Looking Forward to an Exciting Future

The new dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Charles L. “Chuck” Karr, looks to hit the ground running.
I t is an honor and privilege for me to serve as the dean of UA’s College of Engineering. I have been associated with the College of Engineering for 25 years as an undergraduate and graduate student, a part-time instructor, a faculty member, and an administrator. I am proud of many things that we do so well here in the College of Engineering, and I am a firm believer that this is an outstanding place for students to receive a top-flight engineering education.

We have outstanding students. Our students are consistently recognized as some of the best in the nation. This fact is evidenced by some of the awards our students have recently received: USA Today All-American Academic Team members in 2004 and 2005 and a Goldwater Scholar in 2005. I am proud of the fact that we consistently attract the best and brightest students from Alabama and throughout the nation. One-third of our 2004 freshman class was eligible for UA’s Honors College, and 18 percent of the class had ACT scores of 30 or above.

We have a truly remarkable faculty and staff. We currently have four National Science Foundation CAREER Award winners. Many of our faculty have been recognized as Fellows in their respective professional organizations and have received national teaching awards of excellence. But more than just being talented, I find our faculty have a genuine interest in developing young people, in conducting leading-edge research, and in providing service to the engineering community.

We embrace our responsibility to conduct research that improves the quality of life of the citizenry of Alabama, the region, and the nation. Our research centers play a key role in helping us to do just this. Several of our centers are of national acclaim, including the University Transportation Center for Alabama, the Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies, the CARE Research & Development Laboratory, the Aging Infrastructure Systems Center of Excellence, and the Center for Materials for Information Technology. Further, we strive for undergraduate student participation in our research efforts.

In addition to its excellent students, faculty, staff, and research programs, the College would not be able to continue to excel without the generous support of its alumni, donors, and friends. The strong and unwavering support of our dedicated alumni continues to become even more important in enabling us to maintain our national excellence in teaching and research.

As I mentioned before, I believe the College of Engineering at The University of Alabama is a terrific place to learn about engineering. But, this college and this university are so much more. It is a place where young people come to experience an enriching atmosphere that helps mold them into mature, productive citizens; it is a place where we cherish our tradition yet are excited about our future; and it is a place where we develop relationships that last a lifetime.

Charles L. Karr, Ph.D.
Dean
Karr believes that there are many reasons to be proud of the College, and he wants everyone to understand these reasons. As an example, Karr lists the fact that UA engineering students have been on the All-America Team for the past two consecutive years.

“Viewed in light of our history and our present, it is obvious that we are at the threshold of a new era,” noted Karr. “The last half-century has seen the development of the modern-day university. Now it seems that another era is upon us, one where the role of the university is changing. This change is not only in the content of the courses, but also in the way in which they are delivered.”

Looking to the Future

In the future, Karr wants to continue recruiting students to the College of Engineering by telling them about the multitude of opportunities offered.

“I have been recruiting students to the University for a number of years, and I enjoy it very much because the only thing you have to do is tell them the truth,” explained Karr. “Our faculty-to-student ratio is about 5:1,” explained Karr. “I think this gives students numerous advantages they can’t get in other settings, such as the chance to get involved with faculty research projects and undergraduate research.”

“Research Growth = College Growth”

Karr hopes to increase research productivity. He believes that conducting research is one of the main missions of the University. Second, conducting research allows faculty members to provide their students with truly unique learning experiences. Third, research helps offset the shortfall in operating budgets received from the state.

“Many of today’s scientific and technological advances are being made on the boundaries between traditional disciplines, such as the fields of nanobiological science, nano-materials, and others,” he said. “We think we need to increase the amount of effort we expend in interdisciplinary research. The University environment proves to be extremely conducive to discovery, and we need to be a leader in these areas.”

Changing Young People’s Lives

As a member of the engineering faculty, Karr has seen several awards that he appreciates, but what makes him the most proud are the letters of thanks that he has received from former students. He says that any time he receives word from a former student, it causes him to reflect on why it is he goes to work every morning—realizes what an effect one person can have on young people.

As a young person, Karr says he was not unlike many students who were pointed in the direction of engineering after realizing that they had a knack for math and science. After he began studying engineering, he realized that he had a talent for math and science. After he began studying engineering, he realized that he had a talent for math and science.

“Our goal is to help each of our students reach full potential.”

Concluding Remarks

For the past 25 years, Dr. Charles L. “Chuck” Karr has maintained a relationship with The University of Alabama as an undergraduate student, graduate student, part-time instructor, faculty member, department head, associate dean, and now as the new dean of the College of Engineering. It is this experience within the College and the University as a whole that Dean Karr hopes will help him hit the ground running in his new position.

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I have found that you can experience some very special moments on and around a ball field with your children.

When he is not in his office, some of Dean Charles “Chuck” Karr's most important moments are spent at the baseball park. It is at the baseball park that much of his family time is focused on his sons, Nathan, 11, and Noah, 8.

“I have found that you can experience some very special moments on and around a ball field with your children,” said Karr. 

When not working as dean of the College of Engineering, Karr enjoys spending time with his wife, Jodie, and their sons, coaching baseball, and traveling to baseball parks throughout the country.

Three years ago, the Karr family started a quest to visit each of the major league baseball parks. Each summer, they take a trip and catch a couple of games. So far, a few of the teams they have visited include the Los Angeles Dodgers, the San Diego Padres, the Anaheim Angels, and the New York Yankees. This year's trip included the San Francisco Giants, and the Arizona Diamondbacks. The trip was exciting for the Karrs because a friend of the family was recently called up to pitch for the Oakland A's, and the Arizona Diamondbacks. The trip was exciting for the Karrs because a friend of the family was recently called up to pitch for the Oakland A's, and the Arizona Diamondbacks. The trip was exciting for the Karrs because a friend of the family was recently called up to pitch for the Oakland A's, and the Arizona Diamondbacks. The trip was exciting for the Karrs because a friend of the family was recently called up to pitch for the Oakland A's, and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Another one of Karr's favorite pastimes is working out. A former competitive weightlifter, Karr now spends most of his time on cardio, flexibility, and strengthening workouts.

“It has become increasingly difficult for me to find time to train consistently and intensively enough to compete at the level I once competed,” he said. “I guess my competitive nature won't allow me to go to a meet just to have fun and get beaten by people I once outlifted easily. So I have really changed the kind of training I do.”

His attitude and dedication allowed him to succeed in a sport termed as “ballet with a 300-pound bar over your head.” Karr's weight lifting accomplishments include setting a Pan-American record for the “clean and jerk” in 1999, achieving a third-place ranking at the Master’s Nationals, and qualifying for the Master’s World Championships in 2000.

Even though his workout schedule has changed, there is one thing that does not change about Karr. Whether you are talking to Chuck Karr, dean of the College of Engineering, or Chuck Karr, father and husband, he believes he is a good person and a hard worker—traits he says will leave him forever indebted to his parents.

Karr says that his parents instilled in him a strong sense of who he should be. After dropping him off as a college freshman, his father offered him some very powerful words of advice.

“He looked me in the eyes and said, ‘Son, you just remember who you are and where you come from and you will be just fine,’ ” said Karr. “That was a momentous occasion for him and it is advice that he has tried to follow every day since.

As the most influential person in his life, Karr's father taught him many other lessons that Karr is teaching his sons today, such as having integrity, treating others with respect, having compassion, a strong moral code, and a good work ethic. Though some of his past students may not believe it, Karr claims he is actually tougher on his children than he has ever been on the students in his classes.

“I have always felt that young people will pretty much reach the expectations we set for them—necessarily a lot higher, but definitely just below,” explained Karr. “Thus, my wife and I place some pretty high expectations on our children, and so far, I am blessed that they are living up to them.”

Karr says that every day he sees his children experience things that challenge them. Because they respond well and overcome their challenges, the process of teaching them grow is extremely rewarding.

With a demanding job and many outside interests and hobbies, Karr finds that there is one element in his life that helps keep him on track: his wife, Jodie.

“Jodie is almost certainly destined for sainthood. She pulls back the reins when necessary and kicks me in the pants when I need that,” said Karr. “There is no way I would be where I am now without her guidance and support.”

“Outside the Office: Getting to Know Dean Chuck Karr”
ENGLEBERT RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ALUMNI VOLUNTEER AWARD

In 1999, the Capstone Engineering Society began a yearly tradition of recognizing an alumnus who has provided outstanding volunteer assistance to the College as the Outstanding Alumni Volunteer. This year’s honoree is Edward Lynn Englebert.

For more than 10 years, Englebert has actively served as a member of the chemical and biological engineering advisory board and the CES advisory board. He tirelessly recruits prospective high school students for the College, and he was named a College of Engineering Distinguished Fellow in 1999.

Englebert was honored as this year’s Outstanding Alumni Volunteer at the College’s Distinguished Engineering Fellows banquet in March.

BAMBARGER ANNOUNCED AS NEW ENGINEERING LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR

James C. Bambarger, CEO and chairman of the board of TTL Inc., has been named chairman of the College of Engineering Leadership Board. During his two-year term, Bambarger will preside over all leadership board meetings and oversee all the activities and responsibilities of the board. The leadership board consists of engineering leaders from Alabama and the United States. Its mission is to review programs and accomplishments of the College and provide the dean with critical analyses.

Bambarger has been with TTL, a diverse environmental consulting, geotechnical, and testing firm, for more than 32 years. He has served as project engineer, project manager, geotechnical engineer, and geotechnical consultant. He has overseen employee numbers grow from three to more than 120; office expansions in Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, Decatur, and Florence; and annual revenues exceeding $12 million. Among his many projects are several UA sites, including Bryant-Denny Stadium, Shelby Hall Interdisciplinary Science Building, Bruno Business Library, and Sewell-Thomas Baseball Stadium.

Bambarger received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the Capstone in 1970, and he was inducted as a Distinguished Engineering Fellow in 2002.

ALABAMA ENGINEERING HALL OF FAME INDUCTS HOPSON AND PATTERSON

The State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame inducted George D. Hopson and Thomas L. Patterson during a ceremony on Feb. 19, 2005. The State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame was founded to honor, preserve and perpetuate the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of individuals, projects, and corporations and institutions that have brought and continue to bring significant recognitions to the state.

George D. Hopson

Hopson is NASA’s project manager for the space shuttle main engine, the most advanced liquid-fueled rocket engine ever built. He supervises 2,100 employees on the $300 million mission and has served Marshall Space Flight Center for more than four decades.

In 1945, Hopson enlisted in the Marine Corps. Through the ROTC program at the University of Alabama, he earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1950. Commissioned in the Army Corps of Engineers, he joined a combat engineering battalion in Korea, earning the Bronze Star. When conflict ended, he returned to The University of Alabama to complete a master’s degree in mechanical engineering.

Hopson’s first professional assignment was in propulsion engineering at General Dynamics in 1954. In 1962, Hopson joined the von Braun team at the Marshall Space Flight Center and consistently accepted positions of higher responsibility. Captivated by NASA’s “race to the moon,” he contributed much to the Saturn V project and developed the means for our first space station, Skylab.

In his current post as project manager for the space shuttle main engine, his team has significantly enhanced space shuttle safety and reliability using new-high-pressure turbo machinery.

Thomas L. Patterson

Patterson has created hundreds of jobs and provided substantial amount of wealth for many of Alabama’s citizens through his success in Alabama’s technology industry as an engineer-entrepreneur. In 1980, Patterson launched his first firm, the thriving computer-systems supplier SEAKO, and attracted a Fortune 500 buyer in 1989. That same year, Patterson established TXEN Inc., a provider of technology-based programs used in the administration of health care plans. Patterson became board chairman of Nichols TXEN, having earlier served as CEO of its Birmingham health care and insurance division until Nichols Research was acquired by Computer Sciences Corp. In an additional venture, Patterson serves as the CEO of DAKKO Inc. He cofounded the Birmingham firm in 1998 to develop Internet-based data systems for commerce.

Patterson received a baccalaureate degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama in 1964. Through a U.S. Navy program, he completed a master’s degree in engineering mechanics in 1966.

Patterson has been a long-time donor and volunteer at The University of Alabama. Among many other appointments, Patterson’s roles have included membership in the President’s Cabinet, the College of Engineering Leadership Board, and as a charter member of the Capstone Engineering Society.

MERCEDES-BENZ U.S. INTERNATIONAL DONATES V-8 ENGINE

Mercedes-Benz U.S. International donated a V-8 engine, an automatic gearbox, and a complete exhaust system to the Department of Mechanical Engineering for a test bench for exhaust research.

(Left to right) Dr. Marcus D. Ashford, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, David Finerty, MBUSI, Dr. William Sutton, professor and head of mechanical engineering, and Wilhelm Burger, MBUSI, at the engine donation presentation.

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FAULKNER ANNOUNCED AS NEW CAPSTONE ENGINEERING SOCIETY NATIONAL CHAIR

Lamar Faulkner

The Capstone Engineering Society announced that L. Lamar Faulkner has assumed the role of national chair. During his two-year term, Faulkner will preside over all CES board meetings, oversee all activities and responsibilities of the board, and serve on the committee that elects new board members.

Faulkner is the recently retired director of the safety, health, and environmental division of CEREX Advanced Fabrics Inc. He received a bachelor of science in chemical engineering from UA in 1964, and was inducted as a Distinguished Engineering Fellow in 1995.

The Capstone Engineering Society is dedicated to maintaining relationships and resources with the University of Alabama engineering alumni to ensure that we provide UA engineering and computer science students with a superior educational experience.
**A LIFE OF HELPING OTHERS**

Looking back over the 54 years since he graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law, Judge John C. Tyson III of Montgomery, Ala., acknowledges that he practiced law to be helpful and beneficial to others.

“I worked in wills, taxation, and real estate before being appointed to the Alabama Court of Appeals,” explained Tyson. “Law is the building block of our society, and my endeavors were always to benefit as many as possible.”

Born in Montgomery and raised in Birmingham, Tyson wanted to attend the Capstone but chose to serve his country in the U.S. Coast Guard first.

“I fell in love with the University in the 1930s, but everyone made sacrifices back then. Deferring my education until after military service was the right thing to do,” recalled Tyson.

Tyson’s goal of helping others can still be seen in his latest personal decisions. He supports a number of charities that are important to him as well as supporting a variety of programs at his alma mater.

“When I decided to honor my wife’s memory by creating the Mae Martin Bryant Tyson Endowed Scholarship in Engineering, my children were thrilled,” said Tyson. “It was meaningful for all of us. There is no substitute for higher education. Students need a broad base of study to prepare them for life, and I am interested in assisting them.”

When discussing the University, Tyson readily agrees that he loves it dearly. For that reason, as he reviewed his estate plans, Tyson realized the Mae Martin Bryant Tyson Endowed Scholarship should be added as a beneficiary under his will.

“The University of Alabama’s mission and programs cannot be matched elsewhere in the state,” explained Tyson. “I have found in life that times and circumstances require us to make modifications, and conditions arise in our lives that will challenge us. We determine our own pace for progress, but we must be reasonable and fair . . . leaving a legacy of a better state and nation. Isn’t that what this is all about?”

**UA HONORS FIVE DISTINGUISHED ENGINEERING FELLOWS**

A select group of five alumni and friends of the University of Alabama College of Engineering were honored in March as Distinguished Engineering Fellows. Recognition as a Fellow is the highest commendation given to graduates and other supporters who have strengthened the reputation of the College through their efforts and achievements.

Mark E. Cooper, M.D., B.S.C.E. ’83

Dr. Mark E. Cooper has used his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from The University of Alabama to advance the field of medicine as managing principal and general surgeon at the Surgical Clinic PLLC and chief of staff at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. At the Surgical Clinic, he is on the board of 16 surgeons and staff and performs approximately 750 surgeries each year. In addition to chief of staff duties at Centennial Medical Center, Cooper serves on the surgery advisory committee and the board of trustees. He also works as the medical director of the surgical first assistants program at Nashville Technical School. He has been recognized as a Fellow by the American College of Surgeons and the Southeastern Surgical Congress. Through his involvement as a member of the chemical and biological engineering advisory board, Cooper has stayed active at the Capstone.

Robert H. Haubein, PE, B.S.E.E. ’63

Robert H. Haubein retired as executive vice president of Southern Company Generation in 2002, but still plays an active role in the engineering community through his involvement with the University of Alabama College of Engineering. As executive vice president of power generation, Haubein was responsible for 66 plants consisting of 273 units with a rating of more than 24,000 megawatts. These included fossil, hydro, and combustion turbine plants owned by Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Gulf Power, Mississippi Power, and Savannah Electric. Haubein recently served as chair of the Engineering Leadership Board at the University of Alabama and is a member of the President’s Cabinet. Haubein and his wife, Lee, also support UA engineering education through an endowed engineering scholarship. Haubein, originally from Kansas City, Mo., received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri.

Norman Hugh Mathews, PE, B.S.C.E.T. ’81

Norman Hugh Mathews, managing principal and president of England-Thims & Miller Inc., administers the design of large commercial and residential land development projects, which requires his knowledge in areas such as transportation, storm water design, and water resource management. Mathews received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering technology from The University of Alabama in 1981 and began work for Pan American Engineers Inc. In 1983, Mathews joined ETM and has since expanded it to a firm of 220 employees with an annual growth rate of 18 percent over the last 10 years. Mathews served for two years as the inaugural chairman of the board of directors in the founding of Seamark Ranch, a Christian children’s home for abused, orphaned, and homeless children in Jacksonville, Fla. Mathews and his wife, Regina, chose to support UA civil engineering students by establishing an endowed engineering scholarship in 2002.

Robert H. Haubein, chairman of the board of directors in the founding of Seamark Ranch, a Christian children’s home for abused, orphaned, and homeless children in Jacksonville, Fla. Mathews and his wife, Regina, chose to support UA civil engineering students by establishing an endowed engineering scholarship in 2002.
BIG THANKS...

We appreciate our recent partners in UA’s College of Engineering family for their support of our students and programs.

- Mr. James C. Lewis for continuing support of his laboratory equipment fund
- Mr. Richard M. and Mrs. Barrett Brock MacKay for continuing support of chemical and biological engineering scholarships
- Mr. and Mrs. Leroy McAbee Sr. for hosting a “Meet the Dean” cookout and alumni event
- Mr. Donald H. McLean Jr., Mr. Duncan McLean, and Mr. Russell P. McLean for establishing the Donald H. McLean Endowed Engineering Scholarship
- Mercedes-Benz U.S. International for donation of equipment to the Department of Mechanical Engineering
- Estate of Mrs. Bessie Summerville Moxley for continuing support of the Stephen D. Moxley Jr. Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Mr. Matt Reeder for endowing the Matt Reeder Engineering Fund to support mechanical engineering students
- Mr. Mark Alan and Mrs. Chrystine B. Roberts for continuing support of their endowed scholarship
- The Rodgers/Dale Family Foundation for support of the Rodgers Family Scholarship Fund
- Southern Company for continuing support of the Council of Partners in the Multicultural Engineering Program
- Southern Co. Generation for continuing support of the Council of Partners in the Multicultural Engineering Program
- Southern Nuclear Operating Co. for continuing support of the Council of Partners in the Multicultural Engineering Program
- Mrs. Martha Thomas for establishing the William N. Thomas Endowed Engineering Scholarship
- Honorable John Caius Tyson III for continuing support of the Mae Martin Bryant Tyson Endowed Scholarship in Engineering

Choose from polo shirts, coffee mugs, baseball caps, and more. Profit generated from the sale of these items contributes to the Capstone Engineering Society, which provides scholarship funds to UA’s College of Engineering.

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KARR WINS T. MORRIS HACKNEY FACULTY LEADERSHIP AWARD
Dean Charles Karr received the 2005 T. Morris Hackney Endowed Faculty Leadership Award. The T. Morris Hackney Endowed Faculty Leadership Award honors a faculty member who exemplifies the leadership qualities that advance and add to the stature of the College of Engineering. This award was created as a tribute to T. Morris Hackney and was made possible by contributions from John H. Josey, his son, Howard Josey, and Hackney. Karr was recognized as the Hackney Award winner at the College’s Distinguished Engineering Fellows banquet in March.

AGRAWAL NAMED AS BARFIELD CHAIR
The College named Dr. Ajay K. Agrawal as the Robert F. Barfield Endowed Chair in mechanical engineering. Agrawal received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Roorkee, India, in 1980. He then obtained his master’s degree at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India, in 1983. He received his doctorate from the University of Miami in 1988.

Most recently, Agrawal served as the Lloyd G. and Joyce Austin Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Most recently, Agrawal served as the Lloyd G. and Joyce Austin Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Agrawal has conducted fundamental and applied research on combustion and fluid flows for NASA, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense. He has published nearly 100 papers in technical journals and conferences, and he is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

MORLEY RECEIVES IEEE RICHARD M. EMBERSON AWARD
Dr. Lloyd “Pete” Morley, professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the recipient of the 2005 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Richard M. Emerson Award. Morley was honored for his visionary leadership of the Institute’s technical and publication activities, as well as his contributions to the effectiveness of operations. The prize consists of a bronze medal, certificate, and $5,000. IEEE honors one recipient each year for this award, which recognizes distinguished service to the development, viability, advancement, and pursuit of the technical objectives of IEEE.

GUO RECEIVES NSF CAREER AWARD
Dr. Yuebin Guo, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, has been awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

CAREER Awards are NSF’s most prestigious awards for top-performing scientists and engineers who are early in their careers.

Guo has been awarded a five-year, $400,000 grant to advance his study and teaching of precision manufacturing. Specifically, this research will enable the machining industry to make high-quality, precision components, such as bearings, gears, and cams, at high efficiency and low cost. The expected result will be superior fatigue-performance of machined components used in various applications, including machinery, transportation equipment, and other mechanical systems.

FIVE RETIRE FROM UA’S COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
The College of Engineering recently celebrated the retirement of two faculty members and three staff members. Thanks for many years of service and dedication! You will be greatly missed by faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Charles Haynes
Dr. Charles Haynes
Dr. Charles Haynes

Dr. T. Wayne Merritt
Dr. T. Wayne Merritt

Outside of the classroom, Haynes served as faculty advisor for the student concrete canoe team. The students and Haynes worked side-by-side to produce UA’s canoe in the annual competition. Each year’s canoe was better than the last, and we are confident that one day soon we will be calling him to make plans to join us at the national competition, because when UA wins the regional competition, it will be due to the foundation and legacy that Haynes established.

Dr. T. Wayne Merritt
Dr. T. Wayne Merritt

Merritt taught and performed research in the field of ergonomics. In a multiyear effort for American Cast Iron Pipe Co., he planned and implemented a company-wide ergonomics program to prevent work-related injuries, including carpal tunnel syndrome, tennis elbow, and back strain. Merritt was recognized nationally for his use of CAT scans and other observational methods to identify causes of and preventive measures for carpal tunnel syndrome. He redesigned workplace layouts and tools that prevented injuries from affecting numerous workers in the iron, steel, and assembly industries of Alabama. Merritt also served many years as the faculty advisor to UA’s chapter of the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

Virginia Griffin
Virginia Griffin, administrative secretary, served The University of Alabama for more than 39 years. She began her career at the Capstone in the Department of Chemistry. In the early 1980s, she transferred to the Department of Computer Science when it was established as a separate program. As a result, she has had contact with every student who has received a degree in computer science from The University of Alabama.

Angie Lancaster
Angie Lancaster, records assistant senior, served The University of Alabama for more than 30 years. She began her career in the College of Commerce and Business Administration. In 1984, she transferred to the College of Engineering in Engineering Student Services where she was responsible for ensuring that the degree candidates earned all credits before they graduated.

Debbie Sims
Debbie Sims, executive secretary, served the Capstone for more than 27 years. She began her career in the College of Arts and Sciences and then transferred to the Engineering Dean’s Office, where she worked closely with the dean and department heads on the administrative functions of the College.
COE HOSTS AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The University of Alabama hosted the American Society of Civil Engineers Southeast Conference on April 8–9. The Southeast regional conference is the largest ASCE conference in the nation. A team of 12 UA students planned the competitions, events, and awards banquet for 700 students from across the Southeast. Twenty-six schools from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, and Puerto Rico attended the conference, which was themed “Astounding Southern Class and Excellence.”

COE STUDENT SELECTED AS USA TODAY ACADEMIC ALL AMERICAN

Stephanie “LeeAnn” Wilson, a junior in chemical and biological engineering, was named to this year’s USA Today–All-USA College Academic Team. During an internship with the Southern Company, Wilson researched and expanded a methodology for calculating ammonia releases from power plants. This method, which she outlined in a soon-to-be-published paper, is expected to become the industry standard for ammonia emissions calculations, according to a nomination letter written by a principal research engineer at Southern Company.

CABE STUDENT WINS GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation selected Jennifer Phillips, a sophomore in chemical and biological engineering, as a Goldwater Scholar. More than 1,000 mathematics, science, and engineering students were nominated by faculties nationwide for Goldwaters, and only 320 were selected.

COLLEGE ANOUNCES NEW STUDENT GROUP—GEAR

The College formed a new student group called GEAR or Growing Engineering Alumni Relations. The group’s main focus is to bridge the relationships between alumni and students and to create awareness of what alumni do for the College. GEAR students help arrange alumni meetings in the various areas throughout the state and receive mentoring from alumni through these meetings.

AEM RESEARCHER PERFORMS BALLISTICS RESEARCH TO BENEFIT AMERICAN TROOPS

A University of Alabama engineering professor and his student team are researching ways to improve projectiles’ ability to penetrate sand, soil, and other targets in an effort to assist American troops.

Conducted at the request of the U.S. Air Force, research led by Dr. Stanley E. Jones, Cudworth Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics at UA, involves developing smaller, faster, and more versatile air-launched weapons. The findings will help determine the right kind of steel casings for these new devices.

“The main goal of this research is to develop a way for the armed forces to know the top speed at which they can fire a projectile so that the projectile penetrates through to the target,” said Jones. “The challenge has become increasingly difficult, because our adversaries have realized the limitations associated with conventional penetrator technologies, and they have continued to bury their critical assets at greater and greater depths.”

Typically, target penetration depth increases with projectile impact speed when the projectile is fired at a speed lower than critical velocity, Jones said. If the projectile is fired at a speed higher than the critical velocity, it typically bucks soon after it penetrates the target and immediately ceases target penetration. Enemies of the United States realize if targets are buried deep under the sand, chances of destruction are slim.

UA’S ABC CHAPTER CONSTRUCTS YMCA BRIDGE

Members of UA’s chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors and several graduate students recently completed a community service effort to rebuild a foot bridge at the YMCA camp over Hurricane Creek. The bridge was destroyed by a storm more than a year ago.

A group of civil engineering graduate students in a special projects course designed the replacement bridge, and the ABC student chapter undertook the construction of the 90-foot suspension bridge.

Constructing the bridge would have cost $20,000, but with donations from several companies, hardware stores, and clubs, the YMCA paid less than $2,000. UA’s chapter of ABC was established in late 2004. In less than a year, the group attended the national ABC conference, competed in the national student competition, and completed a large-scale community service project.

Research, testing, and design of new projectiles

VAUGHN RECEIVES CES OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

A $500 cash award and plaque were presented to Lisa Vaughn, a senior in mechanical engineering, as the 2005 Capstone Engineering Society Outstanding Senior. She is the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship, an ACIPCO Engineering Scholarship, and a Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board Scholarship from The University of Alabama. Vaughn’s academic honors include the President’s List; Dean’s List; Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honor Society; Omicron Delta Kappa Honorary; Mortar Board Honorary; Anderson Society Service Honoray; Golden Key Honour Society; and Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society. Vaughn also serves as president of Tau Beta Pi National Engineering Honor Society and was selected to represent the College of Engineering as an Ambassador of the College of Engineering.
WHY JOIN CES?

- Increase the prestige and value of your engineering or computer science degree.
- Help us achieve higher rankings through increased alumni participation.
- Provide much-needed financial support for our students and the College.
- Stay in touch with friends.
- Receive updates and information about the College.
- Receive the Capstone Engineer.

Call Angelia Knight at 1-800-333-8156, e-mail aknight@eng.ua.edu, or visit the website at www.eng.ua.edu.

Help Keep Us the SOUTH’S BEST Engineering School—Join the Capstone Engineering Society TODAY!

JUAN CARLOS OSPINA PRESENTS TO ALUMNI IN BIRMINGHAM

Forty alumni gathered at Ruth’s Chris Steak House at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Birmingham on Feb. 17 to hear a presentation from Juan Carlos Ospina, senior project manager of Brasfield & Gorrie LLC. He discussed the December repair of the bridge at “malfunction junction” at I-65. The meeting also included updates about the College.

MOBILE ALUMNI DISCUSS HIGH SCHOOL RECRUITMENT

A group of 35 alumni gathered at Felix’s Fish Camp on March 18 to discuss updates about the College. They also shared many ideas about becoming more involved in high school recruitment activities in the Mobile area.

CHATTANOOGA ALUMNI SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT LOCAL CHAPTER

On April 7, Chattanooga alumni met at TVA headquarters to hear updates about the College, to share ideas about encouraging engineering alumni participation at CES events, and to brainstorm about high school recruitment in their area. Special guest Thomas Kilgore, UA engineering graduate and recently named TVA president, attended the meeting.

ALUMNI SHARE IDEAS IN MONTGOMERY

On Feb. 15, a group of engineering alumni gathered for lunch at the Alabama Power headquarters in Montgomery to hear updates about the College. Ideas also were shared about high school recruitment and other activities to make UA more of a household name.

ALUMNI MEET IN HUNTSVILLE

More than 20 engineering graduates gathered at the Jazz Factory in downtown Huntsville to network and to get updates about the College. At the April 19 meeting, topics included on-campus construction, and requirements for freshmen living on campus.

SWE SPONSORS MR. ENGINEER PAGEANT

On Feb. 28, UA’s chapter of the Society of Women Engineers sponsored a Mr. Engineer pageant in which male students of the College dressed up as women. All proceeds benefited Habitat for Humanity. After an evening of hilarious competition, “Ivana Diamond,” also known as Matt Moody, a senior in mechanical engineering and an Ambassador for the College, “won” the event.

COLLEGE ALUMNI GATHER IN ATLANTA

At Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant in Atlanta, Ga., on March 23, a group of alumni discussed current issues in the College and shared ideas about strengthening attendance at Atlanta alumni gatherings.
May 4, 2006 Birmingham-area CES Golf Tournament

Oct. 29, 2005 Homecoming festivities
Nov. 3, 2005 Huntsville-area meeting
May 4, 2006 Birmingham-area CES Golf Tournament

Dr. C. K. Liu (left), Janet McDowell (center), and Dr. Keith McDowell (right)

Alumni enjoy the Mr. and Mrs. Leroy McAbee Sr. cookout.

Dean Charles L. “Chuck” Karr greets John and Marion Lewis at the College’s reception.

McABEE’S HOST KARR AT WELCOME COOKOUT

On July 13, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy McAbee Sr. hosted a cookout to meet and welcome Dr. Charles L. “Chuck” Karr as the new dean of the College. About 35 guests feasted on three-pound lobsters and steaks specially prepared for the occasion.

Thanks to this year’s sponsors!

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BIRMINGHAM GOLFERS RAISE FUNDS FOR CES

The Greater Birmingham Chapter of the Capstone Engineering Society held its fifth annual CES Golf Tournament on May 3 at the Bent Brook Golf Course in Bessemer. Special thanks to guest speaker Bobby Humphrey, former head coach of the Birmingham Stallions. About 160 alumni and friends enjoyed a beautiful day and raised more than $16,000 (net proceeds) that will benefit CES scholarships. This year’s tournament was the most successful in the amount of money raised and in the number of players.

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1954 Crawford Battle, B.S.A.E. ’54, recently retired from Robins Air Force Base after 50 years of service. As an engineer for the F-15 management division at Robins, Battle developed and sustained the Air Force’s finest fighter aircraft.

1959 Dr. Kenneth Harwell, B.S.A.E. ’59, recently retired from the Department of Defense in Arlington, Va. In 2003, Harwell and his wife, Dr. Sharon Harwell, established an endowed scholarship in aerospace engineering.

1960 Frank G. Westmoreland Jr., B.S.E.E. ’60, recently published a book, Tales From the Front Parch.

1964 John Tyron Hubbard Jr., B.S.E.E. ’64, was elected national secretary of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at its Grand Arch Council held in San Diego, Calif., in July 2004.

1967 Gary Durham, B.S.C.E. ’67, received the 2005 Woodland G. Shockley Memorial Award for his meritorious service as president of Dunnam Geo-Slope Indicator in Stone Mountain, Ga.

1969 Roger Douglas Brown, B.S.Min.E. ’69, recently retired from U.S. Gypsum after 34 years of service.

N. Brannon Mensing, B.S.Min.E. ’69, has joined Municipal Energy Resources Corp. in Houston, Texas, as senior vice president and treasurer.

1970 Tom Kilgore, B.S.M.E. ’70, was appointed president and chief operating officer of TVA.


1977 Donald Ray Horsley, B.S.E.E. ’77, M.B.A. ’78, was named vice president of transmission by the Alabama Power Company’s board of directors.

1982 Tommy Alfano, B.S.C.E. ’82, recently joined the design and construction division of Bayer Properties Inc. in Birmingham, where he will be working as project manager.

1983 Beth Napp Gore, B.S.Ch.E. ’83, was selected as one of the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teachers to Japan for 2005.

1987 Kim W. Harris, B.S.E.E. ’87, of Eufaula, was elected 2005 vice president for District 13 of UA’s National Alumni Association.

1992 Susan Bartholomew Williams, B.S.A.E. ’92, was recently named the female athlete of the month for June by the U.S. Olympic Committee. In 2004, Williams became the first U.S. triathlete to win an Olympic medal when she finished third at the women’s triathlon in Athens, Greece.

1993 Jeff Boyd, B.S.M.E. ’93, was named general manager of Daniel Corp.’s Greystone and Ross Bridge.

2005 Jeffery Zeigler, B.S.B.A. ’05, has joined the Birmingham office of Borden and Brewster.

2005 Michael Eastman, B.S.M.E. ’95, was elected 2005 vice president of UA’s National Alumni Association for District 1.

2006 Jason Huckaba, B.S.A.E. ’96, was elected 2005 vice president for Region 5 of UA’s National Alumni Association.

2007 Gwen Dedrick McCoy, B.S.M.E. ’97, accepted a job as director of program development and quality assurance with Community Education Partners.

2007 Thomas Kilgore, B.S.M.E. ’70, was appointed president of the University of Alabama’s National Alumni Association.

2007 Angela Elaine Summers, Ph.D. ’93, received the 2004 Merit Award from the Mary Kay O’Conner Process Safety Center at Texas A&M University.

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2007 Jason Huckaba, B.S.A.E. ’96, was elected 2005 vice president for Region 5 of UA’s National Alumni Association.
1999
Stephanie Horne Swindle, B.S.M.E. ‘99, was selected by the National Engineers Week Foundation as one of its top candidates for the 2005 Engineers Week New Faces of Engineering campaign.

2000
James Garrett Carmon, B.S.C.E. ‘00, has accepted a position as project manager with the Babon-Cook Co. in Atlanta, Ga. He will be managing the $39-million rebuilding of the Cloister Hotel on Sea Island.

Waylon S. Mitchell, B.S.M.E. ‘00, was promoted to captain and is now permanently assigned to Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, where he is employed as an F-15 test engineer.

Antonio Saavedra, B.S.M.E. ‘00, has joined Intel Corp. in Hillsboro, Ore., as a senior process engineer in thin films and diffusion.

2001
Marine Corps 1st Lt. Thomas B. Lee, B.S.M.E. ‘01, was recently designated a naval aviator while serving with Training Air Wing One in Meridian, Miss. Lee was presented with the covetted Wings of Gold, marking the completion of flight training.

2002
Janie Mauder, B.S.C.E. ‘02, has joined the Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon Inc. office located in Birmingham.

Jerry Leland Nall, B.S.C.H.E. ‘02, accepted a position with Teledyne Brown Engineering as a sub-contractor for Boeing on the National Missile Defense Program.

2004
Jeffrey Howell, B.S.C.E. ‘04, has joined the Dothan office of Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon Inc.

JAMES L. BYERS
James L. Byers died June 20, 2005. He received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1962. Byers was a retired senior research engineer for the U.S. government. He and his wife, Kathryn, established an endowed scholarship in mechanical engineering.

Dr. Thomas L. Cost
died July 7, 2005. He received his bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering in 1962 and his doctorate in aeronautical and mechanical engineering in 1969. He taught at the University of Alabama from 1969 to 1985, and since then had been at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

James Merriam “Jim” Delahay
died April 16, 2005 in Birmingham. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from The University of Alabama in civil engineering in 1980 and 1987, respectively.

As president and CEO of LBVD Inc., Delahay has been the structural engineer of record for hundreds of projects.

1999
Huge mounds of smoke and steam flow upward as Space Shuttle Discovery lifts off on its historic return to flight mission STS-114.

Dr. Michael Freeman, associate professor of aerospace engineering and mechanics, taught Kelly in three classes at the Capstone. Freeman attended the launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery, and published daily accounts of the events surrounding the shuttle’s Return to Flight on the University’s website. These weblogs were highly successful receiving more than 2,250 hits during the space shuttle’s mission.

This was the second space mission for Kelly, who previously piloted STS-102 in March 2001, and he has logged more than 650 hours in space. More than 2,400 people applied for NASA’s 1996 astronaut class, and Kelly was one of 44 members and one of only 10 pilots selected.

Kelly, UA’s first astronaut, earned his master’s degree through the Capstone’s video-based distance learning program. His first trip to the campus in 1996 was for a special graduation ceremony where he was awarded his degree. Kelly was named a UA Distinguished Engineering Fellow in 2001.

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commercial and industrial building projects throughout the United States. A few of the notable building projects with LBYD include the award-winning Birmingham Airport additions and renovations, the Mercedes-Benz Visitor and Training Center in Vance, Ala., and the St. Vincent Hospital’s parking deck addition.

In 2002, Delahay was the first practicing engineer elected to serve as the chairman of the Wind Load Task Committee of the ASCE 7 Committee, which writes the structural building loads standard for the United States. Delahay was instrumental in developing and teaching the senior civil engineering class in which he incorporated LBYD designs into the class projects. In addition, he helped establish the LBRYD Inc. Civil and Structural Engineering Endowed Scholarship, which will support full-time undergraduate students majoring in civil engineering.

In 2003, Delahay was named a Distinguished Engineering Fellow, and he served on the Leadership Board of the College of Engineering.

An endowed scholarship fund has been established to honor Delahay at The University of Alabama. In addition to the many friends and family who donated, the senior civil engineering design class contributed to the fund. To anyone who would like to make a donation in his memory, please mail it to Karen Baldwin, The College of Engineering, Box 870200, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0200.

James McCollum

James McCollum died April 9, 2005. He received his bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from The University of Alabama in 1940. He worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority National Fertilizer Development Center in Muscle Shoals, Ala., for 41 years, with his only leave taking place when he entered the U.S. Navy in 1944. In 2005, McCollum was named a Distinguished Engineering Fellow. He and his wife, Carolyn, established an endowed engineering scholarship to support chemical and biological engineering students.

Robert M. Stone Jr.

Robert M. Stone Jr. died March 16, 2005, in Virginia Beach, Va. A veteran of World War II, Stone graduated from The University of Alabama in 1945 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. As a professional engineer, Stone worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Capt. Francis V. Thigpen

Capt. Francis V. Thigpen of Navarre, Fla., passed away Nov. 26, 2004, at the age of 80. A native of Montgomery, Thigpen attended The University of Alabama in 1942 before he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He attended the University again in 1946 before the Navy called him back to active duty. Thigpen took part in the Okinawa campaign of 1945 in World War II and also served on the USS Darter during the Korean War. After 31 years of service, he retired from the Navy in 1973 with numerous decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, Minttonus Service Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation.

Robert Frances Walsh

Robert Frances Walsh died Jan. 19, 2005, in Anderson, S.C. Walsh received a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering from the Capstone in 1939 and his master’s degree from Georgia Tech. He was employed by Cingular Wireless. After his death, Cingular dedicated its Alpharetta Technology Center to Voss in tribute for his years of service.

Kenneth Altov Voss

Kenneth Altov Voss died May 23, 2005. He received his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the Capstone in 1935 and his master’s degree from Georgia Tech. He was employed by Cingular Wireless. After his death, Cingular dedicated its Alpharetta Technology Center to Voss in tribute for his years of service.

William N. Thomas

William N. Thomas died Feb. 5, 2005, in Richmond, Va. He received his degree in mechanical and in electrical engineering in 1948. Thomas served in the U.S. Navy as an engineer officer during World War II. After his military service, he worked for Virginia Electric and Power Co. for 38 years, retiring as vice president of procurement. In 1989, Thomas was named a Distinguished Engineering Fellow. Thomas established an endowed scholarship in his will to the University. The endowed scholarship will support scholarships for students studying engineering.

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The College of Engineering wishes to thank:

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The Sixth Annual Capstone Engineering Society Golf Tournament

You may participate in the following ways:

Players
• Team level ($500)—Team of four with all registration amenities
• Individual level ($125)—Single registration

Corporate Sponsors
• Ace level ($2,500)
• Eagle level ($1,000)
• Birdie level ($300)

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Capstone Engineering Society’s scholarship efforts. Our goal is to have 160 players in the 2006 CES Golf Tournament. Please help us achieve this goal. Sign up today!

If you have any questions about the tournament or sponsorship, call 1-800-331-3815 or e-mail akin@capengsoc.org to contact CES Director Angela Knight for more information.
Capstone Engineering Society

HOMECOMING Tailgate Party

Engineering alumni and friends are invited to join the Capstone Engineering Society for this year’s Homecoming Tailgate Party. Join us on the Quad on Oct. 29 to celebrate Homecoming 2005 and cheer for the Crimson Tide against the Utah State Aggies.

ROLL TIDE!