president’s message
William G. Cale, Jr.

Spring semester always ends with a flurry of activity that includes various celebrations, ceremonies, and a rush to finish projects. Renovation of Keller Hall is nearing completion as other projects begin. Funded through a federal grant with matching funds from State bonds, construction of a new, $4 million maintenance and bus storage facility on East Campus has begun. Once complete the Physical Plant facility on Pine Street will be closed. Our new Campus Master Plan (check it out using the link on the UNA homepage) advises us that the Pine Street site should become home to our proposed science and technology building. We are using a new federal grant to initiate architectural and site preparation work. The State has awarded UNA a $6 million grant to assist with funding that building, and we are using that funding to make this much needed project a reality.

Work progresses well on our self-study for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. One key element of the reaffirmation process is development of a Quality Enhancement Plan which must be a new initiative. We have chosen Academic Research Literacy in the Disciplines. A Bridge to a Four-Year Sequence and our implementation plan is being developed.

UNA has reached agreement with the University of Alabama for them to offer their doctoral program in Educational Administration on our campus. A new master’s degree program in Geospatial Sciences is pending before the State Commission, as are new baccalaureate programs in Mass Communications and Entertainment Industry. These continue to be exciting days for our University.

Sincerely yours,
William G. Cale, Jr., President

The University of North Alabama stepped $6 million closer to breaking ground on a new science and technology building when state Sen. Roger Bedford visited campus May 12 to announce a state grant to be awarded for the project.

“The commitment of Sen. Bedford to the success of UNA is clear evidence through his efforts to secure funding for this critical need,” said Dr. William G. Cale Jr., UNA president. “The university is deeply grateful for the Senator’s dedication to our success and for keeping us on a path that will lead to success.”

Cale said that, with the new facility, the Shoals area and surrounding region can expect ‘opportunities for new collaborations with business and industry to assist in product development, testing, environmental safety and other technical areas.’

University departments and programs to be housed in the building include chemistry and industrial hygiene, biology, and physics and earth science. Most of the programs are currently housed in UNA’s Floyd Science Building. Constructed about 40 years ago, Floyd is now limited in its ability to fully serve the needs of UNA’s continually growing science programs.

“Science and technology are critical knowledge areas that are shaping the future,” Cale said. “The University of North Alabama is committed to providing to every student an understanding of the basics of scientific discovery and the opportunity for those who so choose to pursue successfully a career in a scientific or technical field.”
Social analysis of The Farm peace and love community. Conservation of an endangered fish species. Spatial patterns of identity theft. These were just a handful of the dozens of student and faculty research projects displayed on campus for the third annual Research Day April 20.

While they all sounded interesting enough to Andy Miller, a senior geography major, he wanted to share a project a little closer to his heart. His research, displayed in a series of maps, geographically tracked the western migration of a national subculture that Miller happens to be a part of. "I hypothesized that California is pretty dominant for skaters," he said. "So I started gathering data to figure out if there was some kind of pattern of migration, and I found out that, yes, there is a pattern." The skating world has begun shifting quickly to southern California, Miller found, because of the area's year-round warm weather and cityscapes that seem created for skateboarding.

"I just wanted to show how a small subculture, like skateboarders, can have an impact on human migration," Miller said. Dr. Lisa Keys-Mathews (’85), associate professor of geography and coordinator of Research Day, said research like Miller’s is significant because “nobody is born being a researcher, but the skills learned while doing research are career-critical.” A perfect case in point, social work instructor Freda Coleman-Reed said, was a project undertaken by a group of social work students this past spring. The students, as part of their Groups, Organizations and Communities class, got to choose a community and analyze the community’s economic makeup, housing patterns, community life, geography, social services and similar factors.

“They then had to engage in problem analysis,” Coleman-Reed said. “They had to identify the strengths of the community as well as the needs.” What the students found, she said, was that The Farm community in Summertown, Tenn. – famous for its various charitable outreachs as well as its Hippie Museum – has greatly evolved over the years and proven resilient. “They started out as a commune but evolved into a cooperative in order to keep the community growing to support their mission of global charitable outreach,” she said. “But to continue in that vein to become an even stronger, more successful community, they need to add some resources, the students found,” which they recommended in a presentation to the community leaders.

For students like Coleman-Reed’s to expose the entire campus and community to research like this, Keys-Mathews said, “demonstrates that research is not something that happens inside a black box or an ivory tower. It can happen in common everyday society and environments. We want to use Research Day to introduce other students to research and to show them that research experiences are fascinating and provide support for their future careers.” Just days before Research Day, Keys-Mathews had seen the projects of several of her students and colleagues presented on a national stage. She and five other geography faculty members and 13 students, including Miller, were each research presenters at the Association of American Geographers annual conference in Washington, D.C.

UNA’s annual Research Day is now in its third year. This year, the event promoted research from students and faculty in all four of UNA’s academic colleges and 25 departments, doubling the number of departments involved from the event’s first year.

The idea of the course,” he said, “is simply to help the students understand these challenges that the United States and other countries face – what those challenges are, what causes them and what the link or nexus is between them, because they’re all interconnected. And they’re all relevant not only internationally but also right here at home. Regardless of where you work, you’re going to deal with these issues either personally or professionally.”

**Global challenges such as border security, terrorism and energy dependence were more than news headlines for a class of 35 students in April. They were real issues the students had to work together to resolve. And they did just that, after two days as officials in a simulated national government at the university’s 2010 Geopolitics Symposium.**

“The symposium has the purpose of educating the students about these global issues and challenges, but also to train them in communication skills and professional presentation at a different level than they’re getting in class,” said Dr. Michael Pretes, associate professor of geography.

In its second year, the symposium is the capstone project for a special-topics class, Geopolitics of Global Challenges, team-taught by Pretes and Lt. Col. Wayne Bergeron, chair of the Department of Military Science. The class is cross-listed between the UNA departments of geography and political science.

For the simulation activities, students spent two days divided into five ministries – defense, justice, intelligence, foreign affairs and information – in a fictitious country known as Utopia. Over the course of two days, they worked through a variety of challenges and threats to Utopia while keeping the Utopian president, played by UNA president Dr. William G. Cale, Jr., briefed on the situations and progress.

Jacob Cude, a senior geography major serving on the Utopian Ministry of Intelligence, found simple communication and coordination between ministries to be the most important key to successfully working through most of the challenges. “There were instances right off the bat where our plan would conflict with another department’s plan,” he said. “So we really had to coordinate between groups. It’s really about working with others and sharing ideas and then coming up with a plan that meets the needs of the groups as a whole more than just your group.” It was also about thinking on your feet, he said, when curve balls are thrown your way.

“We had an instance where one of our headquarters buildings was bombed, so we had to change our tactics and adapt to what was going on,” Cude said. “We had to show instantly that we did have control of the situation.”

The real challenge was maintaining that control and making those key decisions while the details were still unfolding.

“We purposely designed the scenarios that way,” Bergeron said. “The students weren’t given all the necessary details right up front. There were certain things they just didn’t know, like in life. And that’s where the senior facilitators and mentors came in. They helped frame the students’ discussions and helped them see it from an executive level.”

Each of the five ministries was paired with a professional mentor with a successful leadership background in intelligence, military, foreign service, law enforcement, education or public relations.

Pretes said that, while he expects students coming through the symposium to excel in similar leadership roles, the real purpose of the exercise transcends career plans.

“The idea of the course,” he said, “is simply to help the students understand these challenges that the United States and other countries face – what those challenges are, what causes them and what the link or nexus is between them, because they’re all interconnected. And they’re all relevant not only internationally but also right here at home. Regardless of where you work, you’re going to deal with these issues either personally or professionally.”
Dan Herley could find only one problem with the University of North Alabama when he enrolled in the university’s MBA program a couple of years ago: UNA didn’t have a club for unicyclers like himself. But he has since resolved that issue—as of last September, UNA boasts an officially registered unicycle club of 26 members.

As Dan began promoting the club around campus, he was surprised by some of the riders who came out of the woodwork.

“Actually, a lot of the Japanese students learned to ride unicycles when they were small kids, so a lot of them were riders already. And our club vice president, Julian Tyree, had been involved with a unicycle club for pretty much all of his childhood. He had done a lot of parades and different kinds of events, so meeting him was a real good opportunity and totally by chance,” Dan said.

Dan, founder and treasurer of the UNA Unicycle Club, began riding about 10 years ago as a member of a juggling club at the University of Central Florida. It was when his car broke down that he began perfecting his riding skill.

“That forced me to learn,” he said. “I began riding my unicycle to the bus stop to catch the bus.”

At UNA, he rides it to class each morning from his house a few blocks from campus. Dan and his fellow UNA unicyclers have made several professional appearances in recent months, performing at events around the Shoals community. It’s the type of work Dan used to do full-time.

“By the time I finished college,” he said, “I was making so much money performing that I chose not to get a job in my field and continued doing it after I graduated.”

Now, Dan is ready to take the performances to a whole new level, beyond simple juggling and riding. “Yesterday was our first attempt at unicycle polo,” he said.

“Basically, it’s all the same rules as regular polo, except instead of riding a horse, you ride a unicycle.”

He hopes the game becomes an act for halftime shows and similar events.

“By the exercise, which generates happiness, and the smiles and interest from other people, it’s a real pleasant thing to ride a unicycle.”

The UNA triathlon club was formed in late fall and became an official USA Triathlon club in January. USA Triathlon is the national governing body for the sport. UNA’s student-run triathlon club competed in the USA Triathlon Collegiate National Championship in Lubbock, Texas, in April.

A triathlon consists of running, cycling and swimming. The collegiate championship is an Olympic-length event that includes 1,500 meters of swimming, 24.85 miles of cycling and 6.2 miles of running.

Hater started the UNA club after watching a triathlon in New York.

“I was in Lake Placid, N.Y., working the Ironman Triathlon for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and I just caught the bug,” he said. The UNA triathlon club trains about 15-16 hours a week, spending many hours on each of the three events.

“There is just something majestic about triathlon,” Hater said. “There are people who excel at one sport, but there’s just something about competing in three separate sports with no breaks and still having to be successful.”

The UNA triathlon club is open to all levels and is geared toward promoting a healthy lifestyle.

“It’s cool to see the different levels of interest and ability,” Hater said. “Some come in with a goal of just finishing a race, and others want to place. We welcome both.”

The club will compete in the Club Nationals in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in October.

Swim the length of Wilson Dam – one mile. Jump out and run along Cox Creek Parkway until you cross Wood Avenue – six miles. Hop on a bicycle and pedal until you cross the Tennessee state line, and then ride another six miles – 25 miles.

Sound impossible?

That’s the reaction David Hater, a senior geography major, hears from people when he tells them about UNA’s new triathlon club.

“It is difficult, but it can be done,” Hater said with a sly grin. “Hard, but definitely not impossible.”

By Water, by Foot, by Bike

Swim the length of Wilson Dam – one mile. Jump out and run along Cox Creek Parkway until you cross Wood Avenue – six miles. Hop on a bicycle and pedal until you cross the Tennessee state line, and then ride another six miles – 25 miles.
Fun and banter are always a part of his shows, although his underlying messages are sometimes more serious. Such was the case on Earth Day, when Dr. Mike Moeller, professor of chemistry, donned his lab coat and goggles to become The Wizard of TUNA, a character he has played for about 30 years.

At this particular performance, the Wizard addressed some of the world’s most serious challenges, at one point ripping through a soda can “because I was so enraged about someone not recycling,” Moeller said.

“I hope that, through performances like this, people seeing it will become more responsible citizens and raise the awareness of environmental concerns,” he said.

“Our objective,” she said, “was really to bring awareness to the students and the UNA community as a whole to be more conscious of what they’re throwing out. The Florence Recycling Center says that UNA brings them quite a lot of recyclables, but we can do more.”

Hofacker and her students hope, in the coming year, to lead “a whole campus effort to get one faculty member or one staff member in each building to be a recycling advocate for their building,” Hofacker said. “That’s going to be our big goal.”

The UNA Earth Day celebration was funded in part by a grant from the American Chemical Society.
The Apocalypse

Earth has been shaken by an apocalyptic disaster. Generations later, the unstable and still-recovering human race unearths, and later performs, a surviving copy of Shakespeare’s “Hamlet.”

Such was the setting for a student production of “Hamlet” in March. Assistant theatre professor Charlton James, who directed the play, said it provided an ideal canvas for the social picture painted by the Bard.

“In this post-apocalyptic world, the human race exists as a feuding society struggling to re-establish order and governance,” he said. “It’s the same way in ‘Hamlet,’ with the new king coming and trying to put a world back together that’s been destroyed.”

The “Hamlet” production was a collaboration between students of theatre and film and digital media, as the play included live acting as well as multimedia features.

“For example,” James said, “the fight at the end of the play was filmed on a green screen, and they made it to where the actors went inside of a matrix or a video game and had their final duel instead of doing it live on stage.”

GOING BACK IN TIME

Filmmakers and movie buffs went back in time March 4-7 as the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival celebrated the 25th anniversary of the blockbuster hit movie “Back to the Future.”

The celebration included several appearances by an exact replica of one of the film’s central characters, the DeLorean time machine.

The replica, built by husband-and-wife team Oliver and Terry Holler, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., has been featured in national publications and music videos, won numerous awards and has appeared with many of the creators and stars of “Back to the Future.” It was carefully built to match the original time machine seen in the “Back to the Future” trilogy, featuring the famous flux capacitor and functional circuit displays.

The film festival’s “Back to the Future” celebration also included writer/producer Bob Gale and actors James Tolkan and Claudia Wells. Tolkan played the role of Principal Strickland in “Back to the Future,” while Wells played Jennifer Parker, Marty McFly’s girlfriend.

Michael Scheffe, construction supervisor for the DeLorean time machine used in the film trilogy, was also a part of the celebration. Scheffe also designed the “Knight Rider” talking car K.I.T.T. and the flying taxi seen in “Back to the Future II.”

The George Lindsey UNA Film Festival is one of the few film festivals hosted by a university. The event was founded in 1998 in part by UNA alumnus and celebrated actor and entertainer George Lindsey (’52). Lindsey’s own film career has included several important roles, including the character Goober Pyle on “The Andy Griffith Show.”
Staying Connected

A UNA football game isn’t the only place you can find more than 10,000 UNA fans together in one place. For the past year-and-a-half, alumni, students and prospective students have flocked by the thousands to UNA’s Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.

“It’s like a magnet,” said Jeremy Britten, UNA’s Web communications manager. “People love getting daily updates from us on what’s happening on campus, what events are coming up, photos or videos from students.”

As Britten updates the social media pages daily, he said his goal isn’t only to keep UNA fans informed but also to provide a social network. “These are called ‘social’ media for a reason,” he said. “It’s not a one-way street. We love it when discussions arise and real interaction occurs between people, almost like it would at a real campus event.”

These interactions have helped alumni like Tammy Laughlin (’90), of Montgomery, reconnect with at least 40 of her UNA classmates in just the past six months.

“I graduated from UNA in 1990, so I haven’t seen most of these people in about 20 years,” she said, “but as soon as I joined the UNA Facebook group, it was like a class reunion.”

Laughlin has also used the social media tools to connect with other Montgomery-area alumni.

Julie Yates (’06), an admissions counselor, said the media have especially been a draw for prospective students wanting to learn more about the university.

“When they follow the university, whether on Twitter or Facebook,” she said, “it’s an instant way for them to see what’s going on at UNA and to learn more about the university.”

It’s also a quicker way for her and other admissions staff to connect individually with each prospective student, she said.

To follow UNA on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube or by RSS feed, visit www.una.edu/socialmedia.

UNA Alumni
BAND REUNION

Dust off that old tuba. Start practicing that kick line. Former members of the Pride of Dixie are reuniting Sept. 4, our first home football game of the season, for a halftime alumni performance with the current band. Reserve your place now at www.una.edu/universitybands.

FUN on the FIELD

“As an undergraduate, this is something that I wanted to do, but I didn’t put it into play until I became part of the professional staff,” said Jami Schepman (’04 & ’07), Assistant Director of Residence Life and organizer of the program. “It’s just a good way to bridge the gap between UNA and the community.”

Every year, the Senior Resident Assistants plan the event and are responsible for much of the success. This year Maggie Hogan, Scotty Rainwater, and Corey Medlen organized the entire event. Canned food from this year’s program was donated to the Help Center. To date, the event has collected over 19,000 cans of food to be donated to the Shoals area.

“Too Much Junk in the Trunk” is an amazing program with a fantastic cause,” said Scotty Rainwater, Senior RA. “It’s just a really good time for everyone involved.”

UNA Alumni
Band Reunion

Happy Birthday!

Hundreds of Shoals area schoolchildren packed Harrison Plaza the morning of April 9 for a piece of cake and a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday. The birthday kids: Leo III and Una.

The party marked the seventh birthday for the brother-and-sister African lions. Local schoolchildren, university students, and faculty and staff throw the mascots a party each year.

Happy Birthday!
That job was with shuttle program contractor USBI (United Space Boosters, Inc.), where Tim started out as a statistician and reliability engineer. “Basically, what that means is we did risk analysis of solid rocket booster components. We identified risks quantitatively, and we predicted failure rates,” he said.

In other words, Tim could predict for how long or how many times a part could be used before wearing out. In addition, he could tell you, mathematically, what the chances were of a part failing.

“We would do analyses for upper management and come back and tell them the risk of failure was, say, one in 100,000, and then they would determine if they wanted to take that risk or not.”

These were crucial tests and analyses because there was no room for failure in the shuttle program. Not unlike a football game, according to Tim.

“You have engineering, you have the payloads group, electronics, you name it. You have the external tank project, the main engine project. All these different project offices have to work together, and then it all gets integrated. Then you put it out there for a successful launch.”

But if just one of those projects breaks down, or if you’re not careful about safety and reliability, or if you’ve not made sure all the parts are the correct parts, “you can have disaster,” Tim said.
“You just work as a team. You have to work as a team. There’s no other way around it.”

Having spent most of his career to that point in a company of about 10,000 employees, Tim said he “was wanting to learn how small businesses work, and I wanted to have a little more impact on the direction of a company. So now, as vice president of operations for a small company, I’m doing a little bit of everything. I wear a lot of hats.”

His favorite hat? “Managing the people and developing strategies.”

Mike Allen, a NASA project manager Tim works with on a day-to-day basis, agreed those were Tim’s greatest strengths.

“Tim’s a real good quarterback,” he said. “From a standpoint of leadership, Tim knows exactly what everybody’s got to do to make everything successful. His taking it from the quarterback perspective of understanding the big picture of what you’re trying to do and then going out and executing it – Tim’s leadership skills are great in that.”

The shuttle program is one big picture to keep in focus as DP Associates helps wind the program down. There are more than 1 million pieces of property to be moved, disposed of or transitioned to the new Ares program. “And I don’t mean a million bolts and nuts,” Mike said. “I’m talking about a million different kinds of property.”

Tim’s job, in a nutshell, is to ensure each of those properties fall into the right hands at the right time. And the right time doesn’t necessarily mean by this fall, when the shuttle program wraps up its final mission.

“When that last shuttle lands, there’s still going to be a lot of work to do on assets, testing hardware, parts inventory,” Tim said. “We have to tear down shuttle-related buildings so we can have more land assets, determine what assets the Ares program will want to use, and determine what’s the timeline when they can acquire and use those assets. We’re working those milestones and schedules to ensure an optimal path to when those assets can be turned over.”

Sure, it’s a lot to keep up with. But isn’t that what quarterbacking is all about?

Quarterbacking is all about planning. Strategizing. Knowing where everyone is – and where they’ll be two seconds from now. Knowing the exact moment – the precise millisecond – to pass the ball, hand it off or make a run for it.

Not long after joining USBI, Tim would begin taking night classes at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he eventually earned a master’s degree in industrial and systems engineering. But a few years later, the quarterback in him was itching to get back into more of a leadership role. That’s when he commuted to Tuscaloosa for his MBA and then started down the management path, taking on roles as senior engineer, team leader and project manager.

Two years ago, that path would lead to his current role as vice president of operations for DP Associates, a small Huntsville-based contractor responsible for helping NASA, in what Tim calls the fourth quarter of its shuttle program, bring the shuttle program to a successful conclusion.
After all the months of labor, sweat, tweaking your project to perfection, and then coordinating with every other player and coach to integrate with every other shuttle project, “it’s finally out there on the launch pad. And when they start the countdown, they light those solid rockets – it’s just a great feeling.

“You’re standing, say, a mile away, and it’ll be about six seconds before the sound waves get to you with that roar. But the rumble of those three main engines and two solid rocket boosters is impressive. It really makes you feel proud.

“I can tell you, watching that shuttle launch live is a lot like scoring a touchdown or throwing a touchdown. It’s just an incredible feeling of satisfaction.”

But his real touchdown, Tim said, has been everything that’s followed since his time at UNA.

“I wouldn’t take back the experience I had at UNA for anything,” he said.

“I’m really proud of my days at UNA and what I was able to accomplish there. UNA gave me a good foundation – I mean, it really did – to do a lot of the things that I’ve accomplished. It was because of the time I spent at UNA. It’s a great school.”
The music legacy of the Shoals area began with recording studios like Fame, where legends such as Duane Allman and Aretha Franklin famously sought out the “Muscle Shoals Sound.” Florence native Sam Phillips produced artists such as Elvis and Johnny Cash at his renowned Sun Records. Grammy Award-winning songwriter Gary Baker has a production studio in downtown Florence.

Once considered the Hit Recording Capital of the World, the Shoals’ music legacy runs deep. And that legacy is still thriving on the campus of UNA. Singing River Records is a student-run record label located in the Guillot University Center. The label works in conjunction with the Department of Entertainment Industry and produces a new local up-and-coming artist each year.

"There are a lot of universities that have programs like our entertainment industry degree that have student-run record labels. The oldest and most famous is Cane Records at the University of Miami," said Dr. Bob Garfrerick, chair of the entertainment industry department.

Incorporating a hands-on and student-run record production company with classroom instruction was always in the back of Dr. Garfrerick’s mind. "Starting a program such as this at UNA was a vision of mine since I got here, but we just weren’t really set up yet, whether it was recruiting students or having a codified business structure," Garfrerick said. "Three years ago we just started and said we’re going to do it."

Garfrerick wanted the learning experience the students would have to be as practical as possible. "Lots of schools do compilations of different musicians, but I wanted the concept to be more on finding and producing a single artist," said Garfrerick. "I wanted it to be more realistic."

The first year, Singing River Records was a one-semester project. "The first year was sort-of like a beta test, and we learned from that," Garfrerick said.

Singing River Records currently operates as a two-semester project. "In the fall semester, we find the artist, record the artist and develop the marketing plan," Garfrerick said. "In the spring, we actually articulate that marketing plan and do a showcase and actually sell the record."

The entertainment industry faculty – including Garfrerick, Janna Malone ('87 & '00) and James Hearn – advise the students working at the record label with a hands-off approach. "We try to let the students do it themselves and basically just advise and give counsel. Our preference would be for the students to do it all and just ask us questions," Garfrerick said. "As odd as it sounds, we want them to make mistakes because you learn from mistakes. And they have certainly made mistakes along the way, but there’s nothing like making those mistakes and someone having that ‘Ah-Ha! Moment’ and really learning."

Singing River Records provides students an opportunity to work on a record at every stage in the process. Marketing students will work on the advertising and artwork of the record while entertainment industry students focus on the technical process of engineering and producing a record. All the students will then come together to execute a cohesive business plan to market and sell the final product.

UNA senior Thomas Smith, the assistant sound engineer on this year’s project and the lead engineer on next year’s record, has experienced the practical learning process the record label cultivates. "The hands-on experience is more valuable than the book experience . . . especially in this industry," Smith said. "You can learn about this stuff all day long in a classroom, but until you put the knowledge you have in your head to use, then you don’t really understand it."

Both Smith and Garfrerick believe that learning to work on deadline is one...
of those invaluable skills the students working on the label are forced to pick up.

“You learn a lot about problems and problem solving. Not everything works the way you plan it out in your initial meetings, and honestly, that’s how it is in real life,” Smith said. “People want things done at this deadline, and sometimes that deadline is not always possible, but trying to figure out how to reach it is where you learn.”

Garfrerick said there is nothing like going through the panic of “we have a release date and we don’t have a project yet” to convince a student of the importance of meeting deadlines.

“We get to experience the deadline stress here, but in the industry you’ve got to meet the deadlines or you’re not going to keep your job,” Smith said.

Garfrerick believes the record label puts learning into action and subsequently produces a more confident and more employable student.

Kris Cochran started out writing songs for the label’s second artist, Rachel Pochop, and then became a producer at Singing River Records. The confidence in understanding how the industry works is not lost on Cochran.

“This is a good opportunity for people who want to work in the entertainment industry,” Cochran said. “It gives you what you need so that you know what you’re doing when you go into the real world.”

The Singing River Records staff also learns to put away any biases towards certain musical styles while working on the projects.

“Part of becoming a pro is realizing you have those biases and getting past them,” Garfrerick said. “The real question becomes, ‘Is there a market?’”

Singing River Records produced contemporary Christian artist Lee Taylor the first year, pop artist and UNA student Rachel Pochop the second and bluegrass-inspired Michael Clement this year.

“I’m not a big bluegrass listener, but we had some ideas about Michael Clement and we started brainstorming and thought it would be cool to keep some of the bluegrass feel but add a little rock and pop to appeal to more people,” Smith said.

Garfrerick is also aiming at making Singing River Records a full-service record label for the artists.

“I want us to develop a 360 deal approach to our artists. That means getting into actually booking the artist and doing the whole thing instead of just throwing a CD out there,” Garfrerick said.

Singing River Records will begin looking for a new artist this summer.

Smith is already practicing his pitch to local musicians. “Hey, we’re a record label, and we can produce an awesome sounding demo for free!”
The University of NORTH ALABAMA has no shortage of experts – and not just the academic types. Want to talk sports cars? We have a collector. Or maybe you’re planning a trip to any one of our national parks. Dr. Coates has seen them all and can give you travel tips for each. At UNA, we have an expert on pretty much any topic you can name, academic or not. Recently, we asked a few of them for a favorites list. Here’s what they shared …

Dr. Will Verrone, assistant professor of English, is one of several UNA film scholars. When he recently ranked his top 10 musicals, he said he wasn’t giving us a “best of” list, but “musicals worth your time.”

Dr. Will Verrone’s Top 10 Musical Films (in Chronological Order)

1. “Gold Diggers of 1933” (1933) – Busby Berkeley choreographed extravaganza.
3. “Singin’ in the Rain” (1952) – Cult classic with great, memorable tunes.
4. AC Cobra 427
5. Triumph TR6
6. Chevrolet Corvette 1955
7. Aston Martin DB4
10. “All that Jazz” (1979) – Slightly surreal biofilm of Bob Fosse.

Dr. Bob Armstrong’s Top 10 Sports Cars of All Time

1. Jaguar E-type Series 1, 1965
2. Ferrari 250 GTO
3. Austin Healey BJ8
4. AC Cobra 427
5. Triumph TR6
6. Chevrolet Corvette 1955
7. Aston Martin DB4
8. Porsche Carrera GT
9. Lotus Elise Series 2
10. Lotus Elise Series 2

Top 10 Ways to Know You’re a Parrothead

Melody Stewart (‘08), director of annual giving, sets the bar quite high for Parrotheads and Parrothead wannabes. If you think you’re a real Buffett fan, read on. But if you don’t understand at least half of what you’re reading, it’s time to turn in your shark hat.

1. Your favorite junk food is a cheeseburger – but only if you can have it with a draft beer.
2. You have absolutely no idea who Chainsaw McGregor was.
3. You sometimes forget that December 25 is also Christmas.
4. You randomly ask people, “Where is Joe Merchant?”
5. You know who Ainsworth is.
6. An entertainment district in Florence, on the order of Memphis’s Beale Street or Austin’s 6th Street.
8. A great Indian restaurant.
9. A 300-500 seat venue for my student label, Singing River Records, get a Grammy. 10. Your favorite day is Monday.

Your favorite junk food is a cheeseburger – but only if you can have it with a draft beer.

1. You put FNZ2R on your UNA license plate.
2. You have absolutely no idea who Chainsaw McGregor was.
3. You sometimes forget that December 25 is also Christmas.
4. You randomly ask people, “Where is Joe Merchant?”
5. You know who Ainsworth is.
6. An entertainment district in Florence, on the order of Memphis’s Beale Street or Austin’s 6th Street.
8. A great Indian restaurant.
9. A 300-500 seat venue for my student label, Singing River Records, get a Grammy. 10. Your favorite day is Monday.
Bobby Champagne, head coach for men’s basketball, is always encouraging Lion fans to buy their season tickets. Here are his top 10 reasons why:

**Coach Champ’s Top 10 Reasons to Purchase UNA Athletic Season Tickets**

10. To impress family, friends and business associates.
8. To be a part of the next national championship.
7. For the free dessert and drink coupons.
6. To pretend you’re still a crazy college student.
5. Chair-back seating – no more bleacher butt.
4. To learn the latest trends in head coach fashion. (Where else can you wear purple and gold, stilettos, white dinner jacket, a sweater vest or a pink tie?)
2. Terry Bowden.
1. To become a true “athletic supporter.”

As UNA’s vice president for student affairs, David Shields arguably has one of the most stressful jobs on campus. Here’s a glimpse into his day-to-day life.

**David Shields’s Top 10 Ways to Know You’re a Vice President for Student Affairs**

10. You are the Parking Czar for the university, yet you have no wisdom or power to make parking work for everyone.
9. When your phone rings after 11 p.m., you know it is not the Publisher’s Clearing House telling you that you won a million dollars.
8. You get to watch young students grow into accomplished and talented leaders as they graduate and start their careers.
7. Students, colleagues and your boss save up their money to throw baseballs at you in a dunking booth.
6. Students make suggestions all year long as to what you should be for Halloween.
5. Your cell phone rings so much that, if you turn it on vibrate, it can be used as a muscle massager.
4. You create “Mr. Johns” meetings on your schedule so you can get a bathroom break.
3. You get to hear excuses like, “I just tasted the beer and never swallowed it.”
2. You get advice from the Parking Czar.
1. You have the opportunity to work at a job that is more rewarding and fulfilling than you could ever imagine.

Dr. Tom Coates, chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has traveled the nation to work, camp, explore and just plain enjoy our great National Park areas. Here are a few of his favorites.

**Dr. Tom Coates’s Top 10 National Park Service Units**

10. Blue Ridge National Parkway
9. Little Bighorn Battlefield
8. Rocky Mountain National Park
7. Glacier National Park
6. Badlands National Park
5. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
4. Wind Cave National Park
3. Grand Teton National Park
2. Devils Tower National Monument
1. Yellowstone National Park
TEEING OFF WITH THE LEGENDS

More than 100 golfers teed off with Bobby Bowden, Wimp Sanderson, Ron McKinnon and about 30 other celebrities May 3 at the UNA Sportsman’s Club Celebrity Golf Classic. The event, held at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals, was to benefit athletic scholarships through the UNA Sportsman’s Club.

DON’T MISS OUT NEXT YEAR
The 2011 UNA Sportsman’s Club Celebrity Golf Classic is scheduled for May 2.
Enjoying Success in a Different Arena

As the final seconds ticked off the clock on the Huntsville Havoc’s 2010 victory over the Mississippi Surge to claim the Southern Professional Hockey League President’s Cup, it was more than the climactic moment of a banner season for UNA alum Ashley Balch (’97). It was a moment six years in the making.

Balch, a graduate with a B.S. degree in Journalism and Public Relations, is the Vice President for Business Operations for the Huntsville Havoc and is a pivotal part of a management team that has helped build the Huntsville franchise from the ground up.

Ashley joined the eventual Havoc franchise in 2004 before the team even had a name, and has worked tirelessly for the last six years with team owner Keith Jeffries and team President Kevin Walker to achieve the championship moment the team experienced in April.

“Joining the Havoc was by far the best decision I’ve made,” Ashley said. “It was working with a sport that I wasn’t that familiar with but besides learning some new terminology and things like that, everything else is the same. I have the chance to work with good people and be a part of a great organization.”

Ashley said one of the most satisfying moments came after the championship was won when the team helped a community-wide celebration event.

“At the team celebration, a lot of fans and players came up and thanked us for our work and to have them acknowledge us in the front office meant a lot,” he said.

Ashley and his wife Amy have been married eleven years and have a son (Bryce) and daughter (Eliza Claire).

“This is a business and if you don’t sell sponsorships, and sell ads, and sell game tickets, you don’t have a team,” he said. “You have to do a lot of creative things.”

Ashley says one of the first hockey games he ever attended was the Havoc’s franchise opener in 2004.

UNA Golf Team Making History, Again

The 2009 University of North Alabama men’s golf team made history when it won the school’s first ever Gulf South Conference golf title, and left the 2010 squad of Lion golfers a tough act to follow. Especially when you consider that Lions only returned two of their top five golfers from 2009.

BALCH

ENJOYING SUCCESS IN A DIFFERENT ARENA

UNA Alumni Ashley Balch with the Southern Professional Hockey League President’s Cup. Ashley is a Vice President for Business Operations for the Huntsville Havoc.

J.F. Taylor, Ricky Stimets, Tyler Chandler, Brett Munson, Graham Byrom, Wes Coleman, Nick Sparks, and Spencer Pace.

GSC individual title as a member of the UNA golf team and he becomes the only student-athlete in GSC golf history to win the individual crown as a player and then return to claim Coach of the Year honors.

At UNA, Ashley Balch worked two years as the sports information director at Alabama A&M University before taking a position as director of media relations for the Tennessee Valley Vipers of the Arena Football League. It was after four years with the Vipers that the offer to join the Havoc came his way.

“I have had the chance to be around championships at UNA and with the Vipers but I think this one with the Havoc has meant more to me personally because I have been actively a part of building it, and have invested so much in it over the last six years,” he said.

“To be a part of this celebration is pretty special. To have the chance to get to know the guys the way you do, the great folks you work with every day, and the community that has come out and supported us, it is just been awesome.”

With the Havoc, Ashley directs media relations, coordinates game promotions and team merchandise, and oversees the team’s website and interns. His efforts have helped the Havoc lead the league several years in attendance where they have averaged over 4,000 fans per game over a 28 game home season.

Ashley said the experience he gained as student worker at UNA and the connections he made there helped prepare him for the media relations side of things.

“Having a chance to have real responsibility in my job at UNA and working with a wide range of sports over several years helped me learn so much more than I ever could have just in the classroom. It also helped open a lot of doors since I had the chance to meet and work with a lot of other folks in athletic media relations.”

As the final seconds ran down on the clock, my first feeling was relief in that we had accomplished what we had been working for so long. Then as I had the chance to sit back a little and soak it all in, I just felt a real excitement for our players and organization.”

Being around championship teams and big events is nothing new for Ashley. A Hartselle, Ala., native, he came to UNA in 1993 where, in addition to his studies, he took a position as a student worker in the UNA Office of Sports Information. In that position he assisted on publications, game operations, kept statistics, wrote news releases and worked in every capacity imaginable with UNA’s 12 intercollegiate athletic teams – including the Lions’ three consecutive NCAA Division II National Championship football teams.

During his time at UNA he also had the opportunity to work at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta as the Media Tribune Coordinator for volleyball at the Omni. In that position he coordinated press seating and operations for up to 3,000 media members on any given day. Following his graduation from UNA, Ashley worked two years as the sports information director at Alabama A&M University before taking a position as director of media relations for the Tennessee Valley Vipers of the Arena Football League.

The 2009 University of North Alabama men’s golf team made history when it won the school’s first ever Gulf South Conference golf title, and left the 2010 squad of Lion golfers a tough act to follow. Especially when you consider that Lions only returned two of their top five golfers from 2009.

In April the 2010 edition of the UNA golf team made history of its own with a second straight GSC title that came with numerous individual honors.

As a team, UNA’s 855 total at this year’s tournament was the second lowest 54 hole total in the history of the GSC Tournament, second only to Nicholls State’s 850 in 1979.

UNA senior Brett Munson of Louisville, Ky., took medalist honors with a 12-under-par, 204 total after firing rounds of 69, 67 and 68. His 54 hole total was the lowest individual score in the 19-year history of the GSC Tournament.

First-year UNA golf coach Stuart Clark (’99) made history of his own when he was named Gulf South Conference Coach of the Year. Clark won the 1996 GSC individual title as a member of the UNA golf team and he becomes the only student-athlete in GSC golf history to win the individual crown as a player and then return to claim Coach of the Year honors.

As the three of us have run this thing for six years,” Ashley said. “It is a lot of creative things.”

“People want to be entertained and they want to be entertained the whole time they are there.”

2009 – 2010 Huntsville Havoc
Alumni President message from the Alumni President

I am very much honored and look forward to serving as the president of UNA’s Alumni Association for the year 2009-2010. It is a very exciting time for the university. We have a record student enrollment (over 7,000), our football team/coach gained national attention in the Division II playoffs, and our women’s soccer team reached the finals. We, as alumni, take pride in the accomplishments of this wonderful university and its students.

The alumni office staff has been particularly busy this year, travelling many miles in contacting alumni, organizing new chapters, and participating in existing chapter activities. They have visited chapters in Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, the Carolinas, and Alabama. They are taking UNA ‘on the road’ to keep distant alumni connected to the university family. Alumni have enjoyed outings at baseball games, cultural activities, TV game watch parties, and tailgating at in- and out-of-town football games. These chapter organizations have produced a partnership and direct line of communication with the alumni office on campus. We want to continue that important partnership.

As president of UNA’s Alumni Association for the year 2009-2010, I am very much honored and look forward to serving alumni of the University of North Alabama and give back. There are many changes coming in the months ahead, and most importantly, giving back financially. Your contributions in any amount are vital in supporting the association’s scholarships (a way of giving back by providing an opportunity for a talented high school student to attend our university); joining the UNA OnLion social community (by becoming a card-carrying Alumni Pride Member); joining a local alumni chapter–getting involved, and, most importantly, keeping distant alumni connected to the university and its students.

The alumni office has worked hard at establishing partnerships and direct line of communication with the alumni office on campus. We want to continue that important partnership. Dr. Alan Medders, Office of Advancement, and Carol Lyles, Office of Alumni Relations, are readily available to answer any questions you might have and offer assistance to alumni. Give them a call or stop by for a visit in beautiful, fully restored Rogers Hall, our home on campus.

Now is a great time for all of us to become more involved in supporting the university that has given us so much. It’s our turn to give back. We can do this by becoming a card-carrying Alumni Pride Member, purchasing a UNA license plate ($47.50 goes to scholarships), joining the UNA Online social community to keep abreast of what the university is doing, and joining a local alumni chapter–getting involved and, most importantly, giving back financially. Your contributions in any amount are vital in supporting the association’s scholarships to deserving students. Take pride in being alumni of the University of North Alabama and give back.

John Battcher ('65)
Alumni President, 2009-2010

UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS
John Battcher ('65), President
Bret Helmes ('70), President Elect
Paul McCauley ('74), Treasurer
Cliff Daniel ('73), Vice President
Sarah Beth Vandeveer ('74), Vice President
Pete Barney ('74), Secretary
Lucy Trousdale ('73), Treasurer
Heath Fraustopper ('74), Legal Counsel
Jun Higuchi ('92), Past President
William Smith ('76), Past President/Advisor
Reeda Lee ('74), Chapter Advisor
Patricia Rees ('77), Faculty/Staff Advisor
Jake and Ernest Haggard ('76), Public Relations
Carole Lyles ('76), Director of Alumni Relations

UNA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Stuart Audubon ('70), Florence
Booxy Brave ('71), Florence
Sandri Bethel ('77), Birmingham
Andy Rafferty ('75), Florence
Judy Callies ('69), Athens
Clint ('00) and Rebecca Carter ('00), Huntsville
Ryan ('01) and Lisa Clayton ('00), Florence
Ken Davis ('73), Muscle Shoals
Niki Dunn ('70), Athens
Jeff ('74) and Pam Edwards ('75), Birmingham
Jim Langston ('70), Auburn
Harry Moore ('70), Florence
Bart ('76) and Sherron Rickard ('76), Florence
Red Shoap ('78), Muscle Shoals
Andrée Panier ('78), Florence
Bethie Taylor ('78), Decatur
Ron Taylor ('76), Muscle Shoals
Linda Vauhan ('70), Muscle Shoals
Mareal Moore ('70), Athens
Charles Winters ('76), Huntsville
Dwain Vio ('76), Muscle Shoals

UNA ALUMNI CHAPTER LEADERS
Alabama
Greg McCramick ('74), Athens
James Ingham ('75), Gracewood-Birmingham Area
Jim Page ('71), Decatur
Ernest Haggard ('74), Florence
Tom Greenbush ('74), Gladstone
Sandy Underwood ('77), Huntsville
Nicki (70) and Sharon Rickard ('76), Florence
Ron Wright ('78), Summer Monticello
Joe Bailey ('80), Florence
Kip Davis ('78), Florence
Linda Vauhan ('70), Muscle Shoals
Gaye Child ('71), Dothan
Florida
Maury Stegall ('78), Jacksonville
Georgia
Daniel Taylor ('83), Macon
Tori Davis ('85), South Georgia
Mississippi
Amanda Evans ('81), South Mississippi
North Carolina
Carl Minns ('81), Raleigh
Tennessee
Chuck Hunt ('72), Guntersville
Logan Key ('72), Grainger
Mac & Carly Stu ('72), Southern Middle Tennessee
Bill Boone ('89), Alcoa/Farragut
George Outlaw ('86), Maryville/Bunswick
Texas
Paul Smith ('66), Dallas/Midland
Tom McNeill ('69), Houston
International
Ge Pengyan ('09), China
Angel Cueva ('04), Spain
Departmental
Jeff McCrary ('83), OnLion Band
Chris Smith ('91), Geography
Joanne Williams, Student Alumni Association
Stacy Chilkier ('05), Social Work

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3. Charles Winters ('86), Tommy Whitten ('77), and Thomas Whitten ('99)
4. Clinton ('00) and Rebecca Carter ('02) with Astronaut Jan Davis
5. Jeff and Crystal James ('04) with Terry Bowden
6. Brian Hinson ('93)
7. Bob Hill and Ray Darner ('83)
8. Eric Kerzman ('79 & '02), and TJ Bowden
9. Gail Sutherland ('92), Paul Cooper ('66), Chuck Horn, and Mary Hendry ('88)
10. John and Ann Battcher ('65), Norma McGee, Tammy Laughlin ('89), Sandra Bahal ('77), Josh McCal ('07), Leah Beth Drum ('10), Alexis Allen ('98), BJ Cale, Josh Woolridge, Joyce Moore ('96), Rochelle 'Oval ('85), Melody Stewart ('06), Bill Cale, Carol Lyles ('70), and Ron Wright ('70)

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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
DOCTORS IN THE HOUSE

With the campus-wide vision of a new science, engineering, and allied health complex on the horizon we are sharing with you a snapshot of physicians who have graduated from the University of North Alabama departments of Chemistry, Biology and/or Pre Health Professional curricula. Through the decades UNA undergraduate health professionals have matriculated to top medical universities and become award-winning, internationally recognized professionals.

Kellee Reed Shea, D.O. (98)
Dr. Kellee Reed Shea is currently the assistant CIO and staff ED physician of Florida Emergency Physicians in Orlando, Florida. Kellee, a UNA Student Government Association President in 1997 and a member of Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society, received a Bachelor of Science in Professional Biology from UNA and a Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine in 2000 at Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky. Her internship and residency were both completed in New York.

Kellee is married to Jimmy Shea, 2002 Olympic Gold Medalist; they have a daughter, Taylor.

"One of the best parts of my job is to teach medical students and residents. The spark in their eyes when they begin to understand how the body controls blood pressure or even how to treat a migraine is part of the satisfaction. The memories I have from my time at UNA—everything from Dr. Russell’s Butler Paper Test to Dr. Richardson’s trip for Aquatic Ecology to Dauphine Island—I carry with me every day. I am excited that UNA has a new Science Building in its future, for it is so important to provide a place to educate the scientists of tomorrow that matches the quality of education being delivered. In the words of Galileo: ‘You cannot teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself.’ The new Science Building, with its state-of-the-art facilities, will do just that."

E. Lee Taylor, Jr., M.D. (’63)
Dr. Lee Taylor, a native of Florence, Ala., served four years in the Air Force, then entered Florence State College and graduated with a double major in biology and chemistry. He received his M.D. in 1967 from the University of Alabama College of Medicine. He was certified by the American Board of Family Medicine from 1974-2008.

Taylor practiced private family medicine in rural northwest Alabama and in Richmond, Va., for seven years, served as Chairman of the Pensacola Navy Hospital Family Medicine training program and later served as Director of Naval Medical Education training programs at the Naval Health Sciences Training Command in Bethesda, Md., and Washington, D.C.

Returning to civilian life as Professor and Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham (UAB) from 1983-1990, Taylor served as regional Dean and Professor of Family Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo, Texas. Dr. Taylor was the Chairman and Professor of Family Medicine at the University of South Alabama Medical School until 2008 when he retired from active practice and teaching. He remains active as a consultant for a local hospital and is adjunct professor at USA. He was recently appointed by the governor to the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board.

Dr. Taylor credits the personal attention and caring by excellent faculty in all educational areas at UNA for the strong foundation they provided. He said, “It was this foundation that made postgraduate education and professional careers of each of us possible. Several members of our class were accepted to medical and dental schools and all performed in an excellent manner. With adequate support from alumni and friends for more science classroom facilities and laboratories, UNA has unlimited potential to provide an outstanding science education for students desiring a career in medicine, dentistry and the many scientific areas so badly needed for our global competitive technical environment and for our great state and local communities.”

Drs. Ry and Daisy Griffin (’04)
A lifelong resident of Florence, Ry Griffin attended UNA from 2000-2004 graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in professional biology and a minor in chemistry. While at UNA he was involved in numerous honor societies and the Student Government Association where he served as a senator and was instrumental in the initiation of a town-gown effort between the university and the City of Florence. He attended the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, earning a D.M.D. in 2008. As a dentist, Ry is a member of the American Dental Association, Alabama Dental Association, and the Tri-County Dental Association, where he currently serves as President.

Originally from Vinemont, Ala., Daisy Gingrich attended UNA from 2000-2004 graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in professional biology and a minor in chemistry. While there, she was a three year member of the LaGrange Society in addition to several honor societies. Upon graduation she attended the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford University earning a doctorate of pharmacy in 2008. She is currently employed as a clinical pharmacist at ECM Hospital and enjoys being back in Florence, serving the university and community that has given them so much.

"Floyd Hall is special to us. We owe our life together, as a part to this building and its wonderful professors. We met and became close friends during a physics class in the fall of our senior year. Through shared in many more courses and activities during our time at UNA, science was the link that brought us together.

"We could not have received a stronger foundation for our professional training than we did at UNA. Our professors inspired us to learn beyond what was expected and set a standard of excellence that ensured our future success. To continue this standard however, universities must remain current in curriculum and especially in technology. A new science facility would allow faculty and students to reap the benefits of the latest technology and equipment in their research and studies. In turn this would allow UNA to recruit more students to the pre-professional program. This area is in dire need of younger health care professionals. It is our hope that by having a state of the art facility in place the university can recruit more students who will return to this area just as Daisy and I did and serve the university and community that have given so much to its students.”

The Griffins catch up with one of their favorite biology professors, Dr. Donald Roush.
Michael D. Goodlett, M.D., F.A.A.F.P. ('79)
Auburn Sports Medicine team physician Dr. Michael Goodlett was named the 2008 Southeastern Conference Team Physician of the Year by the league at the SEC Sports Medicine Meeting.

For the past 18 years Goodlett has served as the Head Team Physician for all Auburn student-athletes, overseeing all of their daily sports medicine/primary care needs. Goodlett also serves as an affiliate professor in the Department of Kinesiology. He also sits on the Institutional Review Board for the use of Human Subjects in Research. A native of Moulton, Ala., Goodlett graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. He earned his medical degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine in Mobile.

He completed his family medicine residency training at the University of Alabama-Birmingham/Baptist Memorial Hospital. He is a certified Team Physician-American College of Sports Medicine and a charter member of the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine.

Dr. Lee Morris ('95)

Dr. Lee Morris grew up in Florence, Ala. and attended Bradshaw High School. While at UNA, Dr. Morris received his Bachelor of Science in Biology and was a member of the 1993 and 1994 National Championship football teams. Morris attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he received his Doctorate of Dental Medicine. After practicing general dentistry for four years, Morris decided to continue his education by pursuing a certificate in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He completed a six-year residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Missouri-Kansas City during which he received his Doctorate of Medicine. Morris moved back to serve the people of the Tennessee Valley in his practice of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

During his training, Dr. Morris had the opportunity and privilege of treating advanced surgical cases, which included facial trauma, craniofacial deformities, and maxillofacial pathologies. He spent a considerable amount of time training in anesthesia, trauma surgery, surgical intensive care, cosmetic surgery, orthognathic surgery, TMJ treatment and surgery, dental vascular surgery, advanced bone grafting, and dental implants.

Dr. Morris is married to the former Allison Sneed ('95) of Florence. They have three children: Daniel, Landon, and McKinley, and are expecting a new baby in July.

When asked about his undergraduate experience at UNA, Dr. Morris said that the strong academic foundation that he gained at UNA prepared him for success in his post-graduate studies. "The Biology and Chemistry Departments were both challenging and rewarding. Dr. Raymond Isbell was a wonderful mentor and inspiration.'

University of North Alabama Mission Statement

engaging in teaching, research and service to provide educational opportunities for students, an environment for discovery and creative accomplishment, and a variety of outreach activities meeting the needs of our region in the context of a global community.

From the UNA Strategic Plan 2007-2012.

As undergraduates in the pre-health curriculum, the University has made great strides in helping University of North Alabama students gain admission to medical schools:

Pre-medicine
Pre-osteopathic medicine
Pre-dentistry
Pre-optometry
Pre-podiatry
Pre-physical therapy
Pre-pharmacy
Pre-occupational therapy
Pre-physician assistant
Pre-medical technology
Pre-chiropractic medicine
Pre-naturopathic medicine
Pre-veterinary medicine

Kriston Kent, M.D., F.A.C.S. ('80)

Kriston Jack Kent, M.D., F.A.C.S., is currently the Medical Director and Owner of Naples Facial Plastic Surgery in Florida. He graduated in 1980 in Professional Biology from the University of North Alabama and earned his Doctorate in 1984 from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Kent completed his residency and internship at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.

Kent is board certified in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. He is Fellowship Trained in Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and a clinical associate at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

He was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush in 2001 to the State of Florida Board of Medicine and is currently an officer and member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

Kriston is the son of former UNA Professor Jack ($8) and Gayle Kent ($60). He is married to Charlotte Kent ($81) and is the father to Kristi, Allen and Aimee.

"Growing up in a small town in rural Alabama, and attending a "small state University" (UNA), I was concerned about being able to "keep up" with my new classmates at the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham. After all, many of them had graduated from very prestigious institutions like Duke, Vanderbilt, Emory, and several Ivy League schools. However, after one semester in medical school, I quickly learned that the challenges I received in anatomy and physiology by Dr. Paul Yekley had given me excellent preparation for medical school. I was #1 in my class, well ahead of my classmates from the elite schools.

"As med school continued, so did the confirmation of superb preparation by my undergraduate years at UNA. I finished the academic portion of med school #1 in my class and went on to serve as president of Alpha Omega Alpha, the honor society of medical students. Not bad for a "small state University" student!"

"With small classes, and immediate access to my professors, UNA provided me with the very best preparation for a career in medicine as a surgical specialist."

Please feel free to contact Dr. Amy E. Crews, Chief Health Professions Advisor, either via telephone at 256.765.4437, or via email at acreovs@una.edu with any questions.

Pre-osteopathic medicine
Pre-dentistry
Pre-optometry
Pre-podiatry
Pre-physical therapy
Pre-pharmacy
Pre-occupational therapy
Pre-physician assistant
Pre-medical technology
Pre-chiropractic medicine
Pre-naturopathic medicine
Pre-veterinary medicine

Please feel free to contact Dr. Amy E. Crews, Chief Health Professions Advisor, either via telephone at 256.765.4437, or via email at acreovs@una.edu with any questions.
Marcus Maples (’02) knew he would be a lawyer at the age of four. How did he know? Because his granddad said so! “That boy is gonna make a lawyer,” his grandfather often proclaimed. After only four years experience on Earth, Marcus was unclear as to what a lawyer does or even what one was! Nevertheless, “I’m going to be a lawyer” was always the answer to “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Apart from a brief period in the third grade when he aspired to author epic sagas that were loosely based on real events in his third grade reality, Marcus never swayed from his decision to become a lawyer.

When Marcus was an undergraduate at the University of North Alabama, his dream of going to law school and becoming a lawyer was finally made attainable when new professor Dr. Timothy Collins arrived on campus and began a mock trial program. The program brought with it a simple message: “This is what you need to do if you want to go to law school.” Through his involvement with the program, Marcus was given valuable networking opportunities including an internship with a local law firm. His experiences taught him how lawyers operate so! “That boy is gonna make a lawyer,” his grandfather often proclaimed. After only four years experience on Earth, Marcus was unclear as to what a lawyer does or even what one was! Nevertheless, “I’m going to be a lawyer” was always the answer to “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Apart from a brief period in the third grade when he aspired to author epic sagas that were loosely based on real events in his third grade reality, Marcus never swayed from his decision to become a lawyer.

Marcus Maples can credit his success as a lawyer to a start-up mock trial program at the University of North Alabama. While Marcus always knew he wanted to practice law, it was not until a mentor offered a straightforward approach of requirements and goals that he realized his dream of being a lawyer was a very attainable one.

Because Marcus’ experience in the mock trial program was so instrumental in paving the way to law school and a successful legal career, he has established “Students Today, Lawyers Tomorrow,” a mock trial program at Miles College to provide opportunities for African American students to engage in legal educations and careers.

In comparison to the African American population in the city of Birmingham and in all major cities, the number of African American attorneys is quite disproportionate. Marcus felt compelled to start the program at Miles College because it is an historically black school and his efforts and enthusiasm would surely impact the black community, specifically in such a setting. Thanks to enthusiastic faculty members, the road to implementation of “Students Today, Lawyers Tomorrow” was so instrumental in paving the way to law school and a successful legal career, he has established “Students Today, Lawyers Tomorrow,” a mock trial program at Miles College to provide opportunities for African American students to engage in legal educations and careers.

In addition to his time in the classroom, Marcus travels with the UNA Mock Trials team to mock trial competitions, is involved with LSAT preparation and matching Birmingham area attorneys to second-year students as mentors.

Marcus’ goal for “Students Today, Lawyers Tomorrow” is simple: four years from now, he wants to see all of the seniors from his charter class are currently preparing for the LSAT and beginning the law school application process. Marcus is dedicated to continue to offer a concrete plan to Miles students dreaming of a legal career. He understands that if he remains a faithful mentor to the students, they will find success in whichever field they choose.

At Sirote, Marcus’ practice consists of general business and commercial litigation matters. Specifically, he represents life, health, disability and long term care insurance companies in bad faith and ERISA-related issues, in addition to representing a variety of lenders in mortgage banking related matters.

Marcus’ role at Sirote or preparing his team for a competition, he spends a lot of his free time with his brand new wife, Kwoya. Kwoya and Marcus were married in August of this year after meeting and falling in love when they were both students at the University of Alabama. Some may be surprised to know that Marcus is not afraid to don his ten gallon hat in his hometown of Lester, Ala. and take to the trails on horseback. He is an hour and a half from desk chair to saddle—if someone saddles his horse for him!

Excerpt from Sirote and Permutt, PC

The Mock Trials Program at UNA

In the years since Marcus Maples’ time at UNA, the Mock Trials Program has continued to be an integral part of the UNA experience for pre-law students.

Just this past year, students brought home a case full of awards, including Best Attorney at the Mid-South Invitational Tournament, several Best Witness awards and Best Upcoming Program at the national invitational tournament in Iowa.

“We compete with the best students from the best colleges,” said Dr. Tim Collins, UNA’s pre-law advisor, Mock Trials program coordinator and faculty sponsor. “We have been competitive and finished in the top 10 in the nation in two of the last nine years.”

The UNA Mock Trials team compete regularly with national programs from Ivy League schools like Columbia, Yale and Cornell to flagship universities like UCLA, George Washington, University, Virginia, Duke, Furman, Rhodes and others. The American Mock Trials Association boasts more than 400 teams from every state.
UNA’s Phi Upsilon Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta Celebrating 35 Years of the famous

PIG DINNER!

It’s not always easy to do the right thing, but one UNA alumni made a tough choice to correct an injustice. He paid a steep price, and now he’s on a mission to help others stay on the ethical path.

UNA Accounting Scholars student group and Alpha Chi recently sponsored a presentation by Weston Smith (’82), UNA accounting alum. Smith described his time at UNA by saying, “It was a wonderful time, one UNA graduate made a tough decision that will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Weston Smith is currently the CFO of HealthSouth Corporation and recently authored a presentation by Weston Smith (’82), UNA accounting alum. Smith described his time at UNA by saying, “It was a wonderful time, one UNA graduate made a tough decision that will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Smith’s presentation focused on his ethical journey, starting with his time at HealthSouth and the ethical decisions he faced. His story is relevant because, unfortunately, others have made similar decisions that have had consequences.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM HEALTHSOUTH: THE CONSEQUENCES OF ETHICAL MALFEASANCE

Speaker: Weston Smith, former CFO of HealthSouth

Weston Smith’s presentation allowed us to see firsthand the importance of business ethics; an aspect that I could not gain from my textbooks alone. The right decision is not always the easiest decision to make, especially when one’s job is on the line. Weston Smith’s choices have had a lasting impact on his life, family, and ultimately his career. Consequently, Mr. Smith’s presentation had a lasting impact on my life, and his testimony will remain with me throughout my career.

Weston Smith encouraged us to reflect on how our ethical decisions impact others. He emphasized the importance of considering the consequences of our actions.

He challenged us to think about the ethical decisions we are faced with and to consider the potential outcomes of those decisions. His presentation reinforced the importance of ethical decision-making in the workplace.

Smith’s presentation also included a reflection on the ethical challenges he faced during his time at HealthSouth. He discussed his experience in the company’s $2.7 billion accounting scandal and the impact it had on him.

In conclusion, Weston Smith’s presentation was a powerful reminder of the importance of business ethics. His story serves as a reminder of the consequences of ethical decisions and the importance of making informed choices.

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Jim Hurst ('55), president of Gobbie-Fite Lumber Company in Decatur, was named honorary member of the Delta Mu Delta international honorary business administration at a ceremony on campus. Hurst grew up in Lawrence County. He served in law enforcement for 45 years on active and reserve duty as a police sergeant. He then entered the field of public relations and will hang in the gallery of the education building at UAN. During his career in the Florence City School System, he taught science and gifted education. At UNA she earned her E.D. degree as well as her gifted education certification. She later earned a master’s degree from Ohio State University.

Jerry Kimbrough ('73) is a market analyst and the new chief Executive Officer at Wholesale Trade Group in Florence. He was a member of the Delta Mu Delta, the college of Business honors program and the director of its Small Business Development Center.

Richard "Randy" Hamilton ('90) has been named the new Chief Executive Officer of the newly built Blue Springs Elementary school which was scheduled to open in June. He has been the assistant principal at Crestwood Elementary since 2003. Randy and his wife Martha "Regina" Hamilton ('89) live in East Limestone near Athens with their two children ages 15 and 10.

Todd Arrowsmith ('93) was named as the top sales associate at UNA during December 2009. He has been a Florida resident since 1987 and has worked in the insurance industry for 15 years. He is married with two children ages 15 and 10.

Russell "Russ" Barney ('88) recently concluded his 15 year tenure serving as a police sergeant in North Carolina after serving nine months in Iraq. In Iraq and 13 other police officers served in the Iraq war as part of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team of the U.S. Army. He has been a Florida resident since 1987 and has worked in the insurance industry for 15 years. He is married with two children ages 15 and 10.

Joseph Kimbrough ('80) was nominated for the pride he takes in helping grant the wishes of children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He directions and leads by example. Kimbrough is known in our community of Cordova, Tenn. as a "big heart" serving as a business manager for the Junior Achievement Office for Accredited Group.

David Palmer ('80) has recently been named the editor of The Cullman Times. He has nearly 30 years of newspaper industry experience.

Jonathan Edwards ('83) is president and CEO of the Edwards Group of Companies in Lawrenceburg, Tenn., as well as owner of the world’s largest wholesale press in the world. He is married to the First National Bank of Lawrenceburg CEO. He is married to the First Farmers & Merchants Bank Board of Directors.

Eleanor McCullin Bulathsinghalage ('79), music librarian for the University of North Alabama Department of Music and Theatre, performed at a " Saving Our Lives: Art Songs for African American Women Composers. " Bulathsinghalage, a Florence native, graduated from UNA with a bachelor’s degree in music education with an emphasis in choral/vocal music. She earned a master’s degree in vocal performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Larry "JR" Jeter ('86) was recently named Cobb County’s Teacher of the Year for the school system and is grateful for her professors from UNA who taught her while she earned her master's degree.

Sandy Bailey ('76) is a nurse in the living and working quarters for construction support to improve current economic situations. She has a 30-year career in health care, with 25 years at the hospital. She was named the new chief executive officer of the hospital in 2002 after making the decision to raise cattle full-time. He is now a Lexington cattle farmer and recently he was elected state regional vice president by the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association. He will be serving a three-year term.

Charles Inman ('71) is the new interim pastor for First Baptist Church in Monrovia, Texas, where he served four years as pastor 30 years ago. He spent time both in Texas and in Florence. Charles is a member of the University of North Alabama Alumni Association. His wife Kathy is a member of the advancement staff at UNA.

Jerry Kimbrough ('73) has been with Warren, Averitt, Kimbrough and Gilmore since 1979 and is a long time member of the firm’s Executive Committee. Jerry serves clients in the real estate, financial, construction and manufacturing industries. He is engaged in general business consulting and tax and business planning. He is also a Certified Valuation Analyst and has performed valuations for estate and gift tax purposes and stock ownership plans, as well as for the purposes of the valuation of businesses.

Kimbrough was the keynote speaker for the 2010 Accounting Awards Banquet and shared important advice for developing a successful career including the need for good time management, knowledge of the law and accounting world, developing communication skills and being a good leader.

Doris Metcalf ('72) retired in 2006 after 34 years on the job in Florence. She was recognized last year at Stilman College in Tuscaloosa, Ala., as the newest inductee into the school’s Educator Hall of Fame. She was awarded a certificate and a key that will hang in the gallery of the education building at Stilman. During her career in the Florence City School System, she taught science and gifted education. At UNA she earned her E.D. degree as well as her gifted education certification. She later earned a master’s degree from Ohio State University.

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1. Zefross Moss, Alan Arrington, A.J. Milwee ('09), Ben Murphy, and Chris Willis
2. Sue Self Raines
3. James Hendrix, James Daughterty, William Smith, Chris Burns
4. Chunsheang Zhang
5. Bobby Bowden and Corey Harris
6. Clayton Morgan and Daryl McMinn ('94)
7. President Bill Cale
8. Susan Parker
9. Daniel Creel ('08)
10. Danny Simpson
11. Barry Morris
12. Tammy Irons (’86)
13. Clint Garrett, Mike McCrory ('90), Andy Davis, Derrick Mosley, and Bobby Bowden
14. Stan Walker
15. Bobby Bowden and Johnny Simpson
16. Wendall Hudson
17. William Smith ('86 & '89)
18. Mike Miller
19. Terry Bowden, Tom ('50) and Helen York
20. Nick Martin, Jimmy and Brandi Oliver
21. Scott Theisen
22. Rusty Trapp
23. Mike McCrory ('90)
24. Brad Nichols ('97)
25. Alan Medders, Terry Bagwell ('83), and Melvin Brown-Moore
26. Patrick Hape and Stephen Kirkacemir (’65)
27. Phillip Bridgmon ('96)
28. Kin Taylor ('94)
Y E A R S  U N I D E N T I F I E D

James M. “Sissy” Allen, a veteran of the Marine Corps, attended Florence State (now UNA). He worked for C.I.T. Corporation in Nashville, Tenn., and later brought Griffith Motors (Burk, Pontiac, GMA dealer) he formed the Southwestern Tire Distributors, was founder/director of Mountain Empire Bank, and was past owner of the Jonesborough Herald and Tribune newspaper.

James E. Cross retired in 1992 after serving 41 years at the Tennessee Valley Authority as a power system dispatcher. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS-Clissum and the USS William M. Wood. He was a long-time member of Sheffield First United Methodist Church, where he enjoyed serving with the “Good Ol’ Boys” on Wednesday mornings. He graduated from Lenois High School and then attended Florence State Teachers College.

Martha White Cooke ‘62 was a teacher in the Tuscaloosa school system. She was a former member of the Tennessee Valley Art Center Board, the Helen Keller Library, the Colbert County Historical Association and a member of First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa.

Odell Willingham ‘42 (retired) in 1933 from Reynolds Metal Company. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he was a lifelong resident of Sheffield, Ala., and a member of First Baptist Church of Sheffield.

Nancy H. Halbrooks ‘45 (retired) was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Florence. Nancy and husband Hop owned the Magnolia Farm in Greenbrier in Limestone County, which was her birthplace.

Barbara B. Wood ‘70 received her bachelor’s degree in education from UNA. She was a member of a Town Creek First Baptist Church before he moved to St. Petersburg, Fla.

Judith C. Sullivan ‘80 (retired) was a resident of Florence, Ala., for over 30 years and a volunteer at Safeplace.

Robert “Steve” Bolling ‘81 went to the Cumberland School of Law to earn a degree. He was a member of a Town Creek First Baptist Church before he moved to St. Petersburg, Fla.

James L. Wesson III ‘69 (retired) worked for 27 years serving as the director of the UNA-Plattenville forensics team and directed and produced many productions in the fine arts. Karen retired in November 2008 after being named emeritus professor in the department of performing and visual arts. Karen was also awarded the Ave and Telly award for her contributions in television broadcasting. She was a devoted mother and grandmother.

Donna J. Sloan ‘80 was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and a member of Engagement United Methodist Church. She was employed as a social worker for Wiregrass Hospice.

Charles A. Findley ‘83 (retired) was a member of the Kiwanis club.

John D. Lassiter ‘84 (retired) served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Kiwanis Club of Tuscumbia.

Karen O. Allen ‘80 began her career in 1980 at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. She worked for 27 years serving as the director of the University-Platteville forensics team and directed and produced many productions in the fine arts. Karen retired in November 2008 after being named emeritus professor in the department of performing and visual arts. Karen was also awarded the Ave and Telly award for her contributions in television broadcasting. She was a devoted mother and grandmother.

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Todd C. Gaston ‘88 was a long time member of Hunter Street Baptist Church in Hoover, Ala. He served for over 35 years in sales at Jenkins Brick Company and Avanti Express. He is survived by his wife Tiana and their two children.

Gloria A. Simpson ‘90 worked as a counselor at Hazelwood and Moulton Elementary schools and also served as a library supervisor at UNA. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Dr. James K Simpson, former chair of the UNA Department of Music. They have two daughters who attended UNA. She was a member of Christ Chapel.

Misty R. Vickery ‘10 was a Colbert County native and a graduate of Cherokee High School. She is survived by her husband Garrick Vickery.

When you buy a UNA license plate, $47.50* of the $50 fee goes to student scholarships.

*Tax deductible as per IRS regulations

Support UNA's
ROAD SCHOOL

When you buy a UNA license plate, 47.50% of the $50 fee goes to student scholarships.

UNA Alumni Information Update

Name (Include maiden name if applicable)
Graduation Year(s) and Major(s)
Address
City
State
Zip
Home telephone
E-mail address
Business telephone

I want to get involved with UNA alumni in my area...
Local Chapter Development
Homecoming
NAAA Committee Assignment
Mentoring
Athletic Events
NAAA Board Member
Recruit Students
Reunions

Have you won an award, changed jobs, earned a promotion, or completed another degree? Your UNA classmates would like to know about more! Send us your news and we will publish it in a subsequent issue of the UNA Alumni Magazine. Please complete the form and send it to the Office of Alumni Relations, UNA Box 5047, Florence, AL 35632-0001 or e-mail to alumni1@una.edu.

UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

Alumni Records Update

Graduation Year(s) and Major(s)
Address
City
State
Zip
Home telephone
E-mail address
Business telephone

I want to get involved with UNA alumni in my area...
Local Chapter Development
Homecoming
NAAA Committee Assignment
Mentoring
Athletic Events
NAAA Board Member
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Jennifer Sunseri had excellent special education teachers. Now Jennifer's family wants to train more like them.

"Jennifer passed away in November at age 29, and we wanted to do something in her memory," said her mom, Kay Sunseri. The Sunseri family decided to create the Jennifer Leigh Sunseri Memorial Endowed Scholarship. "We felt this would be a very worthy cause – to train special education teachers at UNA."

The scholarship's impact will grow quickly since its awards to students will be doubled through the university's Lion Match Program.

For students, this means greater opportunity. For the Sunseri family, it means a lasting memorial.

Through Jennifer's scholarship, Kay said, more special education teachers will touch students' lives like Jennifer's teachers touched hers. "Her memory will help people for years to come."

The Courtview Society

The Courtview Society is a distinguished group recognizing people like the Sunseris, who are changing student lives through planned gifts. To learn how you can be a part, contact the Office of Planned Giving at 256-765-4861 or bkmoos@una.edu.
UNA SUMMER THEATRE

Linda Lavin
July 9; 7:30 p.m.
Norton Auditorium
Tickets: $25, $10 for students

“Greater Tuna”
June 24-27; 7:30 each evening, 2 p.m. July 27
GUC Performance Center
Tickets: $15, $5 for students

“Idiot’s Delight”
July 15-18; 7:30 p.m.
Norton Auditorium
Tickets: $18, $8 for students

Producer’s Circle tickets — $90
• Priority seating at each show • Recognition in show programs

256-765-INFO (4636) una.edu/summertheatre

Summer Theatre Program 🐘 University of NORTH ALABAMA
UNA Box 5188 Florence, AL 35632-0001