Greetings, friends and colleagues:

Happy New Year! The start of another new year marks an occasion to reflect on the year that was. As this newsletter demonstrates, New College continues to thrive, providing a space for faculty, students, and staff to explore their passions, hone their skills, and enrich the lives of others in our community.

Since the summer, we celebrated the graduation of 18 New College and New College LifeTrack students and admitted 18 new, main-campus students, with more applications in the queue. Our students continued their service to others through our Walker County Internship program and service learning projects, as well as in their own independent studies, internships, and scholarship. For their good work, our faculty and students continue to be recognized on campus and beyond as innovators, creators, and scholars. Further, we are excited to deepen relationships with alumni through our new Support Board.

As 2024 gets underway, we plan to build on these successes to advance the mission of New College and strengthen our community.

- Julia Cherry, Director
New College LifeTrack Celebrating 50 years!

New College LifeTrack (NCLT) is very similar to New College because we focus on an interdisciplinary approach with our students. However, our mission from the beginning, in 1973, was to focus on non-traditional students. NCLT understands ‘life happens’, and we want to help our students earn their bachelor’s degree through college credit, life experience, and ACE-certified certifications. Our students are able to choose one of four depth studies—Leadership Studies; Community Studies; Literature, Art, and Society; and Science, Technology, and Culture—or to design their own. Similar to New College, our students can create their own courses through self-designed class contracts.

Our students are unique in that their journeys may differ from traditional college students. One NCLT graduate, Robert “Reid” Lovell stated, “Forty-four years after I should have graduated, I earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the age of 65. It was one of the most satisfying accomplishments of my life. I could not have asked for a more welcoming and nurturing environment for me to continue the pursuit of my college degree.” Dr. Amanda Ingram, Executive Director of Online and Continuing Education, wrote, “While working with New College LifeTrack, I never tired of talking to prospective, current, or former students. Each had a unique life story and journey that brought them to the program. The faculty and staff approached each student individually to support them as they pursued their academic goals, which is part of the magic of NCLT.” I truly believe our program has lasted 50 years due to our staff and faculty’s passion and belief in the program.

We welcome all students into our program and are with them every step of the way until graduation. I will leave you with a quote from Elaine Smith, who graduated from UA at the age of 77 years old, “Thank you for your dedication to teaching and the hours of your life that you have donated to helping all of your students achieve their dreams. My dream will be realized in May 2023. It is so much like a vision that is always just beyond reach, but never attained! I will receive my BA from THE University of Alabama. I appreciate all that you have done to help me get to this point in my life. I will always remember you and all the faculty at NCLT with deep fondness.”

- Dr. Laura Davis, PhD, Assistant Director, New College LifeTrack

Join us in celebrating this milestone by contributing to the Sloan Scholarship, which is awarded annually to one NCLT and one New College student. SCAN THE CODE BELOW to give through give.ua.edu
New College and New College LifeTrack celebrated the Fall 2023 Graduates on December 15, 2023, at John England Jr. Hall. We were exceedingly proud to recognize each of these outstanding scholars and their achievements. We are honored to have been a part of their educational journeys and wish them all the very best in their future academic and professional pursuits.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Reagan Christian
Cotondale, AL
Art, Media and Culture
Magna Cum Laude

Tricia Perkins
Tuscaloosa, AL
Community Studies
Magna Cum Laude

Molly Hart
Lawrenceville, NJ
Cognitive Science
Summa Cum Laude

Alexis Stovall
Headland, AL
Science, Technology and Culture

Tyler Henschel
Woodstock, GA
Sustainability / Natural Resources

Amy Wilks
Tuscaloosa, AL
Leadership Studies
GRADUATES NOT PICTURED

Jennifer Anderson
Rock Hill, SC
Leadership Studies

Cailyn Brummitt
Bartow, FL
Leadership Studies
Cum Laude

Audrey Cole
Hampton, VA
Leadership Studies

Stephen Copeland
Huntsville, AL
Leadership Studies

Carly Davis
Tuscaloosa, AL
Science, Technology and Culture

Chris Macias
Maricopa, AZ
Literature, Art and Society

Natalie Mitchell
Marianna, FL
Community Studies

Roger Montgomery
Niceville, FL
Leadership Studies

Natalie Owen
Sun Valley, CA
Leadership Studies

Seth Phillips
Dripping Springs, TX
Leadership Studies

Dawn Stephens
Grove Hill, AL
Literature, Art and Society

Pilar Vieyra
San Antonio, TX
Leadership Studies
New College at CIEL 2023

New College participated in the annual meeting of the Consortium of Innovative Environments in Learning (CIEL), home to student-choice driven programs like New College. Traveling with Dr. Cherry and Prof. Miller were New College students, Ta’Kyla Bates and Molly Hart, who participated in a student panel on Artificial Intelligence and undergraduate education with counterparts from The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), this year’s host institution. Former New College Director, Dr. Jim Hall (2003-2012) currently heads RIT’s School of Individualized Study.

New College Trivia Night

The New College Council organized a fun Trivia Night at the Lounge for students and faculty, not to be confused with our annual trivia rivalry vs. Blount Scholars. The invited host was Dr. Richard J. Wallace, who regularly hosts local trivia events around Tuscaloosa. Participating groups met in a battle of the brains with refreshments and prizes. A fun time was had by all, and we look forward to the next one!

Civic Engagement Interns Share Walker County Successes and Challenges

2023 marked the thirteenth summer that New College Civic Engagement Interns worked with Jasper, Alabama-area nonprofits. With support from the Walker Area Community Foundation and the David Mathews Center for Civic Life’s Jean O’Connor-Snyder Internship Program, students spent eight weeks in Walker County learning about its resources and challenges. Part of their experience is writing a community journalism piece. This assignment helps students engage with local change-makers by highlighting how they leverage community strengths to combat challenges in Walker County.

Read their stories here: https://www.mathewscenter.org/blog/civic-dispatch-solutions-journalism-in-jasper
The Levitetz Leadership Program awarded over $30,000 in Innovation Seed Grants and Light Bulb Research Awards to support the bright, deserving scholars listed below as they develop their ideas to help better our world. These students will give presentations on their work in Spring 2024.

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

**SEED GRANT WINNERS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholar Name</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rylen Dempsey</td>
<td>Engage Alabama: Connecting Students to Opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie Herrera</td>
<td>Soph’s Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamya Morris</td>
<td>Tamya’s Timeless Jewelry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trina K. Locklear</td>
<td>The Pelt Company, LLC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Utkarsh Roy Chaoudhury</td>
<td>TerraBloom: Cultivating Resilience, Empowering Climate Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victoria Laub</td>
<td>Fortitude Foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venus Travae Watson</td>
<td>Empower and Explore: Advancing College Access for Alabama's High School Black Girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kanyinsola Olorunnisola</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa: A City Symphony</td>
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**LIGHTBULB AWARD WINNERS**

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<tr>
<th>Scholar Name</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rylen Dempsey</td>
<td>Exploring the Status and Effects of Student Belonging at The University of Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noah Jacobs</td>
<td>Using Multi-Scale Remote Sensing Data and an Ethnography of Alabama Smallholder Farmers to Inform Alabama Climate Smart Agriculture Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addison Miller</td>
<td>Conversational Agents Supporting Heritage Language Literacy in Western Alabama: A NeurocognitiveStudy of Sociolinguistic Factors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benjamin Trost</td>
<td>Waters of Hurt: Pollution in the Black Warrior Watershed</td>
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NC IN THE WILD

Everyday Forestry and Wildlife Classes

Some of our most well attended courses are Everyday Forestry and Wildlife led by Wayne Ford. The students really enjoy the hands-on and explorative approach to learning.

Lake Nicol Outing

On September 15, New College students and faculty embarked on a kayaking trip to Lake Nicol, led by Leah Connell, Scott Jones, and Amanda Espy-Brown.

Science in Nature

Students in our Interdisciplinary Sciences courses are really in their element among the elements, under the instruction of Professors Espy-Brown, Connell, and Elliott.
NEW COLLEGE ABROAD

Belize

New College students always enjoy participating in Dr. Michael Steinberg’s summer study abroad trip to Belize.

The course is open to all and is designed for students who are interested in conservation issues, biogeography, marine sciences, ornithology and birding, archaeology, and outdoor adventures! Here’s a glimpse of the 2023 class.

Poland

Marysia Galbraith co-lead a memorial tour to central Poland for Jewish descendants from May 14-21. The trip was organized by the Association of Descendants of Jewish Central Poland. Five days were spent in Wloclawek visiting sites associated with Jewish history and culture, meeting with local officials and residents, and participating in commemorative events and community conversations. The trip included a weekend in Warsaw for Warsaw Jewish Community events and a visit to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Thirty-four descendants participated from the US, Israel, England, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, and Portugal.

Photos include: Meeting inside the synagogue in Lubraniec, the exterior of the Lubraniec synagogue, participants at a memorial wall in the Lubraniec Jewish cemetery, the entire group outside City Hall in Kolo, a musical performance by Klezmer musicians Duo Ruach, memorial candles at the site of the Jewish Cemetery in Brześć Kujawski, and a map of the towns visited.
Jennifer Caputo & NEW 212/213 FLIP Project

With a FLIP grant that Prof. Jennifer Caputo was awarded from the Levitetz Leadership Program, students in NEW 212/213 Creativity seminars visited the Druid City Makerspace to complete creative projects this semester. They learned about the value of creativity, innovation, and supporting small businesses in their community. Jennifer’s FLIP project is to further develop what will ideally be an ongoing relationship between the Druid City Makerspace and New College students. She took 80 students and 5 faculty members to learn firsthand from the owners what is involved in opening and sustaining a small business that caters to innovative and creative individuals. They worked together in small groups to complete creative projects.

Japanese Pottery

Marysia Galbraith met with students, Victoria Crane and Olivia Stallings, at her home pottery studio for lessons on making Japanese Tea Ceremony-style tea bowls. Victoria’s senior project was about the Japanese Tea Ceremony. Both she and Olivia have depth studies involving Japanese Culture. Here is Victoria with her beautiful creation.
Lila Quintero Weaver was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but grew up in Alabama. She received her BA from New College LifeTrack in 2007. Her first book, *Darkroom: A Memoir in Black and White* was published in English and Spanish through The University of Alabama Press in 2012. On her website, she describes her graphic novel as “an illustrated account of her family’s early years as Argentine immigrants in Alabama, where they encountered the Civil Rights Movement in its most turbulent decade.” It was listed as a 2013 Notable Books for a Global Society, an award sponsored by the Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group International Reading Association. *Darkroom* was also awarded the 2013 Druid Arts Award: Literary Artist, given by the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa.

In July 2018, Candlewick Press released Lila’s first children’s book, *My Year in the Middle*. This fictional story, inspired by her own life experiences, follows a sixth-grade girl as she grows more aware of the athletic gifts within herself and the racial injustices of the world around her.

Learn more about Lila Weaver and her published books at her website, https://lilaqweaver.com and follow her on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/lilaquinteroweaver

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

- Dr. Barbara Brickman’s new book, *Suffering Sappho! Lesbian Camp in American Popular Culture*, was published by Rutgers University Press. Congratulations, Barbara!

- Dr. Bruce Blair accepted a position as a senior analyst for the Gas Division of the Department of Energy for the state of New Hampshire. New College will miss him, but we wish him the best in this new role.

- Prof. John Miller received a book contract from Fernwood Press for his poetry collection. Congratulations, John!

- Congrats to NC student, Jasmine Lewis, who received the Generation Future Award at the DoSomething.org 30th Anniversary Futures Ball. The award was in recognition of her work as a young activist and her leadership of the storytelling platform that she founded – TALMBAT. You can read more about it here: https://www.dosomething.org/us/articles/jasmine-lewis-blueprint-for-inclusivity

- Congrats to NC student, Rilyn Todd, who had a research article, “Facile post-treatment of PSf membranes with hexane for fractionation and concentration of alkaline textile wastewater”, published in *Chemical Engineering Journal*. Learn more and read the article at https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1385894723050052