

Fall 2009

# Montevallo

Today

*Move-In Day  
Montevallo style*



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The University of Montevallo has been ranked among the top 20 public master's-level institutions in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*. UM is listed as the 16th best public university in the South in its division, according to *U.S. News'* 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges," released in late August. Schools in 11 states make up the South geographic region. Montevallo earned high marks for academic reputation, freshman retention rate, graduation rate, entering freshmen test scores and class rank, small class sizes and low student-faculty ratio.



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## 6 New Year; New Residence Hall

With the opening of a new school year came the opening of New Residence Hall, a 156-bed facility that was completed this summer. Dozens of helpers — UM students, faculty, staff members, alumni and community volunteers — gathered early at the new facility to help residents move their belongings into their new collegiate home. The building includes four floors of apartment-style suites, as well as study rooms and a community kitchen on each floor. The facility also features a game room, a television room and classroom space.



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## 40 Hostess with the Mostess

Leah Haney Dueffer '99 is a copy editor who started her career in that field at *Southern Living* magazine. She moved to Manhattan in 2005 for her husband's medical residency so that she could work in New York. She had the opportunity to work at *People* magazine, *Money* magazine, *Time for Kids* and *Every Day at Rachael Ray* (plus a few others). Today, she works for *Filmmaker* magazine from her home. Since returning to Alabama, she has earned the title of "Hostess with the Mostess." Please turn to Page 40 to learn more.



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**On the cover:** Move-In Day in late August was especially significant as students moved into New Residence Hall just weeks after it was completed. Volunteers, who stood out in their yellow T-shirts, helped carry bunches of boxes, bags and bundles as students claimed their rooms in the four-story facility. New Residence Hall was filled to capacity (with a waiting list).

Photo by Matt Orton



*Students gather around an information table during Take Flight Week, which is part of UM's orientation process. Participants were able to discover more about campus life, learn about UM traditions and make new friends during the beginning-of-the-semester event.*

Photo by Matt Orton

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# President's Message

By Philip C. Williams

## McNair produces success stories

When I arrived at the University of Montevallo in August of 2006, I was surprised and delighted to encounter a program that was not only discovering “diamonds in the rough” but was successfully polishing and marketing those diamonds. The McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded TRiO program that prepares participants for doctoral studies, involving them in research and other scholarly activities. At the University of Montevallo, the McNair Scholar’s program is directed by Dr. Tracy Payne ’94, M.Ed. ’98, whose goal, and that of the program, is to increase diversity among doctoral degree holders by encouraging and preparing students from underrepresented groups to successfully complete their postgraduate studies. Dr. Payne was kind enough to assist me in the preparation of this column.

McNair Scholars participate in the program during their junior and senior years. While the Scholars receive an abundance of programming and services throughout the academic year, the highlight of the program is participation in the summer research internship where they are paired with a faculty mentor to develop and complete a research project. They are, in essence, preparing to be successful graduate students.

Teresa Whiting is a 2007 graduate of the McNair Program who lives in Columbiana. She is an excellent example of it never being too late to achieve your dreams. She put her academic pursuits on hold for 20 years while she enjoyed being a mother, wife, and active member of her community. She has served the Shelby County Arts Council; Shelby County Jail Ministry; Regional Juvenile Detention Center; City of Columbiana Beautification Board; and Parent, Teacher, Student Organization at Columbiana Middle School — just to name a few.

Recently, Teresa graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in communication studies. As a McNair Scholar, she conducted two research projects under the guidance of Dr. Sherry Ford, associate professor of communication studies and director of the Honors Program. Teresa’s focus was the influence of character and religiosity on argumentativeness and verbal aggression among adolescents. She was invited to present her research at the Southern States Communications Conference in 2008. She received numerous distinctions while at the University of Montevallo including the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Humanitarian Award. She received the Senior Elite recognition in communication studies in 2007.

“[The goal of the McNair Scholars Program] is to increase diversity among doctoral degree holders by encouraging and preparing students from underrepresented groups to successfully complete their postgraduate studies.”



Teresa Whiting '07 displays the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award she received her senior year at Montevallo. She participated in the McNair Scholars Program and is now pursuing her master's degree at UM.

Teresa began the fifth-year program at UM this fall to be certified to teach English and communication to secondary students. She is serving as a graduate assistant for the Office of Student Transitions and Learning at UM and is a Falcon Mentor whose internship placement site is Family Connection. Upon completion of her master's degree, she plans to enroll in the educational leadership doctoral program at the University of Alabama, which will certainly secure her place in the professoriate.

# UM cracks top-20 ranking in South

The University of Montevallo has been ranked among the top 20 public master's-level institutions in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*.

UM is listed as the 16th best public university in the South in its division, according to *U.S. News*' 2010 edition of "America's Best Colleges," released in late August. Schools in 11 states make up the South geographic region.

Moreover, UM is ranked as the top public master's-level university in Alabama.

"I am excited to see that the University of Montevallo is now recognized as one of the top 20 public master's-level institutions in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*, which includes the assessment of our peer institutions. The fact that we are the highest ranked public master's-level institution in Alabama is extremely gratifying and reflects the superior performance of our faculty, staff, students and alumni," said UM President Philip C. Williams.

Montevallo earned high marks for academic reputation, freshman retention rate, graduation rate, entering freshmen test scores and class rank, small class sizes and low student-faculty ratio.

Last year, UM posted a No. 2 ranking in the South in the regional master's-level division in a category called "Great Schools-Great Prices," noting schools that are the best values. In the "Great Schools-Great Prices" category, only Loyola University in New Orleans, a private institution, ranked higher than Montevallo among schools in the South. Others included in that listing were Converse College in South Carolina, Mercer University in Georgia and The Citadel in South Carolina.



According to a spokesperson for *U.S. News*, "The formula used to determine which colleges and universities offer the best value relates a school's academic quality, as indicated by its 2009 *U.S. News* ranking, to the 2007-2008 net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid. The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal. "Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included because we work on the premise that the most significant values are among colleges that are above average academically," the *U.S. News & World Report* official said.

## Becoming 101 makes debut this fall at Montevallo

Helping new students get into the swing of university life — that's a goal of a new initiative on campus called "Becoming 101."

Becoming 101 is designed to help first-semester freshmen make a successful transition to university life by promoting better understanding of themselves, of the culture and traditions of the University of Montevallo and of the liberal arts tradition. The one-credit-hour course introduces students to both curricular and co-curricular pathways to personal and academic development and success. For example, students will receive credit for attending a variety of programming outside of class, such as lectures, field trips and/or workshops.

Other goals are to increase first-to-second-year retention, greater involvement in campus life and an increased sense of affiliation with UM.

The second course in the Becoming series is Becoming 201, which is designed to help sophomore students engage and reflect on the value of both classroom and experiential learning for finding meaning in life and work. Students will be encouraged to identify interests, search for purpose or calling and develop strategies for setting and achieving their goals. The course will introduce students to UM's opportunities for curricular and co-curricular learning, for example, service learning, study abroad, undergraduate research and practica/internships.

Becoming 301, the third course in the series, will help juniors and seniors explore opportunities for collaborating with faculty and staff on projects that integrate and synthesize curricular and co-curricular learning experiences at UM. Major approaches to

research, creative activity and/or professional practice will be explored within the student's major.



*Becoming*, a sculpture located near Main Quad, personifies the teaching/learning process at Montevallo.

The title of the program is taken from a landmark sculpture near Main Quad. The piece, which was created by art professor Ted Metz and his students, captures the essence of the Montevallo experience, using bronze hands to illustrate the mentoring relationship between students and faculty in pursuit of the keys of knowledge to promote continuous growth and development.

Coordinator of the Becoming program is Dr. Harold C. Hamilton, associate professor of management at UM. Dr. Kelly Wacker, associate professor of art, chaired the Becoming 101 implementation committee. "We are dedicated to providing a dynamic framework that will be of interest to UM students and faculty," she said. Fully implementing the Becoming program is part of UM's five-year strategic plan.



*The lobby of New Residence Hall was abuzz with activity during Move-In Day in late August. The facility, which opened only weeks before the fall semester began, will accommodate about 156 students. Volunteers, wearing bright yellow T-shirts, assisted UM newcomers with all of their moving-in chores.*

*Photo by Rachel Crisson '11*



*Helpers, wearing yellow T-shirts, were in no short supply during Move-In Day on campus. Praise for their work was plentiful as freshmen and transfers settled into their collegiate homes.*

*Photo by Stefanie Liles '09*

## New Residence Hall open for Move-In Day

Energy levels around UM's New Residence Hall on Move-In Day Aug. 26 were palpable as newcomers to campus were greeted by scores of volunteers eager to assist with the move-in process.

Freshman Julia Myers of Hazel Green was interviewed by a reporter from *The Shelby County Reporter* just after she and her mother, Natalie, arrived on campus in a truck loaded with boxes and other of Julia's belongings. "There were 19 people waiting for our truck when we got here," Julia explained to the reporter. "After the first load, we went back for more stuff, and they had already moved it all."

Volunteers, recognizable in their yellow T-shirts, included UM students, faculty, staff members, alumni and members of the community. Montevallo Mayor Ben McCrory was among those on hand at New Residence Hall Aug. 26. "We get to see a lot of nice students and meet some great parents," he said. "I think a lot of the new students are pleased to be at the University of Montevallo, but even happier to be in this new dorm."

Measuring 65,000 square feet, the new residence hall features suite-style living. Each suite is about 1,000 square feet with four bedrooms, a kitchenette, refrigerator, microwave, a common living area and two bathrooms," said David Pritchett '84, director of the UM physical plant. In addition, "on each floor, there is a larger kitchen and study rooms," he explained.

John Denson, director of housing and residence life, said construction of the new residence hall is Phase 1 of a three-phase plan. Phase 2 will be a facility that is a "mirror image" of Phase 1. Phase 3 will be a larger, 253-bed facility. "It's something we are starting here that we hope in the future will spread across campus. It's where the market is going. Students expect more; they want more than traditional dorms offer."

The new facility also offers residential college faculty fellows, who are assigned to each floor to give students a structured independence. The Division of Student Affairs selected four faculty fellows to implement a new residential college program as a retention-enhancement initiative. Fellows are Tarsha Bluiett, College of Education; Nathan McMinn, Michael E. Stephens College of Business; Elizabeth Inglesby, department of English and foreign languages; and Jason Newell, department of behavioral and social sciences.

# UM connections abound in 'Parade'

Collaboration with a capital "C" characterizes the production of the musical "Parade," which will be presented in November by Montevallo and the Magic City Actors Theatre.

The show revolves around the real-life trial and lynching of Leo Frank for the murder of young Mary Phagan in Atlanta in 1913. "Parade" will be presented Nov. 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. A matinee performance will be offered Nov. 8 and 15 at 2:30 p.m. All showings will be held at the Virginia Samford Theatre in Birmingham.

When UM Theatre joined forces with MCAT to present the Alabama premiere of the Tony Award-winning show, a panoply of collaborative opportunities began to emerge. The show is directed by David Callaghan, associate professor of theatre and chair of the department of communication arts at UM. Choreographer is Carl Dean '96, artistic director of MCAT. Dean, a theatre alumnus, was a former College Night leader, actor and director. Leah Faulkner, who also attended Montevallo, is managing director of MCAT. UM theatre alumnus Chris Sams '05 of Los Angeles has been brought in to play the lead role of Leo Frank.



"I was in the midst of a wonderful collaboration with Carl Dean on *Company* when Leah Faulkner suggested that MCAT and UM Theatre join forces for a co-production," said Dr. Callaghan. "The idea was immediately exciting given their connection to UM and the University's interest in pursuing external partnerships as part of our new strategic plan."

A co-production, said Callaghan, "seemed like the perfect vehicle to share resources and bring the powerful story and music of *Parade* to Birmingham and Montevallo audiences for the first time."

Callaghan said he is "thrilled that UM students will have an opportunity to work with some of the most talented artists in Birmingham, as well as returning theatre alumni such as Chris Sams, whom I have directed in six previous productions at UM. Also, we greatly appreciate the support of the UM administration and campus community in allowing us to produce this large-cast musical (more than 30 actors) off campus at the historic Virginia Samford Theatre in Birmingham!"

Dean echoed Callaghan's sentiments. "I love collaboration . . . and I love my *alma mater*, the University of Montevallo," he said. "So when the opportunity arose for MCAT to join forces with UM, I knew it was something that had to be done! I truly enjoyed working with Dr. Callaghan last year on UM's production of *Company* and am thrilled with the direction the department has been headed with him at the helm. We are going to make a great team in bringing this amazingly powerful musical, *Parade*, to local audiences."

Faulkner added, "It seemed like a logical fit to partner with Montevallo since Carl and I have history with the University. The theatre program is so rich, I knew that we could do something amazing if we combined forces."



Carl Dean (above right) and Leah Faulkner of the Magic City Actors Theatre display one of their Montevallo connections during a photo opportunity in front of the Virginia Samford Theatre in Birmingham. MCAT and UM have joined forces to bring the musical "Parade" to Birmingham in November. The show will be presented at the VST. UM theatre graduate Chris Sams (right) of Los Angeles will play the lead role of Leo Frank.



An indepth curriculum guide has been developed for the show, outlining numerous ways in which professors on campus can incorporate elements of the play into their classes. "The show is loaded with connections to the various disciplines we study on campus," said Dr. Terry Roberson, acting president and vice president for academic affairs.

The musical by Jason Robert Brown and Alfred Uhry was first produced on Broadway in 1998. It won Tony Awards for best book and best score and six Drama Desk Awards.

Tickets are \$15 for UM students, faculty and staff members and \$30 for general admission and are available by calling the Virginia Samford Theatre Box Office at 205-251-1206 or via the web at <http://www.virginiagamfordtheatre.org>.

# Olympics Day draws crowd to Montevallo

When crowds began to gather on campus the morning of Aug. 1, there was little doubt that the start of Olympics Day was at hand. The 42nd annual event drew scores of runners to the line for the Hope Bryant Smith Memorial 5-K Run. Female and male runners of all ages registered for the competition, named in memory of Smith, a 1971 Montevallo graduate who died in 2003 after a long battle with breast cancer. She was nationally recognized for her support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Winner of the race was David Aarons with a time of 17:36. The first-place winner in the UM alum category for male runners was Greg Glasscock, a 1990 graduate, with a time of 17:56. Among female runners, Martha Echols was the first across the finish line with a time of 23:19. Valeria Hackett '95, M.Ed. '00 was the first-place winner among female alums. She posted a time of 25:09.

Other winners in the male division were: 15 and under, Joey Bennett, 27:26; 21-25, Christoph Berenotto, 18:32; 26-30, Jason Mayfield, 18:57; 31-40, Suman Silwal, 21:14; 41-50, David Aarons, 17:36; 51-60, Peter Neuberger, 19:32; 61-70, Charles Amos Thompson, 23:42; and 71 and over, Jack Ganus, 29:45.

Winners in age-division categories for female runners were: 15 and under, Adriane Tharp, 34:23; 16-20, Lacey Allen, 26:17; 21-25, Julia Johnson 25:35; 26-30, Heather Lebischak, 26:00; 31-40, Valeria Hackett, 25:09; 41-50, Martha Echols, 23:19; 51-60, Denyse Thornley-Brown, 25:41; and 61-70, Cathy McCain, 30:19.



Special awards were given to participants in a One-Mile Fun Run/Walk. The Caplan and Turner families tied for the "Multiples of Kin Award," honoring families with the most participants in the event. Each had four family members registered. The "Globetrotter Award" went to Cee Cee

Connable, who came to the campus from Miami, Fla. Winners of the "Senior Sensation Award" were Connable and Michael Bryant. Four-year-old Steffi Turner won the "Whippersnapper Award," presented to the youngest participant.

The golf competition, operated under a two-person team, scramble format, was held at the Montevallo Golf Course, an 18-hole, par-71 facility. The first-place team (gross score) was Doug McCay and Richard Trull. Jason Palmer and Jerry Ragusa took second-place honors. The first-place team (net score) was Leslie Mathison and Paul Terrell. McCay had the longest drive, and Beth Ruzic won the closest-to-the-pin competition.

Other golf winners were Wayne Lucas and Jerry Peters, second place (net); Jerry Fulmer and Steve Huffstutler, third place (net); Barry Morris and Benton Morris, fourth place (net); and Andy Meginniss and Paul Doran, fifth place (net).

Tennis participants were Mary Lou Williams, Ava Jane Shanahan, Amanda Waldrup, Lacey Allen, Tim De Bard, Mike Malone, Kevin Shanahan, Wes Mobley, John Hayes, Albert Southall, Darold Dunlavy and Jim Wilkinson.



Valeria Peck Hackett '95, M.Ed. '00 and Greg Glasscock '90 were the alumni winners of the Hope Bryant Smith Memorial 5-K Run at Olympics Day this year. Hackett posted a time of 25:09. Glasscock's time was 17:56.



Photo by Andrea Echols '12

Doug McCay '68 (left) and his golf partner, Richard Trull, took first-place honors (gross score) in the Olympics Day golf tournament. With them is Paul Doran '68 (right), who coordinated the golf competition.



Mike Malone '69 returns a ball in tennis competition.

## Spotted at 42nd Olympics Day . . .



Neal Shirley '59 drains a putt during Olympics Day golf competition at the Montevallo Golf Course. Darold Dunlavy '63 returns a serve during tennis action. In addition to golf and tennis, the 42nd Olympics Day agenda offered a 5-K run, a one-mile fun run/walk and an awards luncheon. This year, kid-friendly games, such as a moon bounce, and frozen refreshments were added for younger family members' enjoyment.



Photo by Andrea Echols '12

Picture-perfect running weather was the order of the day Aug. 1 when competitors in the Hope Bryant Smith Memorial 5-K Run left the starting line. The race is named in memory of Smith, a 1971 UM alumna who died in 2003 after a long battle with breast cancer. She was nationally recognized for her support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. A scholarship has been established at UM in her memory. Proceeds from Olympics Day goes to the Hope Bryant Smith Service Scholarship.

# Sports



A painter fills in the "A" in the word "Falcons" on the floor of the BankTrust Arena, the home court for UM volleyball and basketball. The 3,500-seat arena is located in the McChesney Student Activity Center. With the move to the Peach Belt Conference this year, the court required a number of updates.

## Sportsupdates

**VOLLEYBALL:** The University of Montevallo women's volleyball team became the first Montevallo team to capture a Peach Belt Conference game in school history with a 3-0 sweep of University of North Carolina-Pembroke. UM joined the Peach Belt Conference earlier this year. Thirteen teams (from five states) make up the organization. The Falcons were led by senior Katy Handrick (De Pere, Wis./De Pere) who had a match-high 14 kills along with five digs and three block assists. UM won in straight sets 25-23, 27-25 and 25-9. "The team seemed a little overwhelmed with it being their



Katy Handrick attacks.

first Peach Belt Conference match and to be at home, and that showed in the first two sets," said head coach Katie O'Brien. "They began to relax as the match went on and it really showed in the third set where I thought they played really well."

**ACCOLADES:** Twenty-two Montevallo student-athletes were honored by the Division II Athletics Directors Association for their academic achievements. The student-athletes were honored with the 2008-09 DII ADA Academic Achievement Awards presented by WeatherPORT.

The following student-athletes were given the distinguished honor:

From men's soccer: Milan Pualic (Subotica, Serbia/Srednja Ekonosmka Skola School), James Steer (Sheffield, England/Westfield School), David Esser (Birmingham, Ala./Oak Mountain), Jim Witherow (Huntsville, Ala./Grissom) and Michael Riggle (Louisville, Ky./St. Xavier).

From women's soccer: Lucrece Laverdure (Melbourne, Australia/Sacre Coeur School for Girls), Adele Jackson (Lincolnshire, England/John Leggott College), Laura Alford (Brandon, Miss./Northwest Rankin), Alex Terhar (Cincinnati, Ohio/Ursuline Academy), Erin Duncan (Windermere, Fla./Olympia), Brittany Correia (Birmingham, Ala./Oak Mountain), Nicole Cho-Yee (London, England/St. Dominic's) and Corey Gros (Victoria, British Columbia/Lambrick Park).

From women's volleyball: Lauren Markle (Metamora, Ill./Peoria Notre Dame), Lauren Tortorici (Birmingham, Ala./Oak Mountain) and Monika Tortorici (Birmingham, Ala./Oak Mountain).

# UM to add two to athletic family

Men's cross country and men's tennis will rejoin the Falcon athletic family beginning in the fall of 2010, according to an announcement by Jim Herlihy, director of athletics. With the addition of men's cross country and men's tennis, Montevallo will offer 12 varsity sports.

Men's cross country made its debut at Montevallo in 1961. UM fielded a team for five years before discontinuing the sport in 1966. Men's tennis made its debut at Montevallo in 1959. The University fielded a team for 22 years before discontinuing the sport in 1980.

Montevallo will join eight other Peach Belt Conference schools that sponsor men's cross country. These schools include Armstrong Atlantic State University, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Flagler College, Francis Marion University, Georgia College and State University, North Georgia College and State University, and USC-Aiken.

University and the University of North Carolina-Pembroke.

Women's cross country head coach Michael Marquardt will assume the new role as head coach of both men's and women's cross country.

Montevallo will become the 11th Peach Belt Conference school to sponsor men's tennis, joining Armstrong Atlantic State University, Augusta State University, Columbus State University, Flagler College, Francis Marion University, Georgia College and State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Lander University, North Georgia College and State University and USC-Aiken.

Women's tennis head coach Steve Faulkner will become head coach of both men's and women's tennis teams.

## Sportsupdates

From women's cross country Lindsey Golay (Sharpsville, Ga./Northgate) and Brooke Deason (Trussville, Ala./Hewitt-Trussville).

From men's golf: Ruwaldt Viljoen (Johannesburg, South Africa/Dainfern College) and Tripp Cash (Troy, Ala./Pike).

From women's golf: Rachel Shaner (Madison, Ala./Bob Jones) and Britney Martin (Fishers, Ind./Hamilton Southeastern).

The Academic Achievement Awards is a program that recognizes the academic accomplishments of student-athletes at the NCAA Division II level.

**NEW WEB SITE:** The University of Montevallo department of athletics, in partnership with PrestoSports, has launched a newly designed [MontevalloFalcons.com](http://MontevalloFalcons.com) web site. The site features a new look and many new opportunities. The new [MontevalloFalcons.com](http://MontevalloFalcons.com) will continue to provide fans with all the current news and schedules for their favorite Montevallo team. The site will feature more photos, a cleaner look, a new Falcon Fan Poll and faster updates following Falcon athletic contests.

**GOLF RANKED:** At press time, the UM men's golf team was ranked 26th in the Division II Golfstat Head-to-Head Standings after a strong showing at the State Farm Laker Invitational hosted by Clayton State University. The Falcons competed against a field full of nationally ranked teams including No. 24 Newberry College, winner of the tournament.

**GOOD START FOR CROSS COUNTRY:** UM's women's cross country team continued its hot start to the 2009 season. In late September, the Falcons faced off against teams from the Peach Belt Conference for the first time at the Mercer Run Fit Sports Invitational. The Falcons finished fourth of 20 teams falling to Division I Kennesaw State University, Florida Southern College and the University of West Georgia. The Falcons defeated all four PBC schools in the race. The Falcons picked up key victories over ranked teams in their region including No. 3 Columbus State University, No. 7 Georgia College and State University and No. 9 North Georgia College and State University. They also beat out Valdosta State

University who is ranked ninth in the South Region. The Falcons were paced by their big three: freshman Haley Evans (Fairhope, Ala./Fairhope), freshman Kaley Glover (Opelika, Ala./Beauregard) and sophomore Ginny Davis (Madison, Ala./Bob Jones). Evans crossed the line first for the Falcons and ninth overall with a time of 29:12.09 good for ninth all-time in the Montevallo record books. Glover was not far behind in 11th with a time of 20:24.38. Davis rounded out the trio with a 16th place finish with a time of 20:48.06.

**FALCONS ON NATIONAL T.V.:** Montevallo's men's basketball team will receive some national exposure this season when it meets No. 4 Augusta State University, a Final-Four contender last season, on Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. The ASU game will be televised nationally on CBS College Sports Network.

The Falcons kick-off their schedule with an exhibition contest with the University of Alabama on Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The last time the two teams met was in 2006 when the Falcons gave Alabama all it could handle falling 81-72 in an exhibition contest.

For the complete schedule, visit the athletics web site at <http://www.montevallofalcons.com>.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE:** The UM women's basketball team has released its 2009-2010 schedule which features nine games against NCAA Division II Tournament participants and five games against teams ranked in the top 15 of the final 2008-09 *USA Today/ESPN* Division II Coaches Poll.

The Falcons open the season at home against NCAA Tournament participant Clark Atlanta University at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 16.

UM returns nine players from last year's squad and has added four standouts, including two Division I transfers. Last year, the Falcons advanced to postseason play for the first time in three years and will look to continue their surge under second-year head coach Brittney Ezell.

**WEB RESOURCE:** Follow all UM athletic contests via the web at <http://www.montevallofalcons.com>. Many of the games will feature live stats and sidebar features and photos.

# On Campus

## Dr. Roberson serving as acting president

Dr. Terry G. Roberson, vice president for academic affairs at UM, was named acting president of Montevallo Sept. 11. He will serve in that capacity while President Philip C. Williams in on sabbatical for the fall semester.

For additional information about Dr. Williams' sabbatical, interested persons may access the *Wednesday Memo* archives at <http://www.montevallo.edu/news/WednesdayMemoArchives> and access the Sept. 2 and Sept. 9 issues.

George Walker '74, chair of the UM Board of Trustees, applauded Dr. Roberson's selection. "The board is very grateful to Dr. Roberson, an esteemed educator for 34 years, for his willingness to undertake the additional duties the position requires," he said.

Dr. Williams echoed that sentiment. In a message to the UM community prior to beginning his sabbatical, Dr. Williams asked that everyone on campus give Dr. Roberson their "full support."

Dr. Roberson was named vice president for academic affairs at UM in February 2008. A member of the UM faculty since 1984, he served as *interim* VPAA from July 1, 2007, until his appointment as VPAA the following year.

He earned his B.S. degree from Jacksonville State University and went on to receive his M.Ed. from the University of Montevallo. He completed his Ed.D. in curriculum and instruction at Auburn University.

Prior to coming to UM, Roberson worked for the Talladega County Schools and served as headmaster and lead teacher at Coosa Valley Academy. At Auburn University he served as a graduate teaching assistant, as an instructor and as an assistant professor.

Roberson began his UM career as an assistant professor of educa-

tion. Three years later, he was promoted to associate professor. From 1987-1993 Roberson served as director of teacher education services. He earned the rank of professor in 1992. From 1993-2002 he served as dean of both the College of Education and Graduate Studies, later stepping back from the College of Education to serve as dean of Graduate Studies from 2002-2007, when he accepted the role of *interim* VPAA.



Terry Roberson

His service to Montevallo includes a lengthy list of committee appointments, as well as the writing and publishing of the *Undergraduate Teacher Education Program Handbook* and the *Secondary/N-12 Internship Handbook*. He has more than a dozen publishing or co-publishing credits and has presented extensively at professional meetings. In addition, he has served as a consultant to numerous high schools on topics ranging from ethics in education to SACS review. He was convener for UM's Strategic Planning Committee.

Roberson is the recipient of a number of awards. At Montevallo, he has received the University Scholar Award, the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award and the Ernest Award for Outstanding Teaching. While a student at Jacksonville State, he received special honors in biology. At Auburn University, he was named Outstanding Graduate Student in Educational Leadership. He also was a faculty delegate to the AAHE National Forum on Exemplary Teaching in 1990.

He was honored with the creation of the Roberson Lifetime Commitment to Teaching Award, which is presented each year to an outstanding teacher by the College of Education. Roberson has been involved or affiliated with Phi Kappa Phi, the Greater Birmingham chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, the Association of Teacher Educators (National Credentials Committee, 1991-1995), the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Alabama Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (executive board and higher education liaison, 1991-1993) and the Alabama Council of Graduate Deans (chair, 2004-2005; chair elect, 2003-2004; executive committee, 2001-2002).

highly acclaimed account of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

Dr. Sledge's book, *With the Old Breed*, along with Robert Leckie's, *Helmet for My Pillow*, formed the basis for the HBO series, the successor to the Emmy-winning miniseries, *Band of Brothers*. Executive producers of *The Pacific* are Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Filmmaker Ken Burns also drew heavily on Sledge's memoir for his 2007 PBS documentary on World War II, *The War*.

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## Eugene Sledge's Marine service brought to life in 'The Pacific'; mini-series to air in March

HBO Films' 10-hour miniseries, *The Pacific*, is scheduled to air in March 2010. The miniseries is based in part on the life of the late Eugene B. Sledge, who taught biology at the University of Montevallo for nearly 30 years before his retirement in 1990 and who wrote the

# Class Notes

Compiled by Marsha Littleton

'49

**Mary Alice Palmer Floyd** of Santa Barbara, Calif., writes that she has had a varied career after receiving her master's degree in counseling. She represented California at the first National Conference on Facilitating Career Development in Girls and Women. She has served as director of the Women's Center at Santa Barbara City College and director of California Lutheran's Graduate Program in Santa Barbara. She has taught at Santa Barbara City College, University of California at Santa Barbara Extension and at Golden Gate University. She was also a counselor for a hospice program. She has a private career counseling practice and is now teaching two adult division classes. Mary Alice was honored by Stanford University for "Exceptional Contributions to Counseling and Guidance." For additional information about Mary Alice's career and contributions to her profession, interested persons may visit the following web site: [www.careerlifetrans.com](http://www.careerlifetrans.com).

'62

**Faye Churchill**, her son, **George Murphree '73**, and George's son, Brad Murphree, appeared together on the cover of *Audiology Today* magazine recently. They are the first three-generation family of practicing audiologists in the nation. Faye received UM's first-ever degree in audiology and taught at Montevallo from 1966 to 1978. She went into private practice and is currently director and owner of Hearing and Speech Clinic LLC and director of audi-

ology for the Industrial Health Council in Birmingham. George and Brad practice together at Hearing and Speech Clinic of Huntsville. Another of Faye's sons, **Lyndon Churchill '79**, is a retired teacher of the hearing impaired. Her daughter, **Jimmie Lynne Churchill '73**, son **Robert E. Churchill '77**, as well as George's wife, **Nancy Faught Murphree '74**, and Lyndon's wife, **Lisa Corretti Churchill '80**, are also UM alumni.

'65

**Donly Ray M.A. '71** of Montevallo writes that he is proud of his three sons and five grandchildren. Sons **Jason W. Ray '00** and Jacob K. Ray have recorded a new CD, and Jacob has just had his first book published.

'70

**Garry D. Mitchell** of Mobile has retired from The Associated Press after 32 years of service with the global news agency. His journalism career began at *The Huntsville Times* and later *The Birmingham Post-Herald* before he joined AP. In retirement he plans to do free-lance work.

'72

After 22 years of service in Alabama's Regional Library for the Blind, **Fara Payne Zaleski** is a public library consultant in south central and southeast Alabama.

'75

After a 29-year career with Arlington County, Va., **Ron**



Tina Rye Sloan '85 (left), with daughter Anne Katherine "Katie" Sloan, and Natalie Walker Byrne '85, with her daughter, Gracie, are shown in China completing their daughters' adoption processes.

## It's a small world

What are the odds of running in to a long-lost college friend halfway across the world? As unlikely as it may sound, that is exactly what happened to Tina Rye Sloan and Natalie Walker Byrne in February of 2009. Ironically, both friends were adopting little girls from China and found themselves in the exact location at the same moment in time.

Both friends graduated from UM in 1985 and had lost touch with each other over the years. In an unlikely twist of events, both friends and their adopted daughters ended up in the same medical examination room in Guangzhou, China. Tina remembers looking across the medical examining room and seeing Natalie. Their eyes locked for a moment and neither could believe it. Oddly enough, Tina and another UM graduate, Grace Reece Devane, had been searching for Natalie for several years. Tina ended up finding Natalie.....in China!

The next day, the two friends and their families had dinner together, reminisced about the past and exchanged contact information. In doing so, Tina discovered that Natalie had moved

(continued on Page 34)

**Carlee** has left his position as county manager to join the International City/County Management Association as executive-in-residence and director of strategic domestic initiatives. He will continue teaching in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at The George Washington University.



**Jeanetta Corbett Keller** has accepted the position of chief learning and system support officer at UAB Health System. Jeanetta also serves as vice chair of UM's board of trustees.



**'76**  
**James L. Johnson** and his family have relocated to Manassas, Va., where Jim is the pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

**Patti Williams** of Raleigh, N.C., joined several fellow UM alums who graduated in 1976 and 1977 at a gathering in Calera in late June. The group spent the weekend renewing old friendships, "catching up," visiting the university and relaxing.

**'77**  
**Frank George M.Ed.** has begun his 51st year of teaching



UM graduates primarily from the classes of 1976 and 1977 had an opportunity to gather for a mini-reunion recently in Calera. Participants included from left: Connie Smiley Paulk '77, Mary Johnson Lee '75, Roxanne Rutledge '77, M.Ed. '91, Patti Williams '76 and Kathy Burroughs-Porterfield '77. Not pictured is Debra Tripp-Tucker '77.

in Tampa, Fla. A highly decorated golfer, he has been featured in *Golf Digest* magazine and was the *Tampa Tribune's* Golf Coach of the Decade for the 1990s, his team winning three straight girls state championships. He has shot seven holes-in-one over his career.



**'78**  
**Paul Orumwense** of Benin, Nigeria, is planning to retire soon from his position as administrative officer at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

**'80**  
**Carlton C. Young** has joined the faculty of Mississippi State University-Meridian to lead a new concentration in healthcare administration in the university's division of business. He had previously served as an associate professor and assistant program director of the Master of Health Administration program at Pfeiffer University's School of Business in Durham, N.C.

**'82**  
**Ginger Hydrick** of Pleasant Grove retired in 2007 from teaching middle and high school math in Jefferson County schools.

**Shelia Carlton Lewis** has been named principal of



Montevallo Middle School. She had served as assistant principal at Riverchase Middle School for seven years.

**'83**  
**Bill Murphey** is a professional actor in Atlanta. He has appeared on several television programs and in a TV movie, *Acceptance*, this season and will perform in live theatre productions in the near future. His first film appearance was in *Our Very Own*, in which **Cameron Watson '83** made his directorial debut.

**'86**  
**Todd Hill** and his wife, **Kim Ross Hill '85**, reside in Helena with their three children. Their son, Andrew, is an incoming freshman at UM and will play on the Falcons baseball team following in Todd's footsteps. Todd is a firefighter in Pelham.

**Melanie Poole**, graphic designer and owner of The Design Poole in Jasper, recently received nine awards from the Alabama Community College Public Relations Association for her work for Wallace State Community College-Hanceville.



## It's a small world . . .

(continued from Page 33)  
numerous times over the years, which explained why they had lost touch. Since that day, Tina and Natalie have kept in contact with each other and have supported one another through the

trials and joys of having two-year-old daughters in the home.

As students at Montevallo, Tina and Natalie lived in Main Hall on third floor, and they were Alpha Gam sisters.

Today, Natalie and her family live in California. Tina and her family live in Athens, where Tina is a professor at Athens State University.

Natalie and her husband,

Scott, have four children: Zak, Rachel, Nathan and Gracie.

Tina and her husband, Clay, have one child named Anne Katherine (Katie).

'92

**Pam Fraley** is a clinical team leader in children's services with the JBS Mental Health Authority in Birmingham. She also is a competitive figure skater, earning two gold medals at the Wind, Rain or Shine team competition held recently in Decatur. On hand to support Pam, in addition to her parents, were UM alums **Cindy Danford Key '91**, **Tori Helms '94** and **Greta Reed Walker**, who attended Montevallo in 1989-90.

'93

**Jonathan Nelson**, general manager of the Birmingham Barons baseball team, has been named the Jimmy Bragan



Executive of the Year by his peers in the Southern League of Professional Baseball. The Barons finished this season with

the best record in team history and reached the playoffs for the second consecutive year and the eighth time in the past 10 seasons.

'94

**Thomas Parris** is continuing his career in the film industry, serving as assistant location manager for *The Last Song* starring Miley Cyrus and Greg Kinnear, as well as season one of the HBO series *Eastbound and Down* starring Danny McBride and produced by Will Ferrell. Thomas, his wife, **Susan Moore Parris '94**, and daughter Caitlin reside in Wilmington, N.C.

**Tracy Hodges Payne M.Ed. '98** has been named the first director of the office of undergraduate research and creative endeavors at UM. She also is director of the McNair Scholars Program.



*Thomas Parris '94 (right) and actor Greg Kinnear are shown on location for the film "The Last Song," in which Kinnear stars. Parris served as assistant location manager for the production.*



'00

**Jesse Slaton** has been named a member and director of Warren, Averett, Kimbrough & Marino

LLC, Alabama's largest public accounting and business consulting firm. His practice focuses on assisting distressed businesses and their stakeholders in turnaround situations, reorganizations and bankruptcies.

'03

**Laura Ingram Booras** and her husband, Mark, have relocated to New Orleans where Mark is the head coach of Tulane University's men's tennis team. Laura teaches piano at the Louise McGehee School and is starting her own voice and piano studio. She will appear with the New Orleans Opera program "Opera on Tap" in the coming season.

'05

**Chris Megginson** has been named sports information



director at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Ky. He had served as sports editor at the *Shelby County Reporter*

since 2007, earning several awards from the Alabama Press Association, the Council of Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and NAIA-SIDA.

'07

**Julie Pool M.S. '09** has relocated to Columbus, Ohio, where she has accepted an assistantship with The Ohio State University to pursue a Ph.D. She will also be employed with Specialized Speech Technologies as a speech-language pathologist.

'09

**Heather Holihan** is a speech pathology assistant at Allamanda Elementary School in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

## Weddings

'01

**Dana Lynn Taylor** and Jason Earl Bean were married April 15 in Helena. After a honeymoon trip to Jamaica, the Beans reside in Calera. Dana is employed by Mid South Home Health, and Jason works with Bentley Optical Alignment.

'06

**Meghan Methvin** and **Dan Suda '07** were married Nov. 8 in the chapel at the American Village in Montevallo. The Sudas have a home in Hoover where they enjoy working in their yard. Dan is a supplier quality engineer for MAGNA Exteriors and Interiors, a supplier of components for automobiles.

**Ashley Nicole Perry** married Renan Conte April 25 at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Alabaster. Attending Nicole as bridesmaids were UM alums **Elizabeth Mercer Jackson '06**, **Falon Chambers '06** and **Leslie Holmes '08**. After a honeymoon cruise to the Carribean, the Contes reside in Montevallo and work in Birmingham where Nicole is a merchandiser of children's footwear with Hibbett Sports, and Renan is a processing supervisor for SunGard.



*Ashley Nicole Perry '06 married Renan Conte April 25. They live in Montevallo.*

## Births

'92

**Angela Pearson Kennedy** and husband **Bill Kennedy '93** announce the birth of their fourth child Aug. 24, 2008. Willa Tate was welcomed to the Kennedy home in Pike Road by brothers William and Wenton and sister Winola. Angela teaches first grade at Halcyon Elementary School in Montgomery.

'97

**Tracey Anderson DeCicco** and her husband, John, celebrated the birth of twins Mikayla Elisabeth and John Bryant Dec. 31, 2008. Big sisters Briana, 16, and Scarlett, 3, welcomed Elisabeth and Bryant to the DeCicco home in Vinemont. Tracey works as a technical writer at Teksouth in Gardendale.



*Mikayla Elisabeth DeCicco (left) and her twin brother, John Bryant DeCicco, were born Dec. 31, 2008.*

'99

**Allison Nelson Barksdale** and her husband, Keith, welcomed the birth of their son, William Joseph, Feb. 20. The Barksdales reside in Ft. Payne where Allison is a teacher.

**Courtney Rowland Nice** and husband **Adam Nice '00** of Cordova, Tenn., announce the birth of their second daughter, Gabrielle Elizabeth, March 20. Courtney, who is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom, writes that Olivia, 2, is enjoying the big sister role.



*Alexa Joy Canevaro*



*Ella Brooke Presley*

'04

**Kimberly Riker Milwood M.Ed. '06** and her husband, Josh, of Odenville welcomed the birth of their first child, Caleb Lee Milwood, Nov. 4, 2008. Kimberly teaches physical science in Springville.

'05

**Karen Francis Canevaro** and her husband, **Addison Canevaro '07**, recently celebrated the birth of their first child, Alexa Joy, April 20. The family resides in Northport. Addison



*Jaffe Studio*

*Gabrielle Elizabeth Nice*

works at the Tuscaloosa Public Library, and Karen is a social worker at the United Methodist Children's Home in Cottdale.

**Abby Woodham Presley** and her husband, Neal, welcomed the birth of their second child, Ella Brooke, May 27. She was greeted at the Presley home in Opp by big brother Gehrig.

## Deaths

'31

**Bracie Vines Parsons**, 106, of Birmingham died July 16. She was a retired teacher of home economics in Albertville.

'38

**Virginia James Cook**, 93, of Camden died Sept. 10. She was a retired teacher and author.

**Bunelle Hall Gresham**, 92, of Stephenville, Texas, died July 16. She was a homemaker.

'40

**Elaine I. Goodwyn** of Birmingham died July 21. She utilized her degree in home economics with Farmers Home Administration, the Greater Birmingham Dairy Council, and went on to work with Girl Scouts of the USA and the Jefferson County public health service.

**Elise Hagood Wade**, 90, of Carlowville died May 19.

'42

**Mildred Martin Gann**, 89, of Florence died June 9. She taught home economics at Coffee High School in Florence for 26 years.

**Edna Roe Rinehart**, 89, of Summerdale died May 23, 2008. She and her husband, Floyd, owned and operated a hearing aid center for 28 years prior to their retirement.

'43

**Marjorie M. Stith**, 85, of

Matthews, N.C., died July 2. She was an author and a retired professor and chair of the department of early childhood development at Kansas State University.

'44

**Annie Bess Page Rowe** of Pace, Fla., died Aug. 9. She was a retired teacher. Among her survivors is daughter **Page Rowe Devane '71**.

'46

**Lorene E. Cameron**, 85, a native of Piedmont, died June 27. She was retired from Delta Airlines.

'51

**Margaret Lightsey Alonzo**, 79, of Florence, formerly of Montgomery, died June 28. She was a retired teacher.

**Evelyn Morgan Estes**, 80, of Hoover died June 12.

'53

**Jeanette Crumpton Cooper-Luker M.Ed. '74, '77**, died July 7. She was a teacher in the Childersburg schools for 30 years.

**Ann Evers Dillenberg**, 76, of Camp Hill died Aug. 25, 2008. She was a retired dietitian.

'55

**Barbara Gail McDaniel Lynch**, 75, of Pass Christian, Miss., died July 24. She met her husband, the late Charles C. Lynch, while she was a student at Montevallo and left school in 1954 to be married. She was co-founder with her husband of their business, C.C. Lynch and Associates Inc., in 1966, where she made a lifelong contribution. She was the mother of seven and had 26 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

'57

**Mabel Wilcoxson Thornton**, 100, of Alabaster died Sept. 13.

An active educator and musician, she retired from teaching and counseling at Thompson High School in Alabaster in 1971.

Survivors who are UM alumni include her daughter, **Mary Thornton Gleason '61**, Mary's husband, **Fred Gleason Jr. '62, M.A. '69**, and their daughter, **Mary Gleason Townsend '90**; Mabel's sons, **Daniel Thornton '65** and his wife, **Molly Yarbrough Thornton '85**; and **Jonathan Thornton '68**, his wife, **Rebecca Britton Thornton '68**, and their daughter, **Aimee Thornton Vance '90, M.Ed. '91**.

'58

**Carol Mahan Laster** of Auburn died Jan. 4. She was a retired school counselor.

'59

**Louise Thorne Smith**, 89, of Autauga County died Aug. 1. She was a retired teacher. Survivors include Louise's daughter, **Janice Smith Farr '68**, widow of **Jack Farr '67, M.Ed. '71**.

'62

**Ann Duke Bolding M.Ed. '74**, 79, of Randolph died Aug. 30. She was a teacher at Brent Elementary School for 22 years.

'66

**Charles J. Selman**, 66, of Venice, Fla., formerly of Birmingham, died June 24.

**William Carl Taylor**, 63, of Birmingham died April 15, 2007. He was a teacher of languages in Puerto Rico, Georgia and Alabama prior to his retirement in 2005.

'70

**Sylvia Henson Bennati**, 62, of Birmingham died Aug. 9.

'71

**Faye Harper**, 60, of Clanton died July 14. She was a minister and teacher for more than 30 years.

'72

**Larry Ginn**, 59, of Wellington died July 10. A successful football and basketball coach at Alexandria High School for many years, he was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2005.

'77

**Jerry Floyd**, of Troy died Nov. 2. He was retired from Ford Motor Credit with 32 years of service and was the founder and broker of Alabama Florida Real Estate Connection LLC and Island of Navarre Realty LLC.

'80

**Rebecca Johnson Roberts**, 50, of Clanton died Sept. 2. She was a retired probation officer. Survivors include UM alumna **Margaret Johnson Vann '74** of Las Vegas.

'84

**Michael Daniel**, 50, of Alexander City died July 28. He was a truck driver and was the director and coach of the Alexander City Hawks, a Youth Basketball of America traveling team.

**Michael Ray Foy**, 47, of Hoover died Aug. 26. He had been employed by the Bruno's Corp. and Cook Publications.

**Grace Riddle Peerson Ed.S.**, 82, of Childersburg died May 29. She was a retired teacher and school administrator.

'90

**Donna Faye Scott Rogers**, 39, of Alabaster died July 30. She had served as director of preschool and children at First Baptist Church of Alabaster.

'93

**Janice Ann Winslow**, 62, of Homewood died July 13. She was a teacher and community volunteer.

'09

**Detrik O'Neal Bettis**, 24, of Sweet Water died July 6.

## Condolences

'53

To **Faye Mattox Brown** of Clanton on the death of her husband, Horace K. "Jap" Brown Aug. 22. He was retired from the

U.S. Department of Agriculture after 37 years of service.

'66

To **H. Conrad Blackerby** and his wife, **Barbara Martin Blackerby '65**, of Newport Coast, Calif., on the death of Conrad's father, Glendon H. Blackerby, July 26. He was a resident of Bessemer.

'77

To **Barbara McGowin Reynolds M.A.** of Clanton on the death of her husband, Morgan Reynolds, June 21. He was an attorney.

'85

To **Brenda Godbold M.Ed.** of Clanton on the death of her father, Alton L. Godbold, Aug. 10. He was a retired sales representative for Steck Vaughn Publishing Co.

## Update your records

Have you moved . . . received a promotion . . . enrolled in graduate or professional school . . . retired . . . changed careers . . . added to your family . . . written a book? Montevallo alumni are encouraged to update their records and provide information for the class notes section of *Montevallo Today* online by way of an easy-to-use form that may be accessed at <http://www.montevallo.edu/alumni/record-update.shtm>.

## The Pacific . . .

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*The Pacific* tracks the intertwined odysseys of three U.S. Marines — Sledge, Leckie and John Basilone — across the vast canvas of the Pacific, from the first clash with the Japanese in the jungles of Guadalcanal to the triumphant return home after V-J Day. About a year ago, *Pacific* filmmakers contacted UM requesting photographs of the classrooms in which Dr. Sledge taught and pictures of his office in the biology department. His widow, Jeanne Sledge, secured the services of Matt Orton, director of photography at UM, to copy and digitize personal photos of Dr. Sledge and his family for use in the production.

Filming on *The Pacific*, which HBO Films is producing in association with Playtone and DreamWorks Television, began last summer in Australia. The epic cost nearly \$200 million to produce.

"We are proud to be reuniting with Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg to complete the story of the American combat experience of World War II," HBO Films president Colin Callender said in an interview last year. "This epic miniseries is based on the true stories of three Marines whose experiences in the Pacific embodied the unique nature of that theater of war and dramatize how it profoundly differed from the European front."

# Alumni Association presents host of annual awards

By Karen Kelly, President  
UM National Alumni Association

According to the mission statement of the University of Montevallo National Alumni Association, our work as an organization involves enhancing alumni ties to the University and promoting active participation of the alumni.



One way that we do this is through the annual recognition of alumni and other UM supporters. Awards to alumni are made each year in appreciation of their loyalty, dedication and service to the University and for recognition of excellence in career achievement and/or community service. Two additional awards recognize excellence and outstanding commitment of UM faculty and staff members to the University and its students.

These recognitions are key ways that the UMNAA Board of Directors says "Thank you" to those strong supporters of the University and those who have used their Montevallo education as the foundation for success. John Brady, vice president for university advancement, said, "Awards such as these encourage and recognize loyalty and excellence throughout the university community."

The Alumni Association recognizes its alumni in four ways:

## Alumnus Loyalty Award:

This award recognizes an alumnus who has demonstrated loyalty and dedication to UM.

## Distinguished Alumnus Award:

This oldest and most prestigious award recognizes an alumnus who has excelled in his or her professional career.

## Nathalie Molton Gibbons Alumni Achievement Award:

This award recognizes an alumnus, over the age of 35, whose contributions through career or community service reflect positively on society at the local, state, or national level.

## Nathalie Molton Gibbons Young Alumni Achiever's Award:

This award recognizes an alumnus, 35 years of age or younger, whose

contributions through career or community service reflect positively on society at the local, state or national level.

The Alumni Association also recognizes outstanding faculty and staff who have given special service to UM.

## Outstanding Staff Service Award:

This award is granted to a UM staff member who has demonstrated excellence in service and loyalty to the University.

## Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award:

This award recognizes a UM professor for his or her positive impact on students and for dedication to providing a quality education.

Any alumnus, friend, student, faculty or staff member may nominate a candidate for one of these awards at any time. Nominations are accepted continuously by the Awards Committee of the UMNAA Board of Directors. If you know a deserving award candidate, please get involved by submitting a nomination.

Detailed information on each of the awards, including their purpose, their eligibility criteria and the nomination process and timeframes can be found on the UM website at [www.montevallo.edu](http://www.montevallo.edu) in the Alumni section. Questions regarding the awards or the nominating process can also be directed to Jeremy Ward, manager of the annual fund and special events in the Office of University Advancement and Alumni Affairs, at 205-665-6215 or via email at [jward7@montevallo.edu](mailto:jward7@montevallo.edu).

Awards presented at Founders' Day in October:

- Alumnus Loyalty Award
- Outstanding Staff Service Award
- Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award

Awards presented at Homecoming in February:

- Nathalie Molton Gibbons Alumni Achievement Award
- Nathalie Molton Gibbons Young Alumni Achievement Award
- Distinguished Alumnus Award

For a complete list of previous winners of the awards listed above, please access the following web address found in the "Alumni and Friends" section on UM's home page: <http://www.montevallo.edu/alumni/Awards/awardrec.shtm>.

# Buy-a-Brick Campaign provides support for SAC

Alumni and friends have a unique opportunity to invest in the Robert M. McChesney Student Activity Center by participating in the buy-a-brick campaign.

The entrance walkway of the Student Activity Center includes the traditional Montevallo bricks, and alumni can have an engraved brick installed as part of the walkway at the SAC. Bricks can be ordered by making a gift to the Student Activity Center. Some have ordered bricks in memory of or in honor of colleagues, friends and

family members. The cost is \$100, and a portion of that (\$75) is a tax-deductible contribution. Engraving will include a maximum of 20 characters per line on up to three lines. An order form is available online at <http://www.montevallo.edu/giving/AnnualFund/Bricks.shtm>, and it may be completed and submitted electronically or printed and returned to the Alumni Office at Station 6215, Montevallo, AL 35115 or via fax at 205-665-6218. Bricks ordered by mid-December will be installed before Homecoming.

# On Campus



Art department faculty members assist with moving lockers, easels and other equipment into newly renovated Peterson Hall, which will be used for the instruction of drawing and painting. An open house at the facility was on the Founders' Day agenda in October. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Peterson Hall was built in 1913. The two-story building is an example of Georgian Revival architecture. It was named for Francis Marion Peterson, the University's second president who served from 1899 until 1907. For many years, Peterson Hall was used as the school's infirmary.



The scholarship committee of the Woman's Club House of the Third District of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. (from left) Jane Lenderman, Carolyn Waldrop, president of the group, Helen Copeland, Betty Crocker and Sue Turner (not pictured) have been working with the Office of University Advancement at UM to establish an endowment to fund an AFWC scholarship at Montevallo. The scholarship is to provide financial assistance to a deserving student. It is to be first awarded in 2014. The preferred recipient of the Woman's Club House of the Third District of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc. Scholarship will be a female undergraduate at UM who will have completed her freshman year with a minimum grade-point average of 2.5. Funds are to be awarded to a student or students in order to meet an emergency need.



Seven-year-old Liza Devane (right), daughter of Grace Reece Devane '85, congratulates Emily Neel, daughter of Barbara McNorton Neel '85, after Emily accepted an invitation to join Phi Mu Sorority at UM. The photo was taken at Squeal Day (Bid Day) 2009.



New faculty members for 2009-2010 are, front row, from left: Emily Gill, assistant professor of theatre; Melanie Styers, assistant professor of biology; Deborah Karpman, assistant professor of art; Dan Valentine, assistant professor of communication science and disorders; Chandra Clark, assistant professor of mass communication; and Laurel Hitchcock, instructor of social work and director of the Social Work Program; middle row: Tammy Cook, assistant professor of secondary education; Donald Ratchford, assistant professor of elementary education; Jo Ann Sumbry, assistant professor of instructional leadership; John Bawden, assistant professor of history; and Stephanie Batkie, assistant professor of English; back row: Bryn Chancellor, assistant professor of English; Courtney Bentley, assistant professor of counseling and leadership; Megan Sherod, assistant professor of psychology; and Donna Burnett, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences and dietetics program director.

# Montevallo Profile

## Montevallo Profile

### Leah Dueffer, Class of 1999

Majored in English and now the hostess with the mostess especially during Halloween

**Your name:** Leah Haney Dueffer

Year graduated from UM and degree received: 1999 B.A. in English with honors

**Your home:** Vestavia Hills

**Your hometown:** Huntsville

**Please tell us about your family.** My husband, Heinz, is an ER doctor at Baptist Shelby. He asks all the Montevalloans (is this correct?) if they are Purple or Gold. He told one graduate I was a Purple and she said, "No one's perfect."

**What is your profession?** I am a copy editor. I started out at *Southern Living* magazine. We moved to Manhattan in 2005 for my husband's medical residency so that I could work in New York. I had the opportunity to work at *People* magazine, *Money* magazine, *Time for Kids* and *Every Day at Rachael Ray* (plus a few others), and I still work for *Filmmaker* magazine from home.

**What is the last book you read, and who is the author?** *Bloodhound* by Tamora Pierce. It's a young adult series. A few friends from college and I have started a virtual classic reading group: We're reading books that we never read before and then we'll discuss them online. Our first pick is *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

**What awards/honors have you received? Is there a most significant honor? If so, please tell us about it.** I don't think that there are any copy editing awards because a good copy editor is behind the scenes. But a fellow copy editor and I won Best Cheering Team at the Birmingham Adult Spelling Bee one year. We did a dance routine like the *Saturday Night Live* cheerleaders to cheer on the *Southern Progress* team. They won first place too. I'm also the hostess with the mostess. Last year I had a huge Harry Potter party and I transformed my house into Hogwarts. I handmade wands, sweets and props and cooked British food from the books. I even mail-ordered authentic Irish bangers.

**What is your secret for success?** Hard work. Every job I have had has stemmed from a job I did for little or no

money. Volunteering at the library in high school led me to get a job at the Carmichael Library while I was a student and then later I got a librarian job at the Hoover Public Library. Working for something like \$1 an hour as editor of the *Alabamian* led me to get my first magazine job at *Southern Living*. *Alabamian* editor, to this day, is that hardest job I have ever had.

**What is the best advice you have received?** I looked into getting a master's in magazine journalism. I asked Clay Nordon, *Southern Living* managing editor and UM grad, if he thought I should go. He said that I would learn more on the job at an actual magazine than going to school. He was right, and that's why I wanted to move to New York: to experience other copy desks and other magazines. I'm so glad I did, because in addition to the experience, I got to work at the famous Time-Life building across from Radio City Music Hall in Rockefeller Center. I essentially became a New Yorker. I went to lots of book signings (like Judy Blume) and Broadway shows. I left a piece of my heart in New York.

**Do you have a favorite motto? If so, what is it?** Reading Is Sexy. You can get the shirt at [buyolympia.com](http://buyolympia.com).

**What's new?** We've been back in Alabama for a little more than a year now. I have almost painted every room in my house and I've been enjoying my big craft room. I developed a lot of hobbies since leaving college. I love cooking, knitting, calligraphy, card making, and embroidery.

**Please tell us about your educational foundation.** In college I realized that a degree is what you make of it. So many people wonder what you can do with an English degree besides teach or ask, "Do you want fries with that?" So I decided to get the experience I needed by doing summer internships and working on the *Alabamian*. I've often thought that if I went to a bigger school I wouldn't have had the same opportunities: I would have been a smaller fish in a bigger pond. I also had amazing professors. They were supportive as well as fun.



Photo by Matt Orton

## Libby Queen appointed by Gov. Bob Riley to serve on UM's Board of Trustees

Libby Queen '59 of Alexander City has been appointed to the UM Board of Trustees by Gov. Bob Riley, pending approval by the Alabama Senate. She was selected to represent District Three.

Over the years, Queen has served the University in many capacities. She was president of the UM National Alumni Association from 2002-2004. She was chair of the annual-fund campaign in 1996-1997 and vice chair of the annual-fund campaign in 1995-1996. She received the Alumna Loyalty Award in 1995 and was involved with Homecoming fundraisers to benefit the College of Arts and Sciences in 1995 and 1997.

After 27 years of service to the Alexander City Board of

Education, Queen retired in 1993. Prior to her retirement, she was the coordinator of programs for exceptional students in Alexander City schools. Upon retiring, she spent much of her free time volunteering in the UM Alumni Office.



She earned a bachelor of science degree in speech pathology from Montevallo and a master of arts degree in speech pathology from the University of Alabama with advanced certification in special education administration and learning disabilities.

Queen is a former president of the Alpha Pi chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society and a former member of the Quota Club International, the American Association of University Women and the Business and Professional Women's organization. She has served as a volunteer for Hospice, the Russell Hospital Auxiliary and the American Red Cross.

## Dedication, Celebration Concert honors 4-H veteran Ann Barr for lifetime of contributions

A Dedication and Celebration Concert in honor of Ann Barr '36 was held Sept. 20 at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana.

During the program, a Pearl River Parlor Grand Piano was dedicated as the Ann Barr Piano, a gift from a group of friends who wanted to honor Barr for her contribution to their lives and to the mission of Alabama 4-H. Because of Barr's love of music, and the need at the Alabama 4-H Center for a quality instrument, an idea was born to secure funding for the purchase of the grand piano.



A concert by Dr. Anthony Pattin, professor of music at UM, followed the dedication of the piano.

Barr's commitment to 4-H went far beyond state's borders. For almost a half a century, Barr shared her breadth of knowledge, wisdom, many skills and kind spirit with thousands of people. She was instrumental in the development of and educational programming for the 4-H Youth Development Center in Alabama.

An Auburn native, Barr attended the University of Montevallo and earned a degree in nutrition in 1936. She wanted to work in dietetics, but was unable to afford the fifth year of the program.

She joined the military service during World War II, serving more than two years in North Africa and Italy. During that time, Barr worked with women from England and France assisting Allied Forces by deciphering coded messages and relaying secret information.

After returning to the United States, she applied for a job with the Extension System, and she began her career as an assistant home demonstration agent in Talladega County assigned to the 4-H Club program.

Barr was later promoted to a state staff position and continued working with youth programs, becoming the state 4-H program leader for girls from 1951 to 1984. It was during this challenging time in her career that she spent many hours listening to 4-H agents tell of their needs and returning to the state office to put their needs into action. One example of that was a request for a recreational program, to which Barr talked her superiors into purchasing a record player and sound system. She spent hours in her office learning how to call a square dance and teaching herself to square dance from a manual. "I'm sure I bothered the people in the office below me because the noise and stomping, but it was what the staff needed and I wasn't going to tell them no," she recalled.

She worked for the state for 33 years until she retired in 1984. However, her service to 4-H was far from over. After only one week of retirement, she was contacted by the National 4-H Council in Washington, D.C. and began working as a consultant.

During her career, she served on National 4-H Congress committees 33 times and was chair six times. She also worked from 1984 to 1994 with National 4-H Council and National 4-H Congress.

In 2002 at the National 4-H celebration of 100 years of service, Ann Barr was one of 100 people inducted into the first National 4-H Hall of Fame. She was inducted into the 2005 class of the Alabama Agricultural Hall of Honor, received the American Spirit Award from the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents and was awarded National Recognition for Outstanding Service to 4-H by the USDA. In 2009, she was included in the Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame during the state's Centennial year celebrations.

As quoted in the National Partner-in-4-H Award citation, "Ann exemplifies the character, initiative, and ideals that 4-H develops in young people and serves as an excellent role model for both young people and adults. Countless numbers of people have had tremendous educational opportunities and personal growth experiences because Ann chose Extension work as her lifelong career."

Barr continues to live in Auburn and delights in telling about her 4-H career and talking with the 4-H alumni who visit her.

# Guest Essay

By Susan Howard '11

## Study in Mexico adds dimension to class work

This summer I, along with seven other UM students, was given the opportunity to study in Mexico. We participated in a month-long program in Mérida, the capital of the Yucatán. We took classes in Spanish grammar and cultures of Mexico at *el Instituto de Estudios de la Comunicación de Yucatán* (the Yucatán's Institute of Communication Studies). Both courses were taught by UM Associate Professor of Spanish Eric Vaccarella, who also coordinated the trip.

There are two main reasons I chose to participate in the trip: first, I am a Spanish minor, and the credit hours would complete my course requirements, and second, I wanted to apply what I learned in the classroom in a real-world setting. I didn't have much reason to use my Spanish at home, and prior to participating in the Montevallo

in Mérida program, I had very little confidence in my Spanish-speaking skills.

However, after a couple of days in an environment where my only hope of communicating was to use my Spanish, I learned to adjust. I took the bus to school and almost anywhere else in the city I wanted to go. I learned to communicate with taxi drivers, sales clerks and waiters.

My home-stay mother, Angelita García López, helped me significantly in gaining my confidence. We were all placed with home-stays based on housing questionnaires we submitted prior to the trip, and I was very pleased with my placement. My "mamá" knew that I was unsure of myself, and she was very helpful, always sure to explain things and politely correct me if I misused a word. She also housed three other students, one from Tabasco, Mexico, one from Ecuador and one from Indiana. In that way, my home-stay

*Just before leaving Mexico, Susan Howard '11 (left) poses with her home-stay mother, Angelita García López, at a farewell dinner.*

*Photo by Eric Vaccarella*

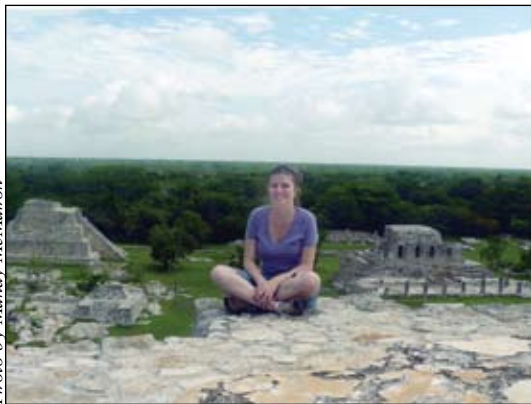


experience was different from some of the other UM students who stayed with individual families, but I think it was definitely a bonus to interact with people not just from Mérida, but also from other parts of the Spanish-speaking world.

In addition to four hours of class at IECY each day, our group took weekend excursions to many Mayan sites in different states of Mexico, including Campeche, Tabasco, Chiapas and Quintana Roo. Each state was a little bit different, as far as weather, dialect and food were concerned. The excursions were an important part of our cultural exposure. My favorite excursion was to Chiapas, where we shopped in the markets of San Cristobal de las Casas, putting our communication skills to work by bartering with the artisans. Dr. Vaccarella warned us that it would be cold in Chiapas and to pack accordingly, but since it was almost unbearably hot in Mérida, we didn't believe him. Then we found ourselves needing to warm up in front of the radiators in our hotel rooms.

Many of our relatives and friends in the States were concerned about our potential exposure to the swine flu in Mexico, and some of us were worried that the trip would be canceled. Fortunately, we were still able to go without any trouble. In fact, we discovered that public health is very important in Mexico. There was someone dispensing hand sanitizer at the front door of nearly every building, and people were always encouraged to wash their hands. Influenza prevention tips were posted in the most unexpected places, including potato chip bags. I never felt that I was in the slightest bit of danger in Mexico, concerning both health and safety.

I have been told that immersion is the best way to learn a language, and now I know firsthand that it's true. The month I spent in Mexico was one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life. It took me out of my comfort zone and made me talk to people that I wouldn't have had an opportunity to meet otherwise. I formed friendships that I hope will last a lifetime, both with people from Mexico and my fellow UM travelers. I would recommend study abroad to anyone. It is an incredible opportunity that can't be fully understood until it is experienced.



*Susan Howard, shown at a Mayan site in Mexico, is a junior English major and Spanish minor from Huntsville. She is the editor of the 2009-2010 "Montage," UM's yearbook. Scheduled to graduate in May 2011, she plans to pursue a master's degree in English education.*

*Photo by Mandy McMahon*

