

# The University of Alabama Graduate School

A Newsletter Serving Current &  
Prospective Graduate Students

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## Message from the UA Graduate School Associate Deans

On behalf of the Graduate School, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your interest. We hope that this publication will provide you with pertinent information about the Graduate School and UA. Current students are able to verify deadline dates and read about activities of organizations such as the GSA. Prospective students can take advantage of articles such as "Financing Your Education" and "A Look Inside Tuscaloosa" to find useful information regarding your potential move to UA.

The Graduate School staff members are always available to answer questions or address suggestions from our current and prospective graduate students. We are here to serve you and hope that you will benefit from the numerous advantages that UA has to offer. We urge you to visit our website at <http://graduate.ua.edu>.

Recruitment of new graduate students and services for our current graduate students are two of our most valued priorities, and we hope that this newsletter conveys that expression. Enjoy your read of our newsletter! We look forward to helping you explore your future at UA.



Dr. Patti Harrison  
Graduate School  
Associate Dean



Dr. John Schmitt  
Graduate School  
Associate Dean

# UA Graduate Program Spotlight: Creative Writing

- **Degrees Offered:** M.F.A.
- **Program Description:** The nationally ranked program leading to the M.F.A. degree in creative writing is a studio/academic course of study, designed with an eye toward accommodating student and faculty passions.
- **Areas of Study:** Digital Media, Nonfiction, Screenwriting, Autobiography, Poetry, and Fiction
- **Course of Study:** The program consists of 48 hours of coursework divided among the following areas: 15 hours in Writing Workshops; 9 hours in EN 608 Forms; 3 hours in EN 609 Writers at Work: Form, Theory, & Practice; 12 hours in Literature, Criticism, or Linguistics; 3 hours in an Elective; 6 hours in Thesis Preparation
- **Publication:** Edited and managed entirely by graduate students, the *Black Warrior Review* is a nationally respected literary magazine that publishes the best in contemporary fiction, poetry, and essays from both established and emerging writers. Each issue features a chapbook, a selection of poetry, from a nationally known poet. MFA students may join the staff as assistant editors upon their arrival in Tuscaloosa.
- **Students Enrolled:** 51
- **Faculty:** 7 Full-time Faculty Members
- **Contact Person:** Nancy Calvert (ncalvert@bama.ua.edu)
- **Website:** <http://bama.ua.edu/~writing/>
- **Address:** The Program in Creative Writing; Box 870244  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0244
- **Phone:** 205-348-5065



# UA Graduate School News

## *UA Book Arts MFA Program Receives \$1 Million Endowment*

UA's book arts graduate program, the oldest and one of only three in the United States, is housed in the School of Library Information Studies in the College of Communication & Information Sciences. Only eight students can be admitted to the program each year, making admittance very competitive. A foundation interested in the teaching of craft and art in America recently recognized the program by awarding it a \$1 million endowment. The endowment, given by a foundation that wishes to remain anonymous, creates annually three \$15,000 fellowships and a \$5,000 supply and equipment fund.

## *UA College of Education Announces New Executive Doctoral Program*

Beginning this summer, The University of Alabama College of Education will begin a new Executive Ed.D. Program in Higher Education Administration. The two-year program, offered with the support of UA's College of Continuing Studies, allows education professionals to earn their doctorate without leaving their jobs. At the end of the two-year program, both coursework and dissertations are complete. According to Dr. James E. McLean, dean of the College of Education, this program is another effort by UA and the College to reduce barriers to obtaining a doctorate degree, and to prepare educators for increased responsibilities and career advancement. Applications for the program are due by March 15. For more information or to enroll, contact Jean Foster Herron, 205-348-1169, [jherron@bamaed.ua.edu](mailto:jherron@bamaed.ua.edu), or visit [www.education.ua.edu](http://www.education.ua.edu).

## *UA to Celebrate 175th Anniversary in 2006*

The University of Alabama will celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2006. The state's flagship university, UA was founded on April 12, 1831. The University will commemorate that momentous day on April 12, 2006 with a Founder's Day program and a community-wide birthday party. The anniversary will be celebrated with lectures, speakers, concerts and arts events, culminating with a special event at commencement in December 2006 including the unveiling of a permanent campus marker commemorating the anniversary. The University's history actually began more than 175 years ago when the federal government authorized the Alabama Territory to set aside a township for the establishment of a "seminary of learning" in 1818. Alabama was admitted to the Union on March 2, 1819, and a second township was added to the grant. On Dec. 18, 1820, the seminary was established officially and named the University of the State of Alabama. Tuscaloosa, then the state's capital, was chosen as the University's home in 1827. Inaugural ceremonies were held on April 12, 1831 and the University officially opened. Today, the University is home to more than 21,000 students from Alabama and around the world.

## *UA Graduate School Honors Outstanding Graduate Students*

Each year the Graduate School bestows awards upon those graduate students who display excellence in the areas of writing, teaching, and research. The winners for 2005-2006 are: Dissertation Award, Robert Riser (Department of History); Thesis Award, Crystal Schrum (Department of Psychology); Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Master's Student, Tara Tyson (Creative Writing Program); Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Doctoral Student, Courtney Carpenter (Communication & Information Sciences); Award for Excellence in Research by a Master's Student, Laura Minnich (Department of Anthropology); and Award for Excellence in Research by a Doctoral Student, Kalyan Srinivasan (Mechanical Engineering). All of these students are to be commended for their exception work and contributions.

# Financing Your Education

After applying and being accepted into graduate school, the number one priority becomes finding a way to pay for it. Fortunately, there are numerous programs and opportunities available for students wishing to pursue graduate study. The Graduate School, along with UA departments, works to identify scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships for graduate study. Below is a list of assistantships and fellowships that UA presently offers. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, and more information can be obtained on our website <http://graduate.ua.edu/financial/> or by contacting a representative from your intended department.

## ***Graduate Assistantships:***

Most academic departments of the Graduate School have teaching or research assistantships available. Students should contact departments directly to obtain information and application forms for assistantships.

## ***Graduate Council Fellowships:***

The Graduate School awards a number of nonrenewable Graduate Council Fellowships each year with stipends of \$15,100 per academic year. Preference will be given to students beginning their graduate programs. No service to the University is required, but recipients must carry a normal course load of 12 graduate hours during each semester. Recipients for the coming academic year are selected at three times: the first week in February, the first week in March, and mid-April. Nominations are made by academic departments. Interested students should ask their intended graduate departments for information about the departmental nomination process. Students who are awarded Graduate Council Fellowships also receive scholarship grants equal to their full in-state and out-of-state tuition charges.

## ***Future Faculty Fellows Program:***

Graduate students who are seeking the terminal degree in their field and plan to become a college or university professor may apply for fellowships from The University of Alabama Future Faculty Fellows Program. To increase the numbers of college faculty members from minority groups, this program provides funds for students working toward doctoral or other terminal degrees. Consideration for the program is based upon departmental nomination of graduate students. Interested students should contact the chair of their intended departments for information about the departmental nomination process.

## ***Joint Faculty Development Fellowships:***

The University of Alabama Graduate School has joint programs with Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Oakwood College, and Stillman College for practicing minority faculty members at these institutions who do not have terminal degrees in their fields of instruction. Faculty members must be nominated for the fellowship by their home institutions. Faculty members participating in this program receive support from both their home institutions (to be negotiated with each institution's vice president for academic affairs) and The University of Alabama Graduate School. Interested students should contact the Graduate School for information.

*Continued on next page.*

## Financing Your Education Continued

### ***National Alumni Association (NAA) Graduate Fellowship Program:***

This program awards a \$14,000 stipend plus a full-tuition scholarship. The source of the fellowship is the National Alumni Association's Collegiate License Tag Endowed Graduate Education Fund. The award is based on students' academic and professional records and potential to make outstanding contributions during their careers to the lives of the people of the state of Alabama. Nominations for these fellowships are made by the academic departments in the spring of each year. Interested students should contact their intended department for more information regarding the nomination process.

### ***National Alumni Association Graduate Scholarship Program:***

To be eligible for these awards, an applicant must hold regular admission to the Graduate School, must possess entrance examination scores well above the national norm, and must have a grade point average indicative of a high probability of success in graduate school. Preference is given to new students. Nominations for these awards are made by the dean of each division at the request of the Graduate School. Each college and school that awards a post-baccalaureate degree will receive one \$1,000 annual scholarship from the National Alumni Association. Nominations from each college are made in early March. Students should contact the chairs of their graduate departments for more information about the departmental nomination process.

### ***Alumni Heritage Graduate Scholarship:***

The scholarship is to reward the children and grandchildren of University of Alabama alumni for choosing the University for higher education. The scholarship is a 1-year, nonrenewable award for 10% of in-state tuition. In order to qualify, students must be enrolled full-time (9 hours of graduate classes) and have a parent or grandparent who both 1) holds a degree (undergraduate, graduate, or law) from the University and 2) has been an active member of the Alumni Association for 3 of the past 5 years. For more information, contact Kathleen Nodine at the Graduate School, P.O. Box 870118, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35487-0118; telephone (205) 348-8280.

***Alabama Commission on Higher Education(ACHE)/Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Fellowships:*** The ACHE/SREB Minority Doctoral Scholars Program encourages ethnic minority students to pursue doctoral degrees and become college professors. ACHE/SREB scholars receive \$15,000 annual stipends, book allowances, and tuition scholarships for up to 5 years of graduate study through a combination of SREB, Graduate School, and departmental funding. ACHE/SREB fellowships are awarded typically to new doctoral students. Interested students should contact the Graduate School for more information about the application process.

### ***Graduate Student Research and Travel Support Fund:***

During the first two weeks of each fall and spring term, UA graduate department chairs are invited to submit nominations for graduate students to receive research and travel support funds from the Graduate School. Faculty members and graduate students should contact their department chairs for more information about the departmental nomination process.

For additional information about the large number of specific scholarships available from departments, colleges, campus organizations, and external organizations, please visit <http://www.graduate.ua.edu/financial/index.html>.

# Rolling into T-Town: A Look Inside Tuscaloosa

By Samantha Elliott Briggs, Ph.D. Student in Instructional Leadership

Voted an “All American City” by the National Civic League (Washington, D.C.) in 2002, the Tuscaloosa (affectionately known as T-Town) community has grown by leaps and bounds since I first moved here seven years ago. With my husband and a newborn baby in tow, moving to “small town” Tuscaloosa from the metropolis of Atlanta was quite frightening. Beginning work on my master’s degree was imperative, and The University of Alabama offered the best academic program and financial package—hence, a move to Tuscaloosa was essential. However, before my husband would whole-heartedly agree to such a drastic environmental and social change, I had to present an offer he couldn’t refuse.

I came to Tuscaloosa in July of 1998 to identify childcare, housing, and to see what Tuscaloosa had to offer in terms of meeting our “creature comforts.” Lucky for me (and my daughter) UA has one of only three daycare centers in Tuscaloosa County accredited by NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and serves as a lab school for students majoring in early childhood education. The Child Care Services Center (now known as The Children’s Program) is located on campus and offers student rates, which are charged directly to your student account each month. For school aged children, Tuscaloosa also offers several public and private schools in both Tuscaloosa City and Tuscaloosa County systems.

The University offers adequate housing with affordable rates for its students, including apartments and other residential communities geared towards graduate students and adult students with families. While we chose not to live directly on campus, we did find a wealth of historic apartments and homes for rent within walking distance, one of which suited our needs perfectly.

When it comes to the arts and entertainment, Tuscaloosa offers just enough to keep you going. From theatre to dance, museums to music—we have a little bit of everything—including a variety of restaurants to dine in before or after the show. For what Tuscaloosa lacks, nearby venues offer. Our central location places us 45 miles west of Birmingham and within 200 miles of Atlanta, New Orleans, Memphis, Mobile, Jackson, and Nashville.

Since I’m writing this article on the ins and outs of Tuscaloosa, my husband and I have clearly decided to stay—for academic purposes as well as social—something I’d never imagine admitting! However, Tuscaloosa provides the ideal environment for a growing family (we’ve since had a second child) while both parents are pursuing higher degrees.

*\*More information can be obtained at <http://graduate.ua.edu/prospects.html>.*

# Paving the Way

By April Davenport, UA Future Faculty Fellow, Ph.D. Student in English

In our society, we are always encouraged to “reach out and offer a helping hand”. While some may say that this advice is simply an old adage, it is a true fact that we can benefit from those who have traveled the same road we are trying to conquer. In graduate school, students benefit from the guidance of their professors and advisors; however, if students are able to be steered in the right direction from their counterparts closer to them, then they will be placed at an even greater advantage. For this reason, upper level graduate students are urged to consider mentoring a graduate student who is new to this experience. On the undergraduate level, freshmen are often intimidated by juniors and seniors, and perhaps even sophomores; and the same can be true for first year graduate students. In an effort to impress, first year graduate students forget to just simply ask for help. This could mean help in studies or help in choosing the right classes or getting involved in the right organizations. For upper-level graduate students, this situation presents a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life and perhaps give a student the added incentive they need to succeed on the graduate school level. Fortunately, at the University of Alabama, there are several programs already in place to bridge the gap often placed between first year graduate students and upper-level graduate students; as well as opportunities to mentor undergraduate students, or even high school students. Whether you have hands-on time to dedicate to a student, or if you just want to be there when the student is in need; there are opportunities available for any student wishing to pave the way. Below are just a few of the organizations and programs that UA offers in the area of mentorship.

Student Support Services  
Mentoring Program  
<http://www.ctl.ua.edu/SSS>

UA Graduate School  
Graduate Ambassador Program  
<http://www.graduate.ua.edu/info/ambassadors.html>

Graduate Student Association  
<http://www.bama.ua.edu/~gsa/>

African American Graduate Student Association  
<http://www.bama.ua.edu/aagsaua/>

You can even contact your own department to see how you can start making a difference today!

## Resources & Events for Prospective & Current Graduate Students

- **Consultation with UA Graduate Admissions Staff:**  
Call (205) 348-5921
- **Consultation with UA Financial Aid Staff:**  
Call (205) 348-6756
- **Electronic Viewbook for UA Graduate Applicants:**  
<http://graduate.ua.edu/viewbook/>
- **Assistance with Thesis or Dissertation:**  
[http://graduate.ua.edu/thesis\\_man/index.html](http://graduate.ua.edu/thesis_man/index.html)
- **Graduate Assistant Guide:**  
[http://graduate.ua.edu/ga\\_guide/index.html](http://graduate.ua.edu/ga_guide/index.html)
- **Online Forms for Current Graduate Students:**  
<http://graduate.ua.edu/academics/forms/index.html>
- **Online Checklist for Current Graduate Students:**  
<http://graduate.ua.edu/students.html>

If you would like to obtain more information regarding the application process, please attend our Graduate School Seminar "How To Apply" to be held May 3, 2006 from 2:00pm until 3:00pm in 102 Rose Administration Building.

### GSA Upcoming Events:

There are numerous activities being planned for graduate students during the month of April. Graduate and Professional Student Appreciation Week will take place April 3-7, 2006 and Honors Week will also be held April 3-7, 2006. More information is forthcoming and can be found on the GSA's website or on the Graduate Student Services' website.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the GSA, visit <http://www.gsa.ua.edu> or email Denny Bubrig at [bubri002@bama.ua.edu](mailto:bubri002@bama.ua.edu).

# Graduate School Calendar & Deadlines

## APRIL 2006

- 15 Applications due for international students currently in the U.S. for Fall admission
- 22 Last day to report results of comprehensive exams for students NOT writing theses or dissertations

## MAY 2006

- 3 Graduate School Seminar "How to Apply" from 2:00-3:00pm in 102 Rose Administration Building. Contact Carl Williams, PhD at (205) 348-5921 for more information.
- 5 Spring Semester classes end.
- 13 Commencement Exercises 9:00am and 1:00pm.

## JUNE 2006

- 1 All international applicants are encouraged to have completed applications 6-8 months in advance of Spring semester 2007.
- 6 Classes begin for Full Summer and Summer I terms.
- 23 Deadline to apply for transfer of graduate credit earned at another accredited institution if all other requirements will be completed during summer.
- 30 Last day to defend theses and dissertations and submit to the Graduate School Office to graduate in summer. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

## JULY 2006

- 1 Final deadline for completed applications for U.S. applicants for the Fall semester, HOWEVER MOST PROGRAMS HAVE EARLIER DEADLINES. Check with the specific graduate program before applying.
- 4 *Holiday*- Independence Day observed.
- 6 Summer I classes end.
- 10 Registration for Summer II begins.
- 11 Summer II classes begin.

## AUGUST 2006

- 9 Summer II term classes end.
- 17-18 Workshop for new Graduate Teaching Assistants: Bryant Conference Center from 8 am - 4 p.m. each day. Contact the Graduate School at 348-5921 for more information.
- 22 Late registration/add/drop for Fall semester.
- 23 Classes begin for Fall semester.

# In Focus

## Student Recreation Center

*Each issue, the newsletter will focus on a department or unit that serves as one of the many resources here at UA.*

Graduate students are often so busy with learning, teaching, and research that they often forget to cater to the needs of their physical bodies. It is important to balance the demands of school with activities that help students stay fit, rested, and prepared for the busy lifestyle that most graduate students lead. Fortunately, for UA graduate students, they do not have to go far in order to exercise. The Student Recreation Center, located on the outskirts of campus, is accessible to all graduate students desiring to increase or maintain their level of physical fitness. Students can take advantage of the outdoor pool complex where swimming lessons and casual swimming are offered; for the more advanced swimmer, UA also has a state of the art aquatic center. The tennis player is privy to the twelve lighted courts in the tennis complex that are open daily. Furthermore, students desiring to participate in team-oriented activities can become a member of one of the many intramural sports teams in sports such as bowling, basketball, or indoor soccer. The SRC also offers numerous aerobic classes for those wishing to participate in structured fitness activities. Some of the classes they offer are listed below:

- Yin Yang Yoga
- Bama Spin
- Water Aerobics
- Stretch & Tone
- Pilates
- Kickboxing
- Power Ball
- ABsolutely

Another unique feature of the SRC is the Fitness Testing Lab where an onsite exercise physiologist is available to conduct fitness assessments, determine body compositions, facilitate personal training, provide diet analysis and nutrition counseling (most services incur an additional fee).

Admission for all graduate students is free. Students must bring their student I.D. in order to gain entrance into the facility. The facility contains locker rooms with showers, bathrooms, and saunas. Guests can use the SRC for a nominal fee to be paid at time of entrance. SRC hours of operation are:

- Monday-Thursday: 5:30 am-Midnight
- Friday: 5:30 am- 9:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am- 6:00 pm
- Sunday: Noon-Midnight

Begin to take advantage of the advanced equipment and other numerous benefits that SRC has to offer today and “Make it a part of your day!”

Call SRC at (205) 348-3994 or visit them on the web at <http://urec.sa.ua.edu/>.

# Important Contacts in the Graduate School



U.S. applicant questions, please contact:

Louise Labosier  
labosier@alan.ua.edu

International applicant questions, please contact:

Libby Williams  
lwilliam@alan.ua.edu

Non-Degree applicant questions, please contact:

Sheryl Tubbs  
stubbs@alan.ua.edu

General questions, please contact:

Debbie Eads  
deads@alan.ua.edu

Questions about degree programs and financial assistance, please contact:

Carl Williams, PhD  
cwilliam@alan.ua.edu

Enrolled students' questions about registration and graduation, please contact:

Beth Yarbrough  
byarbrou@alan.ua.edu

Questions about Assistantship/Fellowship Stipends and Academic Common Market, please contact:

John Chambers  
jchamber@alan.ua.edu

<http://graduate.ua.edu>

# THE UNIVERSITY OF **ALABAMA**

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## GRADUATE SCHOOL

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**Samantha Elliott Briggs, Ph.D. Student in Instructional  
Leadership**

This newsletter serves current and prospective graduate students at The University of Alabama. It is published throughout the year and contains information pertinent to graduate life here at UA.

If you are interested in writing a featured article in future newsletters, please contact April Davenport at [adavenpo@alan.ua.edu](mailto:adavenpo@alan.ua.edu).

*Disclaimer: Articles in this newsletter reflect the opinions of the contributing authors and do not reflect the opinions, endorsements, or policies of The University of Alabama or the Graduate School.*