Greetings,

Spring 2023 was filled with milestones, accolades, and successes! It is amazing how much our students and faculty can accomplish when they take advantage of the freedom that New College provides.

So far this year, we endowed a scholarship in honor of Carole and Bernie Sloan; welcomed the Sloans and several alumni to our Honors Day ceremony, at which we recognized many of our students; hosted the day-long Levitetz Leadership and Innovation Day; celebrated Dr. Dewar’s 2023 SEC Faculty Achievement Award and Rose Doskey’s Fulbright Award; hosted several guest speakers and visitors; and held our May graduation ceremony, during which we honored our latest class of graduates and remembered former New College student, Matthew Smith. We also welcomed Dr. Laura Davis as Assistant Director of New College LifeTrack, and bid farewell to Ashley Wilder-Morrison (Levitetz assistant), and Dr. Ellen Spears, who retired in July.

It has been an incredibly productive spring and summer. I hope you enjoy reading all about it!

Best wishes,
Julia Cherry, Director
Dr. Ellen Spears Retires

Dr. Ellen G. Spears has been a pillar of our New College family since 2009 as our professor of Environmental History. In her time with us, Ellen has lent her extensive knowledge to countless New College students, faculty, and staff. Her research and teaching contributions have been invaluable to our program, and her contagious positivity will be duly missed at Lloyd Hall.

As Ellen retires to her home in Atlanta, GA, with her husband Brian, we bid her farewell and express our gratitude for all she contributed to our team. Thanks for everything, Ellen. Enjoy your next chapters!

Best Wishes to Ashley Wilder-Morrison

For almost two years, Ashley was an integral part of helping to manage the Levitetz Leadership Program. While New College is sad to see her moving on to another department, we couldn’t be happier for her.

We are certain that her new work family will find her to be an asset and a joy, and we'll miss her kind and bubbly spirit above all.

We appreciate you, Ashley, and wish you all the best!

WHO’S NEW

We are pleased to introduce Dr. Laura Davis as the new Assistant Director of New College LifeTrack (NCLT). Laura is originally from Enterprise, AL, and completed her undergraduate degree in Athletic Training at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL. Laura discovered her passion at Huntingdon, and she knew she wanted to work with students in Higher Education one day. She completed her master’s degree in education from Auburn University and decided to work for a few years in Miami, FL, before returning home to sweet home Alabama. She finished her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration at UA in 2018. For the last 15 years, she has worked at UA in Student Life and has taught leadership courses for NCLT since 2020. Outside of work, Laura loves to read and spend time with family. Welcome to the team, Laura.
At the 2023 Honors ceremony, we were honored to host some very special guests, including keynote speaker and former New College dean, Dr. Bernie Sloan, and his wife Carole. Dr. Sloan delivered words of wisdom and nostalgia to the honorees and attendees, and personally presented this year’s Sloan Spirit of New College awards. A great time was had as we recognized some of our exceptional students and their achievements. We were happy to see Gay Lynne Bittle, daughter of the late Fran Geddes, for whom we award the Outstanding Service to New College award, and several other New College alumni, many of whom contributed to the newly endowed scholarship in Bernie and Carole’s honor.
HONORS DAY 2023
- New College Honorees -

Dean Neal Berte Endowed Scholarship
Geoffrey Alintoff
Ashton Smith
Rose Doskey

Hugh Holloway Endowed Scholarship
Sabrina Richard
Jack Watson

Dr. Jerome Rosenberg Scholarship
Olivia Goble

Fran Geddes
Outstanding Service to New College Award
Armandeep Singh
William Belmonte

Dean Bernie Sloan
Spirit of New College Award
Iain Wilson
Joseph Hernandez

Suzanne Younger Endowed Scholarship
James Pemberton
Jasmine Lewis

Samuel J. Senter Memorial Scholarship
Harry Lyon “Bing” Blewitt Scholarship
Mia Liacopoulos

Bernard C. & Alma B. Weber Scholarship
Reagan Christian

Jean O’Conner-Snyder Internship Program
Walker County Interns
Olivia Goble
Madison DuBoise
Tanner Jones
Sadie Keller
Lorin O’Rear
Madison Skinner

Outstanding Students in New College Seminars

- SPRING 2022 -
Geoffrey Alintoff
Elizabeth Bigelow
Maria Evola
Candace Keogh
Victoria Myers
Marie Thompson
Carmen Tizapa-Zamora
Benjamin Trost
Megan Woodard

- FALL 2022 -
Geoffrey Alintoff
Ivy Borden
Ella Boyd
Josie Fuller
Priya Gilman
Arthur Graham
Kathleen Kelley
Paola Lopez
Natalie Reynolds
Elizabeth Saggio
Grace Sarkisian
Armandeep Singh
Ashton Smith
Iain Wilson

Byron Franklin & Ophelia Burke Watson Scholarship
Noah Jacobs
Kyle Mesler

New College Review
Jean O’Conner-Snyder Internship Program
Walker County Interns
Olivia Goble
Madison DuBoise
Tanner Jones
Sadie Keller
Lorin O’Rear
Madison Skinner

Outstanding Students in New College Seminars
HONORS DAY 2023

- NEW COLLEGE LIFE TRACK HONOREES -

Outstanding Senior Project

Gretchen Akers

Outstanding Work in Leadership Studies

Jeffery B. Davidson
Nicole P. Gonzales
Seth S. Phillips
Fawn Weaver

Mary Avis Todd Award for Outstanding Work in Community Studies

Allyson Holliday
Michelle D. English

- LEVITETZ LIGHT BULB Awardees -

Shannon Roulaune
Colin Bradshaw
Brooke C. Morrow
Michael Tindal

Alice Parker Award for Outstanding Work in Literature, Art & Society

Danielle K. Drinkard
Christopher Macias
Anna Russell

The Levitetz Leadership Program awards Light Bulb Research funding to support bright, deserving scholars as they develop their ideas to help better our world. These students were recognized for their outstanding research projects and presentations during the Levitetz Leadership and Innovation Day.

Read more about their projects at https://llp.ua.edu

Pictured with Dr. Cherry (from left):


Jacob Dorris: “Designing Online Tools to Increase Public Participation in Freshwater Mussel Conservation”
The Levitetz Scholarships are made possible through the generous donation of New College alumnus, Jeff Levitetz. An entrepreneur while attending UA in the late 70s and early 80s, Mr. Levitetz created these scholarships to recognize New College students who demonstrate entrepreneurship and creativity.
Levitetz Leadership and Innovation Day is the time for entrepreneurial students who participated in the Light Bulb Research Awards and Seed Grant competitions to showcase their work.

On March 24, 2023, Light Bulb recipients presented on their research during an opening session. Then, Seed Grant students presented their ideas in one of four judged categories for a chance to receive additional funding.

Read more about Leadership and Innovation Day at https://llp.ua.edu/2023-levitetz-leadership-innovation-day/

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES DIVISION

WINNER
Emily Petro

(L-R): George Berry, Katharine Murray, Christopher Youssef, (Not Pictured) Kennedi Grant, Yechiel Peterson, Emily Petro, Funmi Akinpelu, Noah Oladele, Chiagoziem Jideofor

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP DIVISION

WINNER
Luke Turner

(L-R): Luke Turner, Garrett Kennedy, Dania Botello, Delanie Williams, Jake Pietroniro, Emma Torija, Anne Roberts

FOR-PROFIT DIVISION

WINNER
James White

(L-R): DeAndra Gauntt, Daryl Deeter, James Pemberton, James White, Ian C. Jobst

LARGE GRANT DIVISION

WINNERS
Olivia Bruno & Sydney Ringold

(L-R): LaKisha Cargill, Ashleigh Woods, Olivia Bruno, Corban Walsh, Sydney Ringold, Jacob Noordhoek, Hannah Berry, & Kaitlyn Shelver
May 2023 Graduation
New College and New College LifeTrack celebrated our Spring 2023 Graduates on May 5, 2023, at the UA Student Center with bagpipe fanfare and words of inspiration from our graduating guest speakers, Sherry Barrow and Kathleen Kelley. The ceremony also included a posthumous degree presentation and heartfelt tribute for the late Matthew Smith delivered by Dr. Julia Cherry. We were grateful to have his mother, Linda Coogan, join us as we presented a commemorative plaque in Matt’s honor. Thanks to all who attended to support our students.

Shery Barrow
Northport, AL
Leadership Studies
~ Summa Cum Laude

Lizzy Bigelow
Columbus, MS
Visual Design & Small Business Management
~ Cum Laude

Annamaria Bleyer
Little River, SC
Holistic Healthcare

Ivy Borden
Birmingham, AL
1. Art History
2. Southern Studies
~ Summa Cum Laude

Abrielle Brown
Irmo, SC
Global Health
~ Summa Cum Laude

TaMeisha Buchanan
Porter, TX
Leadership Studies

Analise Chambers
Odenville, AL
1. Computational Linguistics
2. Spanish

Karen Chason
Panama City, FL
Community Studies

Kalyn Credi
South Bend, IN
Pre Health & Nonprofit Management
~ Magna Cum Laude

Jacob Dorris
Chelsea, AL
Environmental Biology
~Summa Cum Laude

Tevin Harris
Frisco, TX
Leadership Studies

Misty Haynes
Gardendale, AL
Leadership Studies
~ Cum Laude
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Honors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathleen Kelley</td>
<td>Birmingham, AL</td>
<td>Arts Administration as Social Practice</td>
<td>~ Summa Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashlyn Lambert</td>
<td>Bradford, AR</td>
<td>Urban Planning &amp; Social Justice</td>
<td>~ Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Alabama Lucey</td>
<td>Theodore, AL</td>
<td>Leadership Studies</td>
<td>~ Magna Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Mauldin</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa, AL</td>
<td>Leadership Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lora Lee McCullough</td>
<td>Hot Springs, AR</td>
<td>Literature, Art &amp; Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison “Brinn” Murdock</td>
<td>Henagar, AL</td>
<td>Sports Marketing</td>
<td>~ Magna Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osagie Okoruwa</td>
<td>Lubbock, TX</td>
<td>Community Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty “Ann” Olaveson</td>
<td>Navarre, FL</td>
<td>Community Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Rowe</td>
<td>Cary, NC</td>
<td>Holistic Medicine</td>
<td>~ Summa Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Sanders</td>
<td>Senoia, GA</td>
<td>Literature, Art &amp; Society</td>
<td>~ Magna Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Simmons</td>
<td>Hoover, AL</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine Darcy Smith</td>
<td>Foley, AL</td>
<td>Literature, Art &amp; Society</td>
<td>~ Summa Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terri Smith</td>
<td>Mount Hope, AL</td>
<td>Leadership Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Snead</td>
<td>Northport, AL</td>
<td>Writing for Media</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Beth “LB” Taylor</td>
<td>Starkville, MS</td>
<td>Sports Administration</td>
<td>~ Cum Laude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Thomas</td>
<td>Hoover, AL</td>
<td>Leadership Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!
We are proud to recognize each of these outstanding scholars and their achievements, and are honored to have been a part of their educational journeys.

We wish them all the very best in their future academic and professional pursuits.

Congratulations to our newest alumni!
NEW COLLEGE VISITORS

Nabil Ayers Book Tour

Nabil Ayers was invited by Dr. Andrew Dewar to speak on February 21 about his book, *My Life in the Sunshine*, and his role as President of Beggars Group US, a major consortium of record labels in NYC.

Students were inspired and enlightened by the story of his search for family and his entrepreneurial trajectory through the music industry.

His book is available at https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/651853/my-life-in-the-sunshine-by-nabil-ayers

Our Guests from Japan

On March 8, 2023, New College Professor Ellen Griffith Spears met with scholars from Japan’s Meiji and Ibaraki universities. They came to Alabama to research PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and environmental justice campaigns in the U.S., particularly in Anniston, Alabama.

After an informative exchange in New College, the international visitors traveled to meet with activists in Anniston.

From left, Dr. Shiki Wang, M.A., University of Alabama, American Studies, Ph.D., Meiji University; Dr. Julia Cherry, Director, New College; Dr. Ellen Griffith Spears, Professor, New College; Dr. Ryoichi Terada, Professor, Department of Psychology and Sociology, Meiji University, Japan; Dr. Yayoi Haraguchi, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ibaraki University.
Guests from Pakistan

In early February, UA hosted a group of 28 female university leaders from Pakistan as part of a USAID project to build up higher education systems around the world. As part of the program, the women spent February 6, 2023, shadowing various leaders on campus. Dr. Julia Cherry was pleased to host Dr. Sehrish Shafi from Mirpur University of Science & Technology and Dr. Rehana Shahid from The University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore.

Hultgren Masterclass

On February 1, 2023, Prof. Holland Hopson hosted cellist, Craig Hultgren. He met with students from New College in between his masterclass for acoustic and electric cellists at UA's School of Music and his solo performance in the Moody Recital Hall that evening. His visit was part of a tour of the southeastern United States. We were glad he could share his musical gifts and insights with our students.

Drs. Sehrish Shafi (left) and Rehana Shahid (right) shadowed Dr. Cherry for a day

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GUESTS & VISITORS FROM NEAR AND FAR

OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO THE INNOVATORS OF THE WORLD

NEW COLLEGE VISITORS
Dr. Ellen Spears and her NEW/AMS 439/539 Urban Spaces class visited the Federal Courthouse in Tuscaloosa on April 20, 2023.

On this trip, students learned about the role of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama and toured the murals depicting the history of Tuscaloosa. The tour was given by Career Law Clerk, Anna Belle Wilder Norton.

On June 1, 2023, New College Alumni, Dr. Lane McLelland (1982) and Dr. Jackson Harris (2016), joined by New College Assistant Director, Prof. John Miller, co-presented at NASPA’s 2023 Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement Meeting in Boston. The group discussed symbiotic relationships between curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students to strengthen civic knowledge and capacities. With an eye toward helping others augment similar opportunities at their campuses, McLelland, Harris, and Miller explained how viewing civic initiatives, coursework, internship programs, and minors as interrelated could strengthen the civic learning ecosystems at member institutions.

Professors Holland Hopson and John Miller participated in a concert at New York City’s Skyscraper Museum on May 26, 2023, which was hosted by Hopson’s collaborators and violin duo, Miolina. Comprised of Mioi Takeda and Lynn Bechtold, the group performed pieces selected to evoke New York’s skyline, including Professor Hopson’s composition for violin and live electronics, “A Long Line of Clouds Just Above the Trees”, for which this concert was its premiere. As part of the performance, Prof. Miller read his new poem, “Temples in Air”, which considers the senses of awe and wonder skyscrapers inspire.
NEW 337: Sustainable Home Landscaping with Leah Connell

NEW 335: Everyday Wildlife in Alabama with Wayne Ford

NEW 243: Interdisciplinary Sciences with Dr. Amanda Espy-Brown
Levitetz Leadership Program
“How To Make a Pitch”
Workshop with Amy Pirkle

Levitetz Leadership Program
TRIVIA NIGHT!

Digital Making
Plot Device Exhibition
with Holland Hopson
Walker County Internship

July marked the end of the 13th year of New College’s civic engagement internship in Walker County, Alabama. In partnership with the Walker Area Community Foundation and the David Mathews Center for Civic Life, the internship placed New College and other UA students with Jasper-area nonprofits for eight weeks this summer.

Supervised by Prof. John Miller and local partners, this year’s interns worked on a range of issues, including: opioid response, trauma informed care, family services, LatinX outreach, and community development. Their experience culminated with public presentations in Jasper on July 28.

King of the Court

In March, New College student, Aaron Berry, and his teammates on the UA Adapted Athletics Men’s Wheelchair Basketball Team, won the 2023 National Championship! Aaron is also a current player for the Under 23 Team representing the USA.

Learn more about Aaron and the team at https://bamaadapted.com/sports/mens-wheelchair-basketball/roster/aaron-berry/58

Dinner with the Directors

Dr. Julia Cherry and Professor John Miller hosted seven students for Dinner with a Professor at their home on February 1, 2023. As always, good food, topics, and vibes were on the menu.
SEC Faculty Achievement Award

Earlier this year, Dr. Andrew Dewar received the 2023 SEC Faculty Achievement Award, which recognizes one faculty from each SEC member institution per year for their outstanding records in research and scholarship. New College is proud to be the home to two UA recipients in the past three years! Dr. Catherine Roach received the award in 2021, and both she and Dr. Dewar were honored at a College of Arts & Sciences reception on May 4, 2023.

Rose Doskey: Fulbright Scholar

New College is proud to announce that another of its graduates received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award. Rose, who earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies with a depth study in language, culture and society, will teach in Germany.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we announce that one of Dr. Julia Cherry's graduate students, Jacob “Jake” Dybiec, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 3, 2023. As a team member in Dr. Cherry’s Wetland Ecology Lab, Jake worked with New College students conducting undergraduate research in ecology and environmental science. Although not a New College student, Jake was frequently seen in the halls of Lloyd and occasionally made appearances at New College events. Jake was an amazing student and friend to all. He will be dearly missed.

More about Jake can be found at https://bsc.ua.edu/in-memory-of-jake-dybiec/
Mrs. Elaine D. Smith

Elaine Darcy Smith graduated with honors this Spring at the age of 77, a long awaited and hard-earned achievement. Her journey to her bachelor’s degree began with a pamphlet for the New College LifeTrack program that she happened to find one day after completing her associate’s degree at Coastal Alabama Community College.

Elaine started her college career when she was 71 after some encouragement from her family, and she hopes her story helps people realize that it’s never too late to achieve a life-long dream.

Read the full UA News Article about Elaine’s inspirational road to graduation here: news.ua.edu/2023/04/ua-grad-77-its-never-too-late-to-chase-your-dream

Want to be in the spotlight?
Email us at ncfrndsk@ua.edu and tell us about all the great things you’re doing!
MORE NEW COLLEGE NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

• The scholarship established in honor of Bernie and Carole Sloan was fully endowed thanks to several donations received earlier this year. We thank everyone who contributed to this scholarship, as well as those who continue to donate to New College, for your support of our students.

• Congratulations to Prof. Jennifer Caputo on receiving this year’s Levitetz FLIP award for her project, "Enhancing Student Engagement through Experiential Learning in NEW 212/213 Creativity Seminars".

• Congratulations to Drs. Cherry and Elliott, who along with their colleague, Dr. Nate Jones (Biology), received funding from NOAA to research marsh elevations at two National Estuarine Research Reserves.

• Drs. Barbara Brickman, Ted Trost, and Vincent Willis showcased their respective book covers as part of the exhibit, “On the Cover: Books Published by A&S Faculty”, at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center in March.

• Dr. Andrew Dewar was awarded one of three 2023-24 Alabama State Council for the Arts music fellowships.

• Congratulations and thanks to Drs. Marysia Galbraith and Kim Colburn for being elected to the Faculty Senate as excellent representatives of New College.

• Congratulations to Prof. John Miller on being inducted into the UMS-Wright Arts Hall of Fame.

• Congratulations to Dr. Vincent Willis, whose application for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor was approved by the Provost.

Email our office associate, Jennifer Kunz (jrkunz@ua.edu), or complete the Alumni Update Form online (newcollege.ua.edu/alumni-news) if you have changes to your Contact Information or if you have any information or achievements you’d like us to know about!