A Message from the Vice President

Around the Capstone

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2015 Student Affairs Hall of Fame

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STUDENT AFFAIRS sa.ua.edu

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A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I am excited to connect with you for the first time as Vice President for Student Affairs. Since I arrived in June, I have met many students, parents, alumni, and friends who share my passion for creating experiences that challenge and engage students. In this issue of Capstone, I am pleased to share a sample of these opportunities — University Programs, University Recreation, and other highlights from the beginning of the year. In these pages, you will also meet student leaders, donors, and staff who make these opportunities possible.

As my colleagues and I across the Division planned for the start of the academic year, we developed three divisional priorities that will guide our efforts for the year. The 2015 - 2016 divisional priorities are civility, engagement, and well-being, all of which are crucial to creating an environment that encourages student retention and success. This summer, we launched One Team. One Bama., our campus-wide civility initiative, which is intended to nurture a campus community where we recognize and appreciate the unique contributions of every member.

Finally, it is my pleasure to introduce you to the 2015 inductees into the Student Affairs Hall of Fame. This year’s honorees, Dr. Jack Baier, Dr. Kathleen Cramer, Dr. Warner Moore, and Dr. Sybil Todd, are Student Affairs professionals whose contributions to The University of Alabama and to student life truly re-shaped the student experience at UA. Each of these individuals reminds us of the impact of out-of-classroom experiences on student success. These recipients are truly an inspiration to us.

Thank you for your support of Student affairs and The University of Alabama. Roll Tide!

David L. Grady, Ph.D.
STUDENT AFFAIRS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PRESENTS DONATIONS

Over the summer, the Student Affairs Leadership Council (SALC) presented two gifts to Student Affairs programs to provide opportunities for more students to further their involvement while at the Capstone. SALC is a group of alumni, parents, and friends of the Division of Student Affairs who come together to provide guidance and support for the Division and student life initiatives.

SALC awarded a $20,000 gift to the Center for Service and Leadership for the 2015-2016 year. “We are so grateful for such a generous gift from the Student Affairs Leadership Council,” said Courtney Thomas, director of the Center for Service and Leadership. “This gift will help us further our endeavors as we actively work to create engaged, global citizens. We will be able to use these resources to expand our programming, create new ventures, and to diversify our experiences for our ever-changing student population.”

In addition, SALC provided another $20,000 donation to University Recreation’s club sports program for the 2015-2016 year. “We are so grateful for the Student Affairs Leadership Council’s gift,” said Wyant Boreson, University Recreation’s competitive sports coordinator.

“Our sport clubs are student-run organizations that rely on dues, donations, and fundraisers to support their competitive efforts. This gift will help many of our sport club teams be able to purchase needed equipment, as well as travel and compete more throughout the year.”

For more information on the Student Affairs Leadership Council, visit sa.ua.edu, click on “About Us” and select “SALC.” Interested persons can also contact Director of Information Management and External Affairs Alicia Browne at abrowne@sa.ua.edu.
CSSV BECOMES CENTER FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

After merging with the Office of Student Leadership, the Center for Sustainable Service and Volunteerism has become the Center for Service and Leadership.

“Service to both our local and our global communities is such an integral part of developing leadership in our students that we have intentionally created a comprehensive Center for Service and Leadership on campus,” said Dr. Adam Sterritt, assistant vice president for Student Affairs. “The CSL will remain committed to the social change model of leadership development and will continue to collaborate with leadership development initiatives through campus and the community.”

Connect with the CSL online at volunteer.ua.edu.

Students volunteer during the Center for Service and Leadership’s Ripple Effect early this fall.
UA MORTAR BOARD CHAPTER DONATES $10,000 TO UA AWAY

The University of Alabama’s Mortar Board chapter, the Hypatia chapter, surprised Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. David Grady early this fall and presented him with a $10,000 gift for UA Away. UA Away is a Student Affairs scholarship initiative to help students work, serve, or study away during their time at the Capstone.

Mortar Board is a national honor society that recognizes college seniors for their exemplary scholarship, leadership, and service. UA’s Hypatia chapter is one of 226 chapters nationwide, and one of its main missions is to support the ideals of its home, The University of Alabama. In addition, Mortar Board seeks to promote equal opportunities among all peoples, to advance a spirit of scholarship, and to recognize and encourage leadership.

“UA Away scholarships provide UA students with the unique opportunity to work, serve, or study abroad, and we, as Mortar Board senior honor society, are proud to give back to our fellow students through such a worthy cause,” said Jenny Lamberth, president of UA’s Mortar Board chapter.

The funds gifted to UA Away scholarships were raised by rose sales at graduation. Mortar Board is traditionally known for these sales nationally, but sales at UA began more recently at the Winter 2012 graduation.

Susan Caples, a Mortar Board former national president and current Hypatia chapter advisor, said that UA Mortar Board members love their rose sale.

“It’s just so much fun to do at graduation,” she said. “Everyone is just so happy, and it helps us give back to UA as well.”

THE CRIMSON WHITE BRINGS HOME MORE AWARDS

The Crimson White’s 2014-2015 editorial board won first place nationally in the editorial writing category of the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards. The three editorials submitted were “Thanks for the memories” on July 16, 2014; “Students not to blame” on Sept. 24, 2014; and “Continuing transparency” on Nov. 24, 2014.

This is the fourth consecutive year that The Crimson White has won a national first place award in SPJ’s Mark of Excellence contest.

“These awards underscore the talent and hard work of a group of dedicated student journalists at The Crimson White,” said Mark Mayfield, associate director for Student Media and the CW’s advisor. “They are continuing in a tradition we’ve had here of producing some of the state
and nation’s top journalists. Many of these students are in the newsroom until midnight on CW production nights, doing this work because they love it.”

In September, *The Crimson White* received news of another honor, when it was named one of seven Pacemaker finalists by the Associated Collegiate Press. The Pacemaker is the top honor awarded to college media and is generally considered to be the collegiate equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize.

“They’re not here simply to win awards, but first and foremost to provide news and information to the entire campus, and sometimes beyond it,” Mayfield said. “But the awards give them the kind of recognition they deserve. We’re very proud of them.”

**BACON RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Ferguson Student Center Director Carl Bacon retired on May 15, 2015, after serving The University of Alabama and the Division of Student Affairs for 25 years.

“His advocacy for students has been an inspiration to many and has certainly had a lasting impact on many students,” said Dr. Adam Sterritt, assistant vice president for Student Affairs.

Outside of the student union, Bacon was known for his longtime service on the Student Affairs Professional Development Committee, where he was instrumental in the development of the New Professionals Institute. He had a passion for division-wide professional development opportunities, overseeing many different programs to further his colleagues’ development.
Perfect Partners
On a typical afternoon in the University Programs office, students pack the large workroom. Some are at computer stations, others work on the phone or on their laptops at spare tables. Banter and laughter fill the room as members of the student team work through logistics, marketing, research, and more for upcoming events.

While there is something commonplace about their interactions, there is nothing common about the work they are doing together. University Programs is the first student programming board in the nation to feature academics, communication, and research. “There is nothing like it, and no other organizational structure like it. This was built specifically for The University of Alabama,” said UP Director LaToya Scott.

UP is, by definition, an innovative, collaborative programming board that aims to foster community while maximizing student development through campus-wide events implemented by UA students.

Led by Scott, along with full-time staff members Averie Armstead and Kimberly Jones, University Programs has undergone tremendous growth since the early 2000s. Originally, UP operated under the Ferguson Student Center and served as its programming arm. In 2013, University Programs transitioned from a student-led programming board to its own department within Student Affairs.

Students hang out with Big Al during a Week of Welcome event at Coleman Coliseum earlier this fall.
Scott has been with UP since 2011, but worked with the Ferg team before that. “From the outside looking in, no one really knows how it all works,” she said. “What makes us different from programming boards or other offices on campuses across the country is that we are a one-stop shop for everything regarding programming. And everything is student-led or student-driven.”

UA students have come to enjoy incredible experiences thanks to UP — from large-scale movie premiere nights to trips to CNN headquarters in Atlanta and alcohol-free tailgates. But the students working behind the scenes and the departments they partner with across campus come away with even more.

The partnerships that University Programs has formed are numerous and wide-ranging. From the Division of Student Affairs to Fraternity and Sorority Life, from the Al’s Pals Mentoring Program to the Student Government Association, UP has mastered the art of productive partnerships.

“Collaboration is at the core of everything we do,” Scott said. “We are the people who help host the events, and our goal is to be inclusive. We strive to make sure that we are representing each area and that our campus sees themselves in every program.”

From an early partnership with the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness, UP has played host to the Rising Tide Tailgates, alcohol-free events on the Quad a few times each fall. “It’s one of those huge partnerships on campus, and it’s been a great opportunity to provide alcohol-free tailgates at UA,” Scott said. “Our students help the HPW office with every single bit of the event, from logistics to food, tents, grounds use, marketing, and contracts.”

Participation at Rising Tide Tailgates has been astronomical, Scott said. Anywhere from 1,000 to 2,000 students come through to eat, watch the game, and connect with other students.

While UP might be best-known for facilitating Week of Welcome
each fall for the Division of Student Affairs, it is quickly becoming known for niche partnerships and events as well. Last year, the Counseling Center reached out to UP for help putting on Stress Free Daze, an end-of-the-semester study break.

“As a freshman, or even a sophomore or junior, you don’t realize how much stress you can be under and how many people are actually here to help you combat that stress,” said Bonnika Ashley, a UP graduate assistant studying international business. “It’s a great reminder for students, and we partner with the Counseling Center each semester.”

Dr. Lee Keyes, executive director of the Counseling Center, said partnering with UP has made a huge difference in programming. “It’s important to know that mental health professionals have no marketing skills. It’s not what we are trained to do,” he said. “Prior to partnering with UP, we were struggling with attendance. Then we got involved with them, and immediately you could see some pretty profound differences.”

Stress Free Daze has grown by leaps and bounds, with more than 900 students taking part in the spring event. From enjoying Steel City Pops to painting ceramic elephants, students — and a few faculty and staff members — were able to have fun and take a break during a stressful time of the year before finals.

“Working with students gets us so much closer to the pulse of what is going on, and they have a fresher perspective,” Keyes said. “Their ideas, involvement, and energy really make a huge difference.”

Outside of the benefits for students who attend events and the departments that partner with UP to put them on, the students who serve on University Programs’ team come away from their jobs with life-altering (and job-snagging) experience. With former students landing jobs with Target, Wal-Mart, Crimson Tide Athletics, and the NBA and NFL, Scott and her team have more than enough evidence to show what they can do for students.

“We have a 90 percent employment rate among our students,” Scott said. “From Target to Wells Fargo, our students get to work with major corporations, and they can say ‘I have that experience’ when they go on interviews. Our students are the decision-makers and they learn to run great, small and large-scale programs and events.”

University Programs has even rounded out their offerings with a specialized academic component. With an academic partnership in UA’s Restaurant and Hospitality Management program, all students must take RHM 385, a class that works with UP and is taught jointly by Scott and Dr. Kimberly Severt.

“I love the concept of theory and practice, because that’s where you can meet our students on both ends of the spectrum,” Scott said. “On Monday, they can be in class learning something and on Wednesday, they can be in the office applying that knowledge.”

Beyond the classroom and the office, the lessons UP students learn will stick with them. Hayley Shoji said she’s proud to see how UP has changed and grown during her time there.

“There is so much that we get to be a part of, and I want to see that continue at UP,” she said. “We’ve had the opportunity to meet [UA President] Dr. Stuart Bell and [VP for Student Affairs] Dr. David Grady, and they’ve gotten to know us by name. That’s really fun.”

For Rachel Tolleson, a junior majoring in public relations, it’s the atmosphere that matters most. “We’re a family unit,” she said. “We have inside jokes, inside language, nicknames.”

For LaToya Scott, her pride is in her students and what they are able to accomplish year in and year out. “I think that our students’ commitment to their institution and their craft is just phenomenal,” she said. “They are so committed to serving their fellow students and being great representatives of this campus. Their commitment to collaboration is incredible. They have invested in this program to make sure UP can be here long after they have graduated.”
Prepared for Impact

Perseverance translates into success for SGA president

By Jessie Patterson Jones

It's easy to give up when something doesn't go your way. It's even easier when you put yourself out there on a large college campus – and you fail not once, but twice.

It takes wisdom to see past failure to the lessons that you can learn from the experience. At just 21 years old, Elliot Spillers has that wisdom and more. Credit his insight and resilience to his being raised by parents serving in the Air Force or his love of martial arts — he's a third degree black belt. Whatever it is, it has served Spillers well during his time at the Capstone.

After an experience with the Youth Leadership Development Program in Birmingham during his senior year of high school, Spillers knew that the Capstone was the place for him — and he knew he wanted to be a part of the SGA. After graduating from Pelham High School, Spillers was ready to live in Tuscaloosa for four years and wanted to find a way to make a difference in his new home.

“I knew coming to UA that I wanted to leave a legacy here, and I wanted to make a difference in a large way,” Spillers said. “I had no idea what that would be, but I know that was what I wanted to do.”

During his freshman year, Spillers got involved with Freshman Forum through First Year Experience and Parent Programs. As he looked for a way to get plugged in, his resident advisor Sydney Paige stepped in. “She showed up in my dorm room when I asked how...
to get involved, and she gave me a list of things to do including First Year Council and SGA,” he said. “Sydney was extremely involved on campus, and was well-known for her involvement in SGA as a female, independent senator, so that meant a lot.”

Spillers quickly put himself out there, applying for the positions Paige recommended. While he found a home in Freshman Forum, he wasn’t successful in all of his applications, not earning a spot in SGA’s First Year Council. “I was a little bummed at the time, but Freshman Forum was a great route for me,” he said. “There, I met some great people. By the end of my freshman year, I knew I still wanted to get involved in SGA.”

At the end of his freshman year, Spillers entered the campaign waters for the first time, running for SGA senate for the College of Arts & Sciences. The loss in his first campaign taught him a lot, he said. “After I had that experience, I learned a lot about perseverance, and I decided to do it again in the future,” he said.

During Spillers’ sophomore year, Paige appointed him to serve as SGA’s deputy director of engagement. The position was a large one, serving as a liaison between SGA and registered student organizations, which are part of The Source. “I really got to know a lot of organizations for who they were as a student group, and I got to learn how SGA could support them. Sydney had always said that SGA was one thing, but that I should get involved in more than just that one area.”

Spillers heeded that advice, and also got involved as a Peer Leader. He connected with Sustained Dialog, Collegiate 100, and the Black Student Union. He joined the Blount Undergraduate Initiative and Honors College to further his studies in new and different ways. While each experience taught Spillers something new, he said it was when he began working in the Center for Service and Leadership as a team leader that he really found his niche. “Through service, I really got to figure out how to unite students in a big way,” he said.

Late in his sophomore year, Spillers said he saw a campus that was growing more divided, and he wanted to do something to try to make a difference. His focus again turned to SGA as a way to reach all students. He ran for SGA’s Vice President of Student Affairs, an executive position, and while he did not win the election, he said he learned a lot.

“I told our team that winning wasn’t our primary goal, but uniting our campus was,” he said. “We got thousands of students to come out and vote. Did we win? No, but we were successful in bringing the student body together.”

A summer abroad studying British literature and fine arts at Oxford University before his junior year gave Spillers a fresh take on UA — and himself. It was in Oxford that he made the decision to run for SGA president. Spillers met Mark Hammontree at Oxford. Hammontree would go on to become his campaign manager and a trusted friend.

“I remember us talking one night, and Mark said ‘I think you should run again.’ He put that in my mind,” Spillers said. “I was thinking that I just couldn’t do it a third time. I was thinking in my head, I want to impact SGA but running just might not be that way.”

On March 10, Spillers was elected president of The University of Alabama’s Student Government Association. Almost 15,000 students turned out to vote. For Spillers, it was a moment that both empowered and humbled him.

“Honestly, I’m just one person,” he said. “What was incredible was seeing how so many people and groups across campus started coming together to support this cause, not me, but the focus and legitimacy we wanted to bring to SGA.”

A business management major, with a double minor in political science and the Blount Undergraduate Initiative, Spillers plans to graduate in May 2016, with hopes of going to law school. Before law school, he said he plans to spend a year working in Washington, D.C., with social activism. Spillers hopes to travel and work outside of Alabama before returning to his home state permanently to give back.

“There are a lot of things that need to be changed in the state, and I want to help do that here,” said Spillers, who was selected for membership in the Blackburn Institute last spring. “Blackburn has definitely already taught me to bring resources back to Alabama. I think so far, this entire journey as president has been pretty exciting, and I can’t wait for our next projects.”

When Spillers thinks about what might have been for him this year if he hadn’t been open to trying one more time, he said he’s grateful for the encouragement he received to keep going.

“I guess the third time is the charm,” Spillers said.
By Jessie Patterson Jones

On any given day, it’s not uncommon to see two small boys careen through the Ferguson Student Center. In their crimson and white, they fly down the hall and onto a couch overlooking the Crimson Promenade. If it seems like the large and bustling student center is a second home to them, that’s because it is.

For Will and Sammy Sterritt, The University of Alabama has become a playground of sorts. With their dad, Adam, serving as assistant vice president for Student Affairs and their mom, Kimberly, working as Housing and Residential Communities’ associate director of housing administration, the Sterritts
spend their fair share of time on campus for work and play. Kim and Adam’s desire to be at a large, public, research institution led them to UA. Adam began work in Student Affairs in December 2013, just after Sammy was born. They completed their move to Tuscaloosa in January 2014, and then Kim joined HRC in October.

“We like the fact that the boys are growing up on a college campus because they are exposed to so many things. The University drives all of that, and it’s such a great community for a kid to grow up in,” Adam said. “From athletics to faculty members, they get to see so much.”

When the Sterritts aren’t working, you can still find them on campus frequently, enjoying football games in the fall and softball games and gymnastics meets in the spring. They also love to enjoy the student-run events for local families. At just 2 and 4 years old, growing up on a University campus has already made an impact on Sammy and Will. “It’s funny to talk to them about college. ‘Can I go to college one day?’ is fun. We say ‘Yes, you can. You can do anything,’ to him.”

Raising two sons has given both Kim and Adam new perspectives on the students they work with each day. A former director of parent programs at Georgia Tech, Kim has spent much of her career working with parents of college students. “I started working with parents when I was newly married without children. I was an expert on the student experience, and they were an expert on their student,” she said. “Now that we have children, I’m coming at it from a more empathetic standpoint. Parents are partners, and I am my children’s advocate. I understand how tough that’s going to be for me to flip that switch and tell my kids to advocate for themselves one day.” At HRC now, Kim said she has gotten to continue working with parents to help get them through the housing portion of each student’s UA experience.

While Kim found her path to a career in higher education after accepting an admissions position following her undergraduate career and discovering her love of working with students and their families, Adam came to the profession a little differently. He attended Florida State University and began volunteering in the student union during his second week of school. When a friend told him there was a movie theater on campus and jobs were available checking IDs, he was curious. It turned out the same venue booked concerts and — always a music aficionado — Adam began volunteering with the programming board before he got hired as a student assistant and worked there for four years.

While earning his degree in mass media studies, Adam planned on working in the music industry. He worked at a large local club each summer and wound up working concerts for the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears when they were in their heyday. But his experiences working at the student union had shown him he loved the higher education part of his job even more than the music portion, and he decided to pursue a master’s in higher education at FSU, where he started working full-time at a brand new satellite student union building. Adam met Kim while she was in graduate school at FSU and both were working student orientation. They were married in 2007, and embarked on a new adventure in Atlanta in 2008 when Adam became the first director of student activities and leadership programs at Georgia Gwinnett College, a new state institution outside of Atlanta. There, Adam got to oversee the building of a new student center and witness the growth of the institution. After starting with 744 students, GGC had grown to more than 11,000 in enrollment upon his departure.

Now both working in Student Affairs at UA, the Sterritts enjoy heading to work on the same campus and even get to have some fun with each other during orientation sessions when they speak to the same group on back-to-back days. “Within the first few months, I became Kimberly Sterritt’s husband, who happens to work on campus, too,” Adam said. “I’ve caught it a few times where she has made jokes about me. ‘Be kind, give him a standing ovation,’ she’d say. That’s been really fun to experience here.”

But more than anything, the Sterritts say they are grateful to have found a University home and atmosphere that welcomes both them and their children. “Our kids will grow up on a college campus and love that,” Adam said. “This is the atmosphere we were looking for. They are going to grow up to be Alabama fans. Sammy has about 10 words, and two are ‘Roll Tide.’”
Behind the scenes with University Recreation

By Jessie Patterson Jones

While campus is still silent each morning at five, a handful of students quietly arrive at the Student Recreation Center. In colored shirts denoting their roles as student staff members, the small team begins the process of opening the 180,000-square-foot facility and preparing to unlock the doors at 5:30 a.m.

The students work quickly through the entire building, flipping on lights, televisions, and fans. They set up equipment, check supplies, and open the cash register. The Rec Center is up and running as a student supervisor unlocks the doors.

With roughly 700 students employed through University Recreation throughout the course of each year, it is easy to see that URec facilities are both student-driven and — in large part — student-run.

“Our reliance on our student workers really accentuates the importance of training with purpose and a constant reinforcement of expectations, accountability, and recognition,” said Dr. George Brown, executive director of University Recreation. “Student assistants in University Recreation are expected to be student leaders, or perhaps more aptly, leaders period.”

It is those student leaders, along with the staff members that guide them, that keep UA’s recreation facilities in constant motion. While no day is exactly the same, here is a look at one day behind the scenes.
Kelly Hollifield and her student colleagues are wrapping up the opening of the Rec Center on a weekday morning. Hollifield, a junior majoring in public relations, knows there will be a line when she turns the key to unlock the door.

Student supervisors, including Hollifield, arrive at 5 a.m. to prepare for the day. Before 5:30 arrives and patrons gain entrance to the building, two supervisors, two support staff members, and three weight room employees will all report for work.

“We have to have a lot of people for things to run like a well-oiled machine,” said Hollifield, who began her time with URec in the weight room in January 2014 and was promoted to supervisor a year later. “We have to make sure everything is in order and be ready to help people. I really like people and being their bridge, and I get to do that here. It’s customer service at the Rec, all day long, every day.”

The first patrons arrive slowly when the doors open, filing to the front desk and swiping in with ACT cards. Then, a few dozen others arrive at once. It is a mix of professors, staff members, and some students in the early morning crowd. Some walk in toting bananas and yoga mats, while some only carry a water bottle. Others come ready to head to the office after their workout, with dress clothes and toiletries that are quickly stashed in the locker room.

From free weights to cardio machines and conversations, things begin to happen all over the building. Seven minutes after opening, the Rec Center has come alive.

A quick glance at the personal training studio shows a full room with six trainers working with 15 clients to start the morning off.

In the Rec Center’s indoor pool, a water fitness class kicks off. Today, eight patrons and their instructor take to the pool. As they begin to bounce and twist through their workout, both conversations and instructions take place – theirs is a group of regulars, and exercise has turned them into friends.

With two student lifeguards looking on, Kristen Howard calls to her class to keep it going as they wrap up their warm-up and begin working through even bigger motions.

While students and members still float around the building, it’s suddenly quieter with the early morning crowd
11:30 A.M.
At the front desk, students are still welcoming patrons. Josie Rodriguez points a new student in the right direction with a smile. Rodriguez, a junior communicative disorders major, started as a support staff team member before getting promoted to supervisor last year. Now, many of her duties take place at the cash register, assisting with buying and renting equipment—or dealing with questions. “We get asked every single question because we’re at the front desk,” she said.

Rodriguez is from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and said University Recreation has become her campus home. “We are a very large family, whether you just started a week ago or you have been here more than two years like me,” she said. “I’ve met my best friends here.”

Rodriguez’s advice to the new students is simple. “Get an on-campus student job,” she said. “You can work up to 20 hours a week, but they always understand that you’re a student first. But if I were even more specific, I’d say get a job at the Rec. I love my job.”

1 P.M.
In a fitness studio, five full-time URec staff members take their Pilates reformer class from Diana Jones. Soothing instructions and music fill the room, along with the Balanced Body machines. The class began with a couple of curious staff members, and has grown to a regular group who make time to train over their lunch hour twice a week.

“Pilates reformer has increased my flexibility and range of motion, and I use it as a supplement to my cardio routine of cycling and walking to target different muscle groups,” said Kristie Click, an administrative specialist at the Rec Center. “I love the chance to exercise with my work friends.”

2:15 P.M.
The SRC climbing wall opens from 2-10 p.m. each day, and as soon as the doors open, new students pop in interested to learn more about how this Outdoor Recreation program works. With an affordable $15 membership fee to the climbing wall, more and more students are getting interested in bouldering and rock climbing on campus.

Outdoor Rec Manager Stephen Middleton and his student team see roughly 50-60 visitors per day at the 20-foot climbing wall, with more adventurous students opting to head to the Student Activity Center at Presidential Village to tackle the 40-foot climbing wall. In recent years, they have seen the Outdoor Recreation culture growing on campus. More than a dozen Outdoor Rec trips will take place this fall, compared with four trips a semester just a few years ago.

“Outdoor Rec is growing, and we want to spread the word, but at the same time, we don’t want it to lose the connections that are associated with Outdoor Rec,” Middleton said. “We work really hard to maintain that culture.”

3:03 P.M.
In the personal training studio, URec’s Assistant Director for Business Operations Nancy Webster is set for her regular personal training session with Josh Frazier after a quick discussion of the plan for the day. Frazier has been training clients at the Rec Center since 2011 and said the success of his clients is what keeps him going.

Nancy has been working with a personal trainer since 2006 because it keeps her motivated on working toward her own personal wellness goals. “I’ve got bad knees and I’m 55,” she said. “There are things I am trying to avoid, and I love personal training. I’ve started weight lifting and that really excites me. I have to have someone to keep me motivated, and Josh does.”
7:25 P.M.  
The Rec Center generally hits its peak from 4-8 p.m. on weekdays. Today is no different. While a steady stream of people come and go, the Rec hums with a student crowd. The weight room is jam packed, cardio equipment is in high demand, and every available court in the gym is in use, with four pick-up basketball games taking place simultaneously – along with a badminton game and a volleyball scrimmage.

9:15 P.M.  
As the evening ticks away, Margaret McKemy is deep into her evening on duty as a program assistant for intramural sports. With more than three hours of games behind her tonight, she’s just made it through a shift change and is ready to get the next round of games going.

“My job is to continuously check in on every field and if there’s a situation where they could use some assistance, step in,” said McKemy, who is in her third year working with intramural sports.

“Most of the time situations can be resolved with a conversation and a full explanation of our rules and procedures. Injuries, paperwork complications, and questions are a large part of my night.”

Tonight is a calm one for the senior chemical engineering major as students enjoy friendly competition. “I like my job because I like to organize programs and people, and this lets me do both,” she said. “But I love my job because of the people. It’s a team environment. We all know the night depends on how well we function as a unit and helping a co-worker helps your night as well. We work together and communicate well, which is impressive for a student-run staff.”

10:45 P.M.  
As another announcement about the impending closing goes out over the loudspeaker, senior Austin Vincent is wrapping up a busy day at work for the Student Recreation Center. He closed out the cash register at 10:15 and began to get equipment rentals and returns in order.

As the clock strikes 10:45, the doors are locked, allowing no new patrons to enter the Rec. “The last hour really goes by kind of fast,”
Vincent said. “I really like to work the closing shift because it fits my schedule, but it’s fun too.”

**11:05 P.M.**

Quickly and efficiently, the day comes to a close. Staff members gather towels from throughout the building. The weight room staff picks up their equipment, flips off fans, and turns off the TV. All the weights are returned to their racks, and slowly the noise of a busy day fades away.

The gym is cleaned, stragglers are rounded up and out of the building. Vincent and his co-workers lock up the money and keys, deposit them in the safe, and head to the doors.

**11:15 P.M.**

As the last student workers for University Recreation exit the building, lock the doors, and head home, the Smoothie King staff continues to wrap up their work. Housekeepers have arrived and are beginning the process of cleaning the building.

For a program and building that are perpetually in motion, that’s about as slow as it gets.

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With a wide variety of needs, countless involvement opportunities, and long operating hours, the inner workings of The University of Alabama’s Student Recreation Center are a sight to behold. While it operates much like any business would, there is an undercurrent of student care and a focus on wellness in everything the University Recreation team does.

“From our students to our staff, everyone believes in what we do and is dedicated to serving the UA community through our mission of providing opportunities to foster health and well-being, learning, leadership, and inclusion,” Brown said. “I believe we impact campus life in a very positive way.”

With more than 80 percent of UA students taking advantage of University Recreation programs, there is no doubt that what may seem like a quick workout, a fun intramural competition, or trying a new sport is so much more — those experiences are making a lasting impression on each student’s quality of life and well-being, at the Capstone and beyond.
On Sept. 10, the fifth Student Affairs Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held to celebrate four outstanding members of the UA family for their service to student life and The University of Alabama.

This year, John “Jack” Baier, Kathleen P. Cramer, Warner Oland “Lanny” Moore, Jr., and Sybil R. Todd were honored with their induction to the Student Affairs Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is an enduring symbol of the contributions of leaders in the Student Affairs field whose legacies continue to touch lives today.

“I think each of our inductees are such examples,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. David Grady, who has worked with three of the four inductees during his career. “They all had an impact on The University of Alabama in different ways, but they were all individuals who cared about each student and that student’s success.”

John “Jack” Baier

Known as a man of conviction, Dr. Jack Baier left his mark on both The University of Alabama and the student affairs profession thanks to his leadership. Baier was known for his diligence, creating a sense of community on each campus at which he worked, and his excellent standards management in Student Affairs services.

An industrial engineering major, Baier earned his bachelor’s degree in 1966 from EMI Engineering and Management Institute, now known as Kettering University. He continued his studies, earning his EdM in counselor education from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1968 and his PhD in higher education administration from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1974. Baier also completed a postdoctoral study at Harvard University’s Institute for Educational Management in 1986.

Baier got his start in higher education in 1966, when he accepted...
Baier served UA’s Division of Student Affairs as vice president from 1984 -1990, overseeing Student Life, Student Services, Student Health Service, Housing and Residential Life, University Recreation, Student Financial Aid, and Scholarships and Student Publications.

At UA, Baier led the way for reforms within Greek student organizations and was considered to be a national authority on student organization hazing.

Baier always kept a love of education and teaching throughout his career, always serving as an instructor, adjunct assistant professor, or professor wherever he was working. At UA, he served as a professor of higher education and program chair for the College of Education’s administration and educational leadership area from 1990 until 1992.

A member of Sigma Chi, Baier received many honors for his outstanding work, including a citation for excellence from the fraternity’s grand consul. The University of North Texas’ College of Education honored him with the status of professor emeritus thanks to his more than 10 years of service. In 2001, Baier was honored by NASPA’s Region III with the Outstanding Contribution to Student Affairs Through Teaching Award.

Baier was a member of Mortar Board, Golden Key, Phi Eta Sigma, Blue Key, Cardinal Key, and Order of Omega. At UA, the Division of Student Affairs presents the Jack Baier Award annually to a Student Affairs professional staff member who has performed outstanding service to UA students.

Baier passed away on May 7, 2012.

Kathleen D. Cramer

Kathleen Powers Cramer is most known for her love of partnering with students. Always quick to credit students before herself, she built a career out of listening to students’ dreams and working with them to make those dreams come true. A few of these initiatives include the creation of Big Al, the founding of the Blackburn Institute, and the constitutional convention reinstating the Student Government Association.

Cramer loved serving as a bridge builder for her alma mater – a role she was able to fill throughout her 36-year career at the Capstone. Cramer worked tirelessly to connect students and their organizations to faculty, administration, and the Tuscaloosa community in order to cultivate the best student experience possible.

After beginning her career at UA in 1975 as the assistant to the dean of student life, Cramer served in Housing, Campus Activities, and Student Life, rising to lead the Office of Student Life from 1989-1994. Cramer was promoted to assistant vice president for student affairs and director of student life from 1994-1999.

From left, Molly Lawrence and Dr. Cheree Causey congratulate Dr. Kathleen Cramer on her induction into the Student Affairs Hall of Fame.
From 1999-2003, Cramer served as associate vice president for student affairs. It was during this time that she assisted with the creation of the Blackburn Institute, for which she served as the founding advisor.

Cramer also served as interim vice president for Student Affairs in 2003, ending her career serving as senior associate vice president for Student Affairs from 2003-2012. During this time, Cramer was instrumental in the creation and dedication of the Crimson Promenade. Cramer retired on Sept. 1, 2012, after 36 years of service to UA.

Cramer’s academic credentials include three degrees from The University of Alabama. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Spanish and secondary education from The University of Alabama, followed by her master’s degree in higher education administration at UA. Cramer completed her education when she earned her PhD in higher education administration in 1985, also from the Capstone. She never veered far from her love of learning, finding time to teach graduate courses in higher education administration at UA for more than 18 years.

A member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, Cramer's lifelong support of fraternity and sorority life is well known. Cramer served for more than a decade as UA’s Panhellenic advisor and currently co-chairs the KKG Building Committee.

Warner Oland “Lanny” Moore, Jr.

Though his time at The University of Alabama was cut short, few would know it from the impact Warner Oland “Lanny” Moore, Jr., left at the Capstone.

Moore graduated from Biloxi High School and attended the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He earned his doctorate from The University of Alabama.

Moore began his career at the Capstone in 1971 as an academic advisor. He was named director of UA’s Learning Skills and Tutorial Center in 1978 and served in the role until 1983. After serving as director of Judicial Affairs in 1984, Moore was named associate director of Student Life in 1985. Moore moved to serve as associate director of Student Services in 1987.

Moore always loved community involvement, and he served as a basketball and baseball coach through the YMCA for many years. He enjoyed seeing players develop into a team in which everyone played and contributed to the group’s success. Moore always enjoyed seeing his players support and encourage each other, which he found to be very rewarding.

Among his academic and professional accomplishments,
Moore was most proud of winning the Ferguson Student Center's Penny Allen Award, being the first male to serve on the national council of Alpha Lambda Delta, and earning his PhD. Moore's 1974 PhD dissertation at UA was titled, “Henry Laurens: A Charleston Merchant in the Eighteenth Century, 1747–1771,” and has been featured in numerous books about slavery and the fight for freedom.

Moore’s love of teaching was fostered in part due to his many, many years serving as a tutor for dozens of Alabama football players. In honor of his father’s love of tutoring, Moore’s son, Warner Moore III, named a locker in Bryant-Denny Stadium for him in 2006.

Originally created in 1981, the Student Affairs Hall of Fame was named in memory of Moore on April 6, 1992. The site of the Hall of Fame in the Ferguson Student Center is now known as the Warner O. Moore Hall of Fame.


Sybil R. Todd

A lifelong educator, Dr. Sybil R. Todd is remembered at the Capstone for her ability to both challenge students and empower them to achieve their goals. Todd was known by her colleagues to be a woman who valued honesty and integrity; she expected it of herself and all those around her.

Todd’s most lasting achievement at The University of Alabama is one that recalls her love of civility, honesty, and integrity — and that still impacts campus each and every day. Todd spent three years supporting and working with a small group of students to establish the Capstone Creed. While the Creed was the brainchild of students, Todd embraced the idea and guided its establishment as a campus hallmark.

Todd earned her bachelor’s degree at West Texas State University and her master’s degree and doctorate from Arizona State University.

Todd taught public school prior to serving at the University of Virginia for 23 years as a member of the teaching faculty and an assistant and associate dean. Following her time at UVa, Todd served as vice president for student affairs at the University of Utah, vice chancellor for the University of Houston System, and vice president for institutional advancement at the University of Houston. From 1998 until her retirement from higher education in 2003, Todd served as vice president for student affairs at The University of Alabama. The Blackburn Institute’s renowned travel experiences can also trace their roots back to Todd’s support and encouragement. She believed it wasn’t enough just to learn about people and places in the state, but that Blackburn students needed to get out and see them first-hand.

Todd was always on the lookout for individuals and groups she felt were not being embraced — and the one and only UA homecoming queens’ reunion took place as a result of her outreach to UA supporters.

Upon her retirement, Student Affairs created the Sybil R. Todd Award for Excellence in Partnerships to honor her support of internal and external partnerships. The award is given annually to individuals or organizations who have demonstrated excellence in partnership and whose service to all our constituents is of an exceptional nature.

Furthering family traditions

Scholarship endowment continues Delchamps legacy at the Capstone

By Jessie Patterson Jones

Alfred Frederick Delchamps, Jr., and Carolyn Ann Weaver Delchamps lived with a focus on faith, family, service, and the arts — often mixing those passions together to build the lives they wanted.

The couple met at the Wesley Student Center in 1951 during their time at The University of Alabama, and they were married following their graduation in 1953. Beginning married life in Mobile, Alabama, they quickly became involved across their community and state.

Fred served as a leader with the Mobile Symphony, the Mobile Arts Council, the Alabama State Council for the Arts, and countless other organizations. Ann had talents and passions that she supported as well, serving as a member of the Historic Mobile Preservation Society and Arts and the Alabama Woman. She even fulfilled Fred’s position on the Alabama State Council for the Arts following his death.

Today, their legacy lives on at The University of Alabama thanks to their daughter, Carolyn Delchamps Eichold, and her husband, Bernard H. Eichold II. After searching for the ideal way to honor her parents, Carolyn and Bert created the Ann and A.F. Delchamps, Jr., Endowed Scholarship in 2011. The Eicholds directed the funding of the scholarship as a grant from the Ann & A. F. Delchamps, Jr., Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of South Alabama.

The scholarship was created to allow a student to further his or her studies with a focus on the arts and studying away. Priority is given to students pursuing a major in the fine arts, with preference given to those participating in UA Away, the Division of Student Affairs’ initiative that allows students to work, serve, or study away from the Capstone during their college years.

“My parents were big supporters of the arts and their community, so we wanted to do something to remember my parents that focused on their priorities,” Carolyn Eichold said.

“Funding a scholarship for students to study with an emphasis in the arts seemed a natural thing to do.”

The scholarship recently reached its endowment level in 2014.

“We were thrilled and had certainly hoped to reach that level as soon as we could,” Eichold said. “The opportunity for students to be able to study away and further their education is so important to us, and this makes it possible for more students. We are delighted to give other students an opportunity to pursue their dreams at the University, as well.”

For the Eicholds, who have three sons who have earned or are earning degrees from UA, giving back to the Capstone is something that has meaning across the generations of their family. Carolyn and Bert have further strengthened their ties to UA over the past decade, serving as founding members of the Student Scholarship endowment.
Affairs Leadership Council since 2006.

“Several members of my family are alumni, and my parents met at the University, so that makes it something that resonates with us,” she said. “We know letting young people pursue their passions is very important, and that having some guidelines can definitely help in steering them in a great direction. “Just the opportunity to get outside of your comfortable environment and get in a new culture and a new situation will open up thoughts, talents, and skills that they might not have otherwise known have existed. I think it’s important to give that possibility to students who might not otherwise have been able to do it.”

Since UA Away was established, nearly 100 students have had the opportunity to study, serve, or work away, from Greensboro, Alabama, to Japan.

“That’s exactly what we wanted, to have a scholarship because it would be a way for our family to continue giving back,” Eichold said. “That reflects who my parents were and what they were all about.”
Alumni Spotlight

A path to IMPACT

Finley helps provide travel experiences for UA students

By Jessie Patterson Jones

Sara Finley’s to do list reads like a world map. Perhaps the only thing more impressive than the list of places she wants to visit is the list of places she has already seen. Finley has a long and wide-ranging list of places where she would still like to go, from Patagonia and Spain to Nepal and China.

For Finley, her travel experiences have both impacted her own life and encouraged her to help change the lives of others. “I have a great appreciation for learning and traveling to experiencing different cultures,” she said. “I believe it is so important to broaden your perspective, and I think an important part of a student’s education is to have that opportunity.”

Finley, a 1982 University of Alabama graduate, retired from her longtime role as a senior legal executive with CVS Health. “It’s funny, the word ‘retired’ suggests I am not doing anything right now, but I am as busy as ever,” Finley said. “The main difference is that after managing a demanding workload for almost 30 years, I am spending my time enjoying family, friends, community involvement, and travel.”

Finley said her passion for travel stems from her parents. Dr. Wayne H. Finley and the late Dr. Sara C. Finley were longtime members of the medical faculty at UAB’s School of Medicine in Birmingham. When Finley was young, her parents were given the opportunity to study the emerging field of genetics. Sweden offered some of the most advanced training at the time,
so the Finley family packed up and moved across the world. “It was life changing for my parents and transformational for their careers,” Finley said. “I grew up understanding that expanding your horizons could make a huge difference in your career and in your professional life and personal development.”

Since retiring, Finley has shifted her efforts to making a difference, including at The University of Alabama. This summer, she made a $250,000 gift to establish the Sara J. Finley UA Away Global Leadership Endowment. The UA Away scholarship initiative enables students to work, serve, or study away from the Capstone at some point during their collegiate years, allowing them to build relationships, explore career options, and become global citizens. Finley’s gift will specifically support study abroad.

“In so many ways, academically and otherwise, the University positioned me well on my way to law school and to a legal and business career.”

After graduating from UA with her bachelor’s degree, Finley earned her law degree from Vanderbilt University. After becoming partner at an Atlanta law firm, Finley’s career brought her back to Alabama with a Birmingham health care company called MedPartners. That company later became Caremark Rx, a leading pharmacy benefits company, until it merged in 2007 with CVS Corporation, one of the country’s largest retail pharmacy providers. The combined company, CVS Caremark, recently changed its name to CVS Health and is now a Fortune 10 health care company. In 2003, work moved her to Nashville, and Finley has been there ever since. She has made it a priority to continue her travels as much as possible, even while juggling the demands of her legal work. Her travels have taken her across the globe, from Australia to Iceland to the top of Tanzania’s Mount Kilimanjaro.

With her recent career change, Finley said she is finding many ways to serve her Nashville community when she’s not exploring the world. “As I started winding down my career at CVS Health, I wanted to get more involved in the community and to spend more time at home in Nashville,” she said. “I am doing a lot of nonprofit work right now, but I am planning to remain involved in the business world, perhaps by serving on corporate boards.”

Outside of her community involvement and her support of UA Away, Finley has also given her time to The University of Alabama. She now serves on the President’s Cabinet, and she served on the recent Vice President for Student Affairs search committee that was responsible for bringing Dr. David Grady back to the University. Finley oversaw the alumni panel that participated in interviews for a new leader for Student Affairs.

Finley also finds time to give back to her other alma mater as well, serving on the Vanderbilt Law School Board of Advisors. These days, for her, it’s about balance and making time for the causes she cares about.

“I’ve just always been an intense person who likes to make the best use of my time, whether for work or for fun,” she said. “You can always squeeze one more thing in.”

Sara Finley’s passion for travel drove her to make a $250,000 gift to establish the Sara J. Finley UA Away Global Leadership Endowment. She is shown at Mt. Kilimanjaro (above), Iceland (below), and on the Isle of Capri (opposite page).
BID DAY
Once again, UA’s Fraternity and Sorority Life office oversaw the largest sorority recruitment in the country. After nine days of fall formal recruitment, 16 sororities at The University of Alabama gave bids to 2,261 women. “While every year I continue to be amazed at the number of women interested in sorority membership, it is UA Panhellenic’s retention rate of 93 percent that is most noteworthy,” said Kat Gillan, director of Fraternity and Sorority Life. “Seeing so many women complete the recruitment process and find a home in a sorority is not only exciting, but a testament to the inclusiveness of our Panhellenic community.”

A WARM WELCOME

#UA19

CAMP 1831
In its second year, 200 students packed Camp 1831’s two sessions to capacity as they were welcomed to The University of Alabama through an extended orientation experience. Offered by First Year Experience and Parent Programs, the 3-day program is centered around four main themes: adventure, leadership, service, and history and tradition. “Camp 1831 is one of the best things a new student can do as they start college,” said Jesse King, a coordinator for FYE and Parent Programs. “It gives them a spring board to build a network on campus and to synthesize their personal goals for their time at UA.”

MOVE-IN
As more than 8,000 students arrived to move in to their residence halls in August, hundreds of volunteers came out to help Housing and Residential Communities welcome them and get them settled into their rooms. This year 680 volunteers from all across campus and the Tuscaloosa community took part in move-in, representing 42 student organizations, 22 University offices and eight community groups.
GET ON BOARD DAY
One of the most popular events of the year took on a new look when Get On Board Day, hosted by the Office of Student Involvement, selected a “Back to Your Future” theme. More than 400 student organizations took part in the annual event that helps students find out how to get involved in clubs and organizations they are interested in. “I think everyone had a lot of fun,” said junior Imani Manley, who is double majoring in apparel and textiles and public relations. “This year it went so smoothly, and I think our theme and design was a big part of that. Some people even dressed up for their time period.”

RIPPLE EFFECT
Ripple Effect, an annual day of service during UA’s Week of Welcome, provided an opportunity for new and returning students to get connected and reconnected to the Tuscaloosa community. This year, almost 300 students — joined here by UA President Dr. Stuart Bell and Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. David Grady — served the Tuscaloosa area with local community organizations and nonprofits including Habitat for Humanity, Druid City Garden Projects, Temporary Emergency Services, Tuscaloosa VA Hospital, Central Elementary School, Maxwell Elementary, Morning Pointe, and Crimson Village. “Ripple Effect is designed to help students see the service opportunities that exist for them during their time at the Capstone — opportunities that will help them grow as individuals, become global citizens, and enhance the campus culture of our beloved institution,” said Courtney Thomas, director of the Center for Service and Leadership.
is a civility and inclusivity initiative that began within the Division of Student Affairs. It is – in short – our entire UA family working towards making our campus community the best it can be.

JOIN US.