



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH ALABAMA
MAGAZINE

FALL 2021 • VOLUME 29, NO. 2

A PULITZER WIN

Remkus '15 takes
home journalism's
top prize

WEEKEND OF WOMEN

Celebration
to feature Rachel
Wammack '16

LEGENDS. HEROES. TRAILBLAZERS.

Homecoming
returns to UNA



LEADING THE WAY



WITH A BANG

On Sept. 11, the UNA Lions took to the field against UT-Chattanooga. The game at Braly Stadium served as a return to sports and a more regular season of play for football and many of the other athletic activities that had been disrupted by the pandemic. The event also served as a very special commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the Twin Towers and Pentagon. Members of the UNA military community were honored throughout the game, and a special firework show concluded the half-time performance that featured area high school bands and women singers/songwriters. Read more about women in UNA Athletics on pages 44-47.





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CORRECTION: On the cover, Ann Berry should have been named as the Secretary of the U.S. Senate.

Dear Friends:

As we continue to celebrate the Year of the UNA Woman, we are pleased to come together once more as president and first lady in welcoming you to this Fall 2021 edition of *UNA Magazine*. There is much good news to share from our beautiful and historic campus.

The University of North Alabama continues to grow and set enrollment records. Headcount for this fall is running just over six percent ahead of last year. According to data published by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, that makes us the fastest-growing university in the state, a showing that stands in stark contrast to the majority of state universities that have experienced an enrollment decline during the past year. This is something to ROAR about! The increase becomes all the more important when you consider what it means in terms of reaching more students, expanding our alumni ranks, and broadening our economic impact on Florence and the Shoals.

We are also experiencing success with Project 208, our signature effort to achieve funding equity for UNA. Through a carefully coordinated effort over the past four years, we have begun to close the funding gap that separates us from our peer schools. We received the largest percentage increase in state appropriated dollars of any Alabama university for FY '21. Even with this recent good news, the challenge remains. UNA continues to rank last in per-student funding, and we need another two to three years of compensatory increases to achieve parity with our peers. So, we ask you to find time to contact lawmakers in your network and ask them to prioritize UNA as decisions are made for the FY '22 higher education budget.

Elsewhere, we are working closely with the Division of Advancement to plan the University's next major fundraising campaign. It is difficult to overstate the importance of philanthropy to our University, especially in light of our historically low level of state funding. Simply put, if we are to continue to serve our students well and compete in the crowded landscape of higher education, we need your help. We ask all alumni and friends to stay tuned as opportunities present themselves in the coming year to assist in this effort.

Philanthropy is the driving force behind the Women of Influence. Already, exciting things are happening in its first year as a campus enterprise. This fall, the organization, led by the First Lady, approved grants totaling \$9,000 to several campus-based groups, including:

- Stock the Classroom: A First-Year Teacher Initiative that provides student interns with gift cards to purchase school supplies for their classrooms;
- First-Generation Student Mentoring Program that helps first-generation students succeed;
- The International Women's Day Celebration that will take place on campus in March; and
- The Lion, The Pitch, and The Wardrobe that will help students prepare their wardrobe for interviews and career success.



These gifts are because of women who are involved on campus and who want to continue to make UNA and its students better prepared for their futures. It is exciting to see how much Women of Influence has grown and will continue to grow as others become involved. Of course, there is more to do, and we invite you to learn more about ways you can become involved at una.edu/advancement and una.edu/woi.

As we wrap up this message, preparations are underway for this year's Homecoming celebration. Between the annual Alumni Awards Program, class reunions, the parade down Pine and Court streets, and the football game on Saturday, it promises to be a fun and exciting week. It also reminds us of the special connection between people and place that exists at UNA.

We look forward to welcoming you back to campus for events throughout the year. Thank you for all you do for the University of North Alabama.

Roar Lions!
Ken and Dena Kitts

Ken Kitts *Dena Kitts*



Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

Just as our last issue was arriving in your mailboxes, we at the University of North Alabama were officially launching the Year of the UNA Woman. For the first time, this also meant a launch party for the magazine, a public celebration of 150 years of admitting women to our beloved institution and shouting that from the rooftops.

We have enjoyed news coverage across the state and region, and alumni from around the globe have reached out to tell their stories as well as to share images and other memorabilia. It's been thrilling to learn about that history and to be able to share much of it in the publication you hold in your hands. After all, what is the *UNA Magazine* if not a record of our history of where we are today. And that is exactly what this issue is, the second of three issues that will expand on the Year of the UNA Woman theme.

In these pages, you'll read about the incredible work coming from some of our recent alumnae, all of whom are quickly making names for themselves in their chosen fields. You will get a sneak peek into the Weekend of Women, which is fast-approaching in March. And you'll get a hot take on the Year of the UNA Woman book that will be available in early 2022. It is an incredible time to be a UNA Lion(ess), and you aren't going to want to miss out on any of these things. Go ahead and sync your calendar with the one at una.edu/unawoman. And do a little shopping while you're there. The Year of the UNA Woman items are unique and are certain to be important in your growing collection of purple and gold keepsakes.

In addition to being a trailblazer among other institutions of higher education, the University of North Alabama is also known for fostering strong relationships. Each of the profiles on UNA's five colleges detail mentor/mentee relationships that have been pivotal in the lives of the women who are featured. It is very likely that, as you're reading this, you are remembering those at UNA who helped you, mentored you, coached you, counseled you. Those relationships matter, of course, and it is part of what makes UNA such a unique and wonderful place.

Speaking of what makes UNA special, be sure to check out the feature on UNA's Women in Athletics as well as the photos related to Homecoming. The return to campus for the parade, the reunions, the tailgating, and football watching are what makes that event so special. Alumni, students, and friends were there en masse, and it was exactly what a Homecoming should be – perfect.

Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96

It is an incredible time to be a UNA Lion(ess), and you aren't going to want to miss out on any of these things.





MANE ATTRACTION

From silent discos and sunset yoga to the annual Lucky Dip and Big Deal, Mane Month returned to campus for the Fall '21 semester, and students were all in, participating in events that were new and different and, mostly, outdoors. Mane Month organizers said their goal was to reinvigorate campus and students for a semester that was more typical than had been experienced recently as a result of the pandemic. The excitement was palpable, particularly with the addition of the Year of the UNA Woman. Una, the female mascot, was omnipresent, and many of the organizations hosting events pivoted to include the Year of the UNA Woman theme, including the Scavenger Hunt hosted by the Women in Business Registered Student Organization.



POWER OF THE PEN

*Remkus garners
Pulitzer for reporting*

By Ellen McDonald | For *The UNA Magazine*

Ashley Remkus, an investigative reporter who covers the justice system in Alabama, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2021 for a yearlong investigation of K-9 units and the damage that police dogs inflict on Americans. The series also won the White House Correspondents' Association's Katherine Graham Award for Courage and Accountability. Remkus graduated from the University of North Alabama in 2015 with a degree in mass communication and is a proud alumna of the *Flor-Ala* staff as a writer and editor.

Q: What have some of your biggest lessons within the field of journalism been?

A: As journalists, one of our top priorities is to humanize the people we write about. People are complex. They exist as more than the event that brings them to the attention of a news reporter. This is especially true when writing about people who don't hold positions of power and influence. When they agree to share their stories with the world, we owe them compassion and empathy.

In this business, we also take a critical look at those who wield influence and power in



our society. To hold the government and powerful people accountable, we investigate and ask tough questions on behalf of the public, often finding ourselves in conflict with those who want to keep secrets. I've learned that, in most instances, telling those stories is easier – and the quality of our work is better – when reporters are transparent about what we are doing. Of course, there are times we have to keep our work close to the vest. But, as my editor says, the one thing we don't want is for someone to find their name on the Internet or in our newspaper without having the opportunity to share their perspective.

Finally, there is so much more to this job than writing, editing, and reporting. Journalists are investigators, researchers, photographers and videographers. I've been tear-gassed in front of the world while reporting on Facebook Live. I once played air hockey on Snapchat with a colleague to cover an arcade opening. While reporting on sheriffs pocketing public money that was supposed to fund meals for incarcerated people, I ate supper in a jail kitchen and took my readers along for the experience through live Tweets.

Q: How are you breaking barriers as a female journalist in the South, and what hardships have you encountered in that role?

A: I've reported on the justice system since I started in journalism about seven years ago. While the system itself – law enforcement, courts, and the carceral system – is dominated by men, I've reported alongside many talented women.

That's important because as more women cover the news, the more society addresses the issues affecting women. This is also true with racial diversity in our newsrooms.

We do better at elevating diverse voices when women and people of color are doing the reporting.

But just because there are more women working in journalism today, that doesn't mean we don't face sexism. I'll never forget that when I first started working on the cops beat, more than one man told me the best way I could build my sourcing in the police department would be to start dating a police officer. Setting aside the questionable ethics, it was offensive and degrading.

Q: What did you do at UNA that



helped you get to this point in your career?

A: I cannot speak highly enough of the experience I got working at the *Flor-Ala* and interning with local newspapers. By the time I graduated, I had hundreds of clips and work samples to show potential employers my talent. That's what employers really want to know: Can you do the job, and can you do it well?

I learned from so many incredible, talented women at UNA – both at the *Flor-Ala* and in the classroom. They helped build my confidence. They believed in me and gave me the support I needed to succeed.

Q: How do you disconnect from your work in order to have a break?

A: This is one of my biggest weaknesses. I'll put it this way: I was proud of myself during a vacation last year because I only checked my work phone once (or twice) per day. So when I figure this one out, I'll tell you know.

Q: What did the process leading up to winning your Pulitzer entail?

A: We worked with a team of reporters from four newsrooms across the country to investigate how police use dogs to attack and bite people suspected of crimes, and how that often goes horribly wrong. We spent more than a year – much of it during a global pandemic – sorting through thousands of pages of public documents, reviewing court filings and police reports, interviewing people who were injured, watching hours of body camera and bystander videos, attending police dog training and riding along with a K-9 unit.

The best reporting happens when we leave the office – or more accurately in COVID times, when we leave our homes – to see stories for ourselves. I'll never forget suiting up in protective gear for a training session with a K-9 unit. I dodged paintball pellets and thorn-covered limbs as a police

dog led us through the underbrush of the thick woods of lower Alabama.

But I think the most important moments in this reporting were the ones spent with people who suffered horrific, life-altering injuries in dog attacks. They were incredibly brave and gracious in recounting the worst days of their lives. They taught me to be a better interviewer and showed me the value of listening instead of talking.

As an Alabama native, I'm incredibly proud that this reporting series began right here in my home state when my editor, Challen Stephens, started investigating a troubling series of bites by a police dog in one small town. Our reporting partners at The Marshall Project clearly saw how important and impactful this work had been and submitted our reporting for consideration of a Pulitzer Prize.

Q: What did it feel like when you learned you had won, and was this a goal of yours?

A: The story of how I learned we won the Pulitzer Prize is like a page right out of the pandemic story. We were still working from home, and I was sitting on my couch, eating 5-day-old pasta, wearing shorts I've had since high school and a T-shirt that's several sizes too big when I heard a Slack message on my phone. My editor Challen Stephens wrote, very nonchalantly I might add: "dogs just won the Pulitzer."

"WHAT?" I wrote back.

It wasn't real for me until I saw it on Twitter. I read and reread the announcement on the Pulitzer website. I even reread all of our reporting. It took several weeks for the initial shock to wear off – and to be honest, I'm not sure it'll ever really go away.

Winning a Pulitzer Prize had not even crossed my mind before that day. I was incredibly proud of our work, but had never entertained the idea of winning journalism's top prize. ☺

THE NEXT BIG LEAP

UNA equips alumnae for life beyond graduation

By Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96 | For *The UNA Magazine*



What is it about the University of North Alabama and growing students into thriving adults? Are all universities this special, this adept at forming relationships and equipping students to succeed? Of course, there are those who say this happens everywhere, at campuses across the country, with each class of students that matriculates. I disagree. This is unique to UNA. Our story is singular, one-of-a-kind even. Historic. And that story begins with each individual who enrolls.

It is almost as if there's something special in the water, that the legend of the Lucky Dip isn't just true for the first day of classes. It's true for a lifetime.

The three women who first enrolled at UNA in 1872 – Edith Rise, Mary P. Jones, and Susie Jones Price – likely had no idea they were blazing a trail for the thousands of women who would enroll, study, and graduate after them. They weren't here for the traditions we know today – the Lucky Dip and Light the Fountain and Homecoming. In fact, they spent most of their time in Wesleyan Hall. But Edith, Mary, and Susie certainly set the stage for the greatness that was to follow.

As the Year of the UNA Woman and our celebration of the 150th anniversary of the admittance of women hits its stride with this issue, we're sharing stories of women who have come to UNA and found their

passion, who found not just a degree and a chance at academic success but also something more, something that feeds a desire in them to serve, to help, to be leaders.

For some of these young women, it's a passion for service and serving others and their communities. For others, it's a passion for using what they learned as an undergraduate as a starting point for a legal career. Regardless of how or whom or when, the point is clear: UNA and their time as students was the launching point in their lives for the success they are finding as adults.

Miracle, Ruby, Bethany, and Sarah Ann are as unique as Edith, Mary, and Susie. Each is blazing her own trail, and we happen to be able to capture them at this precise moment in their lives, just as they prepare for that next big leap. Here they are in their own words.

Miracle Osborne

Q: When did you graduate from UNA?

A: I graduated from UNA in the Spring of 2016. I postponed my graduation a year when I had the opportunity to study abroad for two semesters.

Q: How would you say UNA prepared you for your future?

A: UNA provided me with an incredible network of mentors, professors, and community members that did everything within their power to provide me with opportunities to learn, grow, and volunteer my time. Most importantly, it exposed me to a global community. The Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College commitment that requires its students to have international experience, the opportunity to serve and befriend UNA's international community through the Navigators, and the unwavering support of the Business College and Foreign Language Department during my semesters abroad left a monumental impact on my life and how I see the world in a way that is difficult to put into words but I feel the impact of daily.

Q: You are very community-minded. How do you balance your career and your community service? And why is community service so important to you?

A: I would be untruthful if I shared that I have mastered balancing my career and community service. Fortunately, both my

community service and career go hand-in-hand, and my company's success plays into the success of my community, so, of course, I desire to see both succeed. Since becoming heavily involved in my community, I have seen the passion, dedication, and time so many community members are devoting and have devoted to making Decatur, Alabama, a better place to live and work, and the passion is contagious! Behind every issue and solution is a community member sacrificing something for the greater good of the community. As cliché as it sounds, community service is my chance to give back to a community that gave to me. If I don't, who will?

Q: Where do you see your education and your experiences taking you in the next five to 10 to 15 years?

A: While I am still unraveling my passions and understanding the work that promotes and grows "Miracle's Best Self," I am hopeful it will involve management, development of people, and implementing structure. I also aspire to serve my community in new ways during the next decade at a greater capacity.







Ruby Villalobos Adams

Q: When did you graduate from UNA?

A: I graduated in May 2017.

Q: How did your time at UNA influence your current career path?

A: I always knew that I would go to law school after college. I feel that UNA influenced my decision to stay in Alabama and choose Cumberland School of Law. I was captain of the Mock Trial team at UNA, and Cumberland advisors came to visit our team. Ultimately, their presence on UNA's campus and willingness to reach out to our students was really impactful in my decision to choose Cumberland for law school.

Q: At what point did you realize you wanted to practice law?

A: Ever since I can remember I have always known that I wanted to be a lawyer. I remember being as young as eight years old, and I would say that I was going to be a lawyer. As I became older, I became increasingly more convinced and determined to pursue the career path because of the lack of Hispanic female representation in the field.

Q: Why was it important for you to practice in the Shoals?

A: It is important to me to practice in the Shoals because I believe in the importance of giving back to the communities that have shaped you. There seems to be an over-glamorization in going to grad school and moving as far away as possible from your hometown and pouring into new cities, which is 100 percent okay. However, there are some of us who should and need to stay in our communities to contribute back into them and do the work to push them forward.

Q: What's next for Ruby Villalobos Adams?

A: My next step is to grow my practice and form a team of attorneys that will be known in all of the State of Alabama for providing excellent legal service to their clients and communities.



Bethany Oliver Green

Q: When did you graduate from UNA?

A: 2010.

Q: How did your time at UNA influence your current career path?

A: I was the student who changes majors a few times because I had multiple interests but could never land on something that felt long-term. That was until I met Dr. Bill Huddleston, who helped me gain some clarity and understanding. He started introducing me to opportunities that, as a first-generation student, I never knew about much less thought were possible. Having an advisor who took the time to know me and then open new doors was a game-changer. I went to graduate school and pursued a degree in something that felt so taboo at the time. Nonprofit Management wasn't a huge deal then, and I spent a lot of time explaining myself and that decision. Looking back, it was totally worth it. If it weren't for UNA and Dr. Huddleston, I wouldn't be where I am now.

Q: At what point did you realize the nonprofit world needed you?

A: My thesis project in graduate school was to create a nonprofit management organization in the Shoals. I'm a native of Muscle Shoals, so this area is near and dear to me anyway. While in school, I got to work closely with the Center for Nonprofit Management in Nashville,

and it changed my perspective on everything. Nonprofit professionals are expected to be skilled in the unimaginable. They're grant writers, managers, program developers, graphic artists, and everything in between. That's a heavy expectation, especially if they don't have the experience or knowledge on how to do all of those things. I felt like my greatest effort is to help support those who are doing the work. At the end of it all, it helps them amplify their impact.

Q: What's next for the Shoals Nonprofit Center?

A: So much! Using Hands On Shoals, our volunteer management software, we'll be able to track and report volunteer support in real time. In addition to that, we still continue to offer workshops and training on a variety of topics that are helpful for the success of nonprofits or their professionals. We've been meeting with our organizations as well, so we can hear directly from them about their challenges, needs, and areas in which they could use additional support. Honestly, our list is long, and we feel like we're just getting started.



Sarah Ann Evans

Q: When did you graduate from UNA?

A: December 2015.

Q: How did your time at UNA influence your current career path?

A: Coming to UNA was the tipping point of a major life change for me. I knew I loved the Shoals, but during my time as a student it became home. I think there are a lot of times where people set out to know what they want to do in life, and I struggled to land on what that was, but I never struggled to know where I wanted to be. I moved away for a year after I graduated, but I realized even if I didn't know what I wanted to do, I would be in a place I felt I belonged. Also, it was during my time as a student that I met Bethany. Being involved in Greek life and the Student Government Association brought me to the Student Engagement Office many times, allowing me to cross paths with Bethany. If it weren't for my time at UNA, the Shoals Nonprofit Center would not exist in its current form.

Q: At what point did you realize the nonprofit world needed you?

A: I had spent a lot of time working with several nonprofits here and in my first job out of college, and I fell in love with the idea that the work I was doing had an impact bigger than myself. After a few years, and several jobs, I realized that I wanted to be in the nonprofit world. It wasn't until I reached out to Bethany to talk about going to get my master's in Nonprofit Management that I learned of her thesis project and felt that the organization was something that we not only could do but could do well and really make a difference for our community.

Q: What's next for the Shoals Nonprofit Center?

A: In the Fall of 2021, we launched Hands On Shoals, a volunteer management software that will bring organizations and community members together to bridge the gap between an organization's volunteer needs and community members who want to get involved. We also just launched two microcredential tracks at UNA with two students that we extended full scholarships to for them to complete. We are hoping to offer scholarships to more nonprofit professionals to complete these microcredentials in the years to come. We also hosted the inaugural Shoals Giving Day in 2021 to encourage local community members to donate to local nonprofits, so they can continue to give back to our community. We hope to see this initiative grow year after year and become a large funding event for the Shoals. There are also several other projects in the works that we are working on to create a more prosperous and impactful nonprofit community. ☺





WOWed



WAIMACK TO HEADLINE CONCERT

BY GAIL ALLYN SHORT | FOR THE UNA MAGAZINE

Rising country music star Rachel Wammack '16 says that during her freshman and sophomore years at UNA she had a hard time figuring out what she wanted to study. She even changed her major five times. But it was Wammack's professors in the Department of English who helped her to find her voice, she said.

"Thank the Lord that right before I started my junior year, I tried out the English program, because I loved words," she said. "I wasn't a big reader back then, but I loved poetry and linguistics and the classes where you looked at how sentences go together, and analyzing literature was just so interesting to me. It makes sense since that's what I love to do as a songwriter."

Now Wammack is returning to campus in March to perform in concert for the Year of the UNA Woman's Weekend of Women event celebrating the school's 150 years as a co-educational institution.

"The fact that it has been 150 years of women being admitted to UNA is incredible," said Wammack, "and to be a part of that legacy is such an honor. I'm really excited to go back and bring some light and celebrate. I couldn't be more honored to be a part of the Year of the UNA Woman."

The Weekend of Women event is scheduled for March 10-12 and will feature panel discussions, exhibitions, and a concert by Wammack on Friday, March 11, at Norton Auditorium on the UNA campus. Concert tickets are available at una.edu/unawoman.

Founded as a teachers' college in 1872, UNA was the first four-year institution in the southeast to become a co-educational institution.

"We wanted an event that would be indicative of the scope of the celebration and a nod toward 150 years of admitting women, and doing so in the Southeast 20 years before the next institution of higher education," said Michelle Eubanks '96, publisher and editor of the *UNA Magazine* and co-chair of the Year of the UNA Woman Task Force.

The celebration begins the evening of Thursday, March 10, with the lighting of Harrison Fountain, a campus tradition.

The following day, on March 11, UNA will have a Future Lions Day for Early College students.

"This will be a great opportunity for students to get an up-close look at UNA and see exactly how they, like Rachel, can begin their story right here,"

Eubanks said. "That evening, we'll shift gears for her concert. We're so proud of Rachel, and we wanted to bring her back to celebrate her talent with all of us, and that concert will be open to the community," Eubanks said.

Future Lions Day will include an Experiential Learning Fair with hands-on activities from salsa dance lessons to ceramics and a turn at the pottery wheel.

The evening of Saturday, March 12, the Weekend of Women will continue at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tuscumbia in neighboring Colbert County where the community can come and listen to music written and performed by women composers and musicians on the faculty in honor of the Year of the UNA Woman. In addition to music, an art sale will take place featuring works by students in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering and the School of the Arts.

"The most important thing is for the community to see that the University's history is part of their history," said Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, associate dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering and the co-chair of the Year of the UNA Woman Task Force.

"Sixty percent of our student population today are women, and we have female students in every discipline that you can imagine, from our traditional teaching program, which is still at the heart of the institution, to all of the STEM disciplines," Bibbee said.

"We also have women leading our MBA program and our Executive Doctorate of Business Administration program," he said. "And in our arts programs, women have held significant roles leading and developing those programs."

Wammack, a native of Muscle Shoals who was crowned Miss UNA in 2015, credits the university's academic programs with giving her a firm foundation for her music career.

Back in high school, Wammack said she got an offer to go to Nashville after a music promoter heard her sing. But she chose to enroll at UNA instead.

"I remember my mom telling me that your degree is something no one can take away from you," Wammack said. "There are a lot of things in our lives that can be taken away from us – our jobs and things that we've worked for – but no one can ever take away your degree."

Finding the right major for her, however, took time, she said. But when she picked English as a major, she liked that her professors in the department agreed to let her tailor some assignments that leveraged her love for music.

For example, one professor asked her to analyze the words of several Bob Dylan songs.

Then during her senior year, another professor allowed her to write a song and shoot a music video for her presentation,

"That really made me think about how I would love to have a music video one day and how I would want to see my music portrayed. I thought it was so cool, and it was tailored for me."

After graduating in 2016, Wammack enrolled briefly in UNA's graduate program to study creative writing. But soon she took

a leap of faith and left school to move to Nashville and launch her music career. Four years later, *Paste Magazine* listed her as one of the "10 Country Artists to Watch in 2020."

That same year, her song "What He Does," which she co-wrote with Jimmy Robbins and Eric Arjes, garnered more than 18 million streams worldwide, and the award-winning country band Rascal Flatts' track "Quick, Fast, In a Hurry" featured Wammack.

"Even the classes I took in graduate school taught me a lot about the collaborative process and empowered me as a writer to believe that my voice, as an inexperienced writer and as a woman, was just as important as anyone I'm writing with no matter their age, or male or female, or if they have 10 number ones," she said.

Because of those positive experiences at UNA, when asked to perform for the "Weekend of Women" event, Wammack said she eagerly accepted the invitation.

"To be able to have professors who empower young women to go after a career that's very difficult is something I'll never forget, and I'm just so thankful." ☺

WEEKEND OF WOMEN

SCHEDULE

FOR A FULL SCHEDULE,
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THURSDAY, MARCH 10

LIGHT THE FOUNTAIN AT HARRISON FOUNTAIN AND PLAZA

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FUTURE LIONS' DAY ON THE UNA CAMPUS

RACHAEL WAMMACK CONCERT AT NORTON AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SHOWCASE AT THE TENNESSEE
VALLEY ART MUSEUM, TUSCUMBIA



By the BOOK

Volume commemorates Year of the UNA Woman

By **Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96**
For *The UNA Magazine*

Full disclosure: I am biased. It's difficult for me to contain just how excited I am about the upcoming book dedicated to the Year of the UNA Woman and Dixie Norwood's work in accomplishing the volume that will be available in January.

She has masterfully curated the collection of images and worked alongside UNA Senior Graphic Designer Kali Daniel to create the sesquicentennial book. Dixie has done so with a keen eye toward history and keeping in mind what has struck her imagination and piqued her curiosity. It has been a special process, and one she was unsure she'd have time to include in her schedule of coursework and thesis writing for her graduate degree in the Public History program.

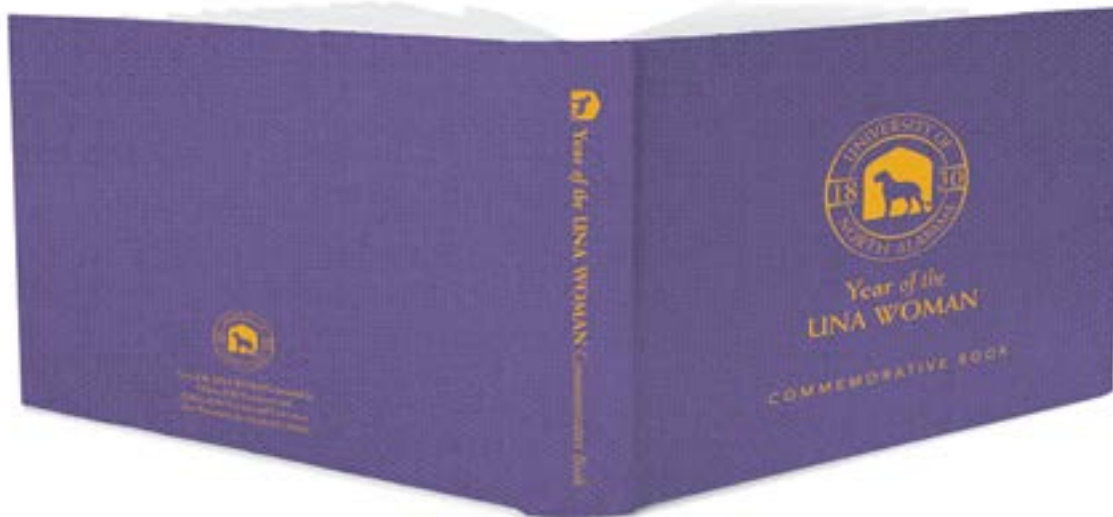
But "the more I thought about it, the more eager I became," Dixie said. "Photography has always been one of my favorite hobbies, and I love to look at photographs."

She channeled that love affair with printed images to the task at hand, often recalling her childhood spent with her father, an amateur photographer, in the process and marrying that with her love of history and learning about the past.

"When [my father] would not be looking, I would take the film cartridges and open them up," Dixie said. "The smell of the film became something I would never forget. Being able to be the image gatherer has made me appreciate the hard work and determination of capturing those memories of days gone by."

Where to start the gathering of so many images?





Dixie said it began with an inventory of 46 boxes of photographic materials provided to the UNA Archives by former staff photographer Shannon Wells. UNA's yearbook, *The Diorama*, which stopped publishing in 2020, was another source of materials, as were the archives of UNA's student newspaper, the *Flor-Ala*.

Again and again, she said, she ran into the challenge of years of materials abruptly ending, and this often meant searching through numerous files and photographs, looking for those images that caught her eye.

"Trust me. This process was tedious at times, frustrating," Dixie said. "Making sure the scanned images matched the exact number in the image inventory took a lot of time and energy. At times, I felt that some may not like the images I selected, or the reader might wonder why I had not chosen other images instead. As I look over the almost 500 images I have selected, I feel that the spirit of the UNA Woman is shown in them all."

Dixie knew UNA's archive was small, and, as such, she began to see the process of compiling and organizing the files as a way to build on the collection in place.

Year of the UNA Woman Task Force Co-Chair Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee agrees.

"This book project gave us a wonderful opportunity to digitize many of the images found in the UNA Archives and Special Collections, and now we get to share this rich and diverse collection with the whole UNA family," he said.

Still, Dixie said there were some surprises along the way.

"From the project's perspective, I did not

realize how young women's athletics and organizations are here at UNA," she said. "There were several organizations for women in the '50s and '60s, but it wasn't until the early 1970s that the University had its first women's athletic team. That's only 50 years ago, maybe a little less than 50 years."

The 1970s would see not just the advent of women's sports at UNA. It would also see its first woman appointed to its Board of Trustees, the first female athletic scholarship named, and the first female African American faculty member hired in the English Department.

Dixie said it gives a different perspective on the University she attended as an undergraduate and is attending for her graduate degree, particularly during the Year of the UNA Woman.

"So much has changed during these last 150 years, and I hope our younger generations realize how influential women have been in our progress as a University," she said. "I also hope that each reader gets a sense of the achievements and accomplishments that so many women have made not only here at UNA, but also in politics, education, nursing, and so much more."

Each of the images she has selected is special, Dixie said, as each is representative of those women who have come before her.

"To be able to highlight their achievements, while at the same time trying to finish up mine, is truly amazing," she said. "I hope that one day people can look back at this year and realize how special it was to so many women who have worked or graduated from this university." ☉



THE YEAR OF THE UNA WOMAN COMMEMORATIVE BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY.
VISIT UNA.EDU/UNAWOMAN TO PURCHASE YOURS.



ASHLEY REMKUS '15 SAID HER TIME ON STAFF AT THE FLOR-ALA INFLUENCED HER DECISION TO BECOME A JOURNALIST.

Help at every turn

It could be said that the road to a Pulitzer Prize started with a flat tire

By Ashley Remkus '15 | For *The UNA Magazine*

My little black Ford Focus raced along the winding roads that cut between soybean fields on the south side of Lauderdale County. Even as a teenager, I was a stickler for punctuality – though not for obeying the speed limit “suggestions.”

This was an important day. I needed to surrender my pipe dream of moving away for college and embrace UNA – just about 25 miles from the driveway of my childhood home in Cherokee, a tiny town across the Tennessee River in Colbert County.

As I drove through downtown Florence on that overcast day back in 2011, I scoured the streets for parking – something all UNA students, alumni, and employees can relate to.

When my car reached the bridge on Pine Street that now sits parallel to the Mitchell Burford Science and Technology Building, I felt a jolt and heard a loud thud. The low tire pressure light glowed on my dashboard. My front passenger tire hit a drain on the bridge.

I quickly veered off the busy road into a parking space. The tire would probably be flat by the time I finished a campus visit with a dozen or so members of my 40-person graduating class from Cherokee High School. But I'd just have to deal with the tire later.

After our campus visit, a handful of classmates

walked me back to my car so they could help if my tire was, in fact, flat. As rain began to cover the pavement that day, my friends put on the spare so I could get back to Cherokee in time for a shift at work that night. I later found out that I had done more than \$400 worth of damage to the tire and wheel.

“Well, I sure hope this isn't a sign of what it's going to be like here,” I remember telling my friends, with a laugh.

In many ways, it turns out, that's exactly how my time at UNA went. It rained – a lot. And parking was, of course, a daily challenge. But perhaps the most remarkable foreshadowing of that day was that, like my classmates from Cherokee, the people I met at UNA were always eager to help me.



A couple of years into my time at UNA, I was struggling to identify what was next for me, what I really wanted to do when I graduated. I was doing well academically, but I wasn't the most involved

“That moment that I realized I could have an impact, that’s when I realized this was the place for me.”

student. After classes and on weekends, I was waiting tables at the only diner in my hometown to help pay my family’s bills.

Despite our financial woes, it was never a question whether I’d go to college. My momma had told me since I was a little girl that I could be the first woman elected President of the United States.

And though Momma’s dreams for me were far-fetched, at best, our family never doubted that I would go to college. It just wasn’t yet clear what I would actually make of myself.

That all changed in 2013 after Anna Grace Usery, a fellow Communication major who would later become my best friend and roommate, invited me to write for the *Flor-Ala*.

“Might as well try it,” I remember thinking to myself. “If it doesn’t seem worth the time, it’s not like I’m signed up for life.”

It didn’t take long for me to find my calling, surrounded by talented student journalists, in the windowless office of the campus newspaper. I learned to interview and investigate, to listen and to learn. In that building, I found my voice. I realized that I could make a difference by elevating the voices

of other students.

I still remember the pride I felt seeing my first real byline, the confidence that moment instilled in me. If I had somehow followed my original dream of moving away to a bigger city with a larger college, I might never have had the opportunity to publish front-page stories or work one-on-one with mentors and eventually become an editor myself.

I recently spoke on a panel with other Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists, and the moderator asked when I realized that I was going to become a writer. I immediately recalled my time at the *Flor-Ala*. “That moment that I realized I could have an impact, that’s when I realized this was the place for me,” I told the crowd of students, educators, and parents.



The impact I can have through journalism became even more apparent last year – as a wave of protests against police violence swept the nation. I reported on Facebook Live, through a blanket of tear gas, as demonstrators took to the streets and police in riot gear hurled flash bangs – small grenades

that emit disorienting bright bursts of light and explosive sounds – near my feet. I spent months working with a team of journalists from across the country to investigate police dog attacks – an investigative reporting series that went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting.

I remember calling Dr. Pat Sanders, now the chair of the Department of Communication. I was tired, exhausted, worn down. I was doubting myself.

I sat on my back porch, listening as Dr. Sanders encouraged me. I thanked her for teaching students to incorporate social media and other nontraditional forms of storytelling into journalism. I thanked her for always challenging me to look at the world from perspectives different from my own.

“Until I was in your classes, I never had a teacher who pushed me to think differently, to be aware of the lens I see the world through,” I remember telling her.

What she didn’t know in that moment is that I was thinking back to that 2011 visit to UNA – the day when my friends jumped in to help with a flat tire. I remembered the isolation I felt before finding my home at the *Flor-Ala*. I remembered feeling



ASHLEY REMKUS '15 RETURNED TO THE UNA CAMPUS IN FALL '21 TO VISIT WITH ONE OF HER MENTORS, DR. PAT SANDERS '82, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION. REMKUS WON THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR NATIONAL REPORTING EARLIER THIS YEAR.

inadequate, until Dr. Sanders and so many other educators taught me to see the world from different perspectives.

It's hard for me to believe that a place where my first experience was a flat tire I couldn't afford to fix has led me to a career where I get to be a voice for the voiceless.

My younger sister, Erin

Remkus, also found a passion for helping others while studying at UNA. Now she's getting a master's degree in social work.

Since I moved back to Florence this summer, Erin and I have spent a lot of time chatting on her front porch. We spoke about the many women who helped us succeed at UNA – the ones who

believed in us and invested in us, the ones who pushed us to be better and supported us when we didn't believe we could do it.

For that, we are forever grateful.

No matter where we go, Florence will always be home. UNA will always be a part of us. ☺

Building bridges

Mentors provide lifeline for students

By Gail Allyn Short
For *The UNA Magazine*

The mentors. They are those trusted individuals we turn to for sage advice, insight, and guidance. They provide perspective and wisdom, and they cheer us on toward our goals and aspirations.

But according to the 2018 Strada-Gallup Alumni Survey “Mentoring College Students to Success,” fewer than half of the college graduates polled, 43 percent, said they agreed or strongly agreed that they had mentors during their undergraduate years who encouraged them to reach their goals.

Moreover, a 2019 Strada Education Network Gallup poll concluded that having a mentor in college is one of six experiences in college that leads to higher engagement and greater well-being on the job.

Tori Bottoms, 23, of St. Joseph, Tenn., who earned her bachelor’s degree in marketing at the University of North Alabama in 2020, said that during freshman year, UNA Associate Professor of Marketing Dr. Erin Gillespie became her academic adviser and has been her mentor since. Bottoms is enrolled as a student in the MBA program.

“Dr. Gillespie helps me make sure that I’m putting my all into whatever I’m doing but also pausing to take time for myself as well,” she said.

Even in graduate school, Bottoms said she still turns to Gillespie for advice whenever she has to write papers or create presentations for class.

“She has more of an insight because she’s already been there,” said Bottoms. “So when opportunities arise, I run them by her and ask, ‘What do you think about this?’ ‘Do you think this is a strong move for my future?’ or ‘Have you been in this situation before?’”

Bottoms, who will graduate this December, said Gillespie was especially helpful when she launched her job search during her senior year. Bottoms eventually landed a job as a recruiter for UNA’s online MBA program.



TORI BOTTOMS, LEFT, SAID DR. ERIN GILLESPIE HAS BEEN A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON HER PROFESSIONAL LIFE.





AS PART OF THE WOMEN IN BUSINESS PROGRAM, STUDENTS HEARD FROM LOCAL FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS ABOUT HOW TO EXCEL IN BUSINESS.

“One of the things Dr. Gillespie talks about a lot is how many women face ‘imposter syndrome’ where they think they can’t just because they don’t check all the boxes, or they’re not valuable enough or don’t bring enough to that opportunity,” said Bottoms. “But she says to set those feelings aside and step up for what you want to do because if you want it, you need to step up and try for it, and the worst thing that anyone can ever tell you is ‘no.’”

Gillespie said professors who act as mentors for students play an important role in helping them deal with classes and even sort out their career options.

“By mentoring, you give students encouragement and a sounding board,” Gillespie said. “Maybe they have a class that they’re struggling with, or maybe they’re unsure about which company they want to interview with, or, if they get several job offers, how to decide between them.”

Most of her mentoring, said Gillespie, takes place during her office hours or when students are attending Women in Business meetings or preparing for sales competitions.

“I don’t feel like I actively seek out being a mentor,” she said. “I let students know it’s there, that I’m here, and I’m available, but it really happens more organically.”

Gillespie is also a faculty adviser for UNA’s Women in Business program where participating students are mentored by faculty as well as local business leaders. They also get to attend skills workshops and panel discussions on relevant

issues in today’s business world.

Mentoring students through Women in Business and as a professor allows her to share with students her past experiences working in the corporate world, Gillespie said.

“I worked for quite a while in between my undergraduate degree and MBA and when I went back to school for my Ph.D.,” she said. “I like sharing those experiences and the things that I faced, whether it was issues with customers or coworkers or managers or what have you. I love sharing those stories so students can realize that these things happen and learn how to deal with them when they do happen.”

Gillespie said mentoring benefits not only her students but her as well.

“I enjoy the connection with the students because it’s a deeper relationship that you have than just having them in your class or just advising them. And usually you get to stay in touch with them afterward and see them grow.

“I feel like it also gives me a fresh perspective,” she said. “It was through getting that fresh perspective that led to the creation of Women in Business. I really wanted to make a difference.”

Senior Bobbi Bukovac, 21, of Madison, is a marketing major with a concentration in sales and is president of the Women in Business club. She said Gillespie first coached her in her sophomore year for various sales competitions and has been her mentor since.

“There are a lot of challenges with classes and things like that, but I’ve found that mostly the challenge is in my own head. I

tell myself that I can’t do it or that I just got lucky doing well in a competition or in class,” Bukovac said.

“So having a mentor helps you,” she said. “They’re your champion, and they help you to get out of your own head and say, ‘You’re doing a good job.’ They help you to realize that everyone has experienced this or gone through it before me. A mentor helps put things in perspective.”

Bukovac said Gillespie has also taught her how to get the most out of every experience in college, from classes and internships to sales competitions and Women in Business workshops.

“She makes you take your time and to stop and think, ‘Okay, what am I learning from this experience? What can I take with me?’ instead of doing what I used to do, which was to just do it, put it on my resume, and keep moving.”

Bukovac said she hopes one day to land a job in the tech industry and plans to take lessons she learned from Gillespie with her.

“Dr. Gillespie is always so supportive with anything I’m doing, whether it’s a class or looking into jobs, she’s always there to provide her insight because she went through everything before me, and she really wants to help all her students to grow and to have a good career.”

Bottoms, meanwhile, said she and Bukovac have become friends, and she now mentors the senior as well.

“A lot of the things that Dr. Gillespie has taught me I’m funneling down to teach Bobbi,” said Bottoms, “and passing the wealth along.” ☉



ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR AND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES AMBASSADOR SHANISE ALLEN SAID MENTORSHIP HAS BEEN A CRITICAL PART OF HER SUCCESS AT UNA.

The give-and-take

Mentorship foundation to success in College of Education and Human Sciences

By Anna Beahm '16 | For *The UNA Magazine*

While educators do complete their education by earning degrees and certifications, the learning never stops. Often, the educators who teach other aspiring educators how to teach learn important lessons from the same students they're leading.

That's what happens at Kilby Laboratory School, where college students hoping to become teachers can learn from the best and put their skills to the test.

"I love watching confidence grow in those UNA students. They come in a little shy, unsure, kind of timid. After a few weeks and a few experiences, they come out of here very confident," said Dr. Eric Kirkman, director of Kilby Laboratory School. "We want everyone to come here and see what first-class teaching looks like. We don't just throw them to the wolves."

Kilby acts as both a public elementary school through Florence City Schools and a laboratory where UNA students can practice teaching, working with children, and even volunteer their time in the classroom.

Preparing students to be skilled educators and leaders is part of UNA's legacy; it's at the heart of it. The University was the first state teacher's college south of the Ohio River and the first in the Southeast to admit women. That legacy has

allowed women to create a tradition of mentoring other women, and that tradition got its start in the College of Education and Human Sciences and continues across campus and within each division.

Dr. Kimberly Greenway, who serves as UNA's Vice President for Student Affairs, is on the front lines of student mentorship. Former students have described Greenway as the "principal of college" thanks to her work in student conduct, so she's had a front-row seat to teachable moments with students.

"As an administrator, it is my job to help students be successful. Seeing students in a moment of growth, and knowing that that will impact their future growth, and that they can then turn around and impact the future growth of other people, it's a success for them," Greenway said. "But in a way, it's a success for all of us. And I get to be part of that success. It's really fulfilling to me as an individual as well as a professional."

Professors, student organization leaders, and administrators like Greenway can provide students not only the support they need to earn their degrees, but they can also give students valuable knowledge and advice they've gathered through their own experiences in the field.

Shanise Allen, an elementary education major and ambassador

for the College of Education and Human Sciences at UNA, said knowing she can learn from her professors and mentors helps relieve some of the stress of choosing a career and entering the workforce.

"I love mentorship, and it definitely has helped throughout college to make me feel less stressed because I know there's someone there to help me and guide me," she said. "It's so helpful just knowing that I have someone there for me, and that they're also rooting for me in everything that I do throughout my time here."

While students have much to gain from their professors and administrators, sometimes the students teach the teachers, Kirkman said.

"UNA students are studying the most recent educational trends, the most recent tools for technology and things of that nature. A lot of times when they come and conduct our mini lessons or clinicals, our Kilby teachers are sitting back taking notes. It becomes kind of a give-and-take partnership in some instances where not only are we working to teach them, but they're actually bringing in some new ideas to teach us," he said.

Teachers have the opportunity to give their students lessons and information that will impact them for a lifetime.





Kimberly Greenway '91

DR. KIMBERLY GREENWAY SERVES AS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AT UNA, HAVING GRADUATED FROM THE INSTITUTION IN 1991 (INSET).

The influence of a professor or university administrators can influence some students to pursue education as a career. That's what happened to both Greenway and Dr. Tammy Jacques, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at UNA.

Both Greenway and Jacques said that the support of other mentors in higher education led them to choose a career in higher education for themselves.

Jacques described herself as a "lost soul" type of student – one who changed her major multiple times before she discovered she wanted to go into higher education. She credits the support of Dr. Greenway, who hired her at UNA, and the support of other professionals she met while working in Student Affairs.

Seeing students have those moments when they realize what they want to do is meaningful not just for the student, but also for their mentors and supervisors, Greenway said.

"I don't even know if I can describe how exhilarating that is because it's a long-term impact. It's not just this instant gratification of, 'I'm happy for you,' and then you walk away from it. I'm helping them fulfill their own purpose, and in that I'm fulfilling my own. As a mentor, it's more than just holding people responsible and giving them advice. It's an opportunity to change lives forever," she said.

Colleges and universities bring together students from various backgrounds and social statuses and give students an opportunity to learn from people who are different than they are, Jacques said.

In turn, professors and administrators get to learn from students with varying backgrounds as well.

"In everything, every decision you make, you should always keep the students in the forefront of your mind. In education, you're going to have to ask 'how do we do policies and procedures and programs that are strategic, that are going to serve students?' and sometimes it can be a really tough decision to decide what's right, and so you always have to make sure to keep them in your focus," Jacques said.

"I learn from the students as much as I hope that I give to them. They give me joy and give me a new perspective. They make me think and keep me up with the lingo. In that give-and-take, I hope that I'm able to give to them as much as I take and learn from them as well."

Aside from the required student internships and connections made through taking classes, campus involvement – even outside of a student's major – can prove to be life-changing.

Meeting other people and finding other mentors can make a major difference in not just the college experience, but in your career, said Amber Bodiford, who was a student employee for Dr. Greenway.

"Students need that positive person in their life, whether that's through working as a student employee, whether that's through joining an organization, or whether that's just volunteering in the community," Bodiford said. "If I didn't go to college, and learn things not just from book knowledge, if I didn't go to college and gain the experience that I've gained throughout my four years there, I don't think I would be the person that I am today." ☉

'Circle that keeps giving'

Preceptorships help solidify skills for nursing graduates

By Anna Beahm '16
For *The UNA Magazine*

Working as a nurse requires nurses both to build relationships with patients and make critical decisions to support the patients' health and well-being. Mentor relationships with preceptors and professors offer graduates of the University's Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions the support and advice they need as they enter the world of healthcare.

Erica Jantzen, a nurse practitioner for Tennessee Valley Pediatrics and adjunct professor



for ACONHP, said she was inspired to help students find their place in medicine two years ago after attending a medical mission trip to Guatemala and meeting some of UNA's nursing students.

"In nursing school, the foundation is started, but you have to build upon that for it to be stable. I feel like that's why some people, when they get out of nursing school and they start their jobs, change careers because they don't have someone that has that patience and grace to help them grow and mature into a seasoned nurse," Jantzen said.

After she got home from the trip, Jantzen started working as an adjunct faculty member at UNA. She also started working as a preceptor for nurses at her pediatric clinic in Tuscumbia. Preceptors are other doctors or nurses who allow student nurses to

work underneath them to get hands-on experience in a real-world healthcare environment, Jantzen explained.

These hands-on experiences offer students an opportunity to apply the skills they'd previously only read about or watched in class. They also give students a look into real working relationships with other doctors and nurses, said Danielle Pettus, who plans to graduate from UNA with her BSN degree this year.

For Pettus, having the support of professors and other professional nurses has been crucial.

Most of Pettus' time in nursing school has been during the pandemic, which means her professors have had to find creative ways to conduct clinicals while also keeping up with the changing protocols at



STUDENTS IN THE ANDERSON COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS USE THE SIMULATION LAB IN HARRISON HALL AS PART OF THEIR COURSES AND IN PREPARATION FOR REAL-WORLD SETTINGS.



hospitals and doctor's offices.

Pettus said she began clinicals in the hospital in the Spring 2020 semester, but student nurses were removed from hospitals once COVID patients began flooding in. Pettus and many other nursing students across the country had to complete virtual clinicals.

While Pettus was grateful for the extra work professors did to ensure students had what they needed to complete their coursework, she said learning from other nurses and hand-on experience are crucial.

"You can learn everything in the textbook – you can learn and know everything, front and back – but until you get out and you do it, and you learn from someone who's been there and learned by trial and error that can teach you, it doesn't really click," Pettus said.

"There are things that you learn in the textbook that are done, I don't want to say in a different way in the hospital, but you just have to learn by doing it."

Learning from nurses with different specialties and perspectives on care has had a meaningful impact on Pettus as she prepares to graduate and enter the field.

"Every single nurse, no matter where they're from, has a different perspective. I believe that every nurse can have an impact on a nursing student in a way. You never know how many people that you can impact with just one sentence," she said.

Through precepting, Jantzen has been able to mentor students from UNA and other nearby universities. She's described her role of mentor and guide for students as "the circle that keeps on giving."

By design, nursing students are required to complete hours of supervised, hands-on clinical experience in a practicing physician's office or hospital before graduation. These experiences help student nurses not only apply the skills they learned in class, but also learn from the wealth of knowledge professional nurses and doctors can offer student nurses.

Making career choices and finding jobs is a challenge for any college student, but nurses

earning their degrees and entering the field during a global pandemic face additional risks and stressors, including the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Jantzen said she feels it's important for young nurses or for people interested in studying nursing to feel supported, especially nurses entering the field during the pandemic.

"For the people that still want to come into the medical field, we all need to be more welcoming and help them get established to know their role and what to do," she said.

Having this support, Jantzen said, will be crucial as nursing students become registered nurses, nurse practitioners, or other healthcare professionals.

"I want people that know what they're doing to take care of me when I need it, so I need to help those who are new establish their foundation. When they get to be the person who's seasoned with years of experience, they can help the next generation. It's the circle that keeps on giving."

Aside from learning the nuts and bolts of what it means to provide great patient care, trusted mentors can also serve as a source for second opinions and reflections on patient care decisions. Having a mentor can help relieve some of the stress and second-guessing nurses sometimes experience after making a difficult treatment decision.

"We all sometimes need a second opinion or reassurance to help build and grow our confidence that we have done and are doing the right thing when it comes to our patients," Jantzen said.

While the preceptor model was created for the purposes of educating and providing hands-on experience for young nurses, the nurses and other physicians overseeing students can learn from students' fresh perspectives as well, according to Jantzen.

Some of those students might even become coworkers one day.

"Several people I have precepted now are my coworkers. I have to look at that and think that maybe this was a stepping stone on their path to finding what they truly like to do," she said. ☉



UNA SENIOR VICTORIA SCHAFER CONSOLO WILL GRADUATE IN MAY 2022 FROM THE DELORES AND WELDON COLE HONORS COLLEGE WITH A BACHELORS DEGREE IN NURSING.

MIND *the* GAP

Program allowed student to forge new path to service, care

By the Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College | For *The UNA Magazine*

More and more students consider a gap year at some point in their education, but it's much rarer that the gap year includes circling the globe in pursuit of a higher calling, such as traveling to Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica on a nine-month mission adventure.

Senior Victoria Schafer Consolo from Florence started her education in the Honors Program, as it was then called, in the fall of 2017, continued it in the Honors College, and will finish her studies in May 2022 as a Delores and Weldon Cole Honors College graduate. During her freshman year, Victoria was vice president of Freshman Forum, and for two years she excelled in her initial degree program.

In spite of her success and recognizing that UNA was a very good fit for her, Victoria "felt God calling her" to something else. The "something else" she accomplished in 2018-2019 was to become part of the World Race: Gap Year program. Victoria taught English, built roads, assisted with water distribution, helped with reforestation, was a street evangelist, ran community center classes, and worked with ministries that helped women on the streets in the countries where she served. Victoria's year away was truly a year of personal growth and contribution to many people in need.

After her gap year, Victoria returned to UNA and changed her major to nursing as she continued to answer the call to serve. Back in the Shoals, Victoria has volunteered with Common Ground of the Shoals, a faith-based mentoring program, and served as co-president of Encounter, a student ministry Registered

Student Organization on campus. This summer, Victoria married Parker Consolo, who is pursuing a structural engineering degree from Oregon State and works at Turbo Coffee in downtown Florence.

For Victoria, the best part about being in the Cole Honors College has been the sense of community.

"There are places on campus where you can go to meet people that share an interest in the world around you," she said. "The Honors College was vital to my freshman year, meeting people who would become life-long friends."

Specific mentors in the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions made a difference in her education. Victoria said four faculty each played a different but crucial role in her professional development.

The first professor Victoria mentioned was Dr. Rachel Winston, associate professor in the ACONHP and Special Assistant in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Although Victoria has not had Dr. Winston as an instructor, she's been impressed by her qualities as a caregiver as well as her leadership in the Respite Program that provides child care for parents with special needs children.

Ms. Melanie Looser, Victoria's Level 1 Health and Physical Assessment instructor, is another ACONHP faculty who has made a powerful impression. According to Victoria, Looser is one of the "best teachers" she's had.

"She really modeled care for patients and took every opportunity to instruct and teach. Ms. Looser is the kind of teacher you want to make proud," Victoria said.

The third of Victoria's mentors is Ms. Nikki Davenport, Accelerated

Nursing Program Lecturer and Clinical Supervisor. Victoria was impressed by the consistency and authenticity of patient care Ms. Davenport demonstrated.

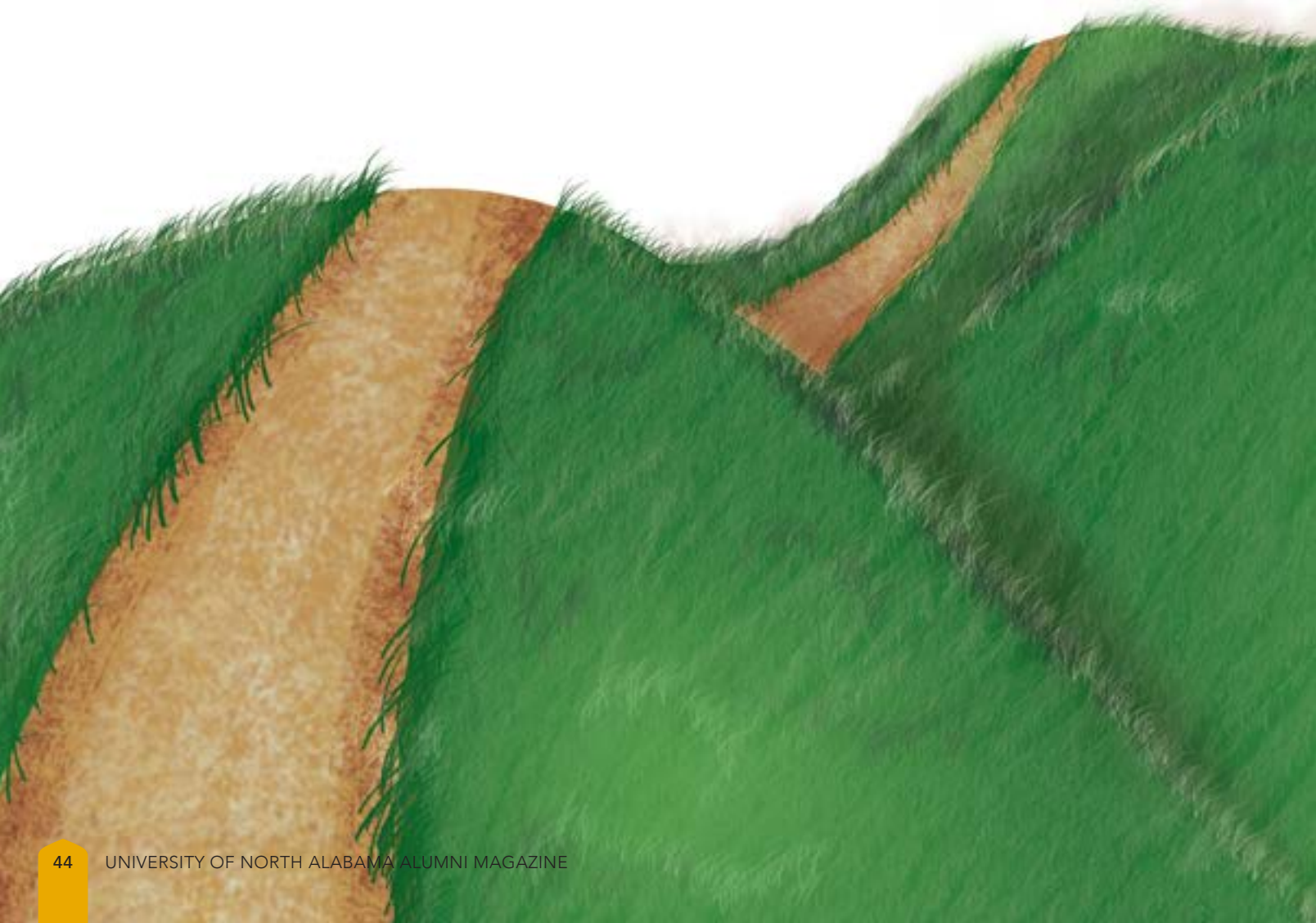
"Ms. Davenport is the nurse I would like to be some day, always seeking to be more knowledgeable in order to improve care for her patients," Victoria said. "Her humility toward students and those in her care was an inspiration."

Dr. Stephanie Clark, assistant professor in the ACONHP, is Victoria's advisor on her Honors Senior Project. Victoria said. "I so appreciate [Dr. Clark's] enthusiasm and care for those who are bedridden. She has an incredible eye for those in need that others might not see."

After Victoria's gap year, she realized she wanted more from college than just a degree. She wanted a skill that would allow her to care for others wherever life took her. She felt called to be a nurse. Her four faculty mentors – Winston, Looser, Davenport, and Clark – through their compassionate interactions with students, patients, and community members, have confirmed Victoria's choice and have provided role models for the type of nurse she strives to be.

Since 2005, many extraordinary students have been a part of what is today the Cole Honors College. Many have been world travelers and students abroad, but few students have taken their talents and passion for service to the remote parts of the world the way Victoria Schafer Consolo has. Victoria embodies the spirit of the Cole Honors College as she translates knowledge into action. ☉

GROWING, GROWING, *GONE*





UNA female athletes shine after graduation

By Taylor Simpson '18, '20 | For The UNA Magazine

As the University of North Alabama Athletics is entering its last year of the transition between NCAA Division II and NCAA Division I sports, women's sports at the university are looking toward growth for their female athletes both in the competitive arena and in their professional lives.

"We experienced tremendous success in our first two years of the transition. We then graduated five seniors, and the pandemic struck," said Missy Tiber, UNA Women's Basketball coach. "Last year was one of growth. Our extremely youthful squad overcame great adversity and was able to play the entire season."

Now, most of the players who represented UNA Athletics through the transition have graduated and moved on to pursue success outside of athletics. These days, the focus of UNA Athletics is on supporting those successes by helping the players as they navigate their way through college and beyond.

Kenysha Coulson was one of those players who was integral to the women's basketball team throughout the transition years. Now a recent UNA alumna, she kicked off her first year of graduate school at UNA in Fall 2021 and serves as the Graduate Assistant for Women's Basketball. She said the team culture is one of the reasons she chose to pursue a graduate degree at UNA.



KENYSHA COULSON, ABOVE, AND KARA NIX, RIGHT, SAID UNA ATHLETICS PAVED THE WAY FOR THEIR SUCCESS AFTER GRADUATION.

“I built my character here – the character that does the right thing even when no one is watching. Because of that, I learned how to lead in the correct way, both on and off the court,” she said.

Coulson said Coach Tiber helped her to become mentally tough – something she struggled with when she first came to UNA. Not only that, but Tiber inspired her to become a coach herself.

“All my life, I wanted to become a nurse,” Coulson said, but Tiber’s leadership and the experiences she had in the athletics program made Coulson change her mind and switch majors sophomore year in order to study kinesiology.

“Now, I want to give girls the opportunities I had. I want them to build the lifelong relationships I built,” she said.

The idea that success stretches beyond the scoreboard seems standard across other women’s

sports programs at UNA. Women’s Softball Coach Ashley Cozart said her goals as a coach go farther than winning tournaments and raising GPAs, though those ambitions are on her mind, too.

“I want to be that coach that can help our team win on the field but also be at their graduation ceremony, their wedding, meet their kids, and be a part of their lives even after they leave UNA,” she said.

Kara Nix, a recent UNA graduate and former cross country runner embodies the product of this commitment as she was recently named to the 2021 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Division I Women’s Track & Field/Cross Country Academic All-America team. She was chosen for the honor based on her performance in both the classroom and in athletics. For her successes, she credits the leadership of UNA Women’s Cross Country Coach

Jeremy Provence and the athletics department as a whole.

“People in the department saw skills in me far before I ever did, and they had a great way of bringing out those strengths within me. I left having achieved athletic accolades far beyond what I ever dreamed,” she said.

Nix, a Muscle Shoals native, said she hopes to return to the area after completing her education in order to serve the community as a physician. The support for UNA Athletics from the local community was a big part of why she succeeded during her time at the University, she said. “I think the investment from both the community and the leadership within the athletic department has allowed for women’s sports to thrive.”

She said UNA is unique because it offers the academic support of a small college and the advantages of a large college athletically.



Teamwork is also a big part of any successful athletics program. No doubt, each coach has her own style of instilling a sense of camaraderie within each athletic team on campus. For Cozart, this looks like love.

“Our culture has to be strong. We have to be a family who loves and cares about each other first. Love is a huge part of our culture,” she said. “We love each other and come from a place of gratitude. We are comfortable and confident, and it helps us be the best we can be.”

As Cozart begins her ninth year of coaching at UNA, she knows what success looks like for her team, and success for her personally is about more than what happens on the softball field.

“I think looking at the big picture, we want every day to get better in all aspects of our program on and off the field; get a little bit better every day and always be moving forward,” she said.

Personal growth is also on Tiber’s mind as she coaches her players through some of the most important years of their lives. Team culture plays a large part in making sure her players feel supported, loved, and pushed to perform their best.

“[My goal is] to provide our young ladies with an environment that fosters growth as a person and as a player through structure, discipline, and love. Building and sustaining a culture is something that you have to work hard at each day,” she said.

Both Tiber and Cozart agree that the DI athletics transition will put an even greater emphasis on team morale and motivation.

“(The transition to DI) has opened so many doors for our female athletes as far as funding, resources, branding, media attention, and so much more that has really been exciting to see. We have been able to play on the SEC network and

ESPN+, and have been able to play in some amazing stadiums in front of big crowds that we had never experienced,” she said.

Not only has the transition to DI increased funding and media attention, it has also given UNA athletes a deeper sense of self-confidence in all aspects of their lives.

“I think the investment from both the community and the leadership within the athletic department has allowed for women’s sports to thrive right alongside the men’s sports,” Nix said. “It never felt as though women’s sports were given fewer opportunities, which isn’t always the case elsewhere.”

According to Cozart, for women’s sports especially, how the players feel is how they play, and it’s easy for women athletes at UNA to thrive when they feel comfortable, supported, and understood. ☉





MAKENZIE BULLARD CREDITS HER EN-
DOWED SCHOLARSHIPS WITH ALLOWING
HER THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AS A
STUDENT LEADER ON CAMPUS.

THE WAY FORWARD



Endowed scholarships provide more than financial assistance

By Ellen McDonald | For The UNA Magazine

I first met Makenzie Bullard in the fall of 2019. I remember being a timid freshman, taking in all that came with being a new member of the Student Government Association and feeling at ease when she came and introduced herself to Freshman Forum.

At the time, she was serving as the Pro Tempore of SGA Senate. Wearing a blue pant suit, she embodied the leadership and confidence I strived to achieve. Before serving as Pro Tempore, she was the Vice President of Freshman Forum. From the stories I heard, she was everything a leader should be: kind, dedicated, and visionary.

Makenzie went on to become the Secretary for SGA Senate where I got to serve alongside her as a senator. As I grew into my place on campus, I followed Makenzie's guidance and experience. In everything she did, she seemed to do it with ease.

There has never been a time when Makenzie did not stand up for what was best for the students of UNA. She said she could not have done that and the many other things she has done as a campus leader without the financial support she received from an endowed gift to the University.

"I never really thought I'd go to UNA," Bullard said. "Once I got to SOAR [Student Orientation, Advisement, and Registration], I realized that just because UNA was 15 minutes down the road, it didn't mean I really knew what UNA was. It was like a whole other world inside of Florence that I hadn't seen yet."

Makenzie is a graduate of Brooks High School in Killen. And like most people, she thought that in order to grow as a person, she had to get

away from her hometown. At UNA, Makenzie found not just a University, but a second home.

Like many students, Makenzie struggled to support herself financially, especially during her freshman year.

"...That year I lived in the freshman dorms which can be expensive," said Bullard. "So that was a bit of a struggle for me, but the longer I've been here, it seems like the more the scholarships have added up and the [more affordable] tuition becomes. It [receiving scholarships] has been a relief."

During her sophomore year, Bullard experienced a period of doubt in her reason for attending college. She was studying for a biology degree but did not know why. All around her, students were finding their purpose, worried she would be left behind.

"At first I felt like all biology majors just went to med school, and I really didn't feel like that's what I wanted to do," said Bullard. "I thought I might be here longer than four years. I quickly was relieved to know that even if I was here longer than I was supposed to be, my scholarships would take care of me."

Thanks to the endowed gifts of alumni and friends of the University to the UNA Foundation, Bullard said she has peace of mind in that she would always be supported financially while at UNA. She no longer felt pressured to figure out her life plan immediately for the sake of saving money.

Barbie Terry is the Assistant Vice President of University Advancement. Through her position, she has the opportunity to work directly with donors in order to understand and help them achieve their philanthropic goals.

Her office assists donors with giving the gift of financial stability to students like Makenzie and many others.

"For an endowed fund, it's a minimum of ten thousand dollars over a five-year period," said Terry. "We distribute those funds based off of our spending policy. Those funds last in perpetuity, so they never go away."

Through this process, the donor has the opportunity to name the fund and create selection criteria.

Through a current-use scholarship, the donor has both opportunities, but the funds are not perpetual.

Not only do endowments benefit the students financially, but they also help with retention.

"I have been so involved on campus that it's been hard to work a job as maybe another student would be able to off campus," said Bullard. "So many hours that I am not in class are dedicated to student organizations. Having those endowed scholarships was a big beneficial piece of getting to serve the University as much as I wanted to."

Whether it was giving tours to prospective students as a LaGrange Society member or taking notes during Senate meetings, Bullard said most of her free time for the last several years has been dedicated to serving UNA.

"I was able to make a bond with this University that I may not have been able to if I had had to be working off campus," said Bullard. "I hope that the donors realize what an impact they make. I hope they don't think that they never see where the money goes because it's going to real people like me and benefiting us more than they may realize." ☉

And the winners are...

Lifetime Achievement: Ann Berry '78 (*not pictured*)

Alumni of the Year: Dr. Stephanie Wagoner Teichmiller '84

Friend of the University: Megan Lovelace Dye

Military Service: LaConger Cochran Shelton '85

Young Alumni: Rachel Wammack Purcell '16

Faculty Alumni Service: Dr. Pat Sanders '82

Staff Alumni Service: Sheena Burgreen '07

Public Service: Candace Strait '95

Educator of the Year:

K-12 – Janice Curtis '83

Higher Education – Dr. Stefanie Haeffele-Balch '07

Community Service: Dr. Felice Green '72





HOLLIS, AN ALL FEMALE TRIO AND ALL UNA ALUMNAE, PERFORMED AS PART OF THE HOMECOMING AWARDS CEREMONY AT NORTON AUDITORIUM.



Welcome HOME





The University of North Alabama celebrated Homecoming this fall, bringing back some of the traditions that had been missed in 2020 and in the abbreviated Homecoming that took place in March of 2021. The night-time pep rally at Founders' Hill brought together students, alumni, and friends of the University for a special celebration of this year's theme – Year of the UNA Woman: Heroes, Legends, Trailblazers. Students also integrated the theme into their window paintings, pomping displays, and Homecoming parade floats. Students Bryce Austin and Shanise Allen were crowned UNA's Homecoming King and Queen during the pre-game festivities. The Lions would go on to win the game against Robert Morris University, 42-31.





Dear Alumni and Friends:

It's the Year of the UNA Woman! I am excited and honored to be serving you as the UNA National Alumni President for the coming year. I am also looking forward to having you join me and be a part of this experience.

Speaking of experiences, one of my favorite quotes from Warren Buffett reads: "Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

As we continue the Year of the UNA Woman, those women who were the early pioneers in propelling UNA into a co-educational institution have served as an inspiration for us all. Those pioneers planted seeds and made important decisions, not knowing who would reap the rewards, and here we are today – enjoying the fruits of their labor!

As a University, we have navigated the challenges of the past year, yet we have also continued to build and grow in a positive direction. It takes many hands to make all this happen, and it has taken incredible dedication, teamwork, innovation, and leadership from alumni and friends.

My thanks to the 2020-2021 National Alumni Association Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their leadership and continued service. Each of these alumni volunteers used their skills and circle of influence to help UNA achieve its goals.

I especially want to thank this year's immediate Past President Mary Leigh Gillespie for her leadership and dedication to the University and National Alumni Association during a very challenging time in our history. I would also thank the administration of UNA for their vision and leadership, which has put us on a path of growth and success.

Moving forward, it is my collective goal for us to strive to engage you, as our alumni and friends,

- by advocating and communicating the ideals of the University;
- by advancing the University's welfare by promoting alumni pride and esprit de corps;
- by fostering lifelong relationships that connect alumni with the University and with each other; and
- by reaching outside of our comfort zone to grow the representative alumni base, both regionally and nationally.

My thanks to all of you for your continued support as we take on the coming year as an opportunity for connection and growth at the University of North Alabama.

Roar Lions!
Susan McGuire Adams '80

Attended/Did not graduate

Kayla Nizamis was inducted into the Marion County Sports Hall of Fame.

1970s

Dr. Patricia Roden '75 was inducted into the North Alabama Athletics Sports Hall of Fame.

1980s

Dr. Pat Sanders '82 won an international podcast award from the Broadcast Education Association.

Anne Clem Whitaker '89 was appointed to the Bryn Pharma, LLC, Board of Directors.

1990s

Tracy McCall-Gholston '91 was inducted into the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Sports Hall of Fame.

Carol Ann Jent '92 named Principal at Woodard Elementary School, Maury County, Tenn.

Kindra Smith Moore '95 was inducted into the North Alabama Athletics Sports Hall of Fame.

Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96 spoke as part of the TEDX Wilson Park event in September in Florence. Her TEDTalk centered around grief and her response to grief trauma.

Dr. Thalia Micklewhite '96 was appointed Dean of Social and Educational Studies at the University of The Bahamas.

Jennifer Johnson Greene '97 and her husband Eric recently became owners of The Blue Ribbon Grill in Tucker, Ga.

2000s

Jennifer Spear Anderson '02 was inducted into the Marion County Sports Hall of Fame.

Sesquicentennial Class Notes

Alana Parker '04 was named Assistant Vice President and corporate communications investor relations associate of CB&S Bank.

Andrea Ratcliff '04 was named Teacher of the Year at Westside Elementary.

Deborah Hood Gautier '04 was named Assistant Dean for Juris Master Programs at Florida State University College of Law.

Rhonda Andrews Stewart '04 was named Executive Director of the Western Tidewater Free Clinic.

Laura Bellinger '06 was inducted into North Alabama Athletics Sports Hall of Fame.

Dr. Colene Trent '07 was named Executive Director of the Miss Tennessee Organization.

Taylor Leathers '07 was inducted into the Marion County Sports Hall of Fame.

Shireen Matar Manoli '08 was accepted into the Governance and Administration in the Public Sector Master's program at Bethlehem University.

Liz Kennedy '09 accepted a position as designer at ELM Construction LLC in Birmingham, Ala.

2010s

Chasity Tate '11 was awarded the Excellence in Nursing Award for Non-traditional Nursing at North Mississippi Medical Center.

Jessica Clements '11 was named the first female Police Chief of Phil Campbell Police Department in Phil Campbell, Ala.

Sarah Wood '11 was named School Counselor at Decatur High School.

Erica Gholson Waldman '12 was named Career Advisor at the University of North Alabama.

Juliann Losey '12 was highlighted in Out Smart Magazine for their advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community at the University of Houston.

Sanqueeta Meradith '12 was named Girls' Head Basketball Coach at Aberdeen High School in Mississippi.

Blair Davis Maples '14 named Co-Host of 102.1 WDRM Morning Show.

Jacinta Mastin '14 was named Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator for the Athletics Staff at UNA.

Rachel Graves '14 was named the District VII Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Ashley Remkus '15 was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting on a yearlong series titled "Mauled: When Police Dogs are Weapons."

Janae Lyde '16 was named Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator for Student-Athletes at UNA.

Lauren Blue '16 competed in the Miss Black USA pageant as Miss Black Alabama, USA.

Megan Butler '16 is working as a First Responder for Air EVAC Lifeteam in Muscle Shoals.

Miracle Osborne '16 named Arthur Orr Young Professional of the Year

for her work as Human Resources Manager for ITW Sexton in Decatur, Ala.

Macie Pringle '17 was named Assistant Volleyball Coach at Cumberland University.

Paige Nabors '17 joined the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery Clinic at the North Mississippi Medical Center.

Kerry Edwards '18 was named Head Women's Soccer Coach at Georgia Southwestern State University.

Chandler Mordecai '19 was a Top Twelve Finalist in the Miss Alabama Pageant.

Teresa Tittle '19 retired from North Mississippi Medical Center after 38 years of service.

Nikki Mathews '19 was named Admissions Coordinator at Waldorf University.

2020s

Abi Peterson '20 was named Exercise Specialist at Focus Physiotherapy.

Preslee Powers '20 joined Listerhill Credit Union as a People Specialist.

Sydney Malone '20 was named Biology and Chemistry teacher at Westbrook Christian School.

Kara Nix '21 has been named to the 2021 College Sports Information Directors of America Division I Women's Track & Field / Cross Country Academic All-America team.

Sarah Yasaka '21 was featured in *Shoals Soul Magazine* for her artwork.

In Memory

Graduates '40s

JOANNE PARKER '48
April 24, 1928 - October 22, 2020

Graduates '50s

MARY ALICE WILHELM '57
December 9, 1934 - February 16, 2021

SHIRLEY COX RINKS '57
July 6, 1935 - March 29, 2021

Graduates '60s

THOMAS LEE GLASGOW '60
September 3, 1935 - November 21, 2020

BOBBY BELUE '61
February 27, 1939 - August 12, 2021

CYNTHIA ROMINE TILLERY '61
January 22, 1940 - September 14, 2021

STEVE LOGAN '64
August 14, 1942 - June 29, 2021

SHARON TOMLINSON GREEN '67
December 18, 1945 - June 22, 2021

FRANK GLASS '69
August 25, 1946 - April 23, 2020

JERRY WAYNE JERNIGAN '69
November 25, 1946 - February 24, 2021

Graduates '70s

ADRON "RAY" GREEN '70
October 25, 1939 - March 20, 2020

DR. EDWARD WALKER SMITH '70
November 13, 1939 - October 8, 2019

WILMA BULLARD '70
September 11, 1948 - September 16, 2020

CHARLES MARVIN "CHUCK" MORGAN '71
February 25, 1949 - September 15, 2021

MELINDA BALCH MCGEE '73
April 16, 1950 - September 5, 2021

REV. CHARLES "CHUCK" CANTERBURY, JR. '74
October 25, 1945 - March 27, 2021

COL. RICHARD WAKEFIELD, JR. '76
May 21, 1954 - March 30, 2021

WESLEY DAVIS '76
July 5, 1954 - August 3, 2021

JOHN DAVID MARTIN '77
July 11, 1955 - April 30, 2021

LAURA RUTH MANN '78
February 13, 1956 - June 17, 2021

GANUS EMERSON HILBURN '79
August 27, 1932 - August 17, 2021

GREGORY WALTER OWENS '79
March 13, 1955 - January 29, 2021

PEARLEY JANETTE WOODS '79
June 29, 1924 - March 17, 2021

Graduates '80s

JESSIE LEONARD '80
April 3, 1924 - October 24, 2020

ROBERT "BOBBY" JOSEPH HARRIS '80
June 10, 1956 - August 2, 2021

JOSEPH FRAZIER '83
May 24, 1932 - October 13, 2020

DEBORAH GARAY '84
November 19, 1961 - March 4, 2021

JEFF ORISON BELUE '84
August 5, 1961 - February 7, 2021

LINDA BYRD KELLEY '85
July 9, 1963 - November 13, 2020

ANDREW "ANDY" GRISHAM '86
January 26, 1965 - August 25, 2021

JOHN MICHAEL "MIKE" WHITE '86
July 19, 1963 - June 15, 2021

GEORGE THOMAS CORUM JR. '87
May 31, 1935 - May 26, 2021

ROGER DALE WHITE '89
September 6, 1948 - May 19, 2021

Graduates '90s

JANICE NEAL KIDD '90
February 28, 1943 - February 11, 2021

DR. GEORGE HAROLD PATTERSON '92
August 10, 1970 - June 20, 2021

GEARY RAY MCCOLLUM '93
February 7, 1947 - May 4, 2021

JAMIE BURKS '97
September 14, 1974 - April 24, 2021

Graduates '00s

TAMMY MICHELLE OAKLEY MCINISH '09
July 22, 1966 - August 9, 2021

Graduates '10s

ASHLEIGH STUDDARD '14
April 17, 1984 - November 25, 2020

Faculty/Staff

ALICE CARTER DILL '59
March 20, 1933 - April 18, 2021

DR. WILLIAM MICHAEL LIVINGSTON
July 19, 1934 - April 30, 2021

DR. JAMES "JIM" MARTIN
November 7, 1954 - September 11, 2021

JO PEPPERS MCGUIRE
January 3, 1932 - April 30, 2021

Friends of the University

KATHERINE DARBY MCINTYRE
August 24, 1932 - July 24, 2021

DR. R. L. QUALLS
November 6, 1931 - February 15, 2021

TONI SHANEYFELT DRUMMOND
November 11, 1945 - January 1, 2021

JOSEPH WAYNE LASTER
September 29, 1941 - July 10, 2021

CAROLYN BRUCE WOOD
June 2, 1932 - July 9, 2021

DALLON RAY OGLE SR.
May 20, 1941 - July 14, 2021

THANNA CURTIS OGLE
July 10, 1941 - February 5, 2021

CECIL BATCHELOR
June 3, 1925 - August 17, 2021

NAN LOVELACE MEEKS
November 26, 1937 - September 4, 2021

Attended/Did Not Graduate

LARRY STANFIELD "STAN" MANNON
February 15, 1962 - January 31, 2021

ALBA PERISHING "BUTCH" ELLARD, JR.
November 17, 1943 - February 23, 2021

ELAINE S. PARRISH
August 3, 1954 - February 28, 2021

SAMUEL DAVID MOORE
December 28, 1960 - April 22, 2021

WALLACE "GERRY" STANFIELD, JR.
March 21, 1944 - June 11, 2021

LONNIE EUGENE HARVEY
December 18, 1963 - June 16, 2021

RODNEY MAURICE FOSSETT, JR.
December 31, 1999 - August 5, 2021

DONNIE GLEN WHITT
June 5, 1942 - August 18, 2021

KYLE TURNER
March 4, 1945 - September 8, 2021

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