UAH Alumni News, Spring 2003

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Work hard, play hard
Faculty hobbies, pastimes and passions

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A look back at 1983 - 20th Anniversary in sports

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Alumni News
Work hard, play hard
Faculty hobbies, pastimes and passions

If curiosity, energy and enthusiasm are common traits of great teachers, it isn't surprising that UAH's creative faculty unwind, recharge and refocus with a wide and often eclectic variety of diversions. Here are a few with unique avocations, some of which go beyond the common run of hobbies and pastimes, and stray into the realm of passions.

Brent Wren, Jim Simpson and John Burnett

A thousand feet below the peak of Mount Hood in Washington, in the freezing pre-dawn darkness with a summer snow storm churning around them, three members of UAH's management and marketing faculty listened to their seasoned mountain guide's advice: It was time to climb down, not up.

Although they didn't reach the summit, the rugged trek up Mount Hood was otherwise business as usual for the three adventurous professors: Dr. Brent Wren, Dr. Jim Simpson and Dr. John Burnett.

"We started in '95 with the Cotton Row run," explained Wren. "A couple of years later John had the idea of going to Jackson Hole and doing a summit hike up the Grand Tetons. When we got there we had to go through a two day climbing school and then a snow survival school."

"It was a blast. That trip got us started. Every year since then we've gone on an adventure somewhere."

Together they have hiked the Grand Canyon from rim to rim, and kayaked the Gunnison River in Colorado. They compete as a "tag team" in triathlons, and in April Wren and Burnett, with business alumna Amber Haulenbeek, '02, as their team member, participated in an eight-hour "adventure race" in North Carolina.

Gordon Emslie

In a parking lot full of Corvette and Porsche drivers, a '29 Duesenberg will still turn heads. An Academy Airlines DC-3 has the same effect on pilots when UAH's Dr. Gordon Emslie taxis the World War II-era airplane through an airport filled with jumbo jets.

"A DC-3 is very charismatic," he said. "It's the Harley-Davidson of airplanes."

Not only does Emslie fly the airplane, usually as a flight instructor for aspiring pilots, but the dean of UAH's graduate school also twists wrenches and pulls plugs as an FAA-certified flight mechanic.

"It's relaxing," he explained. "There's something about having your hands in there. My day job is constant decision making. It's very unpredictable. This mechanical stuff is very regimented. I do what I'm told, or what the FAA checklist tells me to do. There's not a lot of latitude for free expression when you're changing the number four cylinder."

"There's a tremendous sense of satisfaction that comes from putting a cylinder back in and 'Hey, it works!' And it's done. There's a sense of completion that you get from that."

Emslie got his flight mechanic certificate after convincing the FAA that working on the airplane five or six hours a week for several years met the requirement of working full time for 30 months. (Keeping an antique airplane flying is labor intensive: The 1941 DC-3 needs two or three hours of maintenance for every hour it is in the air.)

"We always carry about half an engine of spare parts whenever we fly it, so you can make repairs on the spot," said Emslie. "So I learned how to rivet, I learned how to weld and how to bend metal, stuff I never knew before."
Carolyn Sanders

The post-modernist dialectic of the triathlon and its deconstructionist motto, "To finish is to win," weren't what attracted Dr. Carolyn Sanders to a sport that combines swimming, cross country cycling and running: "I was looking for a good way to get in shape."

An adult cyclist who was a swim team member in her youth, Sanders jumped into her first triathlon competition three years ago at a friend's urging. "At the end, I was just thrilled to have finished," she said. "I was quite tired, but elated." A dozen individual competitions, including two age group wins, later, she had another inspiration.

"The idea of a liberal arts triathlon team was probably mine," recalled Sanders, an associate professor of music at UAH. "I was aware that (Art Department chair) Michael Crouse was a very good runner, and that (history professor) Andy Dunar is a very good biker. He bikes every morning. They both have done at least one triathlon. It just seemed like a natural fit. It seemed like a great activity for three liberal arts professors to pursue.

"And it was a way for me to get out of running," (which she acknowledges is her least favorite part of the triathlon). Although the team has been around for a year, it has yet to compete. "We registered as a team at Tullahoma last year, and maybe a week before the race Andy was running, tripped and broke some ribs," Sanders said. The team hopes to make its debut at the Tullahoma race in June.

Randy Reid

Blankly, the foundlings stare out from handmade shelves that line from floor to ceiling two walls of Dr. Randy Reid's office in UAH's Administrative Science Building. They are the unwanted, the wretched refuse of a technological era. Are they anything less useful in a modern office than a Commodore 64?

Reid has one. He also has an Osborne, a Wang, a Pong, a McIntosh Lisa II and two TRS 80s. Virtually the whole history of the personal computer is there among either the 125 computers and game systems in his office or the 200 in his garage, "much to my wife's anguish."

Although most of the hardware in his collection still works ("Machines wear out. Computers inherently don't.'), they are foundlings because they became outdated. Much of his collection was given to him by people who couldn't bring themselves to discard obsolete computers.

"People literally bring their old machines to me because they know they will be cared for," said Reid, an assistant professor of management information systems. "There is some incredible stuff out there now, like the model T in the 1930s." The treasure of the collection is a 1975 MITS Altair, the first computer sold for home use, said Reid. "The Altair is interesting because it's so rare and so absolutely worthless. It has no keyboard and no monitor. But it was the first computer you could buy, it did all the things a computer does, and it opened the computer to the home market."
Deborah Heikes

As a college student, Dr. Deborah Heikes had to make a tough decision, choosing a career path between two loves: photography and philosophy. In the final analysis, the choice came down to one of practicality and professional options. Heikes chose philosophy.

Now an assistant professor of philosophy at UAH, she hasn't lost the love of photography that began with photography classes in high school. She has a darkroom set up off the garage of her south Huntsville house.

"I have a certain way of looking at the world that I can express visually," she explained. "I love the isolation of the darkroom. It's just me and the photographs and the challenges of working with them. I like toying with that."

Harry Delugach

The North Alabama Country Dance Society welcomes everyone to its twice monthly dances, even people in cowboy boots and Stetsons, says Dr. Harry Delugach. But don't come looking for cotton eyed Joe or the boot, scoot and boogie.

"It's not country western, it's English country," he explained. "We occasionally get somebody with cowboy boots dropping in, and sometimes they're good dancers. But it isn't what they expected."

"The origins are actually in the English country dances from the 1600-1700s. We do some dances that are traditional, that might be one or two hundred years old.

"One that I like is Lady Victoria's. It's a dance where you don't dance with your partner. She made up a dance where she wouldn't have to dance with her husband. It's about a hundred years old and we still do it, although not very often because most of us pick a partner that we do want to dance with."

Delugach, an associate professor of computer science at UAH, is one of several UAH faculty and staff who have been active in the dance group. He might be the best known, however, because he does many of the group's radiospots on WLRH-FM.

"Dance itself has always been kind of magical," he said. "There's just something about a room full of people dancing to the same music that's really neat. There's the social aspect. And it's good exercise. I love all of that."
In the dim, stained-glass-strained light of a local church's otherwise empty sanctuary, Dr. Rolf Goebel is hard at work practicing. The church's mighty pipe organ responds and Bach blazes out as Goebel's fingers dance across the second of four keyboards and his feet minuet heel-and-toe over a floorboard of pedals.

"Sitting all by myself in a church like this, I get as close to a spiritual or religious experience as it gets," said Goebel, a professor of German at UAH. "It's the feeling of being surrounded by a beautiful church, engulfed by this tremendous range of sounds. This, for me, is an emotional, uplifting experience."

Having taken piano lessons in his youth, Goebel says he rediscovered the organ about five years ago. A recital at St. Mark's Lutheran Church "was sort of the beginning of my serious rediscovery of the instrument. Then I joined the AGO (the American Guild of Organists)."

"My organ playing is very different from what I do at UAH, a different realm more connected to emotions and artistry," Goebel said. "A performance is a tremendous task of concentration. The organ has particular technical challenges that make it unique, in addition to the normal challenges of playing and interpretation. You have to deal with two or three keyboards, the stops and the pedals.

"And it helps to have a good back. You have to sit so that your hands and feet aren't supporting your body, because you play an entire keyboard with your feet.

"I'm much more exhausted after a one-hour recital than I am after a three-hour lecture."

When Dr. Laurel Bollinger says she has always wanted to think of herself as a writer, she isn't exaggerating: "I dictated a novel to my mother when I was in the second grade." With two complete co-authored science fiction novels under her belt (not counting the second grade opus) and a third in the works, she is fulfilling that lifelong ambition.

"Whenever I have any spare time I devote it to that," said Bollinger, an associate professor of English at UAH. "I try to average writing at least an hour a day, although I prefer to work in longer sessions."

Although "Swordtrahger," her most recent book with co-author Katherine Jones, did well in two fiction competitions, it hasn't been picked up by a publisher. (One publisher has asked to see the complete manuscript.) The barriers to science fiction publication are daunting: Less than one percent of all books submitted to science fiction publishers are accepted.

While each novel represents a major investment of time and energy, Bollinger still prefers writing "rather long" novels to shorter narrative forms.

"To me, for science fiction to work you have to spend some time 'world building,'" she said. "To do that and tell a good story takes a novel."
Sue Kirkpatrick

“It’s my therapy. It’s my passion.”

This is how Dr. Sue Kirkpatrick describes her love for the time she spends with her two thoroughbred horses, a gelding named Blitz, and a mare named Ms. Dream. Ever since she took three riding lessons in 1972 (a gift from a friend), horses have been a major part of Kirkpatrick’s life.

“After those three one-hour lessons, I was hooked,” she said. To own and care for horses, you have to be committed, says Kirkpatrick. “You have to be committed to the time, the finances and the partnership.” This partnership is a special bond she shares with Ms. Dream, the horse she now rides in Dressage competition.

Dressage is a competition of complex maneuvers, judged by precision and the quality of gaits. Terms like “Trot Half Pass,” “Canter Pirouette,” “Extended Trot,” and “Flying Change” mean more than synchronized movements of the horse – it’s a special relationship between the horse and its rider. “The horse and the rider have to work together,” she said. “One of you is not dominant over the other - at least hopefully.”

Kirkpatrick also respected this same partnership as a foxhunter. “Horses keep me humble. They may put you on the ground sometimes as a way of saying ‘you’re not paying attention to me.’ If either of you is intent on dominance over the other, the ride can’t be successful.”

Kirkpatrick is excited about Ms. Dream’s showing in Dressage competition thus far. Entering the mare in seven events at two separate competitions last summer, one in Tennessee and one in Kentucky, Ms. Dream received two firsts, three thirds and two fifth place finishes. Although there’s one area in which the mare needs some work. “She’s never scored well on submission,” Kirkpatrick said. “She’s very strong-willed.”

Kirkpatrick began Dressage about six years ago, giving up more than 20 years of foxhunting with the Mooreland Hunt Club. She says the time it takes to keep both her and the horses in shape for the hunt is something she can no longer spare. But she still enjoys many aspects of the hunt, but at a slower pace. “To be out in nature, with other people, and working with your horse is exhilarating!”

Stephen Floyd

For five years it sat in a farmer’s field, abandoned and surrounded by hay. But the instant that Dr. Stephen Floyd saw it, he knew he would take home that lonely ’87 Nissan 300 ZX Turbo.

That’s just what he does.

It’s what he’s been doing since 1987, when he bought an orange ’71 Datsun 240 Z. He estimates that in the intervening years he has owned between 50 and 75 sporty little “Z” cars, including the 14 (five registered, three “drivable” and six “donor” cars) that fill his four-car garage and a small parking lot behind his Madison County home.

An associate professor of management information systems at UAH, Floyd has a history of serial auto obsessions. At one time he owned six 1967 VW Beetles: three to drive and three to cannibalize. Rescuing an abandoned MG at Virginia Tech led to a string of British sports cars that he brought with him to Huntsville, where in 1986 he founded the North Alabama British Motoring Society.

All thoughts of MGs and Triumphs, however, vanished when the Z-bug bit.

“The cars are a diversion,” Floyd said. “I do all of the mechanical work. It’s 180 degrees from what I do as a professor. If I need a diversion from grading papers or debugging websites, I debug Z cars. I get out, twist wrenches and get greasy. I love the challenge.”

Floyd carries his hobby over into work, using his Z car-listing website as a tool for teaching UAH students how to develop commercial websites. Sometimes he gets more out of the class than proficient students: “On several occasions, students in my web development classes came up to me after class and said, ’I have a friend who has a Z car he’s trying to sell.’ Those students were fruitful points of contact for me.”
Barron’s – UAH ‘very competitive’

Only public university in Alabama to earn honor

UAH has been ranked as a “very competitive” university in the 2003 edition of Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges, the only public university in Alabama to be awarded that designation by the nationally recognized publication.

Two other private institutions in Alabama — Huntingdon College and Samford University — were also ranked as very competitive.

“Excellence in education is a focus for everyone on our campus and we strive to deliver the best education possible to our students,” said UAH President Frank Franz. “Many of the best students recognized that fact and make UAH their university of choice. The recruitment of top students allows us the opportunity to build a strong academic foundation. The combination of that talent, shaped by caring and professional faculty, creates a dynamic learning environment.”

The criteria used by the Barron’s guide to determine a very competitive college or university are: students who are admitted must have grade averages of no less than a “B” and rank in the top 35 percent to 50 percent of their graduating class. They must also report median freshman test scores of 24 to 26 on their ACT and these schools generally accept between 50 percent and 75 percent of their applicants.

In addition to the “very competitive” rating, UAH freshmen also had the highest average ACT score (24) among Alabama’s public universities.

Fall Phonathon giving triples

Alumni pledges and gifts through UAH’s 2002 Fall Phonathon campaign were more than triple the amount raised in 2001’s campaign, according to Connie Gerlach, ’02, UAH’s director of university development.

“These gifts will have an important impact on campus,” Gerlach said. “In addition to the support we are providing to the colleges and the Athletic Department, I feel like we laid the groundwork for greater things in the future.”

More than 100 UAH students, faculty and administrators called the university’s alumni during the campaign, which raised more than $46,000.
**Student athlete academic honors**

Five Chargers were Gulf South Conference All-Academic Honorees for Fall 2002:

- **Cross country:** Andrew Hodges, a junior pre-med major, 3.63 gpa
- **Volleyball:** Cathryn Sterling, a senior in engineering management, 3.85
- **Volleyball:** Kristian Kleminsky, sophomore in biology, 3.92
- **Men's soccer:** Mark Griffin, junior in engineering, 3.25
- **Women's soccer:** Jennifer Buck, a junior in biology, 3.89

Eleven Chargers were members of the GSC All-Academic honor roll:

- **Men's cross country:** Brandon Eubanks, a junior in mathematics, 3.54
- **Women's cross country:** Lesley Davis, sophomore in English, 3.60
- **Women's cross country:** Courtney Hurst, sophomore in English, 3.60
- **Volleyball:** Whitney Mock, senior in chemical engineering, 3.42
- **Volleyball:** Mary Beth Key, junior in chemistry, 3.21
- **Women's soccer:** Mary Meeks, junior in physics/atmospheric science, 3.39
- **Women's soccer:** Jessica Walters, junior in biology/environmental science, 3.61
- **Women's soccer:** Kara Pearson, sophomore in biology, 3.92
- **Volleyball:** Cory Vilders, junior in nursing, 3.31
- **Men's soccer:** Mark Griffin, junior in engineering, 3.25
- **Men's soccer:** Andrew Hodges, a junior pre-med major, 3.63 gpa

**Memorial scholarship honors Wendy Dionne Thompson**

A memorial scholarship has been established at UAH in memory of Wendy Dionne Thompson, '96, of Lexington, Ala., who died in October. A mechanical engineering honor student who co-oped at Cerro Wire and Cable in Huntsville, Thompson was employed in PPG's Huntsville facility.

The Wendy D. Thompson Memorial Scholarship will provide financial support to full-time engineering students from Colbert, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison and Morgan counties. Preference will be given to female students.

For more information or to make a contribution to this scholarship, please call (256) 824-6501.

**Hit the bricks!**

Ground will be broken this spring on "alumni park," an area in front of the Salmon Library where commemorative pavers purchased by graduates and friends will be permanently installed. The pavers were sold as a way for alumni to leave a campus memento of themselves or to pay tribute to someone else. Anyone interested in buying a paver for the initial installation must order by Friday, March 14. Sizes start at 4-by-8 inches engraved with two lines of type for $125. Options are available up to an 8-by-8-inch paver with an engraved logo for $500. For details and to order go to www.uah.edu, click on "alumni and friends" and then on "pavers," or call the alumni office at 256-824-2586.
In 1983, it was a very good year.

by Phillip Gentry

It was February 1983. Gandhi and Tootsie dominated the Academy Award nominations. Newspaper headlines were about a national truckers’ strike and President Ronald Reagan’s proposal for a new missile defense system, disparagingly dubbed, Star Wars.

At UAH bids were opened on expanding the university center, which at that time was little more than the present UC exhibit hall.

And for the next two months, UAH’s tiny athletic program would enjoy what was then an unprecedented level of cumulative success:
- The men’s and women’s basketball teams (half of UAH’s official varsity sports) played in national championship tournaments; the women’s team advancing to the championship game.
- UAH’s ice hockey club hosted and won a national championship tournament.
- The rowing club bested Yale and other elite squads.
- Even UAH’s bowling club won a conference title that spring, beating Columbus College twice to win the Southern Intercollegiate Bowling Conference crown. (The SIBC also included clubs from AUM, Auburn and Alabama.)

The first-year coach of UAH’s women’s basketball team that year was Donna Caldwell Dunaway, ‘80 B.S., elementary education, a member of UAH’s first women’s basketball team in 1977-78.

UAH was very good to me, Dunaway said recently. I was a young woman who would never have been inside a college classroom if it hadn’t been for basketball and UAH. I telling you, this was one poor country girl.

She had been an assistant coach at UAH for one year when she was named head coach before the 1982-83 season.

“Sometimes I think it was kind of difficult for her because she was so close to our own age,” said Rhonda Childress-Thompson. (Please see story on page 5.)

“But she knew what she wanted.

When the season began, the new coach knew she had a talented team.

“Sarina Toney was an awesome athlete,” said Dunaway. “Lib Crutcher was a great post player. And I have never seen another player as good as Annette Fletcher. She was as fast as lightning. She would get more steals in a game than I’ve ever seen another player get.”

“Sarina was 5-foot-8 and she could touch the rim,” said Childress-Thompson. “When she was going 100 percent on both ends, nobody could stop her.”

Doug Ross was also a first year coach at the beginning of the 1982-83 season. When UAH’s first full-time hockey coach arrived from Kent State, he inherited a club (not a varsity team) that was the defending national champions, although many of the Huntsville natives who helped found the club three years earlier had graduated.

UAH’s Frank Heller can only watch from the ice as an Arizona player moves in on goalie Steve Moerner. UAH beat club teams from first Auburn and then Arizona to earn a spot in the 1983 club championship game against Penn State.

UAH’s Frank Heller can only watch from the ice as an Arizona player moves in on goalie Steve Moerner. UAH beat club teams from first Auburn and then Arizona to earn a spot in the 1983 club championship game against Penn State.

UAH’s Chris Orr gets a good look at the basket in a game at Spragins Hall.

Center Dawn Miles brings down a rebound in UAH’s 1983 NAIA first round tournament game against Campbellsville College.
"The guys who played in those club years are the ones who laid the foundation, because they did so well," said Ross. Joe Ritch, who helped found the club and was its volunteer coach for three years, "laid the groundwork. He was the major sponsor and he had the winningest record ever, 85-5-2. That's the best anybody ever had in hockey that I know about.

"It was a good opportunity for me. The civic center is a quality place to play, as nice as any (NCAA) Division I rink in the country at that time."

"That was my first year at UAH," said Kevin Monaco, '85 B.S., management, '87 MAS. "In March it seemed unusual to me how warm it was. I just remember looking out the window and I couldn't believe how nice it was that time of year. In New York, you'd have eight or ten inches of snow."

By contrast, men's basketball coach Kayo Willis went all the way to the finals of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championship tournament. In the spring of 1983 his team would play for its fourth Southern States Conference title in five years, its fifth overall, and its 20th win in only the Chargers' tenth year of play.

On the court the team was led by guard Lorenzo Duncan, said Rickey Oates, '84 B.S., management. "We had what we called the "red" offense, where we would bring the forwards and the center to the baseline. Lorenzo would bring it down the middle and nobody could keep up with him. Normally he was picked up by one of the forwards or the center. He would lobs me the ball and I would finish it up."

"He was super. Defensively, nobody could handle him."

A sixth round NBA draft pick in 1986, Duncan would later play professional basketball in Europe. "I had three highlights from that season," said guard Ty Cheek, '85 B.S., marketing. "I broke my left foot three times. I was starting and I had a stress fracture. We went to a tournament in Salina, Kansas, and I stepped on Barry Solomon's foot and broke my foot again, good enough to put it in a cast."

Cheek watched the rest of the season from the bench.

At the U.S. National Club Ice Hockey Tournament at the Von Braun Center, the Penn State Nittany Lions wanted to play UAH, to avenge a 4-3 loss in the '82 tournament. Tournament host by virtue of winning the '82 title, UAH wanted games on home ice against "big name" opponents.

"When we started at the club level we played the Southeastern Conference teams, and the crowd just loved to see us beat Tennessee," said Dr. John Wright, UAH's president from 1979 to 1988. "Early in the '83 season we played Auburn and we had 7,000 people in the VBC. It's a different feeling that you could play Auburn and beat them. Of course, the Alabama people loved that."

In the championship tournament UAH routed Auburn 16-2 in the first round, then beat the University of Arizona 7-4 to reach the finals against Penn State.

"It was exciting for people to see Penn State come down here to play UAH," said Ross."

"In Alabama, people think of Penn State as a winner," said Wright. "The entire situation of

An ex-von Braun bully, Moerner leads Pioneer
by Ray Garner

It was a warm Sunday August afternoon in 1981 and 19-year-old Steve Moerner was packing his bags, preparing to leave his home in Milwaukee to move into a dormitory at the University of Wisconsin.

That day, however, he got a call from one of his former hockey coaches, who had been in touch with a collegiate club hockey coach in the Deep South.

The club coach, Joe Ritch, invited Moerner to visit Huntsville. He wasn't sure what to expect, but he knew about the community's interest in the local university's hockey club. He also knew the University of Alabama in Huntsville focused on engineering.

That was enough to pique his interest. Moerner hopped on a plane and flew down to take a quick look at the UAH campus. He liked what he saw: A lot of energy in the College of Engineering, and a small campus with an intimate feeling. A visit to the Von Braun Civic Center followed. The Canadian native was sold on moving to Huntsville.

"I was in Huntsville the weekend before final registration," said Moerner, '86 B.S., industrial and systems engineering. "I knew the moment I visited the campus and saw the facilities where we were going to play hockey that Huntsville was the place I wanted to be."

Dropping a suitcase and duffel bag behind him, Moerner enrolled at UAH during that trip. He spent the next four years doing the things that interested him most: Playing hockey, and earning an industrial and systems engineering degree.

His father supported Moerner’s hasty decision. "He felt I needed to make a decision where I would be happiest and most committed. We were aware that Joe Ritch had successfully recruited a number of hockey players from Canada, the Midwest and the Northeast." (Ritch apparently recruited quality athletes. During Moerner's career the UAH club hockey team won three national championships, including the 1983 club national championship tournament at the VBCC.)

Moerner recalls the grueling schedule that came with balancing academics with athletics. "The College of Engineering office was always so tremendously helpful to me in those days," he said. "We made frequent bus trips and I had to rely on that office, especially Judy Conine, to pull class material together for me. That was important when I needed to take tests prior to, or immediately after, our road trips."

Following his hockey career, Moerner found success off the ice. After the season ended his senior year, he started working full time as a sales representative for JHA Electronics, an electronics manufacturing company. Taking night classes, Moerner finished his degree and graduated in 1986.

With his career off to a successful start, he flew to Wisconsin and married Beverly, a girl he met while living there. The newlywed couple lived in Huntsville for two years before JHA transferred Moerner to its Southfield, Mich., headquarters.

During his 12 years with JHA, he moved up the corporate ladder, becoming a sales manager, and eventually a business unit manager. One of Moerner's biggest customers at JHA was the consumer giant, Pioneer Electronics. The company was so impressed with Moerner, it hired him as a vice president in 1996. He was promoted to executive vice president after two years. Three years later Moerner was named president and CEO of Pioneer's Automotive Electronic Sales division.

He oversees a division that has $300 million in sales each year, and employs 4,000 workers across North America.

"I have been very fortunate," Moerner said by telephone from his Michigan office. "I have been fortunate to have a great group of people to be working with, and it has been my good fortune to be in an automotive electronics market that has continued to grow and flourish."

He doesn’t return to Huntsville often, but keeps up with Charger athletics through the Internet. His busy travel schedule as a corporate executive, and keeping up with sons, Kyle, 13, and Derrik, 11 (who both play hockey) and eight-year-old daughter Jordyn, an avid dancer, doesn’t allow much time for anything else.

UAH's engineering program and hockey team continue to grow in notoriety, said Moerner. "Together, they make one of the country's best environments for student athletes."
competing at that level in hockey was a major part of the town thinking of UAH differently. Instead of thinking of us as an extension, they began to think of us as a full-fledged university.

"It was warm that day and the ice was really slow," said Ross. "That meant it was going to be a low scoring game. We had a big crowd there, and I remember everybody talking about ESPN covering it. It was really a sporting atmosphere."

"There was standing room only," recalls Monaco. "The crowd throughout the game was behind the team and that was exciting. We were down 2-0 going into the second period. I scored the second goal to tie it. I remember exactly how I scored the goal and what happened afterward, and hearing the crowd cheer after your name was called out.

"That was pretty neat."

Bob Quaile, who played on the same line as Monaco, scored the winning goal for UAH in the last minute of the game.

"We won 5-4," Ross said. "That game could have gone either way. The guys played their hearts out."

UAH would host two more championships and win a third consecutive title before the ice hockey club became an NCAA varsity team.

The same day UAH was winning a hockey title, the men's basketball team was routing Auburn-Montgomery in the NAIA area tournament. A 77-75 win over Athens State secured an area title and a berth in the NAIA national championship.

At the same time, the Lady Chargers survived an overtime game to get past the No. 6 ranked Central Arkansas "Sugar Bears" and then faced No. 2 ranked Berry College in the area tournament finals at Spragins Hall to advance to the NAIA tournament in the Kemper Arena.

"Berry was our biggest rival," said Dunaway. "Every time you'd go over there, it was tough."

"Some of my favorite memories from that year were the games before we got to the national championship. There was some magnificent play. We were down five points against Berry with like 60 seconds left to play in the game that decided who went to Kansas City. And we came back and won."

The UAH men's team's NAIA first round opponent was the Chaminade Silverswords - the same Chaminade squad that less than three months earlier pulled off the biggest college basketball upset of all time, beating the No. 1 ranked Virginia Cavaliers and three-time national player of the year Ralph Sampson, 77-72.

"There were almost 14,000 people there in the Kemper Arena," said Cheek. "And they just manhandled us. We didn't play very well."

"I remember it like it was yesterday," said Oates. "That memory has been plaguing me now for a long time."

Chaminade won 90-72. After a free day in Kansas City the Chargers flew back to Huntsville, leaving the women's team to carry the UAH banner.

"We had the basketball teams in one hotel and I had the pep band and the cheerleaders in another," said Dr. Jeanne Fisher, at that time UAH's vice president for student affairs. "It was a difficult task, but we made it work."

UAH would host two more championships and win a third consecutive title before the ice hockey club became an NCAA varsity team.

Thompson's memories are more than pictures on a gymnasium wall

by Phillip Gentry

Nine-year-old Paul and his little brother Ian, 5, knew their mom played basketball at UAH, but they don't yet know the details.

"They do know I played at UAH, but I think Paul was surprised the first time he saw my picture in Spragins Hall," said Rhonda Childress-Thompson. "He said, 'Mom, your picture's on the wall.' I didn't explain it to him, but I know he's proud of it."

What Childress-Thompson, '85 B.S. mechanical engineering, and '99 M.S. industrial and systems engineering, didn't explain is that her picture is on the UAH Athletic Department's "wall of honor" in large part because she played a key role in helping a five-year-old women's athletic program at UAH achieve both success and credibility, including reaching the finals of the NAIA national championship tournament in March 1983.

Several junior college coaches were recruiting her when she graduated from New Hope High School in 1980, but Childress-Thompson had other ideas.

"I knew my focus would be getting a degree," she explained. "I knew I wanted to go into engineering and that UAH was a good engineering school."

Juggling her studies with workouts, practices, games and travel ("I took my books everywhere. You have to use all of your time wisely."). she got her degree and went to work at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) in 1985.

She also met her husband, Paul Thompson, '85 B.S. mechanical engineering, at UAH, although it was hardly love at first sight.

"I tried to introduce him to one of the other girls on the team," she recalled. "The very first time he asked me out I told him, 'I don't date short men. (Paul is 5-foot-7.) The only thing a short man can do is show me a tall one.' He claims he saw that as a challenge."

Good thing.

"After we met he did start coming to the basketball games. But we didn't date at UAH at all. He was in engineering, so we would study together."

After graduation, they ran into each other again at work, she said. "He was the only person I knew at Marshall and he became my best friend. I guess it took about ten years."

Childress-Thompson says she came back to UAH to work on a Master's degree "for my mother," but found that she enjoyed it so much she started taking classes toward her Ph.D. in systems engineering. So she can work full time on her dissertation, Childress-Thompson is taking a year off from her job in the technology transfer office at MSFC.
president for student affairs. "The women kept winning, so we had to stay. And after a week I'd run out of my bag of tricks on how to entertain college kids."

"All I remember is going to the zoo three times in one week.

"And the pep band kept getting in trouble at the hotel for practicing in their rooms. It was disturbing the other guests. I finally asked the manager if we could set up the pep band in the lobby outside the lounge and play softly as background music at four o'clock. He agreed, so we set up down there. The patrons loved it and the kids loved it, because they got to practice."

"After we got to Kansas City, we were treated like queens," said Dunaway. "The TV crews were there with us and they'd go eat with us. We weren't used to having that kind of attention."

"Our first game was at like nine o'clock in the morning," said Childress-Thompson. "I remember the excitement of waking down the long, winding hall. Then you walk out and see the crowd. It was pretty full. My brother drove up from Texas. He had a friend and her two daughters with him. After the game (a 76-66 win over Campbellsville) the little girls wanted my autograph."

"Sure, it's sad to lose, but we've got nothing to be ashamed of," senior Rachel Hopper told The Huntsville Times. "We want to win."

After a 73-67 victory over the Portland Pilots, the Lady Chargers carried a ten-game winning streak into the final game against the defending NAIA champions from Southwestern Oklahoma State University."

"I knew when I scouted them that we were going to have a tough time, because they had so many good shooters," Dunaway said.

"They were some big girls and they were good," said Childress-Thompson. "I do remember that they were big. At the very end, we had played hard and played our best, but we were still proud that we had made it that far."

"But it's sad to lose, but we've got nothing to be ashamed of," senior Rachel Hopper told The Huntsville Times after the game, a 80-68 loss. "In my freshman year we won only three games and now, in my senior year, we're second in the nation. I couldn't be prouder."

"I told them how proud I was of them," said Dunaway. "And that this was a memory they would carry through life."

"We got a trophy or a plaque at the end of the game," said Childress-Thompson. "It's at my mother's house. They gave us all NAIA T shirts and shorts, and I still have those, even though I can't wear them. I refuse to throw those away."

"There were people waiting for us at the airport in Huntsville when we got off the plane and that made you feel good, too."

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"Not surprising. Childress-Thompson came off the bench in the second half and scored 12 points. "We didn't come up here just for the ride," freshman forward Terry Hardin told The Huntsville Times. "We want to win."

After the 1983 hockey tournament, UAH goalie Steve Moerner (Please see story on page 9.) and UAH's leading scorer, Brian "Battleship" Kelly, '87 B.S., management, were invited to try out at a U.S. Olympic training camp.

Check played on UAH's basketball team for two more years, then ran on the Charger cross country team that earned a trip to the NAIA national championship meet. In November. In Wisconsin. "It was really cold," said Check, now director of sales and marketing for Impulse Manufacturing in Dawsonville, Georgia.

Winner of the MVP award for the NAIA District 27 tournament his senior year, Oates is in sales at Madison Square Chrysler.

In 1985 Dunaway gave up coaching to start a family. "For a long time after that my stomach hurt every time I went into the UAH gym because I missed it so much," said Dunaway, now an assistant principal at Central School in eastern Madison County. "It was my favorite job. I just dearly loved it."

Ross is still UAH's hockey coach. With more than 375 UAH wins, two club and two NCAA Div. II national championships under his belt, his goal this season is a College Hockey America title and a bid to the NCAA Division I playoffs. After the 1982-83 season, Kayo Willis coached only one more year at UAH. He died in 1993 at the age of 61. He is still the winningest men's basketball coach in UAH history.

"The TV crews were there when we got home," Dunaway said. "I think that was probably some of the most special time for the team, the media attention. There was a sense that, finally, someone cares about women's basketball."

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Canada's world-class theatre and California's legendary wine country are the first two destinations in the alumni association's new travel program. "Group travel is one of the most carefree, convenient, fun and safe ways to see the world," said alumni director, April Harris.

"The association has partnered with one of Huntsville's most experienced and respected travel agencies to ensure personal attention, first-rate service and itineraries customized to the interests of our graduates."

Trips will include a pre-departure briefing and will be escorted by an association representative. Participants do not have to be UAH graduates. "A Canadian Theatre Spectacular," July 9-13, including Toronto and Stratford, Ont. is a theatre buff's dream. We'll fly from Huntsville to Toronto, the world's third largest theatre city where we'll spend two nights and whet our appetites for seeing the "Lion King" with a city tour and harbor cruise.

Next we'll transfer by bus to Stratford home of the renowned Stratford Festival of Canada. This quaint town recreates of many of the elements of Shakespeare's hometown of Avon, England. Many famous actors have appeared on one of the Festivals Theatre's three stages. We'll have dinner together then see "Antony and Cleopatra." The next day, we'll have free time for sightseeing or to squeeze in an afternoon matinee. That evening, we'll dine together before enjoying another play such as "King Lear" or perhaps "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

The five-day, four-night trip is $1,695 per person based on double occupancy. Pricing includes round-trip airfare from Huntsville, four nights accommodations at deluxe and superior hotels, breakfast each morning, three dinners, three play tickets, city tour and harbor cruise in Toronto, all taxes, tips, baggage handling, the services of tour guides and a UAH escort. A deposit of $400 is required by March 13 to hold your place.

If you've always wanted to see San Francisco and explore California's wine country then our "San Francisco-Napa Valley Holiday," Sept. 23-28 is for you. The trip includes several wine tastings and gourmet dining, including a cooking demonstration and lunch at the Greystone Restaurant of the California Culinary Institute.

Our exploration begins in the Napa Valley and moves along the Napa River stopping along the route at the Pine Ridge winery. The next day, we head for the Sonoma Valley and the Ferrer Champagne Cellars before visiting Sonoma and its Spanish mission church and plaza.

In San Francisco we'll see Union Square, Fisherman's Wharf, Golden Gate Park, the sea lion colony at Cliff House, and the Presidio. We'll cross the Golden Gate Bridge to visit the artist's colony of Sausalito and return to San Francisco by ferry.

Finally, we conclude by riding down the peninsula to the Filoli Gardens for a tour of the formal gardens, woodlands, and historic villa with lunch on the estate.

The six-day, five-night trip costs $1,908 per person. It includes round-trip airfare from Huntsville, breakfast daily, two dinners, one lunch, wine tastings, accommodations, tours, ground transportation, all taxes, tips, baggage handling, the services of tour guides and a UAH escort. A $500 deposit is required by April 1 to reserve your place.

For full details on either of these trips or to make reservations, call Custom Travel, 256-885-2035.

Alumni members – 2001-2002 President’s Council

Thirty-eight UAH alumni joined a select group of individuals, corporations, foundations and others as members of the UAH President's Council for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

The President's Council honors donors who have given $1,000 or more during a single fiscal year or cumulative lifetime gifts of more than $25,000. In recognition of their commitment to UAH, members of the President's Council receive special invitations to and priority seating at some university events, and regular updates on university activities and initiatives. The annual President's Council dinner has become an important tool for sharing ideas, acknowledging achievements, and letting the university show its appreciation to people who are committed to UAH's growth and excellence.

William H. Leonard, '68, '81, '83
Cynthia Greif Bendall, '70, '72
Jerry E. Thomas, '70
Martha Simms Rambo, '71
Margaret Byrd Smith, '71
Betsy Johnson Burch, '72
Charles D. Bendall, '72
Walter R. Bresmer, Jr., '72
Joe H. Ritch, '72
Maurice R. Smith, '72
James G. Burch, '74
Pat Croll Riley, '75
David S. Brantham, '76, '78
Joseph Ditoto, '77
Marcus J. Bendickson, '80
Mary Self Bonilla, '80, '87
Ursula Finzel Scriven, '80
Hal W. Bodin, '82
Cynthia Cassis Brantham, '82
Elizabeth Rives Thomas, '82
Linda Braswell Ditoto, '82
Susan L. Douglass, '83
Donna Smith Reed, '83, '87
J. Clarke Rountree, III, '83
Robert A. Green, '84, '90
Robert C. Mayes, '84
Grady P. Gaston, III, '85
Lynn Trammell Ashby, '87
Bruce R. Askins, '87
Barry M. Marsh, '87, '91
Kelly Mitchell Gaston, '89
Daniel J. Reiley, '81, '93
Mark E. Reavis, '92
Michelle Metcalf Reavis, '92
Robert E. Steele, '96
C. Todd Whetstone, '97
Donna S. Whetstone, '97
Ina B. Clark, '92

Every effort has been made to accurately list President's Council donors reflecting gifts received from Oct. 1, 2001 through Sept. 30, 2002. If there is an error or omission, your help in correcting the oversight is appreciated. Please call (256) 824-6505.
Seven named to alumni of achievement

The second class of the UAH Alumni Association's alumni of achievement includes three entrepreneurs and a professor who helped Iceland set up its nursing education program.

Seven people have been chosen by the alumni association's board of directors to join the 51 inducted last year into the inaugural alumni of achievement class. They are to be inducted during the annual alumni of achievement luncheon on Monday, March 3.

The seven nominees are:

Dr. Susan C. Benedict, '80 M.S., nursing. A professor at the Medical University of South Carolina, Benedict is involved in breast cancer research and helped Iceland establish a new nursing education program.

Fredric H. Clark, '80 Ph.D., electrical engineering. He is the president of CAS, Inc., and winner of the 2002 UAH distinguished engineering alumnus award.

Steven R. Moerner, '86 B.S., industrial and systems engineering. Moerner is president and CEO of Pioneer Automotive Electronics, a $300 million-a-year company with 4,000 employees in the U.S.

Sharon D. Morgan, '86 B.S., management information systems, is CEO of Morgan Research Corp., recognized by Inc. magazine as one of the nation's 500 fastest growing private companies.

Timothy D. Morgan, '86 M.S., electrical and computer engineering, is president of Morgan Research Corp., the company he co-founded with his wife Sharon.

Elizabeth A. Pentecost, '78 B.A., history, and '84 M.S., administrative science, is deputy director of Navy astronomy and astrophysics programs for the Universities Space Research Association in Washington, D.C.

Paul B. Ruffin, '82 M.S. and '86 Ph.D., physics, is senior research scientist in the Missile Guidance Directorate at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, an inventor and one of the world's leading experts on fiber optics.

Homecoming 2003

"A Walk Down Bourbon Street"

A 20th anniversary reunion of athletes from three championship teams from 1982-1983 highlights festivities planned for UAH's 2003 homecoming.

Members of the men's and women's basketball teams and the Charger ice hockey club have been invited to take part in ceremonies at both Spragins Hall and the Von Braun Center on Saturday, March 1. All alumni, but especially alumni from the class of 1983, are invited to take part in the homecoming activities.

For more on the 1983 championship seasons, please see stories starting on page 8.

FEBRUARY

24-26 Kappa Delta Spirit Car Painting
26-27 Homecoming king and queen election
26 ACE pizza party and movie: "8 Mile," Charger Café, 9 p.m.
27 Bonfire, Southeast Housing, 9:30 p.m.
28 Hockey, UAH vs. Findlay, Von Braun Center, 7:05 p.m.

Introduction of homecoming court between periods.

MARCH

1 UAH Alumni Hockey game, Von Braun Center, 9:30 a.m.
Hockey, UAH vs. Findlay, Von Braun Center, 1:35 p.m.
Introduction of 1982-'83 national club champion team between periods.

Women's basketball, UAH vs. UNA, Spragins Hall, 5 p.m.
Introduction of homecoming court at halftime.

Introduction of women's 1982-'83 NAIA national tournament finalist team between games.

Introduction of 1977-'78 25th anniversary women's basketball team

Men's basketball, UAH vs. UNA, Spragins Hall, 7 p.m.
Introduction of 1982-'83 NAIA district and area championship team at halftime.

Introduction of homecoming court at halftime.

Homecoming Party: "A Walk Down Bourbon Street," Huntsville Marriott, 9 p.m. - Midnight. Homecoming king and queen crowned, 10:30 p.m.

3 Alumni of Achievement Luncheon, University Center Exhibit hall, Noon.
Reservations required.

Join the UAH Alumni Association!

Membership is only $25 annually and provides funding for the UAH Alumni News and association activities and programs.

Benefits include:

- An attractive membership card, embossed with your name
- A discount on membership and waiver of registration fees at the University Fitness Center
- Free e-mail forwarding service
- Privileges at the Salmon Library and Alabama Credit Union
- Discounts at the University Bookstore and the Bevill Conference Center
- Discounts on rental cars, hotel rooms, insurance, long-distance telephone services
- The satisfaction of showing your UAH pride

Click on "Alumni and Friends," then on "Membership" or mail a check for $25 to:

UAH Alumni Association
131 Alumni House • Huntsville, AL 35899
Phone: 256-UAH-ALUM
Commendurate Commencement
with a UAH gift that will be treasured for years to come.

UAH Class Rings
Two years ago students adopted an official UAH class ring. One side shows Morton Hall, the other the Charger mascot. All rings are personalized with your initials, degree, and graduation year. Women's and men's sizes, white or yellow gold. Prices range from $299 to $599.

UAH Watches
The watch has a gold face with the UAH logo, a second hand, quartz movement and genuine leather strap. $59.99

Smedley, Graduation Bear
Invite the smartest bear on the block, Smedley, to your graduation party. He's wearing a mortarboard and carrying a diploma tied with a black satin ribbon. Snuggly polyester with corduroy paws. $9.99

Diploma Frames
It took hard work to earn your degree, now display it with pride in an official UAH diploma frame. There are several styles to choose from starting at $115.

To order:
Full descriptions of these and many other items are available in the online Alumni Giftshop at www.uah.edu. Click on "Alumni and Friends," and then on "Gift Shop." To order personalized chairs or rings, visit the University Bookstore in the University Center, Monday-Thursday, 8:30-6 p.m., Friday until 5 p.m., Saturday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., or phone: 256-824-2779.

Send us your NEWS
Full Name (include maiden name if applicable):

Graduation year(s) and majors:

Home address:
City State Zip

Home telephone number: (____)______

Home e-mail address:

Place of Employment:

Position/title:

Is this a promotion? a new employer?  yes no

Have you won an award, changed jobs, earned a promotion, or completed another degree? Your UAH classmates would like to know! Send us your news and we'll publish it in the next issue. News may be submitted online at www.uah.edu. Click on Alumni and Friends and fill out the 'address change' form. Or complete and mail the form below to: Alumni News, 131 Alumni House, Huntsville, AL 35899.

Business Address:

Business phone: (____)______

Business e-mail:

Your spouse's full name:

Is your spouse a UAH graduate? yes no

If yes, grad year(s) and majors:

Other news:

Is this a promotion? a new employer?
• William B. Wahlheim, ’71 MAS, recently received a silver citizenship certificate from the Sons of the American Revolution. Wahlheim is vice president of Weststar Corporation’s Huntsville Engineering Center. His civic activities include serving as deacon of the Huntsville United Methodist Church, trustee of Randolph School and president of its parent association, and vice president of the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies.

• William Bishop, ’74 MS, electrical engineering, ’78 MS, administrative science, is a senior program manager for System Studies and Simulations, Inc. He retired from the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command’s Aviation Research, Development and Engineering Center, Technical Management Directorate in July.

• Mark T. Baskett, ’75 BA, English, is an antiques dealer and author in Lakehills, Ohio. He has written numerous books including his newest work, “Understanding Roseville Pottery.”

• David E. Milly, ’76 BS, management, president of Theatrical Lighting Systems, Inc., of Huntsville, recently received the Johnny Evans Humanitarian Award from the United Cerebral Palsy Association. The honor salutes a lifetime of serving others, including individuals with disabilities. Milly has served on the group’s board of directors for many years and is a member of the UAH Alumni Association board.

• John W. (Bill) Speckrick, ’78, MAS, director of engineering at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, has received the Presidential Rank Award, one of the highest honors for government service. The award recognizes executives who have provided exceptional leadership over an extended period of time and was presented in Washington, D.C. by President Bush. Kilpatrick joined NASA in 1968. He is responsible for engineering services for all programs and projects at MSFC.

• Keith Taylor, ’78 BA, music, of Athens, Tenn., is a jazz pianist and music director at Northminster Presbyterian Church. He recently released a CD, “Wonderful Love,” featuring piano improvisations based on traditional church hymns.

• Janene Turis Kalb, ’80 BS, management, ’87, MAS, is application coordinator at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Md. She is responsible for the management and support of the lab’s various software systems and databases.

• Sandra Coleman, ’82 BS, accounting, of Arab, has been named deputy manager of the Space Shuttle Projects Office at Marshall Space Flight Center. She will lead the work of several thousand engineers and technicians responsible for the flight safety, performance and hardware integrity of the shuttle’s propulsion elements. She joined NASA in 1965. She has earned NASA’s Outstanding Leadership Medal, Exceptional Service Medal and the Silver Snoopy.

• Nelson C. Parker, ’84 MAS, of Huntsville, has been named manager of the Engineering Directorate’s Engineering Systems Department at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. An MSFC employee since 1975, Parker received a NASA Exceptional Service Medal in 1999 for his role in promoting new management techniques.

• Pamela H. Cucarola, ’85 BS, accounting, has been named administrative systems implementation manager for the Integrated Financial Management Program in the Office of the Chief Financial Officer at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. She is a certified government financial manager and the winner of several awards including a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal.

• Shelly Ellis Thornton, ’85 BS, marketing, is an attorney and has opened Thornton Law Office, Inc., the only woman-owned law office in Madison, Ala.

• Lynn Rodgers Kirksey, ’86 BS, accounting, of Huntsville, owns Annabella at Cedar Glen, a wedding chapel, and is controller at Shearwater Corp.

• Craig Smith, ’86 BS, electrical engineering, is an environmental protection specialist III for the State of Tennessee. He lives in Knoxville.

• Kitty Haggard Davenport, ’87 BS, mechanical engineering, is an investment representative for Edward Jones, Huntsville. She recently earned the professional designation of Accredited Asset Management Specialist.

• Lorie A. Gill, ’88 BA, communication arts, has a new position in training and software support at Huntsville Hospital.

• Nicholas S. Clark, ’91 BS, finance, has been named chief financial officer and chief operations officer at McIntosh Commercial Bank, Carrollton, Ga.

• Joseph E. Larney, ’92 BA, communication arts, is a sales and marketing representative for Southern Wine & Spirits in Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

• Larry W. Bowles, ’94 BS, finance, is a senior account manager responsible for corporate credit to major clients for the Royal Bank of Canada in Nassau, Bahamas.


• Jonathan Pettus, ’95 MS, mechanical engineering, has been named manager of the Integrated Financial Management Program’s Competency Center at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. Pettus will supervise software development, technical architecture development and hardware and software for new systems used by NASA centers. Pettus joined NASA in 1991 as an electronics engineer and has received several awards, including the NASA Medal for Exceptional Service.

• Jennifer A. Karl, ’97 BS, management, has joined Lauren Staffing of Rocky Hill, Conn., as a recruiter and account manager.

• Jeanna Balisteri, ’98 BS, marketing, ’01, MS, management, is project administrator for the Capitol One business unit of Accent Corp., software developers in Downers Grove, Ill.

• Dharmesh Goel, ’98 BS, management information systems, is a programmer and business analyst for Discount Car & Truck Rentals in Toronto, Ontario.

• Jeffrey W. Robertson, ’98 BS, civil engineering, is an engineer specializing in transportation design for Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan in Vestavia Hills, Ala.

• Susan Eck Webb, ’98 BS, nursing, is administrator at Columbia Cottage Assisted Living in Florence, Ala.

• Terance Gordon, ’99 BS, computer engineering, is a network specialist for IBM. He and Lashanda McCants, ’99 BS, biology, were married in May. She is a pharmaceutical representative for Merck & Co. They live in Durham, N.C.

• Latonia Y. Kelly, ’00 BA, psychology, is a special investigator for U.S. Investigations Services in Huntsville.

• Dane Walther, ’00 BS, computer engineering, is an electronic engineer in automotive entertainment design and development for Panasonic. He lives in Duluth, Ga.

• Terry Jones, ’02 BS, nursing, of Mount Moriah, Ala., is a charge nurse in the Oncology Center at Decatur General Hospital.

Obituaries

• Albert C. Yourich, ’76 BS, biology, of Scottsboro, died Dec. 28. He was 87. He was a contracting officer for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command for 22 years. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and two sons, all of Madison.

• Paula E. Rigsby, ’02 BA, elementary education, died in December.

Living in your tax deduction?

A free teleconference seminar explaining innovative ways to earn charitable tax deductions and/or income using your home or vacation home is being offered at noon on Thursday, May 1, at the UAH University Center, Room 125.

The teleconference is presented by Crescendo Interactive, Inc., and features a panel of four authorities in charitable giving. The Huntsville event is sponsored by the UAH Foundation. To register or for more information, call Dr. Derold Morgan, UAH’s vice president for advancement, at (256) 824-6127.