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As we conclude this academic year we look forward to the challenges and excitement that are on our horizon for 2012-2013. Our applicant pool for next fall exceeds last year by over 300, pointing to a resurgence in growth that has been absent for two years. We look forward to introducing an option in innovation at the MBA level, tailored for our international online students but also available to local graduate students. The History and Political Science Department is creating a new area of emphasis in Public History, and the Culinary Program will add another faculty member to support their phenomenal growth. And we are moving quickly to implement our campus-wide initiative in research literacy, the theme that was integral to our highly successful accreditation review last February. As one friend to UNA said to me recently, you’ve got a lot of balls in the air. Indeed we do, and wouldn’t have it any other way.

Dr. Alan Medders, Vice President for University Advancement, is leaving us in June to take a similar position at Columbus State University in the Southeast. Every SACS-accredited university, an eight-person team received what its president, Dr. William G. Cale Jr., called “the rarest of rare outcomes.” Following its on-site review of the university, an eight-person team from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reported no findings, recommendations, or need for follow-up. Such a report from SACS is achieved by only about 2 percent of colleges and universities undergoing similar reviews. SACS is the regional accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in the Southeast. Every SACS-accredited institution undergoes a review every 10 years.

On the morning of March 1, UNA received what its president, Dr. William G. Cale Jr., called ‘the rarest of rare outcomes.’ Following its on-site review of the university, an eight-person team from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reported no findings, recommendations, or need for follow-up. Such a report from SACS is achieved by only about 2 percent of colleges and universities undergoing similar reviews.

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I ‘felt good going into the review,’ Cale said, ‘but no one anticipates a perfect outcome.’ This is an affirmation of the excellent quality found at UNA.” The SACS review included two major components: UNA’s compliance with more than 80 academic and administrative standards, and its effective implementation of its Quality Enhancement Program (QEP). The QEP at UNA – entitled Building Success Through Discovery: Imagine, Investigate, Communicate – focuses on academic research literacy. The program helps ensure students’ strength in the reading, data collection, analysis, and presentation skills required in any given discipline or career.

The budget situation in Alabama remains strained and higher education faces another cut, this one of 4%, making our total reduction in State support about 34% ($11.1 million) since the budget crisis began. Donor giving continues to be strong and has become a vital element in UNAs efforts to keep a college education within the reach of our students. Thanks to all who support us.

We were sad to lose our dear friend and alumnus George Lindsey in May, and I hope you will all keep George’s family in your thoughts and prayers. George was with us for the annual film festival that bears his name, and as part of the festival we celebrated the grand opening of our new theatre, also named for George. Ernest Borgnine was here as well and in recognition of the many things Ernie has done for UNA, we named the performance hall within the theater for him. Pictures of the festivities are on the UNA web site (look at the week of February 26, 2012, in “This Week in Photos”).

As an added enticement to return to campus, our Department of Music and Theatre will offer as part of their America Classic summer series the Tennessee Williams favorite, A Street Car Named Desire. The show will be performed in the George S. Lindsay Theatre in late June and early July. Check the UNA homepage as the time draws nearer. Hope to see you there!

All my best,
Bill Cale

A FOUR-STAR REVIEW
University receives perfect outcome from SACS

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The official reaffirmation of UNA’s SACS accreditation is expected at the annual SACS conference in December.
College of Nursing offers new training simulation lab

By Lucy Berry
Senior Student Writer for University Communications

The College of Nursing at the University of North Alabama has a lot to be excited about recently with the addition of an on-campus medical training simulation lab, new accelerated options for students, and a partnership with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to help veterans nationwide.

Dr. Marilyn Lee, chair of the Department of Traditional Nursing, said every semester, students, faculty and staff come together in her department to give back to the community. They participate in blood drives, donate to food banks, and even won an award for their recovery efforts after last year’s devastating April 27 tornadoes.

In early spring, the nursing department opened its new medical training simulation lab for students. The lab, which is located in an old classroom in Stevens Hall that was remodeled to look like a hospital, has everything a UNA nursing student would need to get clinical experience—hospital beds, equipment, medical supplies, and life-sized simulators.

The remodeling of the lab and new simulators cost approximately $500,000, according to Lee. The College of Nursing is hoping to branch out and form relationships with local health agencies, such as Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital, so their nurses can also use the lab.

“The students love it,” Lee said. “Our graduates say they wish we had something like this when they went to school here. We also do evaluations of students at the end of the semester, and students have indicated they love the experience they get from the lab.”

The department has also had success with its accelerated alternative option to the traditional Bachelor of Science in nursing degree. The 15-month program is designed for people who already have a degree become registered nurses in less time.

“If you enjoy working with people, have good communication skills, are willing to take on the responsibility that goes with having a meaningful, exciting, challenging but rewarding job, [nursing] is for you,” Lee said. “The work is never the same. Every day is different.”

In April, the College of Nursing partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to assist and meet the healthcare needs of veterans and their families.

Lee said UNA nursing faculty have and will continue to view a series of webinars to help returning veterans impacted by post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression, and other combat-related issues.

UNA President Dr. William G. Cale Jr., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. John Thornell, and College of Nursing Dean Dr. Brodie Bailey, along with the chairs of the UNA nursing departments – Dr. Marilyn Lee and Dr. Wanda E. Bradford – have signed on in support of this national endeavor.

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The University of North Alabama announced it has now completely implemented its new Undergraduate Research Program, also known as URP.

The newly established Undergraduate Research Program was a project generated by the Office of Sponsored Programs, in conjunction with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, and Nursing.

URP was created to encourage and support student-initiated research efforts that are focused in the fields of their studies.

Dr. Tanja Blackstone, director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, said that this opportunity to participate in URP is one that will make a lasting impression.

“A student who participates in URP and is able to put this in his or her resume and portfolio will have something that is going to set them apart from others,” said Dr. Blackstone. “This research opportunity will not only be a wonderful opportunity but it will also be a great learning experience. The chosen students will learn how to write and interpret research reports in a succinct and precise manner.”

There are only four available URP positions and admission into this program is very competitive for students. Each program award comes with a $1,000 research grant and requires the student to enroll in a 400-level independent study course. In addition to the $1,000 research grant, the URP will waive the Independent Study course tuition (up to three-credit hours).

Dr. Blackstone and the entire LINA administration encourage students from every field of study at UNA to apply for the prestigious positions. Students interested in being considered for participation in URP must electronically submit a complete research proposal and must also be enrolled in at least six hours of coursework at LINA.
Lucy Berry
Garners Associated Press Awards
By Josh Woods

Even before finishing college, Lucy Berry has already snagged a state journalism award usually won by full-time seasoned writers.

Just weeks before Berry’s graduation, the Alabama Associated Press awarded her second place in its News Feature category for her series of stories on homelessness in the Shoals.

She wrote the stories as an intern for the TimesDaily in Florence in the summer of 2011. “Lucy did a great job for us last summer. We were able to trust her with stories of a nature and sensitivity that an intern ordinarily wouldn’t be assigned,” said Scott Morris, TimesDaily executive editor. “Lucy did everything we asked her to do and did an exceptional job for us. She has a bright future in journalism.”

While at UNA, Berry, of Decatur, has served as a staff writer, news editor and, this past year, executive editor for the Flor-Ala campus newspaper. She has also served as senior student writer for the university’s Office of Communications and Marketing.

Berry’s Alabama Associated Press award came on the heels of another major honor: in February, she won first place in the Southeast Journalism Conference’s Best of the South category for her Flor-Ala coverage of the April 27, 2011, tornadoes and UNA’s response to the devastation. “It was no surprise that the Alabama Press Association and the judges for the Southeast Journalism Conference saw [Berry’s] work worthy of recognition,” said Rebecca Walker (’07), UNA coordinator of student media. “Her work and dedication will impact future Flor-Ala staffs for years to come. She’s one of UNA’s promising alumni, and I look forward to one day seeing her byline at some of the top publications in the country.”

Berry graduated in May with a degree in English and journalism.

UNA Student Writer Published in USA Today
By Jordan Graben

Alex Lindley, a senior English and professional writing major at the University of North Alabama and the 2012-2013 news/managing editor for UNA’s student newspaper, The Flor-Ala, was published by USA Today, one of America’s most widely circulated daily newspapers. Lindley’s article “International students often struggle with culture while studying in the U.S.,” was featured online in the newspaper’s popular college blog site.

According to Lindley, USA Today allows college students from across the world to pitch their article ideas and will select new articles to feature online each month. In February, Lindley received the good news that his article had been chosen and was accepted to be published. “I had sent several pitches by the time my idea was accepted,” Lindley said.

When asked about how he developed the idea for his article, Lindley said that studying at UNA, a university with one of the largest international student populations in Alabama, is what played a major role in contributing to his story idea.

“His article recounts a story about a friend of Lindley whom he met through the university. Pierre Jamot, a then 20-year-old student from France majoring in marketing at UNA, immediately fell into a state of culture shock upon arriving to the United States. Jamot said a major portion of his homesickness was due to the new adjustment of no longer being able to legally drink. Being a native of France, a country with a legal age of consumption set at 18 and where drinking is a normal, acceptable part of everyday life, Jamot found himself in a stranger place than he had anticipated with new rules to abide by. Jamot’s additional tension added to the inevitable list of conflicts to cope with that comes along with moving across international borders and was something that Lindley could empathize with.

“I studied abroad in Switzerland last summer,” said Lindley. “I am 20, so I cannot drink in the U.S., but when I got to Switzerland, I was of legal age, so I wondered what the reverse would be like.”

Lindley has had several articles published in The Shoals Variety Show magazine and does freelance work for Shoals Woman Magazine, an affiliate of The TimesDaily newspaper. He has also been published in the Encyclopedia of Alabama for his article on the history of UNA, and this year he had his work accepted by Outrageous Fortune, an online creative magazine.

“As news/managing editor, I plan to continue to cover campus news for students and the UNA community. I also want to do more investigative reporting on issues important to students,” said Lindley.

Lindley is scheduled to graduate May 2013. He plans to spend his summer at his technical writing internship at IFDC in Muscle Shoals and working with Boxcar Voices, a local spoken word and storytelling group. “I’m trying to get a lot of varied experiences in writing. I love all types of writing and work to get published anywhere and as often as possible.”
The Student Government Association at the University of North Alabama hosted a Sunset-Fountain 5-K run in April that started and ended at the Harrison Plaza Fountain on campus to raise funds for SGA’s student-led endowed scholarship initiative. SGA was the first registered student organization at UNA to create an endowed scholarship fund for future UNA students. SGA has an annual goal to raise $25,000 for the scholarship fund every five years. The SGA Sunset Fountain 5-K is a crucial part of their efforts for funding.

John Ledgewood, SGA secretary for 2011-2012, said, “This is a scholarship that was started by the students. We are working toward a goal of helping future students. We’re here because we care about UNA and we’re trying to build the pride.”

Before the race that was held on April 14, SGA had raised a total of $3,900 toward the endowed scholarship fund. This year, the Sunset Fountain 5-K raised over $1,500 for the scholarship fund, exceeding the amount that had been raised the previous year.

Sarah Emerson, a member of the 2011-2012 SGA Freshman Forum, said she was excited to be given the opportunity to help out with many of the SGA-sponsored events including the Sunset Fountain 5-K. “It was an awesome experience to see the three largest branches of SGA come together and raise money for the SGA Endowed Scholarship Fund and to see such a large turnout.”
The College of Business at the University of North Alabama has implemented a new component in its Professional Marketing degree. The Professional Sales Center and lab in the College of Business has been created to prepare students for careers in the ever-growing professional sales field.

Jerome Gafford (’03 & ’05), assistant professor of marketing at UNA, is leading the program for the College of Business. After attending the Sales Educators Academy in Orlando, Fla., in June 2011, Gafford saw a need for just such a curriculum at UNA. After meeting with Dr. Kerry Gatlin, dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Dan Hallock, chair of the Department of Management and Marketing, the UNA Sales Center and its curriculum became a reality.

“Currently, there are only 60 colleges and universities out of 5,500 nationwide that offer degree programs in Professional Sales,” said Gafford, “and the need for training and expertise in this field is tremendous.”

Research shows that the career placement rate for the average college undergraduate is 43.5% nationwide, while students with undergraduate degrees that include the Professional Sales curriculum have a placement rate of 90%. The Professional Sales industry will hire an average of 1.6 million representatives in 2012 and companies are constantly seeking experienced and qualified employees in the sales field.

The UNA Sales Program and Center is partnering with Pi Sigma Epsilon, the national fraternity for sales professionals; the Sales Educators Academy, and the University Sales Center Alliance. They have also partnered with the Sales Education Foundation, which is a prestigious organization that provides funding and research support within the professional sales industry.

The UNA Sales Center is currently securing funding for a Sales Lab to provide students the ability to record role-playing and selling interactions for review by faculty and industry professionals. For more information on becoming a partner with the UNA Sales Center, please contact Jerome Gafford at 256-765-5068 or e-mail unasalescenter@una.edu.
**Just Being Himself**

John Paul White talks about the music business, writing selfishly and devouring new knowledge

By Josh Woods

After a whirlwind year punctuated with two Grammys, three performances on “The Tonight Show” and a tour with Adele, John Paul White (’99) is off for a few weeks this summer. His first morning home, he stopped by the University of North Alabama, where he’s known simply as John to old friends and professors. But even here, he was still a celebrity. There were autographs signed. There were iPhone pictures that went straight to Facebook. There was one student who ran to chase him down outside the Music Building just to shake his hand.

I met up with him at Noise Block Studios, the new home to UNA’s Department of Entertainment Industry, the program from which John Paul earned his degree. There, we talked about his start in the music business, The Civil Wars, and the commonly known but uncommonly practiced advice that led to his musical success.

**JOSH WOODS:** How early in life did you know that you wanted to become a musician?

**JOHN PAUL WHITE:** When I was in high school, I had some friends that were musicians, and we decided we were going to enter the talent show at Loretto High School. We were going to do “Back in Black” by AC/DC. We got together, and I was going to be the bass player. I had no idea what a bass player was, how you play the bass, but I didn’t care—I was in.

So we went to practice, and the drummer, his dad had a practice facility and PA and everything. I didn’t know what anything was, but it was fascinating. The drummer, Anthony Weathers, and the guitarist, Jeff Moore, they started playing some Ozzy stuff together. I started singing into the mic, because they wanted to know if it was on. Everybody just stopped and stared at me, and I thought I had done something wrong. They said, “You can sing,” and I was like, “I can?” It had never entered my mind that that was a talent I had. From that moment forward, nothing else mattered. I was singular of purpose at that point. It didn’t hurt seeing the way that girls looked at the lead singer. That didn’t hurt at all. But it took me until college to start writing songs diligently and thinking that that could actually be something I could do for a living.

**JW:** When were you offered the rock deal with Capital Records?

**JPW:** I got my deal in 2006, made the record in December 2006 and was putting finishing touches on it in 2007. I made the record with Mike Hedges, who produced The Cure and Travis and Dido and artists like that. We made the record over at Fame Studios, and I’m intensely proud of the record.

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We were over in London doing strings at Abbey Road and got the call that the president and all of the A and R had been fired, and we knew at that point our days were numbered. So my manager at the time told me, "Hurry up and cut those strings. Cut them as fast as you can before they pull the plug." Well, they kept us around for a while. They liked what we were doing and approved a mix budget, but halfway through mix process, they called us and said they're not putting the record out. I was able to live with that because it wasn't really a musical decision. It was a financial decision, and that didn't hurt quite as much. So when I met Joy, it was in the aftermath of that. I'd lost that record deal and was just kind of in a place of aftermath of that. I'd lost that record and was just kind of in a place of not knowing exactly what I wanted to do.

So when I met Joy, it was in the aftermath of that. I didn't want to be an artist, you don't want to be an artist, but this is really fun. I really like this music. Let's write some more of these and then go find an open mic night somewhere and don't tell anybody we're going to do it. Let's just sing these songs for fun. But, of course, that never happened. It just took off from there.

JW: How did you meet Joy (Williams)?

JPW: I was writing for EMI at the time and was asked to go do a songwriting camp. That's where about 20 to 25 writers are thrown into one space, and they draw straws and pair you up, usually with a stranger.

So I ended up in a room with Joy. I knew nothing about her, had never heard of her. She had just, by her own choice, walked away from a contemporary Christian career. We spent about twenty minutes getting to know each other, and there was this instant thing. She started singing. I knew instantly she was a really good singer, that she was a great singer. But, you know, there's a lot of great singers in Nashville, and I've been around a lot of really great singers. But I do remember sitting up and thinking, Wow, she's very talented. It was a strange thing how our voices blended together and how the vibrato matched up and how we would trail off of words at the same time and swell into words the same way. I knew where she was going, and she knew where I was going. It was this weird telepathy, like brother-sister, like twin speak kind of thing going.

And we both kind of filed it away. Neither one of us said anything about it, because we were both in about how much we disliked it and didn't really think we wanted to do it again. So the idea of being a duo was as far from our minds as humanly possible.

We made another appointment to write, because we enjoyed the process and got back together, and it was the same thing. That second time we wrote 'Falling,' which is on the record. And so we needed to pitch it. We were just going to pitch it to other artists. We went in to record it, and after the recording, there was that same click. So, I finally got the nerve up to make the comment. And my pitch was, I don't want to be an artist, you don't want to be an artist, but this is really fun. I really like this music. Let's write some more of these and then go find an open mic night somewhere and don't tell anybody we're going to do it. Let's just sing these songs for fun. But, of course, that never happened. It just took off from there.

JW: With yours and Joy's diverse musical backgrounds and the type of music that you're writing and recording now as The Civil Wars, would you consider yourself to be part of a shift in the music industry?

JPW: Well, I think that the common thread to a lot of this little wave of artistry that's going on right now is less is more. I don't think you can put it all in the same genre or the same box. I think if you look around, we're all kind of simplifying our lives and trying to remove excess and make things as minimal as possible. And we did that with this record, without even trying to. It just happened that way.

When we wrote the songs, it was she and I and a guitar. When we went to play the songs, we couldn't afford to hire a band. We didn't really want a band. At the time, we thought, 'Well, we can do it, you and I and this guitar. Let's go play somewhere.' And so we got to where we really enjoyed that. We felt the power of being able to control every note that comes off the stage. We'd never really done that before. We'd always played with bands. So once we went into the studio, we'd whittle these songs down as much as humanly possible, because you couldn't rely on a really cool guitar intro or a really long solo, because it was just us, so we had to make everything really concise.

Once we recorded those parts in the studio, we didn't leave a whole lot of room for anything. We didn't even bring a guitar in for another one. Everything that we'd add to it really had to fit, or it'd just be in the way, and we'd take it back off. So we ended up with a really sparse record. I think a lot of people are making music that way, without even thinking about it. They're just cutting the fat and making it about the song and about the voice. I think it's a good thing in the long run.

JW: Has music been a full time career for you since your graduation from UNA?

JPW: It has. When I graduated, I had just finished an internship with Walt Aldridge (’78). I was an entertainment industry management major and did my internship with him. He had just recently formed Waltz Time, which was a co-venture with EMI and himself. Janna Malone (’87) [a UNA entertainment industry instructor] had introduced me to Walt and played him some of the songs I had written. I honestly wanted to just be a singer—I didn't really want to be a songwriter. That was just a means to an end. I wrote songs trying to impress him with my voice, because I didn't want him to hear me singing somebody else's songs and then subconsciously compare the two. He saw promise there in the songwriting. I approached him with the idea of doing an internship at his new company, which worked out really well. We did that in the summer. In the meantime, he's playing some of these songs for EMI, and I ended up getting a deal with them. So as soon as I graduated, I had a publishing deal and have done nothing but that since. Since Jan. 1 of ’99, that's been my vocation.
Through that time, there were times when you thought, The music business is a tough business. I don't know if I'm going to make it. I think I'll stop and do something else.

Every day. Yeah. I've quit the music business probably three times every day. There's a Hunter S. Thompson quote about the hollow trench of evil that the music business is—and then there's the bad parts. I spent as much time as anybody moaning about the music business and the industry and the way that things are set up and the things you have to do to become star and even to just get a gig. I came around to the conclusion that it is what it is. I figured out that the only thing that I could possibly do that was going to work is to be completely selfish and make myself happy and write songs primarily for myself. It was from that point forward that things really started to work. That's not always going to be the case for some people. For some people, what they truly, intensely love might not connect with the public, and that's the really frustrating thing about what we do. It's all subjective. It's all opinion. Your success is based on whether other people like what you do or not. It's a really strange thing.

In The Civil Wars, we've been really fortunate in that what we love and what we selfishly made without caring what anybody else thought, people have connected with it. We don't take that for granted.

You had become a performer before you started writing for Walt Aldridge. Today, do you consider yourself a songwriter who performs or a performer who writes his own music?

I'd say a songwriter who performs, which is funny. I wouldn't have said that 10 years ago. But I learned the more that I wrote, the more I dug down in there and figured out what I cared about and what I didn't care about. It started shaping who I was as much as I shaped what my songs were. It's a symbiotic kind of relationship.

But I always thought that I was just a singer. I could never find that spark down inside of me, that voice, that thing that I wanted to say and wanted the world to hear. I was never really that guy. I'd mimic other people's voices, and I'd figure out what other people liked to hear, and that's what I'd do. I played in cover bands along the state line and was perfectly happy doing it. I'd sing whatever the new hit was and whatever I knew people wanted. That was fine with me. I just wanted to sing. I can't imagine going back to that again. But I had to figure that all out the hard way.

How were you inspired by the Shoals' music heritage and the current music scene here in the Shoals area?

Well, growing up, I knew all the legends, and I knew the music that came from this place. You'd go to bars around here, and you'd see the guys that played on those huge records. You could go see David Hood and could see Clayton Ivy and could see Kelvin Holly, and it was just mind-blowing. And you knew instantly, I'd better get my act together, because it's not just another gig around here. You have to always bring it. There's always somebody standing right behind you that's going to take it from you.

There's a fraternity of everybody, too. Everybody's all for one and one for all. Everybody supports each other, but we also inspire each other and push each other—like, Okay, watch this. So that's a big part of who I am.

And then people like the Alabama Shakes and The Secret Sisters and Dylan LeBlanc—they keep pushing, too. It's a good thing. It's very inspiring. I think this community's got a whole lot of legs left, and there'll be plenty more right after them.

Through the journey of your musical career up to this point, what has been the most surreal moment for you?

I could give you a number of them. Like I said before, this entire process has honestly been surreal. It's like, don't pinch me. I don't want to wake up.

Selling out the Ryman. The Ryman is the mother church, and I had dreamed of playing there my entire life, much less selling it out as a headliner. Playing on the Grand Ole Opry. That was ridiculous—chill bumps the entire time. Performing at the Grammys, winning two Grammys. Just being nominated was ridiculous. Playing the Royal Albert Hall in London. Meeting and touring with Adele.

Honestly, it feels completely like bragging, it feels completely egotistical to think back on the things we've been able to do this past year. We had this bucket list of what we'd like to accomplish in our careers, and we've knocked so many of those things out this year. It's hard to grasp it.

So now it's time to start making another album. And I hope we're able to make another record the exact same way we did the first time around and not let all these things weigh on us and put pressure on us and put added responsibility. Let's make a record for us like we did last time. Let it mature. Let it be whatever it's going to be. Will it be a minimal record? I don't know. Will it have a lot of electric guitars? I don't know. Maybe. Will there be a band? Maybe. We're going to completely leave all of our options open and just follow our nose.

With that said, what do you think will be your next major milestone?

I don't know, man. It's still that old dream of making music I love and putting food on the table. That's still the be-all and end-all. The rest of it is icing on the cake.
JPW: In the midst of this hugely successful career of yours, what do you enjoy most about coming home to UNA on days like today?

JPW: What I love about UNA and what I love about the Shoals and about living here and keeping my family here and my base here is that things do change and evolve, but they always stay the same. You know, it's a big small town, and I love that. I love that my family feels safe here, and we have our support network here. It's great seeing everybody from the not-so-distant past and knowing that that thread is still here and those roots are still here. That's a big deal to me. And that's why we never moved to Nashville and never really considered it. We have the best of all worlds here. Studios and players and writers. And it's beautiful. I'm not going anywhere.

JPW: This may sound cliche, but it's still an important question. What advice would you give aspiring musicians who are enrolled in UNA right now?

JPW: The one thing that used to always surprise me and frustrate me was being around anybody that wasn't soaking up every single bit of knowledge they could possibly get. You'd better grab a hold of everything you can possibly get and just devour it. There are always those people in the classes that are going to do whatever it takes. That would be my main bit of advice. Everything you can possibly get your hands on, take it in and consume it.

And then, outside of that, please yourself. It's so cliche, and I've heard it all my life. Be yourself. Make yourself happy. Do what you love. You know, everybody hears that. Everybody says that. But most people like me have to get to a desperate place before actually doing it, because it's scary to buck convention and say I don't care what anybody thinks. I'm going to do it my way and to please me. But you have to do it. I mean, if you look at your heroes—look at every one of your heroes—I guarantee you that's the way they went about it.

JPW: How much of a difference has it made for you personally and professionally to have gone through an academic program like the entertainment industry major here at UNA?

JPW: Well, it's funny. When I was playing up in Lawrenceburg and on the state line, I was playing in bands like Nothing Fancy and Cheyenne and had a wonderful time in those bands, and I'm still really good friends with all those guys. I just assumed that somebody was going to come walking into one of those bars and discover us and say, “Here's the contract. Sign on the back, and we're going to make you stars.” I really had no clue how the whole business works, what the realities were, and about networking and publishing and record company operations and how to write a song. You know, I'd written some songs, and some songs that I'm still proud of, but never on a nine-to-five kind of professional basis. I couldn't believe how wonderful an education could be until I got here. I was taking classes on subjects that meant more to me than anything with people that felt the exact same way, with instructors that felt the same way and had been part of the life and the business and could give insight on what to do and what not to do. I felt like I'd struck gold. It was like, these are my people. These are people that have the same values systems and beliefs that I do. They all had that common goal of making a mark. So I just completely fed on that and ate up every bit of information I could possibly find and started figuring out that it's not that far to Nashville. I wouldn't have ever met Walt if it weren't for this program. I probably would have just continued playing bars and waiting for that thing to happen that probably would never happen.

So it's the single most important thing I have done in my career. It made all the difference in the world.
The University of North Alabama left a deep and lasting impression on an eager, irrepressible young football player and biology student from Jasper named George Smith Lindsey ('52).

“My years here will never be forgotten—I wish I could relive them,” the world-famous actor, entertainer, humorist and humanitarian declared as his beloved alma mater officially dedicated the George S. Lindsey Theatre on March 2, 2012. “If I had it to do over again, I’d do it exactly the same way.”

The intimate black-box theatre—which provides a permanent home and state-of-the-art showcase for the school’s vibrant and flourishing theatre program—is located behind Norton Auditorium and faces the Pine Street entrance to the UNA campus. The theatre will make its official public debut when the UNA Summer Theatre program presents Tennessee Williams’ classic Southern drama A Streetcar Named Desire from June 28-July 8.

“A principal gateway to UNA sits right outside the door to this theatre at Pine and Irvine streets, and is now distinguished by the presence of the beautiful George S. Lindsey Theatre,” UNA President William G. Cale noted during the long-awaited dedication ceremony, assuring Lindsey that “your name will forever be a visible symbol of excellence in the performance arts and an inspiration for generations of students yet to come.”

Lindsey—who was born in Fairfield, Alabama, and raised in Jasper—earned a...
permanent place in American popular culture playing dim-witted but good-natured filling-station attendant Goober Pyle on one of television's most enduring and dearly loved sitcoms, The Andy Griffith Show, and its popular spinoff series, Mayberry R.F.D. In 1998, he launched the George Lindsey/UNA Film Festival, a regional film competition that celebrated its 15th anniversary on the weekend that coincided with the theatre dedication.

“This institution and the people here changed my life,” Lindsey recalled. “I came to this school on a football scholarship. I didn’t know at the time what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew I wanted a college education—I always thought that was important. I got my degree in biological science, but I don’t have a clue what’s that about—I think it’s got something to do with chickens. But getting an education is important. If you’ve got an education, you can always get a job.”

The theatre dedication also marked the return of Lindsey’s best friend—Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine—to the UNA campus. Borgnine appeared as special guest for the Lindsey film festival in 1999, 2004 and 2007. While serving as the school’s commencement speaker in 1999, Borgnine donated his personal collection of leather-bound career scripts—including his Oscar-winning role as Marty (1955)—to UNA’s Collier Library Archives. The black-box playhouse inside the George S. Lindsey Theatre has been designated the Ernest Borgnine Performance Hall in honor of his close friendship with Lindsey and his own generous contributions to UNA.

“When I saw the enthusiasm in this place—not only from the students, but from the teachers as well—I said to myself, ‘You know, it’s crazy, but I wonder if they’d mind taking my scripts and using them,’” recalled Borgnine, whose credits include such screen classics as From Here to Eternity, The Wild Bunch, The Poseidon Adventure, Escape from New York and the classic sitcom McHale’s Navy. “So I offered them, and they took them most willingly. It was wonderful. I felt, ‘Hey, man, I’ve accomplished something,’ because they’re not just sitting in some dusty floor at Yale University. They’re being made use of here, and that’s what counts. Since then it’s been just one love affair after another with all the people here, and I just feel right at home.”

Lindsey’s wide-ranging career includes television’s long-running country variety series Hee-Haw, memorable guest roles on Gunsmoke, The Alfred Hitchcock Hour, M*A*S*H, The Rifleman, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea and NewsRadio, the Disney animated favorites The Aristocats, Robin Hood and The Rescuers, and the feature films Ensign Pulver, Snowball Express, Charley and the Angel and When I Find the Ocean. Following the dedication ceremony, he and Borgnine chatted with UNA theatre and film students and encouraged them to follow their own hopes and dreams: “Don’t give up,” Lindsey told the students. “Don’t let anybody tell you that you can’t do it, because you can. I went to Hollywood to work, and I did. I was not to be denied. It’s not the easiest profession in the world, but somebody’s got to do it—and it might as well be you.”

UNIVERSITY MOURNS PASSING OF GEORGE LINDSEY

UNA lost a beloved member of its community the morning of May 6, when celebrated actor and entertainer George Lindsey passed away at age 83. Lindsey was a 1952 graduate of UNA, where he was a member of the Lion football team. He was also one of the founders and namesake of the George Lindsey UNA Film Festival, held each March since 1998. He made his last visit to campus in March, when UNA dedicated its new George S. Lindsey Theatre in his honor.

“Mr. Lindsey was a very dear member of our university family,” said Dr. William G. Cale Jr., UNA president. “This outstanding career inspired many students, and we were always honored by his presence during his many visits to campus. He will be very greatly missed.”
The University of North Alabama is making a presence on the big screen. Jack White (’78), a UNA alumnus, served as food stylist on the set of the hit movie The Hunger Games. Assisting Jack on the set of the film was UNA senior James Perini. Jack White has been working on the set of various motion pictures since 1992. White has worked in food styling on the set of more than 75 motion pictures, including The Social Network, Iron Man, and The Hangover.

"Probably 65 to 70 percent of what I do never makes it in the movie," White said. "When I did Iron Man, there was a Moroccan party scene, which had a 12-foot buffet table. I spent a long time buying the food and preparing it for the scene, but during the filming, the camera never turned that direction."

But there was no such frustration with his latest project, The Hunger Games, in which food plays an integral part of the plot. Food plays a pivotal role in The Hunger Games and nearly all of White’s work and Perini’s assistance can be seen throughout the film.

The Hunger Games is popular among teens and young adults, and White’s work on the film has turned him into a bit of a celebrity. After the presentation, a young lady came up to White asking for a picture saying, “I told my friend this is the guy who made Peeta’s bread!” Food was abundant in the fictional Capitol of The Hunger Games. And creating the large volume was somewhat of a challenge for White, who also operates a catering business in Pulaski, Tenn.

The movie, based on the best-selling series of books, takes place in a post-apocalyptic future in the national of Panem, which consists of a wealthy capitol surrounded by 12 impoverished districts. As punishment for a past rebellion against the government, the Capitol initiated the Hunger Games, a televised annual event in which one boy and one girl from each of the 12 districts are selected in a lottery as “tributes” and are required to fight to the death in an arena until there is one remaining victor. The movie featured a lot of lavish futuristic food that the wealthy people living in the capitol enjoy eating, as well as food for the impoverished people in the 12 districts.

"This is the absolute best movie I’ve worked on in terms of food," White said. "Food made up a big part of the Hunger Games. I had a lot of fun with the food."

GOOD GRUB

By Chelsea Bryant
UNA student writer

In a dramatic scene from The Hunger Games, the star pulls back the string of her bow, points her arrow toward a suckling pig perched on a dining table and shoots the apple right out of its mouth. But the story you might not know about that pig is it was cooked in Big Bertha, a smoker that made the trek from Pulaski, Tenn., to North Carolina, where the wildly popular movie was filmed. In fact, every morsel of food in the movie—and there’s a lot of it—from fancy flying fish to loaves of bread—was prepared by Jack White, a Radio, Television, & Film graduate from UNA.
part of the film and there was more food we actually created than in any other film I’ve done. It was really fun making up food for the film. The biggest challenge was creating the abundance of food that was portrayed in the book.

“In the book, Katniss goes from having next to nothing to being thrown into a world where there is more abundance. I got to create a world where there was an excess of everything and everything was really beautiful. When I go see the movie,” White said, “seeing all that stuff we did blow up and on the big screen, it’s going to be really cool. I’m really looking forward to it.”

James Perini, of Sylacauga, a senior in the College of Human Environmental Sciences concentrating on Culinary Arts, tells how he was chosen to help Jack White with his food styling.

“I was in class one day and my chef made an announcement regarding Jack White, a food stylist from Los Angeles. When I heard ‘food stylist’ and ‘Los Angeles’ I immediately decided to call [Jack],” said James. Jack White returned Perini’s call a few days later and he immediately began assisting White with food styling at smaller events and traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, to assist with events there. Soon after having Perini assist on many different projects, White asked Perini if he’d be interested in assisting on the set of The Hunger Games.

“The first day there blew my mind. I couldn’t believe I was working on the set of a major motion picture! It was hard to believe at first,” said James. “The next day was a shoot day and that’s when I saw my first movie star. Woody Harrelson, who plays Haymitch in the movie. It was very surreal and honestly, I was star struck.”

When asked what he thought about working on the set of a major motion picture, James said, “Working on a movie set was the biggest learning experience ever for me. I had no idea what it took to make a movie; it takes hundreds of people, not just the actors, to make a movie happen. I think that everyone, from the construction workers to the director and all those in between are true artists.” Perini said that he has also gained valuable experience from his mentor and UNA alumnus.

“The thing I loved the most about working on a movie set was that every day was different. There was not one day where I got bored or even tired because I love food. The whole experience was very valuable to me and everything I was experiencing was mind blowing.” When asked if he wants to work on another movie set, James said, “Yes! I can’t wait to work on another movie!”
He’s had tuberculosis, malaria, typhoid fever, parasites, been shot at, mugged, stabbed, pistol whipped, and taken hostage.

The University of North Alabama graduate has also survived earthquakes, hurricanes, mortar attacks, floods, burglaries, bombing attacks, crash landings and more.

But that’s just a part of everyday life for UNA alumnus Michael McGee (’78), who has spent more than 30 years living and working overseas as a commercial counselor for the U.S. Embassy, Peace Corps volunteer, businessman in Panama, and director of two programs to help refugees and ex-combatants of the Central American civil wars.

McGee, who is currently stationed in Bangkok, Thailand, was raised in rural Lauderdale County. He calls himself a quintessential country boy who grew up hunting, fishing, and working in the garden. But he always had a taste for something bigger and dreamed of seeing the world.

“I think that a lot of the time while I was sitting on the shore fishing or waiting while I was deer hunting, I always dreamed about going to places and doing things no one else I knew had done and being able to have grand adventures and experiences in faraway places and strange cultures and environments,” he said.

That’s just what McGee did. After graduating from UNA with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and health, physical education and recreation, and a master’s degree in psychological counseling, McGee was accepted as a volunteer in the U.S. Peace Corps and transferred to Honduras.

“I was at a point in my life where I needed a big change and the Peace Corps came along as an opportunity at that time,” he said. “It was a completely different kind of experience and it was a very interesting time to be in Honduras because the wars in Central America were quite volatile at that time.”

After McGee was assigned to a small village in Honduras near the border of El Salvador, the house he was setting up in was overrun by guerrillas and shot at multiple times. That incident forced the Peace Corps to reassign McGee to another location in the country.

McGee stayed with the Peace Corps as a volunteer from 1982 to 1985 where he eventually took on a semi-supervisory role and headed up a project that allowed him to work with disabled people in Central America.

At that time, McGee said there were
virtually no services for people who were blind, deaf, or mentally disabled within the country.

He used his background and education in psychology to assist other volunteers dealing with crisis or emotional situations, and also wrote a grant that helped secure $1 million to develop services for disabled people. During his time as a Peace Corps volunteer, McGee organized the first-ever telethon in Honduras, raising approximately $2 million that went on to serve as the foundation to create an institute in the capital city for helping disabled people who couldn't afford treatment.

McGee believes his education at UNA provided him with the skills needed to work for the Peace Corps after college. “One of my favorite professors always reminded me that a university teaches you how to think,” he said. “I believe that the education I got at the University of North Alabama was one that prepared me to be able to excel in my career.”

He later went on to open a business in Panama with his wife, who works now as an international telecommunications consultant. They also began a project to help disabled civil war victims, ex-combatants, refugees, their families and all military personnel in Central America.

In 1993, he joined the Foreign Commercial Service as an officer. Since that time, he has served in Mexico, Argentina, Miami, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Dominican Republic, and San Salvador.

McGee has faced highs and lows in his position with the Foreign Service. One of McGee’s roughest times was when he was at a 2003 U.S. business conference and a bombing occurred in a residential compound in Saudi Arabia. He was blocked from re-entering Saudi Arabia, where his family, belongings, house, and car were. His family had been evacuated out of the country following the bombing, but he was never able to return to live there again. He was allowed to briefly return to Saudi Arabia to pack his entire house but forced to leave the premises quickly. “I didn’t get to say goodbye to any of my contacts or friends,” he said. “It was a very abrupt and traumatic experience.”

In January, McGee spoke to Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Tim Collins’ constitutional law class about his background, job roles, life experiences, advice and aspirations for the future.

McGee said one of his favorite parts of working overseas has been to serve the U.S.”

“Being able to represent the United States, the American people, and our government is such an honor that means so much to me,” he said. “It’s been the greatest honor being able to serve the American people and represent the U.S. overseas to other countries, governments, and people.”

In native costume with friends and staff in Lagos, Nigeria.

With UNA Professors Dr. Claudia Vance and Dr. Richard Hudiburg during visit to Wesleyan Hall. Story from a Saudi newspaper.
The 2011 UNA Women’s Soccer Team won the first Gulf South Conference title in the program’s 15-year history and made a third straight trip to the NCAA South Regional Tournament. The team included six four-year lettermen who helped alter the program’s history. Stephanie Bradshaw, Hollie Loud, Alex McLay, Beth Spurr, Adrienne Aragon and Jamie Takala joined a UNA program in 2008 that was coming off three straight losing seasons. Over their four-year careers they posted a combined 60-23-3 record that included the first national ranking in the program’s history, the first NCAA post-season appearance and the first GSC title.

Prior to 2009, the UNA men’s golf team had never won a Gulf South Conference championship. The UNA golf team senior class of 2012 took care of that, winning three crowns in their four years at the school. Seniors Jake Greer and Ty Chandler were members of GSC championship teams in 2009, 2010 and 2012 and were part of a 2012 team that won five of the six spring tournaments it played and had a 65-6 head-to-head record. That squad (above) includes head coach Stuart Clark, Blase Wilson, Greer, Tyler Ekenberg, Chandler and Rocky Stimets.

The 2011 UNA football team finished with a 9-3 record and competed in the NCAA playoffs for a seventh straight season. That team included three seniors who spent five years together in the UNA program: Robbie Burdine, Jamie Dixon and Thomas Glenn. During their time as part of the UNA football team, the Lions were nationally ranked 51 times, spent 45 weeks in the Top 10 and five weeks at No. 1. The trio was a part of one Gulf South Conference championship team and four straight NCAA playoff squads.

The 2012 UNA baseball team achieved the first No. 1 national ranking in the program’s history on March 26 when the Lions were ranked first in the NCAA Division II by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

The 2011 UNA football team was ranked No. 1 in the nation in Division II for two weeks. It marks the sixth different season in which the Lions have achieved a No. 1 national ranking.
COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU

21 FORMER LIONS CURRENTLY PLAYING PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL

If you want to see a former University of North Alabama football player in action in a professional football league, you shouldn’t have to travel far.

There are currently 21 former Lions on teams in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Former UNA All-American and current hot-hitting Minnesota Twins outfielder Josh Willingham began making an immediate impact with his new club, earning American League Player of the Week honors for April 16.

Former UNA running back Wes Holland is playing in Europe as part of the Italian Football League’s Catania Elephants.

Marcus Dowtin, an Upper Marlboro, Md., native who played linebacker for the Lions in 2011, has signed with the New York Jets. He led UNA with 115 tackles last season and had four sacks and eight tackles for loss.

Will Batson, a Kiln, Ala., native and former All-American punter for the Lions in 2009, has signed with the Tennessee Titans. He averaged 41.9 yards per punt as a senior.

There are another 17 former UNA players also currently in professional football.

There are 13 Lions playing indoor football, on teams in the Arena Football League, the Indoor Football League and the Professional Indoor Football League.

Two other former Lions recently signed free agent contracts with National Football League teams as well.

The late Lewis Billups, also a cornerback at UNA, was the 38th overall pick in the 1986 NFL draft by the Cincinnati Bengals to rank as the highest drafted player in school history.

The Arena Football League

Janoris Jenkins (DB) – Los Angeles Rams
Marcus Dowtin (LB) – New York Jets
Will Batson (P) – Tennessee Titans
Proston Parker (WR) – Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Canadian Football League

Janoris Jenkins (DB) – Toronto Argonauts
Michael Johnson (LB) – Toronto Argonauts
Brent Vinson (DB) – Calgary Stampeders

Indoor Football League

Anthony Dillon (DL) – Arizona Rattlers
Courtney Harris (DL) – Chicago Rush
Donzis Pitman (DL) – Pittsburgh Power
Kersey Spencer (P-PR) – Spokane Shock
Devon Tate (DB) – Milwaukee Mustangs

National Football League

Jarmon Fortson (WR) – Calgary Stampeders
Jarmon Fortson (WR) – Toronto Argo

Professional Indoor Football League

D’Arcy Coleman (DL) – Reading Express

Former UNA running back Wes Holland is playing in Europe as part of the Italian Football League’s Catania Elephants.

Wes Holland (RB) – Catania Elephants

DOMINIC PITTMAN - Pittsburgh Power

VOTE FOR WILLINGHAM ON 2012 AMERICAN LEAGUE ALL-STAR BALLOT

Willingham began the season with a 15-game hitting streak and continues to lead the Twins in virtually every offensive category.

Just months after signing a three-year, $21 million contract with the Minnesota Twins, former University of North Alabama All-American Josh Willingham began making an immediate impact with his new club, earning American League Player of the Week honors for April 16.

A Florence native who played for the Lions from 1998-2000, Willingham hit .455 (10-for-22) with a double, three home runs, four RBIs and three walks. The three home runs came in three straight games over four days against the Angels.

Willingham also hit safely in his first 15 games with the Twins, tying a franchise record set by Kirby Puckett for the longest hitting streak by a Twins player to start the season.

Puckett accomplished the feat in 1994. Willingham set a new mark for longest hitting streak by a player to start his career with Minnesota.
message from the Alumni President

Hello UNA Alumni,

Wow! Spring has sprung and summer is on its way! And it’s great to be a UNA Lion!

The Alumni Board hosted the second annual UNA Leadership Summit and I am happy to say it was a huge success. A special thank you to University faculty and staff including Dennis Balch (’71), Melody Stewart (’06), Melissa Medlin, Patricía Sanders (’82 & ’94), Russ Darracott (’09 & ’10), Lee Hurren, Vince Brewton, and Celia Reynolds, who were presenters giving updates and information on their programs and how alumni can help them. The alumni that participated in the summit were able to get involved on campus and with their local UNA alumni club. Please check the Alumni website as well as the local club Facebook pages for upcoming events! Groups are hosting everything from baseball games to events during the W. C. Handy Festival. All these events are fun and a good way to get connected to local alumni.

Now is also a good time to think about giving back in the form of scholarships to students. I was recently able to attend the scholarship recipient dinner held on campus. Here students and recipients of scholarships were able to get involved on campus and with your local UNA alumni club. Please check the Alumni website as well as the local club Facebook pages for upcoming events! Groups are hosting everything from baseball games to events during the W. C. Handy Festival. All these events are fun and a good way to get connected to local alumni.

As your president, I encourage you all to get involved, and give back and support the University of North Alabama in any way you can. It is our duty as alumni to do so, and please encourage others and future generations to do the same!

Roar Lions!
Sarah Beth Alexander ’04
LINA Alumni Association President

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Clint (’00) and Rebecca Carter (’02), Huntsville
Derrick Chatman (’08), Chattanooga
Kay Davis (’73), Muscle Shoals
Mike Stark (’02), Alabama
Jeff (’84) and Parr Edwards (’85), Montgomery
Janie (’57) and Gerald (’84), Ragged, Florence
Douglas Hargrett (’10), Florence
Greg Lauer (’87), Savannah, GA
Brenda Maeley (’81), Muscle Shoals
Jonathan McKinney (’01), Florence
Chanda Bayne (’05), Florence
Burt (’39) and Shannon Hickman (’47), Tuscaloosa
Jude Sussman (’10), Florence
Elaine Softley (’89), Tuscaloosa
Robert Shaw (’66), Florence
Amber Terry (’03), Guntersville
Ron Tyler (’86), Muscle Shoals
Mark (’81) and Brad (’80), Warner, Kenny
Charla Weir (’84), Florence
Charla Winters (’81), Homestead
Van York (’90), Muscle Shoals

UNA ALUMNI CLUB LEADERS
Alabama
Hollie Hulan (’90), Athens
Elaine Will (’74), Colbert County
Eva Rhea (’92), Greater Birmingham Area
Patrick Johnson (’89), Decatur
Ryan (’05) and Lisa (’09), Clayton
Tom Greenhaw (’60), Gadsden
Tommy Whitten (’77), Muscle Shoals
Nicky Ray (’58), Marion County
Josh McFall (’07), Greater Montgomery Area
Clayton Grider (’08), Muscle Shoals

DC Area
Bill Hodges (’10)
Florida
Maury Shipper (’78), Jacksonville
Lawrence Davis (’82), Orlando
Georgia
Curt Taylor (’83), Monroe
Teddy Stack (’90), South Georgia
Mississippi
Amanda Esvert (’77), Jackson
Tennessee
John Hatley (’88), Greater Nashville Area
Mack Brown (’70), South Central Tennessee
Bobby Clemens (’78), MississippiState
Texas
Charles Iman (’71), Mid Texas
Paul Smith (’86), Dallas Metroplex
Tom McFaul (’68), Houston
International
Ya Ping (’82), China
Raj Gogia (’80), India
Departmental
Jeff McKinney (’50), UNA Band
Laura Suber (’04), Geography
Stacy Lean (’00), Social Work

2012 summer
Hi, everybody!” Una said to the group of kids gathered outside Kilby School. “Is Leo here?”

On April 20th, Kilby students and visiting UNA students sat mesmerized in the auditorium as they watched and listened to Dalen Keys ('80), UNA alumnus, Kilby alumnus, and author of Looking for Leo, begin to read his children’s book. Una even showed up to help Dalen read the story.

The book was written about Kilby students on a quest through UNA’s campus to find the beloved mascot. As part of the university, the Kilby Cubs felt even more ingrained in the campus culture as they saw characters and landmarks that they are familiar with such as the Keenum Sundial, the practice fields beside Flowers Hall, and the amphitheater come to life in the pages of the published book.

The illustrator even enlisted the help of four Kilby students to help illustrate a page of the book. At the story’s end author Keys and illustrator and UNA alumnus, Walt Vandiver ('01) answered questions from the students and faculty and reminisced about their times at Kilby and UNA. Students were amused when Keys explained how a scar still remained on his knee from a kickball game on Kilby’s playground years ago. The students could also relate to Keys’ memory of crossing Pine Street while his principal waved a white handkerchief to caution traffic, as they too make that same walk to cross Pine Street for UNA events.

In fact, the Kilby family made the walk just three days later to join other Leo and Una supporters for the 9th annual birthday bash. The author and illustrator visit just launched the beginning of the festivities. April 23rd had been embedded into the minds of Kilby students for weeks in advance because they so look forward to the party every April.

The students arrived at Harrison Plaza and gathered around the Lion Habitat. After a brief ceremony, the 6th grade class led the party-goers in a chorus of Happy Birthday then held to tradition as they called three times for the lions. Once the crowd called for Leo and Una for the 3rd time, the lions entered the observation area of the habitat as if they knew it was their big day. The Kilby students cheered and applauded enthusiastically to see their mascots and personally wish them happy birthday.

The attention of the Kilby students then turned to the student-athlete booths set up around the plaza. With birthday cake-smeared faces Kilby students stood in line to have their faces painted, and grab balloon animals shaped like lions. The fun jump bouncer was a big hit and the kids had a chance to speak one-on-one with Dalen and Walt as they signed copies of Looking for Leo. The two sold and signed well over one hundred copies of the books to Kilby Cubs.

When the celebration was over, the exhausted but beaming students made the short walk back to their home at Kilby, already making plans to celebrate the 10th birthday of Leo and Una next April.
LEGACY GIFT
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Aubrey and Hettie Butler Terry (’48) are making plans NOW for a legacy gift. As they plan for their future, they also have in mind the future of a lot of the students who will graduate from Russellville High School. Dr. Terry, a medical doctor, and his wife Hettie spent more than fifty years serving and sharing a love for the Russellville Community. Now they want part of their legacy to be helping the next generation secure successful and fulfilling futures.

The Terrys have executed a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, which pays them an annuity for the rest of their lives and then, with the trust residium, funds the Aubrey and Hettie Butler Terry Endowed Scholarship which will provide scholarships to graduates of Russellville High School who enroll as freshmen at UNA. Endowed funds are special in many ways, one of which is that they will provide scholarships to UNA students in perpetuity. What a wonderful way to “plant trees under whose shade you may never sit!”

You, too, can show your support for UNA and plan for your own future at the same time. Interested in making a planned gift to the University of North Alabama?

CONTACT
Dr. Barry Morris, Director of Planned Giving
256-765-4861 • bkmorris@una.edu

For additional information about Liberty Mutual and our auto and home insurance, please contact us at 800-824-9400 or visit us at libertymutual.com/unalumni.
Can you feel the love tonight? Coach Bobby Wallace’s “On the Road Again” caravan to alumni clubs and speaking engagements everywhere reinforced his love for UNA, Florence, coaching, and his players. Former players (some coaches themselves now) and fans shared the emotion and the electricity that prevailed as Coach Wallace reminisced and planned for the future of UNA football.

Wallace said, “It takes a team of more than 130 people to successfully play a game each week. I give credit to the trainers, coaches, and athletics staff as well as team members and dedicated community and fans. Working together, we are building the pride at the university. We need you on our team.”

Make your plans to be a vital, active part of the perfect harmony when the coach comes to your town and make advance preparations to be present as the 2012 season begins on September 2.
ALABAMA SPORTS HALL OF FAME, Harlon Hill, George Lindsey, ASHOF with other UNA greats host at Alabama Sports Hall Birmingham with his wife Marjorie attended the most of their lives in Terrys live in Jacksonville, Fla. visited campus recently. She was a varsity letterman at Central, in basketball, football, and baseball. He started at shortstop or center field for UNA, where he won the Gold Glove award for his fielding percentage in 1978. He also hit .282 with nine home runs, his 63 RBIs, and in his career with the Lions. He was the defensive coordinator at UNA and head football coach at Central from 1994-2005.

Ronnie Pannell (78) was inducted into the Lauderdale County Sports Hall of Fame. He lettered in baseball and football at UNA in 1978 and was a 1977 NAIA All-America honor. He was a successful football, baseball, track, and golf coach at Bradshaw for more than 10 years. Lewey also led Bradshaw to a Class 5A state golf championship in 1999.

Fred Riley (82) is football coach and Athletic Director at Delta State in the 1980s. He lettered in baseball, basketball and baseball games over a six-year period, and has broadcast Bradshaw games and Shoals Area Football Games of the Week. Pannell has broadcast more than 1,000 Mars Hill basketball games.

Joel Raney (78) is the current owner of Chicago Stone. He lettered in football, basketball, and baseball games at UNA from 1978-83. He worked at Rogers, East Lawrence, Colbert County High School and was the head football coach at Coffee. He was named AMCHS Teacher of the Year in 2000 and 2001.

Scott Augustin ('94) was a featured speaker at the Career Planning and Development Dream Job panel this spring.

Leigh Anne Willingham ('04) is the Mobile UNA Alumni Club Fantasy Football Coach and an assistant coach at Bessemer City High School. Willingham is a member of the Mobile UNA Alumni Club and a mystery agent in Muscle Shoals.

Kevin Naumann ('86) is the BB&T’s Village at Sandhill office relationship manager. He works in Human Resources with UNA, where he won the Gold Glove award for his fielding percentage in 1978. He also hit .282 with nine home runs, his 63 RBIs, and in his career with the Lions. He was the defensive coordinator at UNA and head football coach at Central from 1994-2005.

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TRAVELING with the PRIDE in 2013

Take the opportunity to travel with fellow alumni and friends and share these unforgettable experiences. Invite your reunion groups to experience a memorable trip of a lifetime. For more details, visit our website at alumni.una.edu or telephone the Alumni Office at 236-765-4201.

ALASKAN ADVENTURES - OCEANIA CRUISES
Seattle to Vancouver (7 nights) • August 5-12, 2013 - Regatta
From $2,199 per person, double occupancy (including airfare)

New Orleans to Memphis (9 nights) • June 7-16, 2013
Rome to Venice (7 nights) • October 17-25, 2013 - Riviera
From $2,295

DREAM JOB CAREER PANEL

Career Planning and Development

Mary Ann "Toni" McMurry ('41) was a retired school teacher, she was active in the Mississippi and Tupelo Retired Teachers Associations and the TVA Retirees Association.

George Farris ('58) served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era. He taught at Lynn school for several years. He started working for Southern Railroad after 43 years.

LTC William Larry Johnson ('62) served in the United States Army for 25 years. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery in May 1962. He served overseas in Korea and Germany and was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel in 1987. His awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and the Vietnam Campaign and Service Medal. After retiring from the Army, he worked in defense contracting for BDM, TRW, Northrop Grumman; culminating as the Senior Systems Engineer for Sentar.

William Staggs ('62) worked as a computer scientist contractor for NASA, including supporting the Apollo and Skylab missions. He received the Space Flight Awareness Program Honor award for outstanding work in human spaceflight mission success. The S.F.A.P. award is one of the highest honors presented to NASA employees. Staggs was a founding member of the Huntsville Folk Musicians’ Association and a long-time member of the Huntsville Community Chorus, Muscle Shoals Sailing Club, the Huntsville Canoe Club, the Huntsville Ski Club, and the Other Lifelong Learning Institute.

Leland Box Jones ('66) of Charlotte, N.C. was a CPA in the manufacturing industry until he retired in 2008. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He is the husband of Glenda Hollingsworth Jones ('65).

Kay Kirk ('69) worked as a media specialist at Eastway School for 25 years.

Mary Sue Smith Johnsey ('69) held a Master of Library Science from Vanderbilt University. She was the owner of Golden Eagle Publishing Company which she helped establish.

Laurena Thirlkill ('72, '78) taught special education at Sheffield High School.

Jimmie Sue Campbell ('71) was awarded her masters in special education in 1991. She taught special education at Sheffield High School.

Friends of the University

George Manush served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He had a 50-year career in radio broadcasting and was the voice of the Lions with Florence State University and the University of North Alabama. He was a sports broadcaster for many of the area schools and radio stations and was a member of the inaugural class of the Colbert County Sports Hall of Fame.

NON-GRAD

Mark Hale recently passed away. He resided in Nashville, Tenn.

Joseph Hooks attended Donnelly Medical School in Kansas after attending UNA. As an entrepreneur, he owned several businesses.

Faculty/Staff

Robert Stephenson spent his life in education as a teacher, coach, and principal. His last 20 years were served as a professor at the University of North Alabama in the education department. He served in the U.S. Army National Guard for 20 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

IN MEMORY

Mary Jo Davis, Carol Lyles ('70), Mark ('71) and Eve Ergel Yeehies ('81), Lawrence Davis ('80), Frank Bush ('75), Beverly Ware Wiener ('65), and Martha Robbins Cooper ('66) in Orlando, Fla.

Maury ('78) and Diane Shipper ('78), Janet ('77) and Buddy Price ('76) and Shirley ('77) and Jimmie Wilson ('71) in Jacksonville, Fla.

Martha Robbins Cooper ('62) in Orlando, Fla.

Lawrence Davis ('80), Frank Bush ('75), Beverly Ware Wisner ('65), and Melody Stewart ('06) were guest speakers for the Career Planning and Development Dream Job Career Panel on the campus during the spring.

Rod Sheppard ('78, '84, & '07), Jen Ingle ('80), Jason Rich ('98) and Melody Stewart ('06) were guest speakers for the Career Planning and Development Dream Job Career Panel on the campus during the spring.
UNA Alumni Association board member Dr. Sandra Behel ('77) from Birmingham died in March. Sandra’s dedication to her work, her alma mater and the local clubs (Montgomery and Birmingham, and the UNA Alumni Board), the ACCO, the Higher Ed Partnership, Democratic Women of Alabama endeared her to all. She was knowledgeable and showed a larger than life strength and energy in all she believed in.

Sandra worked as the Energen Corporation as the Information Technology and Corporate Records Department Manager, and was editor and co-author of Energen Corporation published in 2002.

Sandra, a ten-year employee, got involved in Energen’s annual art competition, The Wonders of Alabama Art, when she arrived in Birmingham and served as director of the competition the last six or seven years. Her art competition duties were in addition to her every day job of leading the corporate records department. She loved working on the art competition and being the leader of the Energen art committee.

Energen CEO James McManus remarked at the closing reception of the Energen Art Competition on March 25, “This year the Energen Art Competition has been without Sandra Behel, who has helped make the Energen Art Show what it is today. Many of you came to know Sandra’s passion for this effort. The Art Show Committee has continued Sandra’s focus on producing an extraordinary show, and has found a very appropriate way to honor Sandra. Because Sandra received excellent treatment at UAB, and because of the care she received and her love of Alabama art, Energen has purchased ‘The Blessing’ by Lee Wilson. It will hang in the main infusion therapy suite at the Kirklin Clinic with a plaque that indicates that we donated this piece in honor of Sandra.”

Dr. Jennifer De Los Santos from UAB and Alabama artist Lee Wilson attended the presentation. Additionally, Sandra was instrumental in starting a Greater Birmingham Area UNA Alumni Scholarship for students from the counties of Jefferson and Shelby Counties to attend UNA. Donations are currently being accepted for that scholarship.

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

*Tax deductible as per IRS regulations
Tennessee Williams’
A Streetcar Named Desire
June 28, 29, and 30 and July 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m.
June 30 and July 1, 7, 8 at 2:00 p.m.
George S. Lindsey Theatre
$5 Students • $10 Seniors & UNA Employees • $20 General Admission

TUNA DOES VEGAS
August 3, 4, 10, and 11 at 7:30 p.m.
George S. Lindsey Theatre
$5 Students • $10 Seniors & UNA Employees • $15 General Admission

Devised Theatre Project
August 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.
George S. Lindsey Theatre
$5 Students • $10 General Admission

For season ticket information contact the
Department of Music & Theatre at 256-765-5122