

# New College Alumni Newsletter

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

June 2018

Prepared by 2017-2018  
New College Council

## Jeff Levitzet Makes \$1 Million Gift to New College



This April, New College alumnus, Jeff Levitzet, spoke to students about his road to success. Mr. Levitzet graduated from New College in 1979 and now owns the third largest privately-owned company in Florida. In the past, Mr. Levitzet has generously given money to New College to fund the Rosenberg and Levitzet scholarships. This year, he announced his gift of \$1 million to New College. The money will be used for scholarships for New

College and New College LifeTrack students, innovation grants for budding entrepreneurs, and the establishment of a Leadership Development program to help equip New College students with real-world skills needed to be successful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. The donation was announced at both a public press conference and a private assembly of New College students and faculty. During the assembly, Mr. Levitzet gave an inspiring speech to a standing room only crowd about the value of hard work and investing in one's own future. Afterwards, Mr. Levitzet spoke to numerous students individually about their own goals. New College is incredibly grateful to Jeff Levitzet for all that he has done and continues to do for New College students.

*Dr. Barbara Brickman publishes book Grease: Gender, Nostalgia and Youth Consumption in the Blockbuster Era*



Forty years ago the musical-turned – movie Grease hit the big screen. Teens flocked to showings, and overnight it became a cult classic.

Dr. Barbara Brickman, who studies popular culture and teenagers in television and film, recently published a book arguing that though Grease is certainly nostalgic for the 1950's, its moral sentiment is more indicative of the '1970's, a freer age in the wake of the sexual and social revolutions.

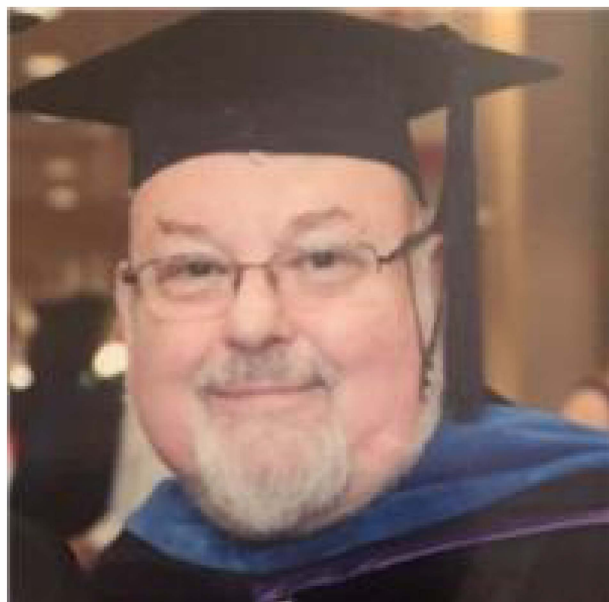
The book, *Grease: Gender, Nostalgia and Youth Consumption in the Blockbuster Era*, was published as part of the Routledge series Cinema and Youth Culture earlier this year.



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## Remembering Dr. Jerry Rosenberg



In February, New College lost a much beloved professor, Dr. Jerry Rosenberg. Dr. Rosenberg taught in New College for over 40 years before retiring in 2012. He studied Psychology and Holocaust studies and was considered a lifelong mentor to his students and a lifelong friend to fellow faculty. A celebration of life was held for Dr. Rosenberg in April where his life and legacy were honored by many. Dr. Rosenberg will be sorely missed, but his legacy lives on in

the hundreds of New College students who continue his commitment to the academic study of Holocaust and other forms of genocide, his passion for social justice, and his deep love of learning. Dr. Rosenberg will always be remembered for his ability to find humor in dark places. His generous and loving spirit extended to all and continues to impact the community of New College.

## DR. ELLEN SPEARS HONORED AT “REALIZING THE DREAM” BANQUET



New College's Dr. Ellen Griffith Spears was honored in January with the Call to Conscience award, which recognizes an individual who demonstrates leadership and courage. The award was presented at the annual "Realizing the Dream" banquet, where she was honored alongside a UA student.

Dr. Spears is an associate professor with New College where she teaches classes focused on environmentalism and social justice. She is the author of the award-winning book *Baptized in PCB's: Race, Pollution, and Justice in an All-American Town* which tells the story of Anniston, Alabama's environmental justice struggles with the chemical company Monsanto. Spears credits Martin Luther King Jr's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" as an inspiration.

New College is honored to have Dr. Spears in the department, where she is an incredible colleague and mentor.

JOHN MILLER  
APPOINTED  
DISTINGUISHED  
TEACHING FELLOW



This May, New College's assistant director, John Miller, was appointed as one of UA's College of Arts and Sciences two Distinguished Teaching Fellows. According to the College of Arts and Sciences website, the fellowship honors faculty members "with outstanding records of teaching and student learning." Those appointed receive stipends for education projects for three years.

Miller is the fifth member of New College faculty to be named a fellow and joins Dr. Bing Blewitt (ret.), Dr. Marysia Galbraith, Dr. Theodore Trost, and Dr. Julia Cherry in the distinction.

New College could not think of a more deserving professor for the fellowship and is honored to have John Miller as a part of our department.

Dr. Adams Stepping Down, Dr. Cherry Stepping Up



Dr. Natalie Adams, director of New College

This year, Dr. Natalie Adams announced that she was stepping down as the director of New College. Dr. Adams has been a professor at the University of Alabama since 2000 and is the author of several books, including *Cheerleader! An American Icon*, *Geographies of Girlhood: Identities In-Between*, and *Just Trying to have School: The Struggle for Desegregation in Mississippi*. She served New College as the program director for six years, but is ready to revisit her love for teaching and research, where her interests lie in social and cultural studies in education and girls studies.

She will remain on campus teaching in both New College and the College of Education. We wish Dr. Adams all the best and thank her for her contributions to New College.

In her place, Dr. Julia Cherry will assume the position as Director of New College starting fall 2018. Dr. Cherry has been a professor at the University of Alabama since 2006, and she is cross-appointed in the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Cherry's research interests lie in aquatic and wetland ecology, water resources, and climate change. New College is thrilled to welcome Dr. Cherry into her new position.

## New College Students Win Grand Prize in Business Plan Competition



High Five Studios( New College Students Robert Petit and Alex Haisting on left)

At the end of March, students from departments throughout the University of Alabama competed in the Edward K. Aldag Jr. Business Plan Competition. The aim of the competition is to promote an entrepreneurship spirit among UA students by allowing them to make their business plans a reality. Students pitched their ideas to a panel of judges.

The grand prize consisted of \$50,000, a space at the EDGE, a Tuscaloosa-based business incubator, and mentoring relationships built with local business owners and entrepreneurs. The first, second, and third runner up's all received cash prizes as well and spaces at the EDGE.

New College is incredibly proud to announce that High Five Studios, a

gaming company founded by New College students, took home the grand prize. High Five Studios is made up of Alex Haisting, Robert Petit, Joshua Mokwa, Cody Fletcher, and Rachel Christ.

Additionally, this year's Aldag Business Plan Competition partnered with UA's division of Community Affairs and the city of Tuscaloosa, each offering their own new awards for young entrepreneurs. The City of Tuscaloosa Grand Prize Winner was also a New College student – Justin Volman – founder of Collegiate Baseball Scouting Network.

New College students once again prove the excellence that is fostered in our community and the amazing potential all of our students have.

## NEW COLLEGE STUDENT COORDINATES WALK AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



New College student Abba Mellon made the cover of the *Crimson White* this past spring for helping organize the successful "Walk of Shame," a protest against sexual assault on college campuses.

The protest is one that has been done all over the country by college students who are speaking out against rape culture and sexual assault on college campuses. The walk involved having participants dress in revealing clothing and march from Denny Chimes, down University Boulevard, then through around 4<sup>th</sup> Street and back toward Denny Chimes.

The event had a great turn-out and demonstrated our students' abilities to foster change and growth on our campus.



## New College Council Supports Diversity on Campus

This past April, New College Council and students joined other campus organizations in promoting diversity at the Capstone. In response to an invitation to an avowed white nationalist from a UA student's organization, many students on campus felt that a push for unity and togetherness was in order.

The Student Government Association hosted the Celebration of Differences event in the Ferguson Student Center alongside Spectrum, Blend, Better Together, and the Black Student Union. The event featured food, performances, and a chance for students from many different backgrounds to come together and have dialogue.

Several New College students were in attendance, and New College Council printed buttons that read "Unity Through Diversity," which Council members passed out at the event.

New College has always been and will continue to be a place for people from diverse backgrounds to come together and support each other.

## New College Professor Fulfills Dream of Building Tiny House



New College instructor Dr. Amanda Espy-Brown has always dreamed of building a tiny house. That dream became a reality this spring when she finished building her tiny house in Fayette County, Alabama.

The plans started in 2016, and Espy-Brown was helped by her dad and several others on the planning and building of her own personal dream home. The house is only 12 feet by 20 feet and cost approximately \$30,000.

Espy-Brown has a deep love for the environment, and that is showcased in her tiny house where the focus was on sustainability and creating something eco-friendly. With this in mind, she has begun using the home as an education tool for her students:

"My interdisciplinary science class has been coming out to see land use and look at forestry patterns. We talk about soil, soil erosion and clear cuts – what happens to the soil after a clear cut and how it affects the water. So it's a big lesson on conservation and how a system works together. If you cut trees, it affects your water, soil. I'm also developing a new class that will use the tiny house and explore how where we live affects who we are," said – Dr. Amanda Espy-Brown.

The home consists of a kitchen, bathroom, open living room, patio, and porch with an outdoor shower. Outside, there is a picnic area with a fire pit, young peach trees, and a place to play horseshoes, badminton, and darts.

## NEW COLLEGE AWARDS 32 SCHOLARSHIPS IN APRIL

At the annual New College Honors Program, 32 New College and New College LifeTrack students received scholarships and special awards for a total of \$47,000.00. The following scholarships were awarded:

- Jeff Levitzet Scholars
- Byron Franklin and Ophelia Burke Watson Scholarship
- Bernard C. and Alma B. Weber Scholarship
- Harry Lyon (Bing) Blewitt Scholarship
- Hugh Holloway Endowed Scholarship
- Samuel Thomas Barnes IV Memorial Scholarship
- Samuel J. Senter Memorial Scholarship
- Fran Geddes Outstanding Service to New College Award
- Jerome Rosenberg Scholarship
- Dean Bernie Sloan Spirit of New College Award
- Suzanne Younger Awards

## Other Notable Achievements

- Congratulations to **Anthony Lipscomb** on receiving the scholarships and all access pass to the Game Developers Conference (GDC). Congratulations to Anthony for also receiving and accepting a job offer to work at PlayStation after graduation.
- Congratulations to **Austin Hose** for being part of the team that won first place in the SEC Student Cyber Challenge at the 2018 SEC Academic Conference.
- Congratulations to **Theresa Stoddard** on receiving the Algernon Sullivan award. The award emphasizes excellence in character and service. Congratulations to **Theresa** also on winning the Fulbright Scholarship to Spain.
- Congratulations to New College instructor **Jennifer Caputo** for being named a 2018 Innovation Scholar in Residence.
- Congratulations to **Holland Hopson** and **Michael Steinberg** for the recognition they received for sponsoring/mentoring New College students in the Computer Based Honors Program: Riecher Denmark (Hopson), Matthew Cooper (Steinberg), and Kayla Meeks (Steinberg)
- Congratulations to **Brittany Grady** and **Asia Hayes** on being selected for the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Junior Award. Congratulations to **Asia** also for receiving the Ramsey Award, which recognizes the versatility of gifts and attainments and the breadth of excellence in mind and character.
- Congratulations to **Anastasiya Titarenko**, 2017 Walker County Intern, for receiving the Dean's Award of Merit.
- Congratulations to **Julia Cherry** and **Michael Steinberg** for being promoted to Full Professor.
- Congratulations to **Holland Hopson** on being selected as a tenure track Professor in Arts Entrepreneurship in New College.



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