \$1 million from the estate of Edith Wetzel Ainsworth has established the Ainsworth Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Applied Mathematics in the College's Department of Mathematics. Ainsworth and her husband, the late Oscar Richard Ainsworth, were faculty members in the math department. Oscar Ainsworth earned a bachelor's degree in 1945 and a master's in 1946 from the University of Mississippi. He got his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950, and then joined the College's mathematics faculty. He spent his entire 36-year career with the UA system. Edith Ainsworth earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of California, Berkley, where she first met her husband. She taught math at UA and also tutored students for many years.

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Septima Cecilia Smith Support Fund Established in Biological Sciences

Faculty members in the Department of Biological Sciences have given more than \$17,000 to establish the Septima Cecilia Smith Endowed Support Fund to honor the late Dr. Smith, a professor of parasitology and marine biology in the College for 35 years. The fund will be used to support student research and recognize outstanding students majoring in biological sciences. Smith received her education from The University of Texas-Austin and Johns Hopkins University's School of Hygiene and Public Health (now the Bloomberg School of Public Health). Smith, who joined the UA faculty in 1927, was the first woman in the College of Arts and Sciences to attain the rank of full professor. She retired in 1962. The Department of Biological Sciences also gives Septima Cecilia Smith awards each year to the outstanding graduating biology major and marine science major.

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McCollough Establishes Scholarship to Honor Her Late Husband

JOAN MACKEY MCCOLLOUGH, of Winter Haven, Fla., has given \$25,000 to the College to establish the Jasper O. McCollough Jr., MD, Memorial Endowed Scholarship to honor the memory of her husband. Scholarships will be awarded to students enrolled in the College's premedical program. A graduate of The University of Alabama, McCollough received his medical degree from the Medical College of Alabama in Birmingham (now UAB School of Medicine) in 1959. After serving as a U.S. Navy flight surgeon, he established an orthopedic surgery practice in Florida. He died in 2009.

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KATHLEEN A. FARMER and others have given more than \$10,000 to the College to establish the Randall Justice Farmer Endowed Support Fund. The funds will be used to support the Department of Criminal Justice. Farmer, a professor in that department, was also a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 31 years. A graduate of Auburn University and Michigan State University College of Law, Farmer was a decorated Vietnam War veteran. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat V during his service in the U.S. Marine Corps. Farmer, who resided in Northport, Ala., passed away in 2006.

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Murrays Establish Scholarship for Blount Undergraduate Initiative

DR. AND MRS. RHETT B. MURRAY, of Huntsville, Ala., have given more than \$20,000 to the College to establish the Dr. Rhett B. Murray Endowed Scholarship, which will be used to support students in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative. Dr. Murray, a third-generation graduate of The University of Alabama, where he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry, summa cum laude in 1982, at the age of 19. Upon graduating first in his class from The University of Alabama School of Medicine, Dr. Murray served UAB's Medical Center as an intern, resident neurological surgeon, and chief resident of neurosurgery. He entered private practice in 1992 and became a clinical assistant professor at The University of Alabama School of Medicine—Huntsville. Currently, he is the senior partner of The Spine and Neuro Center, a multidisciplinary practice with six neurosurgeons and three physiatrists. He has served on the College of Arts and Science Leadership Board for five years. Through the Crimson Tide Foundation, he has endowed the Pat Trammel Sports Medicine Fellowship. He is actively involved with and supports First Presbyterian Church, The Huntsville Museum of Art, Lincoln Village, and Randolph School. He also serves on the Board of Review for Pro Assurance and the Madison County Medical Board of Censors. He and his wife, Melanie Hammer Murray, a 1987 UA graduate, have four children: Blake (SMU 2015), Davis (USMA 2016), Robert, and Dollie.

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These College of Arts and Sciences faculty members have retired during the 2011–2012 academic year, trading class time and office hours for more leisurely pursuits.

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We appreciate your gifts to the College and want to thank you properly so we are very careful to record each gift and membership—however, mistakes do happen. We apologize in advance if your name is not listed properly on these pages. To notify us of any error, please contact Kelli Wright at (205) 348-8539 or khwright@as.ua.edu. Thank you.

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Professor’s Estate Establishes Anthropology Scholarship

DR. ALLEN R. MAXWELL, professor emeritus of anthropology, died Nov. 16, 2011, at his home at the age of 71. Part of Maxwell’s estate was bequeathed to The University of Alabama to establish the Allen R. Maxwell Endowed Anthropology Scholarship. The scholarship is designated for graduate students in the Department of Anthropology.

Maxwell retired from UA in 2010 after 36 years with the Department of Anthropology. He continued to teach courses in linguistic and cultural anthropology after his retirement. Maxwell was recognized at UA for raising the national profile of the Department of Anthropology, beginning with a major revision of the anthropology curriculum when he joined the faculty in 1974.

Maxwell, known to friends and colleagues as Max, was born in Hanover, N.H., and raised in Massachusetts. He earned a BA in anthropology from the University of Michigan in 1969 and a year later completed a master’s in linguistics from the same institution. He was awarded a doctorate from Yale in 1980.

During his years at UA, Maxwell published more than 80 scholarly articles or book chapters and gave 68 major conference presentations. His work as an ethnographer and linguist centered on the peoples of Borneo, especially Brunei and Sarawak. A consummate ethnographic fieldworker, he enjoyed an international reputation for the depth of his understanding of Borneo’s many cultures.

As a teacher, Maxwell was known for his detailed and comprehensive approach to instruction. Dr. Michael Murphy, chair of the Department of Anthropology, said Maxwell’s enthusiasm for anthropology and linguistics endeared him to his colleagues and to generations of UA students.

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Alumni Notes

1954

Michael I. Green (physics, BS) has semi-retired as a guest scientist from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. His son and daughter are married, with two sons each. He has acted in thirty theater productions since 1999 and is still racing sailplanes.

William C. Harris (history, BA, MA, PhD), professor emeritus of history of North Carolina State University, is the author of *Lincoln and the Border States: Preserving the Union* (University of Kansas Press, 2011), which is his fourth book on Lincoln. He is co-winner of the 2012 Lincoln Prize for Civil War scholarship awarded by Gettysburg College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History for this publication.

1963

Frederick Marchman (art, BFA) has published *Word in Space and Duets with Erato* (Xlibris Press), a book of poetry with illustrations done by him. He also has a monthly cartoon strip titled “Modern Plastic” that appears in Gulf Coast Newspapers and the *Fairhope Courier*. He teaches art at Faulkner State Community College.

1965

Dr. Gaylon McCollough (biology, BS) has been named a “consultant in facial plastic and reconstructive surgery” to the National Academy of Medicine, a Washington, D.C.–based organization. McCollough, a member of the clinical faculty of the University of South Alabama’s Department of Surgery, serves on the State of Alabama’s Medical Licensure Commission.

1970

Patti Harriman (sociology, BS) is entering her 26th year of international cat breeding and showing. Her oldest son, Gregory, is an investment banker in Charlotte and her youngest son, Patrick, is a journalist for *Politico* in Washington, D.C. She is a first-time grandmother to Scout Margaret Gavin.

1982

Dr. Cal Dodson (microbiology, BS) received the 2012 Chapter Advocacy Award from the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The award is presented to those who have worked on local, state, and national health and public policy issues.

1986

Dana Gynther (political science and French, BA; French, MA, 1991) has written her debut novel, *Crossing on the Paris*, which will be released this fall by Simon and Schuster. She has lived in France and currently lives in Valencia, Spain, where both she and her husband, Carlos, are teachers and translators. They have two daughters, Claudia and Lucia.

1993

Jenna M. Bedsole (English, BA) has written a children’s story called “Sam the Spider” that is now available as an app for iPhone and iPad. Bedsole is an attorney with Baker, Donaldson, Bearman, Caldwell, and Berkowitz in Birmingham, Ala.

1997

Peter B. Gushue (history, PhD) has started a new business specializing in residential remodeling and mold remediation. He has plans to start up a training academy for skilled craftsman. In February he and his wife, Jill, welcomed their first granddaughter, Alexia.

2006

Margaret Case Little (political science, BS) was recently promoted to senior director of communications and public affairs at the National Retail Federation where she has worked since 2010. She lives in Falls Church, Va., with her husband.

2010

Joanna Yarbrough (music, BM) has been offered a full-time contract with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Yarbrough, a French horn player, won the 2009 International Horn Competition of America in the University Division. *A*

Legendary Biologist E.O. Wilson Visits College as Scholar-in-Residence

DR. E.O. WILSON, a University of Alabama alumnus and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, visited as a scholar-in-residence with the College Sept. 11-12. Known as one of the world’s most influential scientists, Wilson is the founder of the theory of sociobiology, which proposes that human and animal behavior is shaped by evolutionary forces, and its offshoot, evolutionary psychology. He also has developed the base of modern biodiversity conservation.

Wilson kicked off the 2012-2013 Alabama Lectures on Life’s Evolution, or ALLELE, lecture series with his talk, “The Social Conquest of Earth,” which is the title of his most recent book. His lecture focused on three questions that have been the subject of debate in the religious, scientific, and philosophical communities: “Where do we come from? What are we? And where are we going?” While on campus, he also addressed students in the College’s Blount Undergraduate Initiative.

A native of Birmingham and childhood resident of the Gulf Coast, Wilson earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Department of Biological Sciences at UA. He received his doctorate from Harvard University, and he taught there for more

than 40 years as the Joseph Pellegrino University Research Professor in Entomology. He now lives in Lexington, Mass.

Wilson is the author of more than 30 books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Ants* and *The Naturalist*. His next release, scheduled to debut later this year, is a profile of his boyhood hometown, *Why We Are Here: Mobile and the Spirit of a Southern City*.

Wilson is most recognized for his work in entomology—the study of insects. His lifelong passion for studying ants in particular has made him the definitive expert on the tiny creatures and on the social structures of all animals.

Wilson has been recognized with more than 100 international awards. He is a recipient of the U.S. National Medal of Science, the Crafoord Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; the International Prize of Biology of Japan; and the Nonino and Serono Prizes for Letters and Sciences of Italy. In 1995 he was named one of *Time* magazine’s 25 most influential people in America. *A*



E.O. Wilson

Million Dollar Band Kicks Off Centennial Celebration with Trip to Italy

One of the most widely recognized elements of the Crimson Tide football tradition is the Million Dollar Band. This year marks the 100th anniversary of The University of Alabama’s marching band, whose members perform at each home football game.

The band kicked off its Centennial Celebration with a 10-day trip to Italy in May 2012 that included stops in Rome, Florence, Venice, Padova, and Torino. The trip was made possible with assistance from The University of Alabama and personal funds of participating students, who also got course credit for their overseas experience.

The Million Dollar Band’s first performance was a parade through the streets of Florence. This was the first time an American band had been permitted to march through the city streets. In Padova, the band performed with the colorfully costumed medieval drummers known as the *sbandieratori* for more than 1,000 spectators. The grand finale of the tour included a concert with members of the Alabama Wind Ensemble, which is part of UA’s School of Music, along with the ensemble Antica Musica del Corpo dei Pompieri di Torino 1882, which is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year.



The Million Dollar Band marches down the streets in Padova, Italy.

The Million Dollar Band is under the direction of Dr. Ken Ozzello, professor of conducting in the School of Music, and Associate Director of Bands Randall Coleman, an assistant professor in the School of Music. In September there was a Centennial Celebration Weekend where alumni and supporters came to campus for a special gala and concert. Past band directors conducted the band during the concert and on the field during the Florida Atlantic football game.

