

ONE.

A simple word with tremendous impact.

A single institution with enormous potential.

At The University of Alabama, we are **ONE**. We are **ONE** family, **ONE** university and **ONE** body. We are **ONE** institution with a proven tradition of bold leadership, relentless endurance and continued excellence.

Along with the blossoming of tulips on campus, Spring 2020 brought with it no shortage of trials. The COVID-19 pandemic halted life as we know it — in the interest of preserving the health and safety of our faculty, staff and students, University leaders made the challenging decision to suspend in-person operations and classes. This result was a reinvented norm for our students as they completed their semester online and for our faculty and staff as they worked from a distance to maintain an outstanding level of service.

Yet again, we proved our resilience. As **ONE**, The University of Alabama rose to overcome each of the unprecedented challenges stemming from the pandemic. Alumni and friends continued their unwavering support of the University through both monetary gifts and gifts of PPE to aid essential campus workers. Amidst these circumstances, the Tide Together Student Support Fund was enhanced to provide relief and assistance to students. We also celebrated reaching the \$15 million fundraising goal for the Performing Arts Academic Center.

Through kindness and selfless giving, we have emerged stronger and even more Tide Together than before. These stories, shared proudly, are just a sample of what we can achieve when we come together as **ONE** to preserve our bond to the institution so many of us call home.

THIS IS THE GIVING EFFECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an unprecedented year 2020 was for our University and our nation. However, even in the face of adversity, our committed network of alumni and donors did not waver in their support of the life-changing educational opportunities we provide at The University of Alabama. Instead, our people united.

Last year produced significant accomplishments and record-breaking achievements from our talented students, faculty and staff. We celebrated the more than 9,500 graduates who received a degree from the Capstone; among that total were over 1,000 first-generation students who transformed their futures with a degree from Alabama. We now boast nearly 800 National Merit Scholars, more than all other Alabama universities combined and among the most of any public university in the nation.

We continued our rapid ascent in research with record-breaking growth. UA is now in the top tier of research institutions that grant doctoral degrees. For the seventh consecutive year, our research enterprise increased, and in 2020, it grew by more than 33%, securing our position as one of the fastest-growing, major comprehensive research-intensive universities in the nation.

We also witnessed another record fundraising year. The total included charitable gifts and pledges in excess of \$222 million from nearly 60,000 devoted donors. This new record represents an increase of more than \$19 million from the previous fiscal year and is UA's third consecutive year to average gifts and pledges in excess of \$200 million.

To put it simply, we could not have done it without you. It is your generosity that provides us with the footing to continue building the legacy of exceptional teaching, research and service to those we serve. For nearly 200 years, we have positively impacted the state, nation and world. Thank you for continuing to partner with us to ensure our critical work continues. Our best days are ahead, and I appreciate your steadfast support of the University — the place Where Legends Are Made.

Roll Tide!

Stuart R. Bell
President



Dean of Students, Dr. Stacy Jones, and Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Myron Pope, worked with donors and campus leadership to ensure students had resources throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

FERGUSON STUDENT CENTER



community

THROUGH DETERMINATION AND LEADERSHIP FROM OUR ADMINISTRATION, UA STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES FACED DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On March 13, 2020, University of Alabama students left for what was supposed to be a one-week spring break.

Most wouldn't return to campus for another five months.

As the COVID-19 pandemic swept the nation, in-person classes were transitioned online and countless businesses were shuttered. When Alabama Governor Kay Ivey issued a stay-at-home order on April 3, many students found themselves without income to pay their rent and utilities or afford groceries. Some didn't know how they would return home or how they would access the technology to continue their studies.

Established by the Delta Delta Delta sorority in 2016 as a fund for student support, the Tide Together Student Support Fund soon became a lifeline for students affected by coronavirus-

related shutdowns. Dean of Students, Dr. Stacy Jones, said that when the pandemic began, the Division of Student Life decided to treat it like a natural disaster from a funding perspective.

"We thought we may have to limit the amount of money distributed to students from the Tide Together Student Support Fund because we thought we were going to get a lot of applications," she said. "When we thought a lot, we thought 50 or 60, maybe 100."

By the end of the first weekend after Governor Ivey's order, the Division of Student Life had received almost 900 applications.

In addition to the rapidly dwindling funds in the account was the enormous amount of need, particularly on a campus of 38,000 students. According to Stacy, the usual allotment of \$1,000 per student was reduced to \$400 in an effort to

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IN MANY CASES, THE TIDE TOGETHER STUDENT SUPPORT FUND WAS THE ONE THING THAT KEPT THEM FROM DROPPING OUT. IT'S SO VERY IMPORTANT TO THIS UNIVERSITY THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE.

MYRON POPE, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE



help as many students as possible. Although the CARES Act alleviated some of the financial strain, the need for donations to fund student assistance persisted.

That's when the Crimson Tide community stepped forward to offer its support.

Between March and October 2020, more than \$233,000 was raised for the Tide Together Student Support Fund, including a \$50,000 gift from the National Alumni Association and more than \$18,000 from the 2020 Bama Blitz online crowdfunding campaign.

Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Myron Pope, began this new position just as campus transitioned to limited business operations and online learning in April. He said the top priority for the Division of Student Life is to "take care of the students' mental health and wellbeing" and that the Tide Together Student Support Fund is just one of the many resources available to students in need.

"Many students have experienced challenges that have created an increased level of need," he said. "In many cases, the Tide Together Student Support Fund was the one thing that kept them from dropping out. It's so very important to this university that we continue to support this initiative."

Emily Certo, a senior fashion merchandising major, was looking forward to completing her degree in Fall 2020 with an internship at Tibi in New York City. Though she had saved money to fund the unpaid internship, she was counting on additional financial assistance from her parents.

"They're not doing too well right now," Emily said. "They can't help support me that much while I'm in New York, so I'm relying on my savings. I also got a tutoring job on the side just to help make a little bit of money each week."

Knowing she needed more to get by, Emily reached out to Stacy, who had provided her with additional scholarship money for a class the previous semester.

"I sent in my grocery bills, and the Tide Together Student Support Fund gave me \$400, which has been so helpful," she said. "It's just been a huge weight off of my shoulders, because I have that extra backup."

In addition to Emily, Stacy estimates that the Fund has helped around 1,600 students.

"It's been an amazing program to be involved in," Stacy said. "There's a part of me that feels sad that we can't do more, but the thing that we have to remind people is these are all based on donor gifts."

Stacy said the Division of Student Life is "now in a better place." The office has since started working alongside other colleges across campus to reach out and to assist as many students as possible.

"It's such a phenomenal program," Myron said. "We're going to do all that we can to support students long-term by raising money and by making sure the resources are available for students who are in need." 🐾



Emily Certo, a UA senior, at her internship in New York City. The Tide Together Student Support Fund helped Emily's financial situation so she could complete her degree in fashion merchandising.

Linda L. Shumilas and her husband, Robert, have been longtime supporters of the Capstone. Their most recent gift to the Campaign for the Performing Arts will leave a lasting legacy as part of the Performing Arts Academic Center.



ON THE act

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS WILL USHER IN A NEW GENERATION OF PERFORMERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

In 1969, Linda Shumilas and her future husband Robert graduated from The University of Alabama with political science degrees and a shared love for theatre and dance. Now, more than 50 years later, their names will be cemented at the Capstone with a \$500,000 gift to the Campaign for the Performing Arts.

Publicly announced in December 2017, Sela Ward served as the campaign's honorary chair alongside co-chairs Bill and Mary Battle and 18 additional cabinet members. More than 225 donors participated in the campaign, and in August 2020, the Performing Arts Academic Center's (PAAC) campaign cabinet celebrated reaching its \$15 million goal.

When Linda and Bob returned to Tuscaloosa eight years ago, they knew they wanted to continue their legacy at UA. With the construction of the PAAC just down the street from their home at

Capstone Village, they've enjoyed the unique pleasure of watching a grand vision come to life.

"We've made provisions for the University in our estate and have all along thought that would be the major part of our giving to the University," Bob said. "But, when this campaign came along, it was something we could do in our lifetime that would be a major point of interest to us."

The Linda L. and Robert Shumilas Reception Hall will serve as a gateway connecting the historic Bryce Main to the newly constructed spaces in the PAAC. Linda, who served as a member of the campaign cabinet charged with raising \$15 million in private gifts, said the union of the building's architecture and history with the modern floorplans was what appealed to her most.

"I have always enjoyed performing arts of all kinds, and it just seemed like an ideal situation

when I saw the plans for it," she said. "I just really fell in love with the concept."

Another attraction for the couple is the PAAC's potential for increased community engagement and outreach.

"I think it will be a draw from all over the state as school groups and other community theatre groups have access to it," Linda said. "There will be a big economic and cultural impact over and above the wonderful training facility that it will be."

Bob believes the PAAC will serve as an outstanding combination of history and new technology.

"Without question, this project is going to be one of the premier projects in the history of The University of Alabama," he said. "It's certainly going to be one of the iconic buildings on the beautiful campus we already have."

The 130,000-square-foot facility will include four performance theatres — a black box theatre with flexible seating for 175 to 275 attendees, a 350-seat proscenium-style theatre, a 450-seat venue specifically designed for dance and a dance studio theatre with flexible space for rehearsals, recitals and smaller performances. Pending approval by the University's Board of Trustees, construction of the PAAC is planned to begin in Spring 2022.



The PAAC will offer UA students premier facilities to hone their craft.

Right: Located on the historic Bryce Main campus, the PAAC will include four performance theatres and a dance studio with flexible space for rehearsals.



“The PAAC will bring The University of Alabama theatre and dance programs to the forefront of artistic expression,” said Joseph P. Messina, dean of the UA College of Arts and Sciences. “Learning and performing in spaces that rival major performance venues across the country will provide an invaluable experience for students to seamlessly launch their careers and begin building their legacies. And with more space, the college will expand its outreach with the surrounding community and schools, enriching the area with even more opportunities to experience the many benefits of the arts.”

For Linda and Bob, their contributions to the PAAC, as well as their other monetary donations and estate gifts, will serve as a prelude to the next act and leave a lasting impact on campus for generations to come.

“The University changed our lives, and we’ve both always been grateful that we came here,” Linda said. “I would like everybody to know the transformational aspect that the University has had on our lives, the fondness we have for it and how happy we are to be associated with it.” 🐾

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WITHOUT QUESTION, THIS PROJECT IS GOING TO BE ONE OF THE PREMIER PROJECTS IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA. IT’S CERTAINLY GOING TO BE ONE OF THE ICONIC BUILDINGS ON THE BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS WE ALREADY HAVE.

ROBERT SHUMILAS



Culverhouse College of Business Dean Kay Palan and Dr. James King partnered with a team from Protective Life Corporation to build a bridge of opportunity for prospective students.



A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PROTECTIVE LIFE CORPORATION AND THE CULVERHOUSE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS WILL OFFER STUDENTS MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS AND GROWTH

The transition to college life can be difficult for any student, but it presents a special set of challenges for students from underrepresented populations throughout the state of Alabama.

Through a \$1 million contribution from Protective Life Corporation in Birmingham and a partnership with the Culverhouse College of Business, the Diversity in Business Bridge Program seeks to alleviate some of that uncertainty with a focus on both diversity and preparation.

“We know at Protective that developing the next generation of leaders is vitally important,” said Wendy Evesque, executive vice president and chief human resources officer at Protective. “We can’t do that without a diverse pipeline of talent to help feed that future success. We know that an important part of that is investing in the community and in particular, investing in education.”

The Bridge program proposal was created by prominent leaders in Culverhouse, including Dr. James King, Dean Kay Palan, Daphne Palmer, Dr. Kenny Wunder and Dr. David Mothersbaugh. James and Daphne will administer the program alongside Marcus Cotton, who will serve as the director. The Bridge program will offer select rising high school seniors and incoming college freshman resources and mentorships with current UA students to prepare them for their futures by bridging the gap between high school and college admission.

“That’s what the program is really about — identifying students who have the ability to succeed but may not have all of the support and information they need to apply successfully and get off to a good start,” said James, who serves as the associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion for Culverhouse.

James said that bridge programs across the country have historically been most popular in STEM fields, offering prospective students an introduction to their career interests and providing a better understanding of how college and the application process works. Through this program, students will be exposed to professional development; the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion; financial literacy and various fields of business, including insurance and risk management.

It also serves as an opportunity to build connections with UA leaders who will support them through their college careers and after graduation.

“Hopefully, these students will be successful getting started on a good trajectory, which is really important to long-term success,” James said. “They can come to UA between their junior and senior year and decide, ‘This is the best place for me.’ That’s a plus. People may be more likely to start in a place where they feel comfortable.”

Each year, 25 high school rising seniors will be recruited to participate in a summer experience on campus after their junior year. The students who meet admission criteria and choose to pursue a business degree at the Capstone will be offered scholarship packages and the opportunity to continue the program the following year as a mentor to the next cohort of high school students.

“When we talk about making Culverhouse an inclusive and welcoming environment that prepares students to become innovators and leaders in business, we do so knowing that we have a team that helps make it so, a team that includes our faculty, staff, and community and corporate partners,” Kay said. “This new aspect of our relationship with Protective will do much toward helping Bridge participants find success in their academic journey.”

While the Culverhouse team works with high school admissions counselors to spread the word about the Diversity in Business Bridge Program, there are existing materials for current students to take advantage of, including diversity.culverhouse.ua.edu.

“There are a lot of opportunities for companies that are looking at supporting diversity to use this program as a mechanism within their overall programs,” James said. “We’re certainly open to creative ideas.”

For Wendy, this is just another initiative in Protective's long history with community involvement.

“We’ve been investing in our communities throughout our more than 100-year history,” she said. “We’re thrilled to be a steward of growth.” 🐾



Left to right: Rich Bielen, president and CEO of Protective Life Corporation; Wendy Evesque, executive vice president and chief human resources officer; Martina Winston, vice president, senior HR partner and D&I leader; Brittney Smith, diversity and inclusion specialist; and Steven G. Walker, executive vice president and chief financial officer, were members of the Protective team that collaborated with UA to establish the Diversity in Business Bridge Program.

Bill Battle and his wife, Mary, have a long tradition of giving to The University of Alabama.

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tradition

BILL BATTLE'S TRADITION OF GIVING MAKES A STRONG IMPACT

For some, playing on a national championship team under legendary Coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant might be the pinnacle of their relationship with The University of Alabama. For Bill Battle, it was just the beginning.

Bill's friendship with Coach Bryant continued after he completed college. From 1970-1976, the two went head-to-head as rival football coaches. Bill's seven-year record at Tennessee was 59-22-2, winning four of five bowl games.

After coaching, Bill entered the business world and founded the Collegiate Licensing Company in 1981. CLC created a major source of new revenue flowing to universities that still goes strong today.

Its first client? Coach Bryant. Its first university client? The University of Alabama.

From 2013-2017, Bill made another career transition, returning to UA as athletics director.

"It was a great honor to be asked to come back. I never aspired to be an AD, but I decided if I didn't do this, I would regret it for life," Bill said. "I was fortunate to be at the University as a player for four years on Coach Bryant's teams, including his first national championship. Fifty years later, I was privileged to spend four more years at UA during Coach Nick Saban's run at national championships. We had four other coaches who had won SEC and national championships, and it was exciting to be working with all of them, but my thrills came from working with all of the student-athletes."

However, Bill's legacy at the University isn't limited to the field at Bryant-Denny Stadium or the halls of the Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility. He has built a lasting tradition of giving alongside his wife, Mary.

Bill and Mary Battle's story began in an unusual place: on a plane out of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Bill was ending a business trip a day early, scrambling to make his flight on time. As fate would have it, he soon found himself seated next to his future wife.

"I slept most of the way back," he laughed, "but we did exchange cards."

Three months later, he took a chance and called Mary as he drove through Birmingham on the way to his lake house in Cedar Bluff, Alabama.

"I thought, 'It's a Friday afternoon, so I'm sure she'll be busy, or she won't even remember who I am,'" Bill said.

But Mary did remember.

They had their first date that night, and Mary introduced Bill to her daughter, Kayla. Six years later, the two were married.

During his lifetime, Bill has given more than \$11 million to the University, including some gifts with Mary, to create a sizeable impact on several areas of campus, such as gifts to fund the Bill and Mary Battle Endowed Athletic Scholarship, the William R. Battle Endowed Scholarship in Arts and Sciences and the Bill and Mary Battle Endowed Presidential Fund for Excellence.

Recently, the couple served as co-chairs for the Campaign for the Performing Arts, which celebrated reaching its \$15 million goal in August 2020. These funds will be used to help construct a new Performing Arts Academic Center adjoining the historic Bryce

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SUCCESS, TO ME, IS A JOURNEY AND NOT A DESTINATION. AS A 16-YEAR-OLD, SUCCESS MIGHT BE GETTING A DRIVER'S LICENSE OR A DATE. THEN, YOU EITHER GET BETTER OR YOU GET WORSE, AND IF YOU DON'T KEEP PLOTTING FORWARD, THEN YOUR SUCCESS IS PROBABLY LIMITED.

BILL BATTLE



Main. In addition to serving as the campaign's co-chairs, Bill and Mary also made a sizeable charitable investment in the project.

Bill said that while he had "given some" to areas across campus, he planned to leave most of his contributions to the University in his will. However, that plan changed when he was diagnosed with COVID-19 in July 2020.

"I was in the hospital for two weeks, and I didn't know if I was going to get out or not," he said. "Fortunately, I did, and I

recovered pretty well. But, Mary and I decided we would give now and enjoy giving rather than waiting until the end of our lives."

Bill claims that his motivation for giving, much like his motivation for success as UA's athletic director, is not about him.

"Success during my athletic director tenure here wasn't about making money," he said. "It wasn't about building a legacy. It was about encouraging our players to excel in academics, get degrees and learn life skills to prepare them for life after graduation. Hopefully, they play a professional sport, but 90 or 95% of them don't. So, they all need to be prepared to work after athletics."

Despite his intentions, Bill has built a legacy. He and Mary most recently gave a substantial gift to the Crimson Standard Initiative to complement a \$3 million gift previously given to fund building projects and facilities upkeep throughout campus. In recognition of Bill's gifts to UA Athletics, the newly renovated, 37,000-square-foot weight room inside of Mal M. Moore Athletic Facility now bears his name as does the Bill Battle Academic Center in Paul W. Bryant Hall.

"Success, to me, is a journey and not a destination," Bill said. "As a 16-year-old, success might be getting a driver's license or a date. Then, you either get better or you get worse, and if you don't keep plotting forward, then your success is probably limited."

Ultimately, the strength behind Bill and Mary's tradition of giving is their love of The University of Alabama.

"I want to see the University successful in however it defines success," he said. 🐻



Bill Battle, then head football coach at the University of Tennessee, and Coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant's friendship remained strong throughout Bill's career.

Left to right: Parker Towing Company President Tim Parker III with his wife, Megan; Executive Vice President Chas Haun; Cathy Parker and her husband, Chairman Tim Parker, Jr.; Alice Parker Haun and her husband, Vice Chairman and CEO Charlie Haun; and Jared Phillips and his wife, Alison Haun Phillips.



THE PARKER AND HAUN FAMILIES' GIFTS TO SUPPORT THE ADAPTED ATHLETICS AND UNIVERSITY RECREATION TENNIS FACILITY IS JUST THE LATEST IN A LONG TRADITION OF GIVING

The University of Alabama Wheelchair Tennis team has won five adapted athletics national titles since 2012. They have grit. They have determination. They have resilience.

What they don't have? Running water and bathrooms at their practice courts.

Each day, UA Adapted Athletics tennis players begin their journey at Stran-Hardin Arena, transferring out of their personal wheelchairs into their specialized tennis wheelchairs. They then traverse the steep path to the tennis courts that currently lack restrooms, equipment storage, running water and shade.

"They're so tough-minded, and they're so thankful for what they do have that these challenges haven't held them back," said Adapted Athletics Executive Director Brent Hardin.

The fortitude these athletes demonstrate has not gone unnoticed. Many of the hurdles UA's adapted athletes face will be removed thanks in part to a gift from the Parker and Haun families.

The gift will help fund the construction of a new tennis building located immediately adjacent to the student recreation courts managed by University Recreation. In addition to fresh water and restrooms, the new space will include locker rooms, a training room and offices for the coaching staff.

"In the summer months, I see a lot of tennis players out there," said Tim Parker, Jr., the chairman of Parker Towing Company, the Northport-based barge line. "I think we all acknowledged there was a need out there to serve."

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PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE ADAPTED ATHLETES NEED THE SAME FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES THAT OTHER ATHLETES DO. ONCE PEOPLE SEE OUR ATHLETES AND WHAT WE'RE DOING, THEY WANT TO GET INVOLVED. THEY WANT TO HELP, AND THEY DO, AND IT MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE.

BRENT HARDIN, UA ADAPTED ATHLETICS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Alice Haun, Tim's sister, was able to sit down to lunch with two of the wheelchair tennis players as well as tour their current facilities.

"The new facility certainly serves a unique need at the University, which helps UA stand out to a lot of kids," Alice said.

Brent said a big challenge is that many people don't recognize how many adapted athletes need specialized wheelchairs to play a sport.

"People don't realize adapted athletes need the same facilities, equipment, opportunities and resources that other athletes do," he said. "Once people see our athletes and what we're doing, they want to get involved. They want to help, and they do, and it makes such a difference."

The Parker and Haun families have a long and close relationship with The University of Alabama. In addition to the \$500,000 gift for the new tennis building, the two families have also made recent commitments to support construction of Hewson Hall for the Culverhouse College of Business and the Performing Arts Academic Center for the College of Arts and Sciences, bringing their total commitment to these facilities to \$1 million.

"The University is a big part of our life," Tim said. "Living in Tuscaloosa, we're certainly aware of all the good things the University does, not just for the students they educate, but the public service, their involvement in community activities and helping the state of Alabama grow and prosper."



For over 75 years, Parker Towing Company has operated barges and terminals for loading and unloading barges throughout Alabama and Tennessee. It is one of the largest barge lines in the United States.

One aspect of the wheelchair tennis program that will benefit from the new facility will be its ability to expand adapted tennis clinics hosted for local children and to increase awareness of the sport.

"We have grants for clinics in the community before and after our season. We are able to put kids in specialized chairs, and we teach them about wheelchair tennis," Brent said. "We'll be able to do a much better job of that. We'll also expand access to other kids with disabilities in the state of Alabama that want to learn about wheelchair tennis."

According to Charlie Haun, vice chairman and CEO of Parker Towing, these clinics will translate into a recruiting instrument for the University.

"Sports give students involved a broader experience at UA," Charlie said. "I'm a big advocate of the University's recruiting. This exposure is a big benefit, and hopefully, this facility will be a recruiting tool."

This most recent gift of the Parker and Haun families will fund the only collegiate tennis facility for adapted athletes nationwide.

"We're so grateful to the families for what they're doing," Brent said. "I think they can see a glimpse of the change this facility is going to make and how much it's going to help our student-athletes, but I really don't think they could possibly imagine the change that it's going to have on peoples' lives for years and years to come."

This is just the sort of hope Tim wishes the families' gifts will provide.

"My father had an old phrase, 'You've got to pay your civic rent,'" Tim said. "It's an old-fashioned term, but it is absolutely true. You have a responsibility to your community. Hopefully, our gift will inspire other alumni and friends of the University to chip in, make donations and set an example." 🐾



The Parker-Haun Tennis Facility will enhance University Recreation spaces and will offer more opportunities to the adapted athletes both at UA and throughout the state of Alabama.

Dora and Allen Going on their wedding day.



DORA AND ALLEN GOING SPENT THEIR LIVES ENRICHING THEIR STUDENTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

Drs. Dora and Allen Going lived their lives dedicated to the pursuit of education and service to others. In fact, if Larry O’Neal could describe the couple, it would be as “a true Southern lady and a true Southern gentleman.”

“They were deeply engrossed in the causes they cared about,” said Larry, the executor of Dora and Allen’s estate.

One of those causes was giving back to The University of Alabama. Dora, who passed away in 2016 at the age of 99, was a female pioneer in the field of science. She served as the head of the Department of Medical Technology at a Birmingham hospital before leaving to teach microbiology at the Capstone in 1947. During her tenure at UA, she met her husband, Allen, a UA alumnus, who passed in 2000. Allen was a professor of history, teaching for many years at the University of Houston and writing a seminal book on the political climate in Alabama after the Reconstruction Era.

After getting married in 1954 and spending many years teaching in Houston, Texas, the Goings returned to their beloved home in Tuscaloosa in 1980 to spend their remaining years.

“They were steeped in Alabama history and the institutions, especially The University of Alabama,” Larry said. In fact, Dora’s great-grandfather, William Stone, was a member of UA’s Board of Trustees when the President’s Mansion was under construction. Building upon her great-grandfather’s legacy, Dora and Allen left

behind a lasting impact across the University’s campus. Through their estate, they established or enhanced endowments for graduate support in history; scholarships for students in history, English and political science; a professorship in English; support for the Library; and support and a lecture series for the Phi Beta Kappa honor society with a gift of almost \$1.4 million.



Larry described the couple as generous and good natured with a sense of humor.

“Dora probably would be embarrassed for the attention being paid to her and to them,” Larry said. “She didn’t give anything for the recognition, that’s not why she gave, that was not her motivation. They just cared for their fellow human beings.”

The Goings’ contributions made their legacy one that will pave the way for those following in their footsteps. By including the University in their estate plans, Dora and Allen will have a positive impact on UA students for generations to come. 🐾

Adam Booker is able to fulfill his goals in social work thanks to a scholarship through the Neilsen Scholarship Program. Photo courtesy of James Patterson.

THE CRAIG H. NEILSEN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SUPPORTS STUDENTS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURIES, ALLOWING THEM TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION

In 2006, Adam Booker's life changed forever. After completing his freshman year of college at the University of North Carolina, he suffered a severe spinal cord injury in a car accident which left him a quadriplegic. He went from an independent college student to living at his father's home in Mississippi for one year before transferring to Methodist Specialty Care Center, a residential care facility, where he currently lives.

While the course of Adam's life was irreparably altered, he was determined to not let his injury define him.

"I was in a nursing home at 21-years-old, which is so wild to me," Adam said. "Five years later, I started thinking, 'I can't just sit here for the rest of my life and do nothing. I need to go back to school and finish my degree.'"

Working toward his goal to finish school, Adam enrolled in Hinds Community College, later

transferring to Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, a privately funded liberal arts college.

It was at Millsaps that Adam had a chance encounter with an organization that would change the course of his education.

"I'd heard about the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation when they came to Millsaps," Adam said.

The Foundation was established in 2002 by entrepreneur Craig H. Neilsen, himself a tetraplegic stemming from an accident in 1985. Although Craig died in 2006 — the same year as Adam's accident — his success in numerous business ventures translated into an ever-growing spirit of generosity for his foundation, which offers scholarship aid to students suffering from spinal cord injuries. In addition to scholarships, the foundation funds research initiatives and supports nonprofits servicing individuals with spinal cord injuries. It has grown to become the

ONE opportunity

largest private funder of this type of research and support in the United States and Canada.

After six years of determined studies at Millsaps, Adam earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 2018.

When he decided to pursue his master's degree in social work, the foundation was at the front of his mind. And, as fate would have it, The University of Alabama had recently become one of only 13 colleges nationwide to offer funding through the foundation's Neilsen Scholarship Program.

"I want to do one-on-one therapy or group therapy working with people with disabilities or people with substance and alcohol abuse addictions," Adam said.

The University of Alabama's Master of Social Work degree is a nationally ranked program, and it's also available to complete online. This was a deciding factor for Adam, who had spent the better part of the last decade relying on a driver to make it to and from class, as well as take his notes and tests. The scholarship completely pays for Adam's tuition, books and any other materials he needs to excel in his studies.

"I wouldn't be in grad school without this scholarship," Adam said.

Much like the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation scholarship has molded Adam, he in turn has made a lasting impression on his professors and classmates in the School of Social Work. Dr. Karen

Thompson-Jackson, an adjunct professor, taught Adam for two semesters during the 2019-2020 academic year.

"Whatever is going on in his life, he's continuing and he's forging on," Karen said. "He's not taking for granted what his value is and what this educational value means to him."

Adam's impact on his classmates was especially noticeable in the wake of COVID-19. As the virus spread throughout facilities

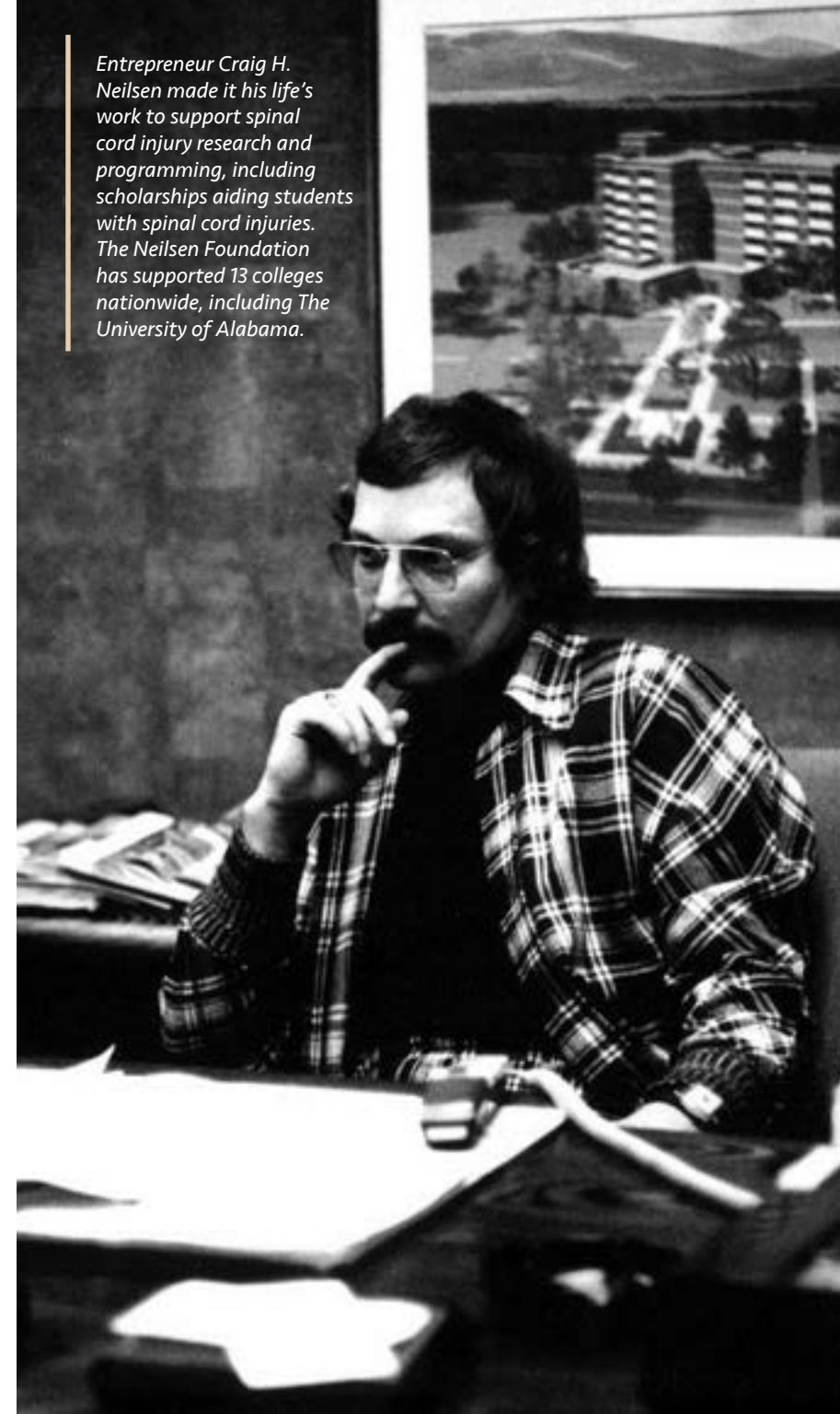
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I WAS IN A NURSING HOME AT 21-YEARS-OLD, WHICH IS SO WILD TO ME. FIVE YEARS LATER, I STARTED THINKING, 'I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE AND DO NOTHING. I NEED TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND FINISH MY DEGREE.'

ADAM BOOKER



Entrepreneur Craig H. Neilsen made it his life's work to support spinal cord injury research and programming, including scholarships aiding students with spinal cord injuries. The Neilsen Foundation has supported 13 colleges nationwide, including The University of Alabama.



nationwide, Karen and the other social work students grew increasingly concerned for Adam's wellbeing. One day, he was late joining class, something Karen said he never did.

"You get this sinking feeling," she said.

When Adam finally logged on — late due to procedure changes at his care facility — Karen and her students wanted to make sure he had everything he needed to stay safe, even if it meant them going without.

"We didn't have anything at that point. We didn't have masks ourselves," Karen said. "But everybody started going down this checklist of what we needed to do for him. He is part of our world, he's part of our cohort, he is our peer."

As the transition to online learning became more routine for students and professors, Adam has been able to continue his studies, fully bolstered by the Neilsen scholarship.

For 2020-2021, The University of Alabama received more than \$450,000 in contributions from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, which has empowered other students and student-athletes with spinal cord injuries. Several of the University's Adapted Athletics student-athletes have also received support from the Neilsen Foundation, which has contributed almost \$2 million to UA since 2014.

As for his career in social work, Adam looks to give back to his community despite what some may see as limitations.

"I've always considered myself a good listener," Adam said. "It makes me feel fulfilled as a person, and it's something I really enjoy, especially being able to help others." 🐘

University of Alabama alumnus, Dung Chau, sits in his storage warehouse in Houston, Texas. Dung has spent months acquiring PPE for hospitals around the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ONE
mission

UA ALUMNUS DUNG CHAU'S GIFT OF PPE HAS MADE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE CAPSTONE

Throughout the month of April 2020, Dung Chau's nights included staying up well past midnight, watching his cellphone anxiously. The UA alumnus wasn't catching up with friends on social media or even watching the news — he was tracking shipments of personal protective equipment (PPE) from China. Though Dung's mission to acquire bulk shipments of PPE initially started as a way to help a friend, word soon spread of his ability to secure FDA-regulated PPE through his company, Sideline Interactive, whose purpose, until that point, was to build LED scoreboards and digital displays for high school sports and retail businesses.

"Three weeks prior, no one knew anything about PPE. Then all of a sudden, we were all experts," Dung said. "I don't speak Chinese, and the suppliers don't speak English, so we would have broken English conversations over text. You have to learn to just trust each other."

In the midst of his late nights on the phone, Dung learned his father had fallen ill with COVID-19 despite having taken precautions. Although his father has since recovered, Dung's interactions with the medical community struck a chord.

"They would tell you stories about how desperate they were for PPE and how hard they were working," Dung said. "I said to myself, 'How can we help?' We know how to do business. We do it with LEDs, we do it with electronics. PPE is just another product."

Soon the thousands of PPE masks and gowns Dung was able to obtain turned into millions. One night, on a call with his former University of Alabama business professor, Dr. Lonnie Strickland, Lonnie revealed that his daughter had forbidden him to return to campus in the fall without a mask, which were in short supply at the time.

What began as a gift to a friend in Houston, Texas, ended up benefitting UA as well. Dung donated 50,000 masks to The University of Alabama for the Fall 2020 semester, which were then put into general distribution. He donated another 50,000 pieces of PPE for the Spring 2021 semester.

Dung and Lonnie's relationship goes back decades to when Dung first took Lonnie's infamous GBA 490 course as a senior in 1997. Over the next 10 years, the two collaborated on research and businesses. Lonnie was even a member of Dung's wedding party when he married his wife, Thao, in Vietnam.

"Dung is a very dynamic individual," Lonnie said. "He was just a standout superstar. Now he's one of our great graduates who never forgot The University of Alabama."

Dung said that in addition to being a steady friend, Lonnie's guidance provides him with a sense of calm. "You need someone to calm and center you and who helps you continue to make sure you focus on your long-term values."

"I told him, 'Just follow your passion. Do what you do best,'" Lonnie said. Dung's journey to the University was not without its trials. Born in Vietnam, Dung and his family fled Saigon during the Vietnam War, eventually settling in Jackson, Mississippi.

"We grew up very poor and going to the University was a pinnacle," he said. "It was not only to grow academically, but it was also very much to grow as a person. So many of the business school faculty, they weren't just there to teach, they were there to grow you as a person."



Dr. Lonnie Strickland teaches his infamous GBA 490 course during the Fall 2020 semester.

Dung's generosity to the University extends beyond PPE. The Chau Family Endowed Scholarship established in the Culverhouse College of Business offers tuition assistance for business students with a focus in management information systems or with a strategy concentration.

"I didn't want to call it the Dung Chau Scholarship," Dung laughed. "I wanted people to know the gift comes from our family. It's not a donation; it's the values of our family around scholarship and around preserving the future."

Dung's service to the UA community, and to hospitals around the nation, goes back to a lesson he learned as Lonnie's student.

"We spend a lot of time in GBA 490 talking about how we need to leave this planet better than we found it," Lonnie said. "I give this talk on how to make a lot of money. At the end of it, I talk about how I can make anybody rich, but there's only going to be a few people who are wealthy. The difference between rich and wealthy is that when you become rich, you become wealthy by giving it all away to make the planet better."

Since April 2020, Dung's tenacity has continued in force. Sideline Interactive has added an additional warehouse solely for PPE, and he estimates he's obtained tens of millions of federally regulated PPE items.

"I feel really blessed that we've had all this opportunity to serve our community," Dung said. "I'm very cognizant that there's a responsibility to ensure we're doing the right things to donate and help those around us as much as we can." 🐾



Dung Chau with his wife, Thao, and Lonnie with his wife, Kitty, at the Chaus' wedding in Vietnam.

ABOUT ADVANCEMENT

The Division of Advancement at The University of Alabama is committed to supporting the University's philanthropic goals and strategic priorities while building meaningful relationships with alumni and friends.

The Division engages multiple constituencies, promotes the University and its accomplishments, generates private gift support and celebrates philanthropy. Through the offices of Advancement Services, Development, Planned Giving and the National Alumni Association, the Advancement team works to enhance and further the mission of The University of Alabama.

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In fiscal year 2019–2020, almost 60,000 alumni, parents, friends and organizations demonstrated their support with financial contributions to the University, the National Alumni Association, the Crimson Tide Foundation, the Capstone Foundation, the 1831 Foundation and the Law School Foundation. Donors can choose from a variety of gift types, including endowed, annual, capital, estate and tribute gifts as well as gifts of securities and real estate property. These gifts of all sizes provide the funding necessary to keep the Capstone at the forefront of educational excellence.

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The University of Alabama
DIVISION OF ADVANCEMENT

Box 870122
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
giving.ua.edu

Vice President for
**ADVANCEMENT AND OFFICE
OF DEVELOPMENT**

284 Rose Administration Building
205-348-4767

Office of
PLANNED GIVING

355 Rose Administration Building
205-348-0999

Office of
ADVANCEMENT SERVICES

G14 Rose Administration Building
205-348-5370

National
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Hall
244 Paul W. Bryant Drive
205-348-5963