

COLLEGIAN

WINTER 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES MAGAZINE



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College of Arts & Sciences

Published by the College of Arts and Sciences at
The University of Alabama.

FALL 2019
COLLEGIAN
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES MAGAZINE

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Collegian is published each year by the College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Alabama. We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please send address changes and correspondence to Stephanie Kirkland, The University of Alabama, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0268; (205) 348-8663; stephanie.kirkland@ua.edu.



Expanding Innovation, Impact

Highlights from research and giving

What a privilege it is to join the College of Arts and Sciences as dean.

Since moving to Tuscaloosa in mid-July, I have hit the ground running—meeting with countless groups and individuals and soaking up all that The University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences has to offer.

When meeting with alumni, they're often surprised to learn that this is the only job for which I applied. I was so impressed with the breadth and strength of the College—especially the strength of the students. Being dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has certainly lived up to those expectations.

We have many exciting projects and initiatives on the horizon.

Our faculty are continually being awarded significant grants that drive innovation and further our mission as an R1 research institution.

Dr. Laura Reed, of biology, was awarded \$4.4 million from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health to lead a national effort to expand undergraduate science courses that engage students in active research.

Two faculty members involved with the Alabama Life Research Institute and our department of psychology, Drs. Lynn Snow and Patricia Parmelee, were awarded \$7 million from the National Institutes of Health to test and enhance sleep quality for nursing home residents with dementia.

In other news, Dr. Allen Linken, in political science, and Dr. Steven Ramey, in religious studies, were recognized for their outstanding teaching by the UA National Alumni Association.

Nine of our students received Fulbright Awards to teach and conduct research abroad including in Colombia, South Korea, Kazakhstan, and other countries.

And our Million Dollar Band received a huge honor as one of nine bands invited to perform before more than 50 million viewers in the 2020 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Indeed, it is an exciting time to be at The University of Alabama.

In this issue of the Collegian, you'll notice that we've traded our list recognizing gifts made in the last year for a special section on the impact of donors on our campus.

Here, you'll read stories about how donor-funded scholarships, faculty fellowships, and endowed professorships transform the university experience and impact the lives of our students and faculty.

You'll also get a behind-the-scenes look into the launch of the McCollough Institute for Pre-medical Scholars, as well as expanded support and facilities for the Million Dollar Band.



We hope these stories remind you of your tremendous impact on the College, as well as how grateful we are for the long-standing tradition of support we receive from our alumni.

Speaking of impact, we are looking forward to finishing our campaign for the Performing Arts Academic Center in the coming months. This facility will become a centerpiece of campus, and its impact will be tremendous both on our students and the surrounding community.

You can learn more about the Performing Arts Academic Center at ua.edu/performingarts.

It has been an exciting and busy fall; I look forward to seeing you back on campus, learning more about your experience with the University, and exploring ways we can continue to move the College forward. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Messina".

Dean Joseph Messina



A rendering of the future Performing Arts Academic Center.

CAMPUS NEWS

UA Horn Player Receives International Recognition

Doctoral Student Selected for Prestigious **Marine Policy Fellowship**

Geosciences Ph.D. candidate Christine Bassett was recently selected as a member of the 2020 class for the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship program. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's highly-competitive marine policy fellowship links science with public policy, and pairs fellows with agencies and elected officials to conduct scientific research, develop policy, and guide decision-making in the nation's capital.

The Knauss Fellows are placed into either a legislative branch cohort or an executive branch cohort, and conduct research with nationally regarded organizations such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Navy.

With a background in anthropology and geology, Bassett is looking forward to conducting marine research in the executive branch cohort during her fellowship.

"It's an incredible opportunity that helps graduate students understand the ways in which national research priorities are determined, while also encouraging them to conduct research with a sharper eye towards societal impacts," Bassett said. ■

First-year graduate student Matthew Meadows has continued the legacy of Alabama's French horn studio by placing second at the university level of the nation's largest and most prestigious horn competition.

Meadows, who is studying French horn performance, competed against dozens of other horn players from North America, Asia, Europe, and South America in the International Horn Competition of America. Over three rounds of performances, Meadows proved himself to be one of the best horn players in the country.

"I felt completely honored to have been there around all the horn players that competed," Meadows said. "They are all really great players, so to even just have my name up there with them was really special. And to be able to represent the University is a huge honor for me, because I feel like I've gained so much out of being here. It was really great to be able to represent UA."

This win follows Meadows's first-place performance in the amateur section of the International Horn Symposium's quartet competition as part of the Capstone Horn Quartet. Although he has had success in his career thus far, he plans to work harder than ever before to become the best horn player he can.

"I feel like I can always keep learning new things," Meadows said. "There were players from all over the world, and just to hear them come out and play was an amazing experience. It gave me the extra motivation to just keep on working." ■





Photo courtesy of the Black Warrior Review.

Black Warrior Review Awarded National Literary Magazine Prize

The *Black Warrior Review*, a literary magazine run entirely by UA graduate students, was recently awarded a Whiting Literary Magazine Prize, the largest national prize for nonprofit literary magazines.

“It’s very impressive and welcome news that the Whiting Foundation took notice of this student publication here at UA and wanted to reward it with this grant and support it to keep doing the work that they’re doing,” Joel Brouwer, the chair of UA’s English department, said. “There were only five magazines that

received one of these grants, and there are probably hundreds of literary magazines nationwide. So it’s quite an honor to be singled out in this way.”

Over the next three years, the *Black Warrior Review* will receive up to \$15,000 from the Whiting Foundation. The first year, the literary magazine will receive \$5,000, and, each of the following years, the foundation will match any funds that the *Black Warrior Review* raises up to \$5,000. This, according to creative writing graduate student and *Black Warrior Review* managing editor Jackson Saul,

will help invigorate fundraising processes in the magazine, setting a new trend for future editorial boards.

The grant will allow the *Black Warrior Review* to publish a new online issue, known as Boyfriend Village, which goes into production this fall. It will also allow the magazine to achieve some of its other goals, such as producing standalone chapbooks, increasing contributor pay, improving its website, and creating a more accessible submissions process with lower or eliminated fees. ■

UA Students Attend Yale Bioethics Institute

This past summer, UA senior Jordan Taylor and junior Caroline Krieger spent their time in the labs and lecture halls of Yale University discussing ethical dilemmas in the sciences at the Sherwin B. Nuland Bioethics Institute, a prestigious seven-week program housed at the university's campus in New Haven, Connecticut.

The program allows participants to wrestle with some of the most difficult decisions they might face in their fields, exploring real-life scenarios with a lens of interdisciplinary ethics. These include human rights, animal ethics, environmental ethics, and many other fields that come together to help scientists make the groundbreaking choices that they make every day. Krieger, a chemistry major, and Jordan, a psychology major, learned through this experience that not all situations are clear-cut and, as individuals pursuing medical careers, they may have to make hard decisions in the future.

"I think this program made me realize that we have to constantly be looking at the way that we engage in science and medicine," Krieger said. "We need to constantly ask ourselves questions about whether procedures and research and practices are right and moral."

While getting to know each other and debating some of the most difficult dilemmas that medical professionals face, participants were also required to write a paper and create a poster on their choice of topics pertaining to bioethics. Both Taylor and Krieger have used their research from this summer to present in classrooms and conferences, where they've received positive feedback from their peers and professionals alike. They have both been accepted to present at UNESCO, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in Portugal next year, and plan on applying to several other international conferences. ■



Million Dollar Band to March in 2020 Macy's Day Parade

The University of Alabama Million Dollar Band has been selected to perform in the 2020 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade®, representing the state of Alabama.

This will mark the first appearance by the band in the Parade. The Million Dollar Band will join the Parade to the call of "Let's Have a Parade," the iconic phrase that has signaled the start of every Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade since 1924.

"The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is one of America's iconic holiday traditions," said Dr. Ken Ozzello, UA professor of music and director of bands. "Having the opportunity to participate will be thrilling for the members of the

Million Dollar Band and provide them with life-long memories."

Each year, the Macy's Parade Band Committee looks for bands that have the stage presence and the musical and marching abilities to captivate more than 3.5 million live spectators and more than 50 million viewers. The Million Dollar Band was selected from more than 100 applicants as one of nine bands to march in the 94th edition of the annual holiday spectacle.

The band will join the revelry along with other iconic Macy's staples: floats, giant character balloons, clowns and superstar performers galore on Thanksgiving Day 2020, helping create an unforgettable experience for millions. ■

Physics Professor Receives \$1.2 Million Grant from Department of Energy

UA physics professor Dr. Andreas Piepke recently received a grant of \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to explore the fundamental questions that have baffled physicists for decades.

Piepke and his team study neutrinos, a type of subatomic particle that's unique for its lack of an electric charge.

"All other fundamental constituents of matter carry an electrical charge, and their antimatter particle is the opposite charge," Piepke said. "But neutrinos are electrically neutral. Therefore, it's difficult to distinguish them from their anti-particles. It is not even clear whether they have anti-matter partners at all. So we are performing an experiment to learn whether we are dealing with a form of matter that differs from all others."

There's a rule in physics that says particles and antimatter particles always appear or disappear in pairs. But if neutrinos have no charge and have no antimatter particle, it could violate that rule.

The experiment in question is currently being planned by several different groups around the world, including Piepke's. The grant funds the team's work at UA in developing an experiment to investigate this phenomenon.

"The scientific community believes this to be a priority," Piepke said. "It's also an interesting question scientifically. What we are planning to do is pretty much the only way that, in a practical sense, one can find out if neutrinos and anti-neutrinos are one and the same or not." ■

Breaking the Ice: Taking a **Non-traditional Approach** to Academia

When Victoria Fitzgerald arrived at UA to begin her PhD in January, she thought she would spend most of her time studying the Jurassic Period eolian rock formations of Alabama, extending her master's program research. She thought most of her time would be spent in the Center for Sedimentary Basin Studies in Tuscaloosa or at the state geological survey, able to drive home to her family in no time. She never thought she would end up in Antarctica.

Fitzgerald, a geology PhD student and one of the university's National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellows, travelled to Antarctica with her advisor, UA assistant professor Dr. Rebecca Totten Minzoni, to assist on the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration Thwaites Offshore Research team, to better understand the risks and recent history of

rapidly changing Thwaites glacier, better known to non-scientists as the Doomsday Glacier.

"Our goal isn't to tell people the world is filled with doom and gloom," Fitzgerald said. "Our goal is to figure out the timeline. We're studying sediment to develop better models and account for variables that we haven't yet."

Both a first-generation and non-traditional student, Fitzgerald, who is also a mother of three young girls, has learned to navigate college in a new way. She works hard in the lab, and makes sure that she spends time with her kids, which, she says, isn't always easy to balance.

Although her path may be different than most, Fitzgerald hopes to inspire others who may be considering the non-traditional path to pursue their goals. ■



UA to Lead **National STEM Education Project**

With two grants totaling more than \$4 million, The University of Alabama leads a national effort to continue and expand undergraduate science courses that engage students in active research.

Dr. Laura K. Reed, UA associate professor of biological sciences, is the director of the Genomics Education Partnership, a collaboration of more than 100 institutions that reaches about 1,300 students annually, many at minority-serving institutions.

The GEP uses curriculum on molecular biology and bioinformatics to engage students in authentic research ultimately published in scientific journals.

“The University of Alabama is leading the nation in one of the top undergraduate research programs,” Reed said. “Our work with the Genomics Education Partnership is consistent with the University’s dedication to active learning and broadening undergraduate research opportunities.”

The project is supported by two recently awarded five-year grants. A \$2.2 million award from the National Institutes of Health and a \$1.99 million grant from the National Science Foundation will expand the GEP to more institutions and build regional communities of professors who can support and mentor each other through internet-enabled interaction.

The funding will also support the publication of the students’ work through the *Journal of Micropublications*, which allows studies with smaller data sets. ■



College Receives State Department Award to Develop **New Study Abroad Advising Program**

For many students, the opportunity to study abroad during their undergraduate career is something that, while exciting and fun, can be hard to navigate. The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking to ease this process with a new program immersing academic advisers in study abroad, funded by a \$35,000 Capacity Building in Study Abroad award from the U.S. Department of State.

The program, which is the first of its kind, will allow a select group of UA advisers the opportunity to learn first-hand what it’s like to study abroad. Participating advisers will attend monthly meetings and lectures about the study abroad experience. Once they have gone through the training program, the advisers will go on their own trip to South Africa. The hope is that, after taking this trip, advisers will be better prepared to answer questions and concerns about studying abroad. ■

Religious Studies Awarded **\$350,000 Luce Foundation Grant**

UA’s department of religious studies was recently awarded a \$350,000 grant by the Luce Foundation to fund an interdisciplinary conference surrounding the teaching, research, and public scholarship of religion in America.

The conference, known as American Examples, aims to redefine the study of American religion and apply it to other fields of study, such as global conflict and social movements. Non-tenure track faculty, instructors, and doctoral students from around the country will meet to discover new applications of their studies and learn how to make their research more accessible to their peers and the general public.

“My biggest hope is that they see themselves as not just people who study America, but as people who study really interesting social formations, cultural moments, and other things that can be comparative,” said Dr. Michael Altman, American Examples director and religious studies assistant professor. ■

Two UA Professors Get Boost with NSF CAREER Awards

The nation's most prestigious recognition of top-performing young scientists was recently awarded to a biologist and a physicist at UA.

The National Science Foundation granted a CAREER Award to Dr. Paulo T. Araujo, UA assistant professor of physics and astronomy, and Dr. Kevin M. Kocot, UA assistant professor of biological sciences and curator of invertebrate zoology in the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

With the funding from the awards, Araujo will seek to understand how to control the optical properties of certain polymers and expand their application toward more sustainable technology, while Kocot will use cutting-edge techniques to speed up identification of new species of a group of worm-like mollusks while also training the next generation of scientists studying invertebrates.

The Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the NSF's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty. These faculty have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

At UA, 29 current faculty members have received NSF CAREER Awards in disciplines ranging from nanoscience and engineering to biological sciences.

Araujo's \$600,000 grant will help his lab investigate how a type of polymer, or repeating chains of molecules, interact with light with the goal of tuning polymers to behave as designed.

"Every time you change the properties of the polymer, you are changing the ways it behaves when it interacts with light," he said. "By the end of the project we hope to have a complete understanding of these interactions and how to manipulate them."

With his \$1.2M grant, Kocot will sample off the coast of Antarctica during two expeditions over the next four years to find new species of aplousobranchs and use advanced imaging and DNA sequencing techniques to identify and classify them. Kocot and his students aim to understand the diversity of this group and its evolution.

"If we don't know what's down there, we can't know what we're losing if there is some sort of environmental disaster," he said. "We have to continue to explore the world." ■



Cognitive Neuroscientist to Lead the Alabama Life Research Institute

After a national search, a noteworthy researcher in cognitive neuroscience will lead the Alabama Life Research Institute as executive director.

Dr. Sharlene D. Newman will provide a coherent vision for collaborative life research that embraces the full range of disciplines represented on campus while strengthening UA's research portfolio and profile.

"Life research is a signature research theme at UA and needs teams from across campus to address major opportunities and challenges," said Dr. Kevin Whitaker, UA executive vice president and provost. "Dr. Newman has demonstrated the ability to bring together and lead cross-disciplinary teams, so we are so pleased she will be joining us." ■



Mathematics Strives to Be a **Leader in Diversity and Inclusion**

Awa Traore had a few qualifications for institutions where she would pursue her PhD in mathematics: one that was close to her home in Birmingham, and one where she would be encouraged and pushed to be successful throughout her program. When she learned that two other black women were successfully working their way through UA's program, she decided that she could see herself at UA.

"When I came here, and I saw there were already two other black women pursuing their PhDs in mathematics, and seeing them succeed made me want to pursue my PhD at UA, as well," Traore said. "I already knew that I wanted to get my PhD, but seeing their success made me feel like I could do it here. I saw people who looked like me who finished and got their degrees and did really well, so I thought it was a good place to get mine."

Creating an environment where all students could feel welcome and appreciated has always been important to UA mathematics professor Dr. David Cruz-Uribe. When he became chair of the department, one of his major goals was diversifying the program. He and the graduate programs director, Dr. David Halpern, and the faculty decided to create a community where underrepresented minorities and women could feel like their work was valued.

"Recruiting and retaining minority students is all about building community," Cruz-Uribe said. "We started going to conferences—big ones, little ones, conferences aimed at minority students and faculty, and general mathematics conferences—and telling students and faculty about the

advantages that our program has for all types of students. And then when the number of minority applications started to go up, we took the applicants very seriously."

This year, the department's entering class of 17 graduate students includes four women and eight black students, a statistic well above the national average. Cruz-Uribe's goal is to maintain this diverse atmosphere, eventually creating a graduate program that is made up of 50 percent women and 20 to 25 percent underrepresented minorities. But for him, the work doesn't stop at recruitment—he wants to retain his students, as well.

"The evidence nationwide shows that women and minority graduate students fail out of graduate programs at higher rates than white men do," Cruz-Uribe said. "So what can I do to make them successful? I'm going to expect everyone to work for it, for sure, but I want to make sure that there's nothing else in their way. That's what we're going to spend the next four or five years doing."

Because of its success in recruiting and retaining minority graduate students, the department was awarded this year's Departmental Diversity Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. The award goes to departments determined to make the campus and its faculty, staff, and students more diverse and inclusive. The mathematics department plans to put the \$5,000 prize towards that mission. Over the next few years, Cruz-Uribe and Halpern plan to visit more conferences and meet more students, as well as use the money to help faculty effectively mentor their graduate students. ■

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY



Both the city of Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama celebrated 200 years of history and culture this year. The College of Arts and Sciences is proud to have been a part of several events and projects that honored the past and looked towards the future.

Tuscaloosa Students Showcase 200 Years of History

Students from around Tuscaloosa county recently transformed Bryant Conference Center into a time-traveling trip through Tuscaloosa, showing off their skills in a project that encapsulates the city's 200-year history.

The event, called Tuscaloosa Through Time, brought together students of all ages and schools to create displays, videos, skits, and other interactive presentations that showcase different decades in Tuscaloosa history. Each school was assigned a different era to explore, and presented to over 10,000 of their fellow students over the course of three days.

"We put together a committee, and we had participation from teachers and administrators from both public and private schools, so it felt like we had a nicely well-rounded education committee," said UA history professor and education chair of the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission, Dr. Kari Frederickson. "We started meeting as a committee, just for the expo, in December of 2017. And we asked every school in the system if they wanted to participate, and all 26 schools said yes, and then we assigned each school a period of Tuscaloosa history."

Each school received a grant of \$2,500 from the commission, which they were allowed to spend however they needed to create their project. Some schools painted giant murals and created lifelike displays of business and house interiors, while others had interactive STEM-based displays that showed the technology of the time. While each school took a different approach to its display, they all incorporated students of every grade level. ■

UA Artists Contribute to **Alabama** Bicentennial Celebration

University of Alabama art and art history students, faculty, staff, and alumni have been intensely involved in the state of Alabama's 200th anniversary celebrations over the past two years.

Alabama History in High Relief

UA Professor Craig Wedderspoon is designing a sculpture to be part of Montgomery's Bicentennial park project planned for the west side of the Capitol building to be unveiled in December, with help from assistant professor Jonathan Cumberland. Wedderspoon is also designing, supervising the cast of, and installing Tuscaloosa artist Caleb O'Connor's 16 bronze panels' bases. Cumberland recently joined the team to work on graphics for the project. Wedderspoon is also working with O'Connor on a Tuscaloosa Bicentennial sculpture to be installed at Manderson Landing on the Black Warrior River.

Artists Featured in Publication

Fifteen faculty and alumni of the department are included in a special bicentennial publication honoring notable Alabama artists: "Alabama Creates: 200 Years of Art and Artists," published by the Alabama State Council on the Arts and UA Press. The coffee-table book will be published in July. Dr. Elliot Knight, ASCA's new director and a UA alumnus, was the book's chief editor and project director. ■

WHEN ART GOES PUBLIC

At UA, art isn't confined to the walls of studios; it bleeds out into the community. Two classes teach students not only how to advance their skillsets, but how to use art to become good stewards of their communities through photography and sculpture.

Documenting the Greats

UA art professor Christopher Jordan spent the spring and interim semesters with his photography students in Alabama's Black Belt, where they met some of the region's most beloved artists. Here, they partnered with local organizations, such as Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center in Camden to make photographic portraits of artists from all over the region, such as sculptor Charlie "Tin Man" Lucas and quilters Tinnie and Minnie Pettway.

"A lot of the artists who live and work in the Black Belt are becoming more advanced in age, and they have very compelling personal stories," Jordan said. "Many of these artists have lived their whole lives in the region. This area was, historically, a plantation and sharecropping region, then became central to the civil rights era. It's a vital region historically, as well as culturally, in part because of the many artists that live here. So we felt that it was really important to document these artists."

Many of the students involved in the project had picked up a camera only a handful of times before joining Jordan's class, but by the end, they were well-versed in both the

technical and aesthetic skills required to create dynamic portraits and video interviews. Arielle Gray, a senior majoring in art and concentrating on photography, says that doing documentary work out in the field is an immersive experience that allows students with all levels of experience a place to cultivate a wider skillset.

"I had to learn how to use video, which was something I hadn't really done before," Gray said. "I had to learn how to do audio for the video and how to frame the video. And I also got to practice really getting to know my subjects for portraits and creating a space where people feel comfortable. The more that I practiced these skills, the better I got. It was great practice and produced really good results."

The class was, in part, made possible by a partnership with Canon Solutions America, whose interest in supporting educational initiatives led them to lend professional-grade cameras and a grant support as part of their Future Authors Program. The outcomes will be a printed book of artist portraits, an exhibition of the photographs, as well as an archive of the photographs and

interview materials in the UA Digital Humanities Library.

"Canon's involvement has been really, really helpful," Jordan said. "They asked what I needed to facilitate something like this, and really delivered. They gave us professional camera equipment so the students could have an experience with something that they wouldn't otherwise have a chance to use."

The Monster Makeover

UA's sculpture program recently partnered with the City of Tuscaloosa and the Tuscaloosa News to create a new public art installation known as the "Monster Takeover." The small bronze sculptures scattered throughout downtown Tuscaloosa and the Riverwalk are inspired by drawings from elementary school students, who create their own monsters for the Tuscaloosa News's "Monster Makeover" art show every October. Then, Craig Wedderspoon's public sculpture class put their own spin on these creations, bringing them to life throughout the semester.

"The class is geared towards getting out and actively engaging with the

The class is geared towards getting out and actively engaging with the community... It's how artists perform social responsibility.



community,” Wedderspoon said. “It gives the students an opportunity to do something that’s lasting. They contribute something that’s relatively permanent to their community. It’s how artists perform social responsibility.”

Once the sculptures are finished, they’re placed beside the sidewalk and on rails, while others lurk under bridges or on top of columns. Over the past two years, Wedderspoon’s public sculpture class has increased the city’s monster population to nearly 30, which they hope tourists and Tuscaloosa natives alike will find to be a fun addition to the cityscape.

The students who create the monsters choose which drawing they

want to reimagine at the beginning of their class.

Ringo Lisko, a senior studying art, spent the semester creating a lobster-like creature with horns based off a drawing by a Myrtlewood Elementary School student. She believes that these students seeing what they dreamed up in a public place could positively influence their views on art in the future.

“I think it’s a really good way for kids to see that their art matters,” Lisko said. “When you’re that young, it’s a huge opportunity to have someone take this drawing that you did in class and put it out for the public to see.”

At UA, students and faculty alike work to encourage a thriving, tight-knit art community that supports artists of all walks of life. Whether they’re out exploring the art of other communities or creating their own, the promotion of public art is quickly becoming one of the pillars of the University’s art scene.

“Art helps build culture,” Wedderspoon said. “Any healthy community and economic environment needs culture. Public art becomes a destination point in an area—it brings you from one spot to another. So it’s really great for the community as a whole.” ■

THE BUZZ

Outside of Dr. Jeffrey Lozier's tent in the mountains of Sequoia National Park, a fresh layer of snow awaits the group of scientists about to embark on their day's journey. The below-freezing temperatures and few flakes still falling make it difficult to leave the minimal warmth of his polyester shelter, even in layers of heavy clothes. In this cold climate, it's difficult to remember that it's the middle of May. There's nothing remotely resembling a warm spring day.

That is, except the bumblebees buzzing around the early-blooming flowers, as if they were enjoying the sun in the valley 8,000 feet below.

Lozier and Dr. Janna Fierst, both of UA's department of biological sciences, are working with collaborators at the University of Wyoming and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to test how much, if at all, environmental factors influence the genome of an organism without changing the code itself. And the ever-resilient bumblebee is their perfect test subject.



“Bumblebees are interesting for a number of reasons,” Lozier said. “One of which is that they’ve evolved to be really good at dealing with living in cold environments.”

Bumblebees, Lozier explained, evolved in mountainous regions around 30 or 40 million years ago and, after dispersing from there, retained the ability to survive in cold, high-elevation regions. Flying, as well as shivering, releases heat retained by their large bodies and fur coats, allowing them to fly in freezing temperatures that other animals would not be able to be active.

The particular species of bumblebee that Lozier, Fierst, and their colleagues are studying resides along the west coast, in the valleys of southern California all the way to the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, where the study’s bees are being collected and then kept in Wyoming by a team from the University of Wyoming. And while the species is almost identical throughout the region, those who live in higher elevations are able to survive much colder temperatures than those in lower elevations.

Lozier and his team, through a \$2.4 million grant from the National Science Foundation, are investigating why these

differences exist—whether the bees have a minuscule difference in their genetic sequence, or if the environment around them has affected their ability to survive.

“Populations from cold environments are actually able to, when you bring them into the lab, withstand much colder temperatures, and the populations from warm environments don’t withstand as low temperature as the high elevation population,” Lozier said. “For this project, we’re zooming in on a subset of populations at low and high elevations. And we’re going to really delve in to figuring out the molecular mechanisms of differences in cold tolerance within a species and what causes that—whether it’s a genetic thing, or whether it’s due to individual experience.”

The National Science Foundation’s Rules of Life grant targets projects like this one—interdisciplinary projects whose ultimate goal is to “allow us to better understand such interactions and identify causal, predictive relationships across these scales: so-called ‘rules’ for how life functions.” Lozier and Fierst’s work challenges those building blocks not only for bumblebees, but for all other species on Earth.

“The research is based around this idea that maybe there’s something in the genome that doesn’t change,” Lozier said. “Something that’s not a mutation necessarily, but some sort of heritable variation that can be passed on from mom to offspring that decides what genes are turned on and off that’s not the actual DNA sequence variation. Understanding this is necessary and important.”

The \$2.4 million grant will be divided between the collaborators, with \$1.4 allotted specifically for research performed at UA. Here, Fierst will work with post-doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate researchers to create models of the bumblebee’s molecular interactions, unravelling around 13,000 genes per bumblebee observed. By comparing the different genetic codes, Fierst and her team will be able to identify how the genes are being expressed—how the environment is influencing the bees’ gene expression.

One species of bumblebee was declared endangered in the United States in January 2017, but populations of other species may also be dwindling. Lozier and Fierst hope that the research not only helps better explain the building blocks of life, but provides some answers to saving the nation’s bumblebees.

“The evidence suggests that ranges where organisms can live are shrinking for a lot of species, including bumblebees,” Lozier said. “There are many factors influencing this, but it’s suggested that temperature or climate change may have a big impact. That’s the angle that we’re interested in—what about climate change is contributing to these declining ranges and how the changes in the environment affect the range in which bees can survive.”

Over the next four years, Lozier and Fierst, along with their team in Wyoming, plan to look at the genetic codes of hundreds of bumblebees in order to find the balance between environmental influence and genetic makeup. ■

We’re going to really delve in to figuring out the molecular mechanisms of differences in cold tolerance within a species and what causes that—whether it’s a genetic thing, or whether it’s due to individual experience.



TAKING UP SPACE

A UA alumnus is working to save the past to create a brighter future for the LGBTQ South

Over the past year, Joshua Burford's life has been a whirlwind. After being featured in newspapers and radio shows around the country, including *The New York Times*, he was selected as one of NBC's "Pride50," a group of 50 veteran and up-and-coming activists in the LGBTQ community in the United States. But for Burford, all of this pales in comparison to expanding his life's work: saving and creating a space for Southern queer history.

Burford started the Invisible Histories Project in 2016 and moved back to his home state of Alabama in 2018 to begin collecting. The project's goal is to preserve the history of LGBTQ life in the South, gathering news clippings, photographs, clothing, and other types of memorabilia that represent all walks of queer life in the South. Burford knew for a long time that he wanted to create a history for his community—to give others access to the information he had wanted for so long.

The recent expansion of the project is funded in part by a

\$300,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which "seeks to strengthen, promote, and defend the centrality of the humanities and the arts to human flourishing and to the well-being of diverse, fair, and democratic societies." In order to accomplish this goal, Mellon funds innovative and creative projects that are changing both culture and higher education.

While growing up in Anniston, Alabama, Burford read every book he could get his hands on. As a child, he wanted to learn everything he possibly could. But when he came out as gay in 1994, he discovered that there weren't many, if any, publications and records about his new community available to him.

"I was doing a lot of work, talking to classmates and other people about my experiences," Burford said. "What came up most often in these conversations was people asking what our history looked like and who came before us. When I talked to people, I had plenty of answers to questions about my own life and experiences. But

I had no answers to questions about my history because I didn't know it."

The road that led to the Invisible Histories Project was long and filled with several other smaller archives and projects. After finishing his graduate degrees in American studies and library and information studies at UA, Burford created the Miller-Stevens Collection, which documents the beginnings of UA's first LGBTQ group in the 1980s, and the Radical South Zine Collection, an archive of queer zines from the early 2010s. He then moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where he documented the city's LGBTQ history. There, he decided he could create something similar in his home state and give the activists of Alabama their own space in history.

Since 2016, Invisible Histories has gathered nearly 40 collections from every corner of the state. Burford, his co-director Maigen Sullivan, and their staff have sifted through dozens of boxes of photos, letters, scrapbooks, newspapers, protest signs, banners, flags, and even board games and quilts, piecing together

different people's lives to create a long and rich narrative of the queer South.

"It's not a small thing to ask someone to turn over their life history to you," Burford said. "But a lot of people have been holding on to this material in the hope that someone would want it. A lot of people we talk to spent years clipping articles out of newspapers about anything that was LGBT, and putting them in a folder.

"They were so hungry for information about the community because they weren't getting it. And to me, that shows very clearly that they were thinking about the future. What we're doing is we're giving them a place to put this material that they spent years curating—we're giving it a place to live."

Along the way, Burford and his team have found artifacts and objects that don't exist anywhere else, including newsletters from an early transgender activist group and planning documents for the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979. Access to this kind of material is important and exciting for Burford because it not only shares a piece of history with

someone searching for answers, but it shows others the long, rich history of the queer community in the South.

"I'm doing this because there are these amazing queer activists who have always been here," Burford said. "There are people who have been doing this work for a really long time who deserve to have their voices raised. They deserve that. And I have a platform that allows me to preserve and to elevate these people's voices."

Burford hopes that the archives can help establish the legacy of the queer South, but also be a platform for groups within the community that face more marginalization than others, such as transgender women of color and queer young people. If he can help shape a future that is more inclusive, he says, he will have made his community even better than it was before.

"In a community that already feels marginalized, there are still people who are more marginalized than others," Burford said. "If we can put those voices back at the table, what kind of future can we imagine for ourselves?"

Over the next few months, Burford and his team will be travelling to

Georgia and Mississippi to start archiving efforts, as well as collecting more materials from cities in Alabama. The project hopes to expand its repositories in Birmingham and Montgomery, and establish more throughout the state. They also will be educating graduate student fellows interested in archiving LGBTQ history by giving them hands-on experience with their materials and showing them proper techniques for archival standards and digitization.

While the Invisible Histories Project continues to expand across the South, Burford hopes to encourage the LGBTQ community in the South and all over the country to find the resources they need to live the life they want. From those new to the community to those who have been involved for years, Burford wants all LGBTQ-identifying people to advocate for themselves and those around them.

"Take up more space," Burford said. "We spend so much time trying to fit in that we forget to advocate for ourselves. If you think you need something, ask for it, because someone else probably does, too." ■

Visit the Archives

Birmingham Public Library Archives

2100 Park Place
Birmingham, AL
Monday-Friday: 9 am-6 pm

University of Alabama at Birmingham Archives

1700 University Blvd
Birmingham, AL
Monday-Friday: 8 am-4:30 pm

Alabama State Archives in Montgomery

624 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL
Monday-Saturday: 8:30 am-4:30 pm

What we're doing is giving them a place to put this material that they spent years curating—we're giving it a place to live.



Listen Up

In today's digital landscape, long distance creative collaborations and friendships are only a phone call or Facetime away. Dr. Williams Justin Morgan, Robin Turner, and William "Boden" Robertson take advantage of the technology at their fingertips as much as they possibly can. Although they're in different states, this trio carries on a conversation about linguistics and graduate school for over an hour. But when the conversation's over, they don't just hang up the phone. They turn off their microphones, edit the content together on their computers, and post it online, where hundreds of people can listen to their thoughts. This isn't just a group of friends chatting about the things they love—it's The GradLings Podcast.

Over the past decade, hundreds of thousands of podcasts have popped up around the globe, serving every interest from the daily news to lifestyle improvement to Harry Potter. According to Edison Research, over 30 million podcast episodes are available for download on different streaming sites, such as Spotify, iTunes, and SoundCloud. And unlike other media, podcasts are cheap to produce and free to the public.

While podcast-mania has opened more doors for traditional entertainers and storytellers, it's also allowed people from all backgrounds the opportunity

to share their insights and ideas. Because podcasts are relatively easy to create, they allow people to carve out a space for their own niche interests. This has been an advantage for many up-and-coming academics, like the GradLings, who use the platform as a way to share their research and ideas about improving academic life.

Morgan, Turner, and Robertson, who all studied foreign languages and linguistics as graduate students at UA, started The GradLings Podcast as a response to conversations they had around the dinner table about their field. They realized, after late nights discussing their struggles and successes, that other graduate students might benefit from what they had to say.

"In our conversations together, we thought, 'Why aren't we including other people on these conversations?'" Williams said. "And we were sure that other graduate students were having conversations with each other in their own cities. We wanted to try to bring graduate students together. We thought that it would be interesting to give other students a platform and a way of expressing their ideas—and not just about their research, but about their experiences as graduate students."

Through three seasons, the trio has talked to graduate students from all over the country, interviewing master's and doctoral students

about their research as well as their experiences as graduate students at different institutions and in different subfields. They've also discussed issues that they've faced in academia—thing like imposter syndrome, setting and keeping goals, and standing up for oneself as a graduate student.

"Our guests bring their own perspectives on these issues," Turner said. "We've talked to around 25 graduate students from all different disciplines. And for me, the big takeaway is that, no matter how different the field or how alone you may feel in your endeavors, you're really not the only one."

Graduate students aren't the only academics breaking into the podcast world to share their research and passions. Many members of UA's faculty are using the platform to collaborate with their colleagues from all over the world, discussing their new findings in a generally more accessible way than other channels have offered in the past.

UA psychology assistant professor Alexa Tullett teamed up with Dr. Sanjay Srivastava of the University of Oregon and Dr. Simine Vazire of UC-Davis to start The Black Goat Podcast. The podcast, which began as an advice column for psychologists studying research methods, has since evolved into a discussion about up-and-coming ideas in the field,



allowing Tullett and her co-hosts to cover a wide range of topics they all enjoy discussing.

“The reason we decided to do a podcast is that they’re more collaborative in nature,” Tullett said. “A blog, for example, is typically written by one specific person and makes one specific point. Podcasts tend to be more conversational. It’s more fun to do something where you’re having a conversation with other people about the things you love. And, if you’re just listening to a podcast, it feels like you’re involved in the conversation, even though you weren’t there when it was recorded.”

Like Tullett, Dr. Jim Bindon, a professor emeritus in UA’s department of anthropology, enjoys the conversations that arise while recording his podcast, *Speaking of Race*. Created by Bindon, UA assistant professor of history Dr. Erik Peterson, and University of Oregon professor Dr. Jo Weaver, the podcast focuses on the biological and behavioral effects of race on today’s society. For Bindon, it was important to make these discussions accessible to anyone, no matter their background.

“We’ve received really good feedback from other anthropologists and laypeople alike,” Bindon said. “It’s because we’re telling people things that they, for the most part, didn’t know before, and, usually we’re doing it in a way that they can understand.

And that’s really important when you’re talking about a subject that’s so important in society.”

For Bindon, one of the most exciting things that happens with the podcast is when the team discovers it’s being used in the classroom. Professors from institutions all over the country have assigned episodes in their syllabi, and have had great reactions from students who enjoy hearing the material laid out in a conversation that they can listen to on their own time.

“We did a four-part race and IQ session going all the way from 19th century to present day,” Bindon said. “The format and the way we talked about it was really accessible. I’ve had emails with faculty members at other institutions who have used those episodes in their classes. Knowing that has been great.”

As podcast academia begins to expand, some faculty members find it useful to go ahead and teach students at both the undergraduate and graduate level the skills they need to create their own podcasts. Dr. Michael Altman, assistant professor of religious studies, has taught digital humanities courses to students of all levels, where they learned the ins-and-outs of podcast creation. But for Altman, the most difficult part wasn’t necessarily teaching students the technical skills they needed—it was creating a captivating narrative that

would appeal to an audience with a wide range of backgrounds.

“I think one of the hardest parts about creating a podcast is thinking about what you want to say with it,” Altman said. “One of the biggest challenges is pushing students to be creative and think outside of the box.”

Despite the connections that occur within specific podcast communities, a challenge that podcast creators face is connecting with other podcasters. To help address that challenge, UA’s Center for Instructional Technology recently created a group specifically for people involved in podcasts.

Here, anyone associated with the University who has a podcast or is interested in creating one of their own can connect with others and share their insights on how to build a successful podcast.

“If you’re starting out in podcasts, things can get complicated,” Kevin Halbrook, assistant coordinator for the Center for Instructional Technology, said. “It’s nice to have someone who can help with different things, like getting set up on streaming apps or figuring out the software.”

As the podcaster community in Tuscaloosa begins to grow, those who have been established for years hope to see new and innovative ideas emerge from the future podcasters on campus. Until then, they encourage you to put in your headphones and enjoy their conversations. ■

Do you know other UA faculty, students, or alumni with their own podcasts? Let us know!
Email sbbolin@ua.edu.

It's more fun to do something where you're having a conversation with other people about the things that you love.







RESTORING A
LEGEND

An accidental fire brought down one of the most iconic pieces of architecture in history. But one UA art history professor's research could help save Notre Dame's integrity for generations to come.





Since its Gothic construction in 1163, Notre Dame Cathedral has been a religious and cultural monument worldwide. Its magnificent towers and buttresses have stood through regime changes and revolutions, through wars and celebrations and times of mourning. The echo of its bells, perhaps Paris's most famous sound, have become iconic in books and films. To admirers and critics alike, the cathedral has become a symbol of culture, religion,

art, and French pride throughout the world. But on April 15 of this year, Notre Dame's centuries-old story almost came to a close.

That evening, after thousands of people passed by the cathedral snapping pictures and taking in its importance, a small fire broke out in the roof of the structure. This 800-year-old wooden roof, also known as "The Forest," was already being renovated, and was engulfed in flames almost immediately. In

just over an hour, the roof collapsed, bringing down the cathedral's famed spire with it.

Over the next few days, Parisians and worldwide admirers alike would wrestle with the loss of a significant portion of the Notre Dame Cathedral. Patrons promised millions of dollars towards restoration as crews dug through the ashes, searching for anything that could be salvaged. The cathedral's most famous artifacts, such as the Crown of Thorns and the Tunic

of St. Louis, were removed by first responders during the fire. The iconic statues of the Apostles that stood around the spire had been removed the week before for renovation. Even the bees that resided on the roof were found alive and well. But the structure itself would never be the same.

That is, unless restoration is guided by those who have spent their careers studying Notre Dame's architecture, art, and history.

Dr. Jennifer Feltman is one of those experts. Throughout her career as an art historian, the UA assistant professor has studied parts of Notre Dame, as well as other iconic cathedrals. She has joined with 200 other art historians, scientists, and academics as part of a grassroots group called "Scientifiques au service de la restauration de Notre-Dame de Paris" with one goal: to restore the Notre Dame Cathedral to its fullest potential.

"We want to make sure that the restoration is something that doesn't do damage to the building, erase parts of the past, or create problems for the future," Feltman said.

The group of diverse researchers will work with government officials to further research Notre Dame's history and architecture, collaborating with each other along the way. The group includes those studying the cultural and historical aspects of the monument, as well as scientists and engineers passionate about the restoration. Some of these scientists will study the makeup of materials in construction, the physics behind some of the cathedral's gravity-defying features, and how climate change affected the building over time.

While working alongside governmental agencies to create a plan for restoration, the research group will have space in France's National Archives to work and collaborate, as well as a website in both English and French to share their research both with each other and the public.





These resources will make research more readily accessible and allow the members of the group to make sure they are not performing the same research, in addition to building off the research of one another.

One of the biggest concerns held by many of the researchers is the debate on how to restore the monument. Throughout its history, Notre Dame has been renovated several times, the most intensive occurring in the 19th century, when the then-crumbling cathedral was given a new, state-of-the-art roof—the same one that collapsed during the fire.

“In restoration, there’s a bit of a negotiation of what matters to lots of different people,” Feltman said. “Sometimes, certain voices are allowed, and those are the only ones that are heard. But I think what’s happening in France is that they’re taking time to step back and think about what’s important and to hear from multiple voices.”

Although French President Emanuel Macron originally said the cathedral could be restored in the next five years, but the governmental organization in charge of the restoration now realizes that it is going to take longer. Feltman’s previous research at Reims Cathedral in northeastern France has highlighted the long process of renovation and how, even when the project seems complete, there could still be work to be done in the future.

“Reims was bombed in 1914 during World War I, and then restored into the 1940s,” Feltman said. “It took more than 30 years to complete. And even then, the building still needs to be maintained. The lead tiles that they put on during that restoration were recently in danger of falling. When I was there in 2016, they had taken off all of the tiles off to send to a foundry in England, where they were melted down and refashioned with a little ledge so the tiles would catch. So there

are always improvements being made.”

Feltman’s contributions to the research effort at Notre Dame will be a study of its painted sculptures. Feltman will work with a group of other scientists and historians who are studying all aspects of the stones used in the construction of the cathedral. While the sculptures themselves were not damaged, the group will have unprecedented access to research and document everything about the material state of the sculptures in order to help with future preservation projects. Over the next five years, the team will research the type of stone used, the evidence of paint, and evidence of previous restorations. The project will culminate in a symposium in Paris and a publication detailing

the research, along with other groups’ research on the glass, wood, and other materials in Notre Dame.

The organization will serve the Centre des Monuments Historique, the government organization actually conducting the restoration, by providing knowledge to support the restoration of Notre Dame and preserve it in a historically- and culturally-sensitive manner.

“By studying the stones of spaces like Notre Dame for signs of material interaction with the building, we can get a sense of what was valuable to people in the past,” Feltman said. “This may help us to make decisions about what’s valuable in the future, in terms of what we preserve, what we build, and how we talk about those things.” ■

*We want to make sure
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MAPPING

New Mexico



On a mountain just outside of Taos, New Mexico, a group of students sits, taking a break after hiking up the steep slope. They take in the blue skies, the unique wildlife, and the picturesque views before capping their water bottles and heading up the next stretch. But this isn't just hiking and sightseeing in the great outdoors—it's their classroom for the next few weeks.



The 2019 field group (courtesy Kim Genereau)

Each summer, UA's department of geological sciences sends a group of undergraduate students to New Mexico for field camp, where their years of coursework will be put to the test over 1,200 miles away from campus. Over the course of five weeks, these undergraduates practice field skills they'll use in their future careers as geologists.

"You can learn a lot of things in the classroom, but until you go out in the field, and actually do it and actually see rocks and draw maps, then you don't get the full experience," said Dr. Kim Genereau, an associate professor

and director of the field camp. "I think it's one of the best learning experiences students can have."

At their base camp, the Austing Haus Ski Lodge, students learn the ins-and-outs of geological mapping, manually measuring formations, and navigation before they embark on their journey. Once they've learned the ropes, they venture out into the wilderness to explore different types of rocks and formations, all while hiking between two and seven miles a day up and down the mountains, and camping at night for some of the time.

"We would hike around the area

for about three to five days, taking notes on the different minerals, rock formations, and geological structures that we saw," said Mark Henry, a current geological sciences master's student and participant in the 2018 field camp. "Then we would make a note of where they were located and use that to construct a geological map of the area. It was really cool to see how everything came together while you made your map."

The trip consisted of three different segments involving the different types of rocks: sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous. Each segment was led by



a different professor and allowed the group to become acquainted with the type of rock they were studying before moving onto the next. Graduate teaching assistants, who stayed with the undergraduates throughout the camp, offered guidance and advice while the undergraduates became more comfortable with their new skillsets.

“We helped the students with different things that they were learning. And it’s also a learning experience for us,” said Lucas Nibert, one of this year’s graduate teaching assistants. “I learned how to lead

students to the right answers through their own thoughts, rather than just giving it to them.”

Throughout the weeks, the group hiked to some of the most beautiful places in the western United States, according to Henry. Professors led them up to the 13,000-foot summit of Wheeler Peak, around the picture-perfect Lake Abiquiu, and even through one of New Mexico’s volcanic craters known as the Valles Caldera.

“The geology in New Mexico is nothing like it is in Alabama,” Genareau said. “And for a lot of students, it’s their first time going

somewhere like this. It’s cool to see volcanic deposits that are a million years old, and then seeing the landscapes and all the different animals and insects that are out there. It’s a really great experience for them to see somewhere new.”

While taking in the beauty of their summer classroom, the group put their geology skills to the test, gathering data and information so that, at the end of the week, they could create accurate and complete geological maps of the area.

“Honestly, finding yourself on a map is really difficult,” Henry said.



“We always knew where we started, but when we found something we wanted to map, we had to locate where we were so we could make our own maps later in the week. If you mess up your location, your geological map is going to be inaccurate because we make the maps based on topography, or elevation changes. And then making the maps themselves took hours. It was definitely a lot of work, but helpful to know how to do it in the future.”

Once they finished their maps, students and professors explored the Taos area. Some observed the local wildlife, such as big horned sheep, marmots, and beautiful Columbine flowers, while others hiked to see caves, salt flats, and the Rio Grande Gorge, one of the sites that New Mexico is most known for.

After weeks in the mountains, the group made the trek back to Tuscaloosa, where they return physically exhausted, but ready for careers in the field.

“It’s definitely necessary for them to go out west and be able to see some geology because it really helps to tie together all of the conceptual things they’ve been learning,” Nibert said. “Being able to see it and really experience these skills in a hands-on environment—there’s no substitute for it. And it also gives the students a chance to see geology that they’re unable to access here in Alabama.”

“I had never been to a place like this,” Henry said. “But I learned a lot that I think is applicable to any geologists who would ever want to do anything in the field. You learn practical skills, like how to find yourself on a mountain, or how to identify things that are covered by a bunch of trees and branches so that you can barely see. And it was absolutely stunning, too.” ■

You can learn a lot of things in the classroom, but until you go out in the field—and actually do it and actually see rocks and draw maps—you don’t get the full experience.

*Left: Mark Henry
Right: The mountains of New Mexico
(Courtesy Mark Henry)*



ARTS AND SCIENCES





Here at the College of Arts and Sciences, our students and faculty are grateful for every penny given by the generous hearts of our donors. From student scholarships to faculty fellows to our new performing arts center, each member of the Arts and Sciences community is affected by our donors. For all of your thoughtful contributions, we just want to say...

**THANKS, AND
ROLL
TIDE!**





CREATING A LEGACY

The McCollough Institute for Pre-medical Scholars, established in 2018 following a gift from alumni Susan and Gaylon McCollough, enrolled its first class of students this fall. These aspiring doctors live and take classes together as they earn an interdisciplinary minor in the art of medicine.

The Scholars include the best and the brightest of aspiring physicians at the University and throughout the country. The inaugural class of McCollough Scholars has an average ACT score of 34, and many have already volunteered significant time working in local hospitals, medical missions, or with local physicians.

The McColloughs' gift also established the Susan N. McCollough Art Biennale, a contemporary art exhibition showcasing the art of leading professionals alongside emerging and alumni artists.

FUELING CREATIVITY

Dance major Andy Zavadsky says that he can't imagine dancing anywhere other than UA. For three years, he learned from some of the best instructors in the world while the recipient of the Tutwiler Scholar scholarship, which allowed him to come to Tuscaloosa from his home in Wisconsin. But when that scholarship ran out, Zavadsky faced a tough decision: find another scholarship, or make the trek home and lose the opportunity of a lifetime. But thanks to Arts and Sciences donors, he's able to make his dream a reality.

For as long as he can remember, Zavadsky has been dancing. He began dancing at the age of three, and, after spending years in the competition dance world, he knew he wanted to make dance his whole life.

"I knew I had to do dance because that was the one thing I was very, very passionate about," Zavadsky said. "It's been a part of my life for so long, and I love it. I can't find anything else like it."

Zavadsky's journey took him from his home in Wisconsin to the dance program at UA, where he participates in everything he possibly can. Since his freshman year, he's performed in multiple shows, including *Dance Alabama!* and the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre. He's also an active member of the theatre and dance honor society, Alpha Psi Omega, and has helped the department recruit by giving tours and advice to prospective students.

"Dancing takes up a lot of time," Zavadsky said. "It's a big commitment, but I absolutely love it. I couldn't see myself doing anything else anywhere else."

As a dance and exercise science double major, Zavadsky is spending five years at the University, longer than his initial scholarship could sustain him. But, thanks to the Cranton-Massey Scholarship, the Kappa Kappa Gamma Scholarship in Fine Arts, and the Dean of Arts and Sciences Scholarship, he is able to keep working towards perfection.

"When my scholarship ended, I was really worried that I wouldn't be able to come back and finish out my last year here," Zavadsky said. "If it wasn't for these scholarships, I would not have received the funding that I needed to accomplish my dream."

After graduating, Zavadsky hopes to dance at Disney World or on a cruise ship, where he can travel the world, meet new people, and do what he loves. Wherever he ends up, he knows that he wants to continue dancing for as long as he can.

"Being able to get on the stage is amazing," Zavadsky said. "You're in the studio rehearsing and practicing for hours and hours, and then you get to showcase that in three minutes on stage. I think it's really cool to see all your hard work being put on stage and to get to show people what you love." ■



MAKING HISTORY

“Historians come cheap,” said Dr. Lisa Dorr, the winner of the 2007–2010 Faculty Fellowship for social sciences. “Really all we need is a little bit of money and a lot of time to be successful.”

In fact, using the \$9,000 she received from the Leadership Board, Dorr was able to travel to three National Archive facilities to do the entirety of her research for her recent book *A Thousand Thirsty Beaches: Bootlegging, Smuggling, and the South during Prohibition*, which was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2018.

According to Dorr, when people typically think of Prohibition, they think of bootleggers or Northern gangsters like Al Capone. They don’t think about the South, and they certainly don’t think about Cuba.

But after a visit to Havana, Cuba, in 2006, Dorr learned that a great deal of the liquor that came into the United States during Prohibition was smuggled into the South from Cuba, and she wanted to, for the first time, tell the story of Southern Prohibition.

“Unlike in the North, Prohibition in the South isn’t a story of organized crime and violence,” Dorr said. “There was so much opportunity for smuggling in the South, and there was such a wide-open market for it. Hundreds of small groups were doing it.”

Rum running in the South wasn’t done by gangsters and mobsters; it was done by fishermen or wealthy yachtsmen—

essentially anyone who wanted to pick up extra money and owned a boat. Additionally, because the market for alcohol was pervasive, people could buy it anywhere—from their hotel to their mechanic’s garage.

But Cuba didn’t just help to smuggle alcohol; it smuggled people too.

“About the same time Prohibition was passed, the United States began to crack down on immigration,” Dorr said. “They wanted to restrict immigrants because they were concerned, very much like today, that the wrong people were coming in.

“They thought ‘These people aren’t like us. They can’t assimilate. They don’t have our values.’ But one of the surprising things I’ve discovered is that when the immigration door was shut (and the nation instituted a quota system so only a certain number of immigrants could come in from any one country), people who missed the quota cut would go to Havana, and they would pay to be smuggled into the United States aboard a rum runner.”

Immigration smuggling was so pervasive during Prohibition that passenger liners and steam ships in Europe would even advertise that travelers who couldn’t get into the United States through their services should go to Cuba and try there.

Prior to Dorr’s research, the history of Cuba’s involvement in Prohibition was largely untold.

“Often my students think that historians just memorize these stories,

but historians create these stories,” Dorr said. “We find the pieces and try to put them together. Students don’t realize that the fun part is trying to figure out why something happened the way it did.”

In addition to writing her new book, Dorr has published several journal articles on prohibition, drinking, and dating in the South. She is also the associate dean for the social sciences division of the College of Arts and Sciences. Since her book hit shelves, Dorr has shifted her focus to another topic: the history of abortion in the South.

“I’m working on what, at this point, feels like an article on the history of abortion in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama from about 1920 to 1973,” Dorr said. “My goal is to help people understand the history of abortion. I want to write a pithy, interesting article that can be used and read by students and other people to sort of demystify it, or to put it in better context, and show people how we got to where we are now.”

In addition to the gratitude Dorr feels for the Leadership Board’s financial support, she also said the recognition was invaluable.

“In academia there are very few pats on the back,” Dorr said. “A good book takes about 10 years to write, and there are very few other moments when you can feel really proud, so having someone recognize your work makes you feel wonderful because somebody noticed what you’re doing.” ■



Supporting Our Students

After moving their daughters into their dorms for their freshman year, Stephen and Anne Avera were inspired by the student atmosphere to create a scholarship opportunity. Both UA alumni, the Averas founded the Howard Jones Endowed Scholarship in History in 2015. The generous endowment seeks to provide a scholarship opportunity for undergraduate history students, while also honoring the legacy of Avera's former history professor, Dr. Edward Jones.

"I thought so much of Dr. Jones, and wanted to make a statement about helping undergraduates go on to do

something they'd like to do, like study history, and not necessarily have to make one decision on what their career might look like going forward," Avera said.

Avera credits finding much of his passion for history in his undergraduate years to Jones' American history courses. As an ROTC student, Avera specifically remembers taking Dr. Jones' class on modern American foreign policy in the waning years of the Vietnam War.

"It was a treat to listen to him talk and analyze and come up with explanations for what was going on at the time in a very complex world," Avera said. "You could tell he enjoyed

the intellectual pursuit he was engaged in, and he wanted to draw students into that same process. That had a real impact on me."

As Avera approaches his retirement in May 2020, he looks forward to the future of the endowment fund and hopes to potentially participate in the scholarship selection process.

"It's a neat feeling to know that you helped somebody pursue their passions," Avera said. "The University of Alabama is the best place to put forth your sincere efforts, find out what you want to do, and really apply yourself while you're doing it." ■



Recruiting the Best

For Dr. Richmond McClintock, supporting The University of Alabama has always been a family affair. The son of a UA alumnus, McClintock grew up cheering for the Tide and made the trek to Tuscaloosa for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. His wife Nancy, originally from New York, began saying “Roll Tide” soon after she said “I do.” When he had three daughters, he insisted they all attend UA. Now, the McClintocks are leaving their mark on the University permanently.

Together, they established the Richmond and Nancy McClintock

Endowed Professorship in Math, which will help the department of mathematics hire the best faculty members to teach and conduct research at UA.

“I want the University to have the very best teachers that it can have, and this is one way of assuring that happens,” McClintock said. “I hope this will enable the University to get the very best person for mathematics.”

McClintock has been a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board since 2010, through which he serves on the academic committee. His time on

the Leadership Board reflects his commitment to College of Arts and Sciences’ students and faculty, as he helped award numerous scholarships to students. But none of that would have been possible without the experience he had at UA.

“I just had a great experience as a student,” McClintock said. “The whole time I was at UA was just a blast. And that’s left me with a warm place in my heart for the University. I want everyone to feel the same way that I did.” ■



**THE SPIRIT
OF UA**

When Barbara Stone talks about the Million Dollar Band, her passion for its members and mission are evident in every sentence. Each word is thought out—meticulously chosen to fully represent the respect and love she has for each halftime show, each song from the stands, and each member marching on the field. And that passion has transformed the experience for the students involved.

Stone spent her undergraduate career on a piano bench, earning a degree in piano performance during her time at UA. Although her practice rooms were located a ten-minute walk away from the Million Dollar Band's practice field, her love for the band would spark years later, when she returned to the College of Arts and Sciences as a member of the Leadership Board. At an Arty Party auction, her husband, Cris, bid on and won her the opportunity to conduct the Million Dollar Band at a football game, and, through that experience, she found a new love.

"It turned out to be the most fun thing ever," Stone said. "After that happened, I fell in love with the band. I gained so much respect for them—the way Dr. Ozzello organizes the band, the responsibility and respect that the students have for each other, their professionalism, their hard work. It was all amazing."

Since then, Stone has been a driving force for the Million Dollar Band. When she realized that they didn't have adequate practice and instrument storage facilities, she helped organize and lead a group to get the band the funds and support they needed to thrive. With the help of her vocal support, the Moody Music Building was renovated, a new marching band wing was added, and the band received a state-of-the-art practice field where they could practice without worrying about flooding or other dangerous practice conditions.

The Stones' personal contribution, however, was the addition of a climate-controlled instrument storage room in the parking deck constructed right next to the practice field. Previously, instruments were stored in a semi-trailer outside, where they were susceptible to the elements and could be drastically altered by cold weather, humidity, and rain.

"Cris and I wanted to do something for the School of Music," Stone said. "When we met with them, they said they needed the storage space. The room was this big cement block, but they needed the shelving and lockers and all that stuff to make the room usable. We wanted to give them what they needed so they could focus more on practice and performances."

"And now that there is an adequate storage space, we were also able to provide the initial funding for the Million Dollar Band Instrument Support Fund," Stone said. "Its purpose is to provide funds for instrument maintenance, repair and, eventually, replacement. It is our hope that this endowment will increase over the years in order to make a tangible difference to the band. Can you imagine how the band would look and sound with a complete set of matching instruments?"

While the facilities have been built and grand-opening ribbons cut, Stone isn't through with the Million Dollar Band. Currently, she serves as president of the Friends of the Million Dollar Band, a group of

alumni, parents, and supporters who raise funds for scholarships and other expenses that band members face throughout the year. During her time as president, Stone hopes to double membership and increase the money raised by the group so that more students can enjoy their experiences in the band.

"We have a really good group of people who are involved," Stone said. "They're very dedicated to advancing the band and making more people aware of what they do. Everyone knows that they play instruments, but they really do so much more. And we want to let everyone know how much they do."

For the next two years, Stone will use her time as president to advocate for more instruments and funding for the band, as well as get to know current members, alumni, parents, and spectators at events throughout the year. But don't expect her to slow down once her time as president is done—her passion for the Million Dollar Band will keep going for a long time.

"This band represents the whole spirit of the school," Stone said. "Every college in the University has members in that band. They look good, they sound good. They work hard. They emulate the pride we all have in our school. Who doesn't love the sound of Yea Alabama at a football game? They make a huge contribution wherever they perform. People react to the Million Dollar Band. You have to—how could you not?" ■

Everyone knows that they play instruments, but they really do so much more. We want to let everyone know how much they do.

Class Notes

1950s

J. Worth Wilkers (Class of '54, journalism) recently retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

1970s

Clarence Douglas (Class of '70, history) retired in 2014. Throughout his career, he served on the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games in 1996, was the senior vice president of Wells Fargo Armored Services, was the senior vice president of National Linen, and was a consultant for American Linen.

Terry Burchfield Self (Class of '72, journalism) received her Master of Science in Human Resource Management at Troy University, and went on to receive her Professional in Human Resources certification. She currently serves as an adjunct professor at Auburn University.

Jo P. Macon Rutledge (Class of '72, psychology) recently retired and is enjoying life with Rut Rutledge. She has two wonderful granddaughters.

Donald L. McCants (Class of '77, history) recently retired from Security Engineers, Inc. He fondly remembers studying Russian history under Dr. Hugh Ragsdale.

1980s

Robert Marshall Dimick (Class of '80, chemistry) is an orthopaedic spine surgeon at SRMC-Orthopaedics in Milton, Florida.

Paul Gregory Globetti (Class of '81) married Lori Killinger Globetti (Class of '90) in 1993 and welcomed a son, Caleb, in 2004. He worked for Merrill Lynch from 1985 until 2002, when he and his wife began Killinger-Globetti Asset Management, Independent RIA. He currently serves as president of the organization.

Alva Lambert (Class of '83, political science) retired after 20 plus years as executive director of the State Health Planning and Development Agency on December 31, 2018. He was then named the director of business development for Bernhard Energy in January of 2019. Lambert is a past president of the Montgomery Lions Club and the Montgomery Quarterback Club. He is currently serving on the ASF Foundation and The Alabama Military Support Foundation Boards of Directors.

Gregory Smith (Class of '87) was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves in May 2019. He is currently assigned as the joint team lead at the Defense Logistics Agency, Troop Support in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1990s

Amanda "Mandy" Bennett Pierce (Class of '92, Master of Music, Piano Performance), was a piano teacher from 1989 to 2014 and at the Homewood Public Library from 2014 to 2016. She now works at Samford University as an administrative assistant in the theatre and dance department.

David W. Blass (Class of '94, international relations) has worked as the general counsel for the



Investment Company Institute since 2014. He is married to Dalia Osman Blass and has three children: Alexander, Kathleen, and Austin.

Reverend Robert W. Smith, Jr. (Class of '96, New College) retired as a United Methodist minister in 2017. He received his Masters of Divinity from Emory University and his ABD - Doctoral Studies in higher education from UA.

John O'Connell (Class of '98, theatre) is the dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Purdue University, Fort Wayne.

2000s

Amy Vassar (Class of '00, criminal justice) worked as a mental health

specialist at the Peninsula Psychiatric Hospital in Knoxville, Tennessee until 2004, when she moved to North Spring Behavioral Healthcare in Leesburg, Virginia. Here, she worked as a mental health specialist and a special education teacher. She received her teaching licensure from Shenandoah University in 2011 and currently works as a multiple disabilities teacher at Fairfax County Middle School in Herndon, Virginia.

Wilson Thomas Karr (formerly Adkins) (Class of '05, Master of Theatre Management) recently became the director of theatre management at Wayne State University's Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance.

Jessica Williams Coburn (Class of '07, criminal justice) is an aspiring author

and newspaper reporter for the *Hernando Sun* in Hernando County, Florida. She is also a contributing writer for *Celebrations Magazine*, a magazine for fans of Walt Disney World, as well as the *Citrus County Life Magazine*. Prior to her writing career, Coburn was a protective investigator for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office. She lives in central Florida with her husband, son, and two dogs.

Robert Steiner (Class of '07, psychology and history) is an attorney.

Kathryn Zekoff (Class of '09, international studies) married Russell Platt (Class of '08) in 2011, and welcomed a child in 2014. She is currently a stay-at-home mom and bible study teacher in Alabama.

2010s

Ty Brackin (Class of '10, history) is a captain in the United States Air Force. He was deployed to Kuwait in 2017, where he supported the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria. He recently moved to a new unit at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio and has been an operations flight commander. He is married to Bailey C. Brackin.

Stephanie Yelling (Class of '12, criminal justice) is the HL7 operations administrator of the Tennessee Department of Health Immunization Program.

Ellen Joan Coogan (Class of '14, philosophy) is currently working as a Domestic Surveillance Fellow at

the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) in Washington, DC. She primarily engages in comments to federal agencies under the Administrative Procedure Act and Freedom of Information Act litigation on issues related to government surveillance, civil rights, and equal justice. She is also Outreach Coordinator for the newly established University of Alabama LGBTQ Alumni Association, which brings her "great pride and joy."

Allison Eckert Beebe (Class of '15, dance) married Daniel Beebe (Class of '14) and moved to Fairhope, Alabama. She is the office manager at BES Design Build.

Alejandro B. Staehle (Class of '16, political science and criminal justice) began working with Vanguard Financial Investments in Charlotte, North Carolina in October 2016.

ALUMNI, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send information about new jobs, promotions, retirements, honors, achievements, and major life events for the Class Notes section. Mail entries to The University of Alabama, College Relations, Box 870268, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487 or email entries to sbbolin@ua.edu.

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