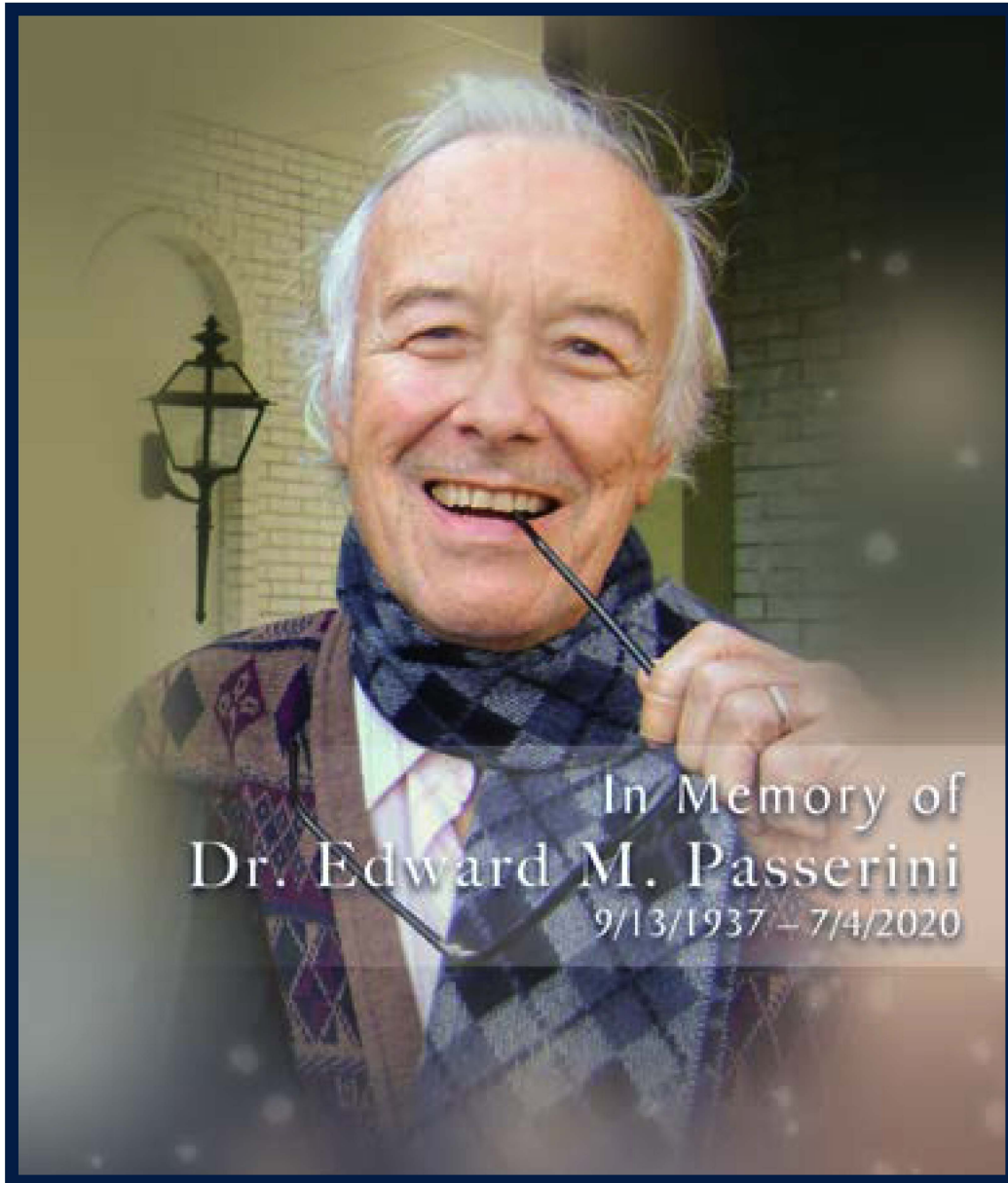




NEW COLLEGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®



In Memory of
Dr. Edward M. Passerini
9/13/1937 – 7/4/2020



College of
Arts & Sciences
New College

SUMMER 2020



Greetings Alumni and Friends,

All of us at New College hope that you are able to remain healthy and encouraged during these uncertain times, and you are all in our thoughts.

We are especially proud to bring you this newsletter amid the many changes we've undergone since our last issue. We are committed to keeping you connected and informed regardless of the circumstances. At the time of this publication, we are still not able to meet and gather as we would like. But we still look forward to upcoming events and we welcome you to participate in whatever ways possible. We also invite you to join us in celebrating our Honors Recipients and Graduates featured in this issue.

Please continue to stay in communication with us, as we always enjoy hearing from you and learning about your endeavors and accomplishments. And as always, we thank you for all you contribute to the New College family and experience.

Be well!

Jamilah Cooper-Bowden
New College Office Associate

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear New College Alumni and Friends,

I hope that this message finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

The last several months have been challenging for everyone, New College included. In March, New College successfully transitioned to remote instruction to finish the Spring semester. Our dedicated faculty and adaptable students adjusted in ways that demonstrated the best qualities of an interdisciplinary, liberal arts-mindset: creativity, resilience, and mental agility. As the Fall semester approaches, we are utilizing these qualities once again as we prepare to welcome students, faculty, and staff back to campus. Our goal is to continue providing highly interactive and interdisciplinary seminar-based learning – the hallmark of the New College educational experience – as safely as possible.

As has become abundantly clear in recent weeks and months, COVID-19 has raised challenges far beyond the fields of science and public health. This virus has exposed fissures in our communities, our politics, and even our understandings of history and public space. These fissures challenge us to reconsider our understanding of the human condition. They also offer an opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to realizing a more just and equitable society for all. As we move through these difficult days, I hope that the skill of critical inquiry and the insights born of interdisciplinary perspectives are helping you navigate these unprecedented times.

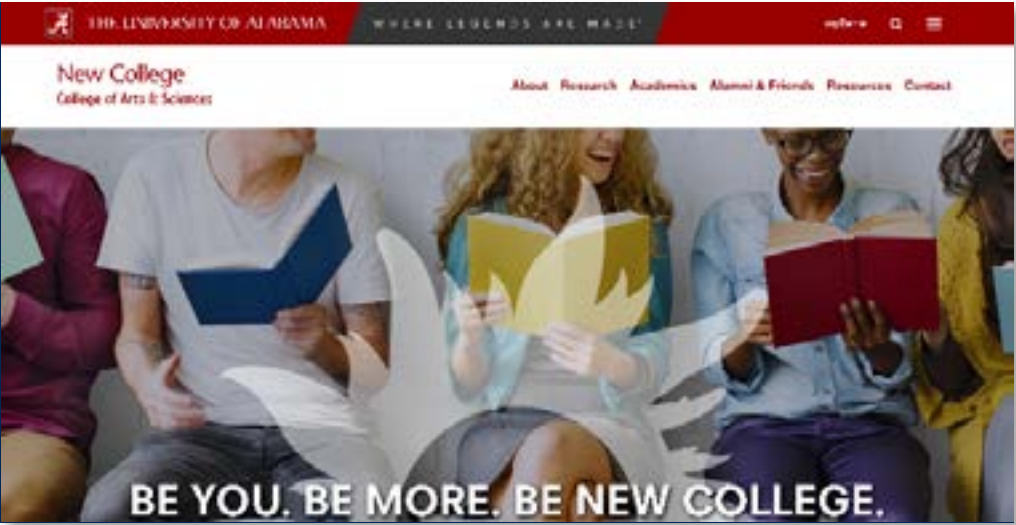
Sincerely,
Julia A. Cherry
Director



New College was built on the premise that interdisciplinary education empowers us to see broadly, to communicate across difference, and to propose effective means to engage social problems. By bringing together diverse perspectives, we gain insights that are not available from any single point of view. With our emphasis on experiential learning and small, discussion-based seminars, New College students engage complex, real-world problems by combining multiple perspectives, listening to others, and discussing contemporary issues. It is our hope that New College prepares us all to interrogate and respond to the long history of injustice, discrimination, and inequity in our society.

As impassioned as we all are in this moment, it is important to note that many of us benefit from unearned privilege on the basis of our race, gender, social class, or religion. Because of this privilege, some of us will never truly understand the painful experiences of friends, peers, and colleagues of color or other underrepresented groups. In spite of this, or perhaps because of it, we want to assure members of the New College family that you are seen, that all of the New College faculty are listening, and that we will always seek to provide a safe, supportive community as we strive to embody the ideals of a more just, equitable, and inclusive society.

Sincerely, and on behalf of the New College faculty,
Julia Cherry, Ph.D.
Director, New College



We've got a NEW LOOK!

Dear New College Community,

June 6, 2020

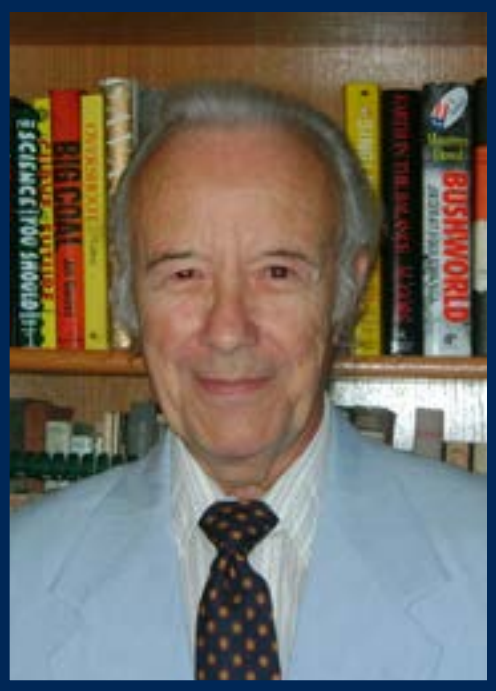
In light of the senseless killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, New College expresses our support for students, alumni, faculty, and staff of color, as well as our commitment to stand in solidarity with those around the world working to dismantle racism and other social injustices. For nearly fifty years, New College has strived to sustain an academic community built on respect for diversity in its many forms. And now, as we approach our sixth decade, we reaffirm our support of efforts to foster and expand diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Although this particular response is prompted by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, it is undeniable that they are just the most recent victims of the systemic racism that is the legacy of entrenched white supremacy in this country, in our state, and at our university. To root out that legacy, New College joins the Black Faculty and Staff Association in their commitment to support productive, albeit difficult, conversations about racism. We pledge to extend New College's history of promoting an educational environment that fosters critical inquiry of all forms of social injustice.

Bookmark our updated website for even more New College News, Events, and Resources!

newcollege.ua.edu

New College Remembers Dr. Ed Passerini



On Saturday, July 4, 2020, Dr. Edward M. Passerini, a founding member of the New College faculty, passed away peacefully at his home in Florida with family by his side. A true Renaissance man, Ed earned his B.A. in Physics, with a minor in Mathematics, from Harvard; his M.A. in American Studies from Northeastern University; and his Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Virginia. Dr. Neal Berte, the first Dean of New College, recruited Ed to join the program as a professor of Humanities and the Environment in 1971, where he served until his retirement in 2006.

During his recruitment, Dean Berte and Ed exchanged ideas about their vision for the nascent New College program, ideas that underscored Ed’s passion for teaching and his commitment to students. As a teacher, Ed believed that he had as much to learn from students as they did from him. As such, he viewed the classroom as a community of teacher/learners. Ed posited:

“Why have a teacher? To coordinate, . . . to provoke, to stimulate, to encourage, to buck up, and, occasionally, to correct and polish . . .”

In this sense, and in many others, Ed epitomized the New College approach to learning.

Over his 35-year career, Ed was a fierce advocate for the environment, his students, and New College, leaving an indelible mark on the program. While at the University, Ed worked with dozens of local, state and national environmental organizations, helped bring Earth Day celebrations to campus, and hosted “The Environment,” an educational course on Alabama Public Television. Notably, Ed designed and built, along with his students, the world’s first, fully solar-powered car in 1977 – a true example of experiential learning. For years, he toured the country with his solar cars, winning the 1989 Tour de Sol race and beating teams from Dartmouth and MIT, among others. In his seminars, he challenged students to think broadly, and differently, about the world and the role of people in it. His courses were known for their difficulty, but also for their long-lasting value. Consequently, he became a sort of “Pied Piper” for New College, with a tremendous following among his students.

Perhaps his greatest impact, however, was as a mentor and sounding-board to students in need of counsel. Former colleague, Dean Bernie Sloan, recounted how Ed would spend hours talking with students, especially those who were troubled or struggling. When asked why he spent so much time with these students, Ed would reply, “You never can tell how much influence you might have on a student whose life trajectory might be changed by showing a little care.” Through his commitment to students and the environment, the depth of Ed’s humanity shone bright.

Although we mourn the loss of Ed Passerini, we also celebrate his legacy, which lives on in those of us who knew and loved him. We share our deepest condolences with Ed’s family, who requested that donations be made in his honor to New College, an environmental organization of your choice, or your local hospice.



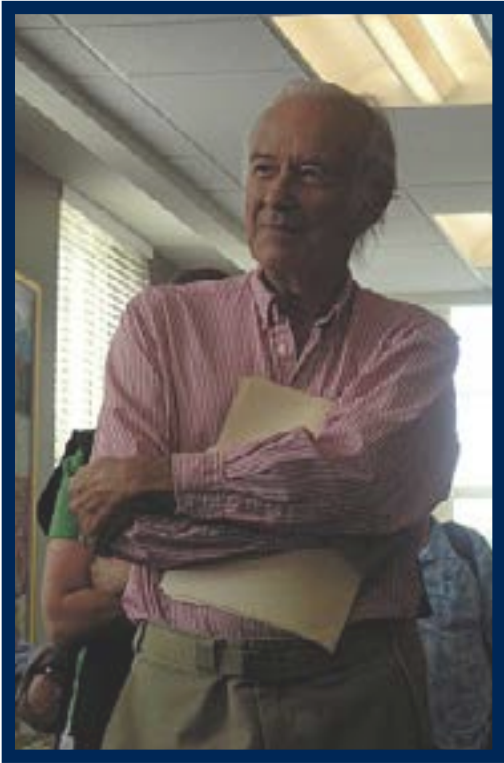
At a Danforth Foundation retreat in Colorado, these four finalized plans for what became the External Degree Program (now LifeTrack). (L to R) Tom Rogers, Ed Passerini, Bernie Sloan, Jerry Rosenberg



Ed Passerini with fellow faculty members Harriet Cabell, Patty Dice, Alice Parker, Cathy Randall, Bing Blewitt, Bernie Sloan, Bob McKenzie, Fran Geddes, and Jerry Rosenberg.































Ed and his wife, JoLee Passerini, at Neal Berte’s 2004 retirement party with Jim Hall, Anne and Neal Berte, Jerry Rosenberg, and Bob McKenzie



Our New College 2020 Honorees

This year we are proud to recognize the following New College and New College LifeTrack students for their many achievements and outstanding academic performance.

	Christine Allen <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Saharah Allen <i>Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019</i>		Caroline Barnes <i>Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>		Allison Beaty <i>Berte Scholarship</i>
	Izzy Berry <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Avery Bigham <i>Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>		Mathew Ciesla <i>Senter Scholarship</i>		Julie Clark <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>
	Katharine Conaway <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Sophia Corizzo <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, New College Review Editor 2020</i>		Will Craft <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Eva Curran <i>Walker County Internship</i>
	Bailey Delamer <i>Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>		Jacob Dorris <i>Holloway Scholarship</i>		Claire Faivre <i>Distinguished Undergraduate Scholar - UA</i>		Logan Fenhouse <i>Barnes Scholarship, Dean's Merit Award</i>
	Jessica Freim <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>		Courtney Geary <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>		Logan Goulhart <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring & Fall 2019, Ramsey Award</i>		Chandler Grammer <i>Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>
	Karriem Grogan <i>Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019</i>		Charles Gullo <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019</i>		Sumona Gupta <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Berte Scholarship, Dean's Merit Award</i>		Jamie Hall <i>Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019</i>
	Leili Haririan <i>Weber Scholarship</i>		Becca Ispording <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>		Caitlyn Johnson <i>Barnes Scholarship, A&S Student Ambassadors</i>		Ariel Jones <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Walker County Internship</i>

	McKinley Julian <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>		Kathleen Kelley <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Younger Scholarship</i>		Jackson Kerchis <i>Senter Scholarship</i>		Emily Kim <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Blewitt Scholarship</i>
	Allison Koszyk <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>		Kendall Kruchten <i>Senior Project, Outstanding in Seminar Spring & Fall 2019, Berte Scholarship</i>		Olivia Lathem <i>Franklin/Burke-Watson Scholarship</i>		Jacob Lloyd <i>Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>
	Anna Mauldin <i>A&S Student Ambassadors</i>		Charlotte McRae <i>Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019</i>		Kayla Meeks <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019, Geddes Award</i>		Abba Mellon <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring & Fall 2019, Levitetz Scholar Fall 2019 & Spring 2020, Bloom Award</i>
	John Pace <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Alyce Petit <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, A&S Peer Advisor</i>		Chase Quimby <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Brooke Randall <i>Levitetz Scholarship Spring 2020</i>
	Paul Rasmussen <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>		Sydney Rogers <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Rosenberg Scholarship</i>		Skye Roll <i>Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019</i>		Kathryn Scoggins <i>Holloway Scholarship</i>
	Melissa Sharpe <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Laynie Snyder <i>Levitetz Scholar Fall 2019, Walker County Internship, Sloan Award</i>		Abigail Steele <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Franklin/Burke-Watson Scholarship</i>		Storm Steinke <i>Younger Scholarship</i>
	Madelyn Verbrugge <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>		Kerri Virtz <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019, Senior Project</i>		Caldwell Wagenheim <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>		Sarah Wearden <i>Outstanding in Seminar Fall 2019</i>
	Warren Wright <i>Levitetz Scholarship Fall 2019 & Spring 2020</i>		Leona Yeager <i>Outstanding in Seminar Spring 2019</i>				

WATCH THE FULL VIDEO PRESENTATION
INCLUDING FACULTY COMMENTARY
AT [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/406313900](https://vimeo.com/406313900)



New College LifeTrack Honors



Ryan Akers

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Spring 2020*



Sherry Barrow

*Parker Award for
Literature, Art, &
Society*



**Susan
Beddingfield**

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Fall 2019*



Tramon Butts

*Outstanding
in Leadership
Studies*



Kevin Carwyle

*Parker Award for
Literature, Art, &
Society*



Chris Cowles

*Bryan Award for
Science,
Technology, &
Culture*



Nichole Crites

*Todd Award
for Community
Studies*



Adam Crowe

*Parker Award for
Literature, Art, &
Society*



Brittany Curry

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Spring 2020*



Erin Ehrhard

*Todd Award
for Community
Studies*



Alma Fuller

*Outstanding
Senior Project
Award*



Anthony Harris

*Dean Bernie
Sloan Spirit of
New College
Award*



Stephen Jeselink

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Fall 2019*



Dawn Jespersen

*Outstanding
Senior Project
Award*



Stephanie Lopez

*Outstanding
Senior Project
Award*



Teresa Maddox

*Outstanding
Senior Project
Award*



Doreena Mink

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Spring 2020*



Ronald Morgan

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Spring 2020*



**Katja Morgen-
stern**

*Outstanding
Senior Project
Award*



**William
Murphy**

*Parker Award for
Literature, Art, &
Society*



Donald Richard

*Outstanding
in Leadership
Studies*



**Jonathan
Robinette**

*Bryan Award for
Science,
Technology, &
Culture*



Devin Sierra

*Levitetz
Scholarship
Fall 2019*



Norman Taner

*Todd Award
for Community
Studies*



**Inga
Van Wagoner**

*Outstanding
in Leadership
Studies*



Andrew Weber

*Bryan Award for
Science,
Technology, &
Culture*



Destry Webster

*Bryan Award for
Science,
Technology, &
Culture*



Spring Commencement, originally scheduled for May 1, 2020, regrettably had to be canceled. But just as we did for Honors Day in April, we are pleased to recognize our grads virtually. As soon as possible, they will have the opportunity to walk in a much-deserved public ceremony. Until that time, congratulations to all our graduates. We wish you all the best in your next chapters!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR HONOREES.



SUMONA GUPTA
TUSCALOOSA, AL
SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES



LEILI HARIRIAN
BIRMINGHAM, AL
INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT
& CULTURE STUDIES



MARKIE MORRISON
KIRKLAND, WA
PUBLIC POLICY & PSYCHOLOGY



CASEY PETERSEN
GEYSERVILLE, CA
CULTURE & POLITICS



KENDALL KRUCHTEN
THE WOODLANDS, TX
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH POLICY



SAM LANGSTAFF
FLORENCE, AL
E-SPORTS EVENT MANAGEMENT



CHARLIE PLUNK
FRISCO, TX
MUSIC BUSINESS



**ALEXANDER CHASE
QUIMBY**
BONAIRE, GA
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS



JACOB LLOYD
BIRMINGHAM, AL
MULTI-CHANNEL MARKETING



BAILEY MCINTOSH
GAINESVILLE, GA
DIGITAL DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT



BROOKE RANDALL
BIRMINGHAM, AL
INTERDISCIPLINARY
COMMUNICATIONS



DAKOTA ROUSH
TULSA, OK
SPORTS BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



CHARLOTTE MCRAE
BIRMINGHAM, AL
NEUROSCIENCE &
HOLISTIC HEALTH



KAYLA MEEKS
HUNTSVILLE, AL
NARRATIVE JUSTICE



MELISSA SHARPE
CONYERS, GA
ADDICTION SCIENCES



CASSIE SMITH
TRUSSVILLE, AL
PSYCHOSOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL
DEVELOPMENT



**EMILY OWEN
MENDELSON**
BIRMINGHAM, AL
HUMAN CONNECTION:
A FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS



JENNA MINSER
APEX, NC
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMUNICATIONS



JULIETTE SPURLING
PORTLAND, TN
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION &
URBAN PLANNING



BEN STANSELL
DOTHAN, AL
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

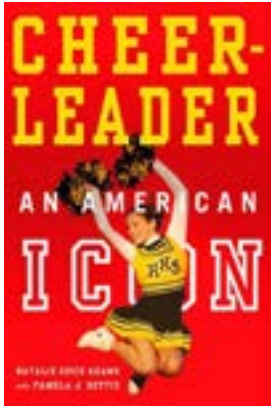
Dr. Natalie Adams Appears in Netflix Documentary: “Cheer”

As a result of her prior research and book on cheerleading, entitled, *Cheerleader! An American Icon*, Dr. Adams was interviewed for the Netflix documentary, *Cheer*, which began streaming in January.

Adams appears in three of the first season’s five episodes to speak on the history and foundations of cheerleading as a competitive sport.

The docuseries has received great reviews from major media like *Rolling Stone* and *The New York Times*. You can read more about it in this [Washington Post article](#) which calls it “the documentary that hard-working cheerleaders have long deserved.”

The first season of *Cheer* is currently available to stream on [Netflix](#) for a limited time.



10 Year Commemoration of Founding the Scottsboro Boys Museum

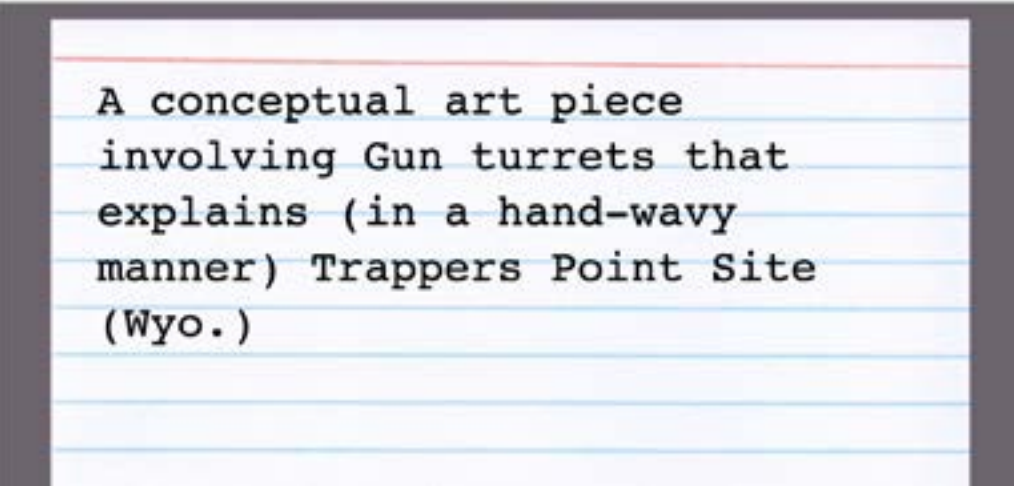
On February 1, 2020, Dr. Ellen G. Spears and Prof. John Miller were in Scottsboro, Alabama, to help celebrate the founding of the Scottsboro Boys Museum 10 years ago. The museum was founded in the memory of the nine black teenagers falsely accused of raping two white women aboard a train near Scottsboro in 1931.

Dr. Spears and Prof. Miller each gave a short speech on their roles with the Museum and their efforts to help earn posthumous pardons for the [Scottsboro Boys](#).



Dr. Ellen Spears (pictured with attendees) and Prof. John Miller speaking at Scottsboro Boys Commemoration

Prof. Holland Hopson in UK’s Fringe Arts Bath Festival



Prof. Hopson and screenshot of his art piece.

Professor Hopson has a featured piece in the virtual Fringe Arts Bath Festival 2020 in Bath, UK.

His piece, entitled *A WORK OF ART FOR EVERY ENTRY IN INDEX—SUBJECTS—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS*, is an algorithm that generates an endless stream of possible art objects and displays the description as a notecard on an LCD screen. They are generated in real-time with combined phrases from the United States Library of Congress Subjects Index databases, so they are always new, unpredictable and not likely to repeat.

It can be viewed for a limited time online at <https://www.fringeartsbath.co.uk/automated#Holland-hopson>

New College in URCA Conference

Several New College students were sponsored and featured in the 2020 Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity (URCA) Conference. Along with many other students across campus, this virtual presentation includes research and artworks from Kassidy Stewart, Storm Steinke, Jackson Kerchis, and Noah Haynes.

The full conference can be viewed in a publicly viewable BOX.com file at: <https://alabama.app.box.com/s/p9wvx8vu446posog0xprb3ypbv7vj8xv>



Images from Kassidy Stewart’s “Subjection in Society” entry

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Lee: On the Front Lines of COVID-19



New College alumna, Jennifer Lee, and her mother, Dr. Marni Bonnin, were featured in a *BuzzFeed News* article for volunteering to administer COVID-19 tests on the front lines of the pandemic.

An excerpt from the article reads: “As the number of people being hospitalized for COVID-19 increases across the country, volunteers and retired health care workers are suiting up, putting their lives and their loved ones at risk while they help their communities. For Lee, a former EMT who has been volunteering with the King County Public Health Reserve Corps, the decision to volunteer has become complicated by the fact that she no longer has income or insurance. She also lives with her mother, a retired emergency room physician who has also volunteered on the front lines.”

We are very proud of Jennifer, and grateful for her and her mother’s efforts to combat Coronavirus. We keep them in our thoughts and hope for their continued safety in this work.



**“If I don’t,
who else
is going to?”**

- Jennifer Lee -

MORE NEW COLLEGE NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Congratulations to Margaret Purcell, who presented “Circle the Red Wagons: How the Five Promises Can Help to Build Resiliency in Youth” at the 2020 Doing What Matters for Alabama’s Children Conference in February.
- Holland Hopson was awarded an artist residency and fellowship at The Hambidge Center to work on a new project, and his application for ASPIRE was approved by the Dean for Fall 2021.
- Andrew Dewar has been promoted to Full Professor! He is also the recipient of a 2020 President’s Faculty Research Award, one of the top awards for faculty at the University. He will be honored at next year’s ceremony.
- Congratulations are in order for Vincent Willis, whose book was officially accepted for publication by UGA Press!
- Congratulations to Barbara Brickman on being named a Distinguished Teaching Fellow for the 2021-2024 term.
- Congratulations to Marysia Galbraith, whose Community Arts class was highlighted by the College of A&S.
- WATCH New College’s Amy Pirkle of Perkolator Press demonstrate “Flattening the Curve” with her new flip book which encourages everyone to stay healthy and safe! <https://youtu.be/GndwabpGAek>



We’re getting closer to our New College 50th Anniversary in 2021!

We’ve still got big things planned for the celebration and we want you to be a part of it all. Stay in the know by updating your contact info on our website, and encourage your classmates to do the same!

Email Jamilah Cooper-Bowden (jbowden2@ua.edu) or complete the Alumni Update Form online if you have changes to your Contact Information or if you have any information or achievements you’d like us to know about!