

# *The University of Alabama Graduate School*

A Newsletter Serving Current &  
Prospective Graduate Students

FALL 2005

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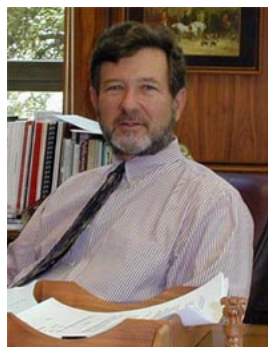
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## *Message from the UA Graduate School Dean*

On behalf of the UA graduate faculty and staff, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning graduate students. We are delighted that you have chosen UA for your professional development and advanced education. The Graduate School is ready and willing to assist you in any capacity during your tenure as a graduate student. We want you to receive the best education possible while simultaneously helping to advance the objectives of your program.

In addition to your education, please take advantage of the numerous opportunities that the Graduate School and other graduate organizations have to offer. Remember, the Graduate School is always available, so please do not hesitate to contact us. It is our honor to prepare you as a professional, researcher, and scholar for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Welcome!

To our prospective students, thank you for your interest in the Graduate School of The University of Alabama. The past several years have brought many exciting developments to the University, including major advances in research and scholarship. We encourage you to become a part of our exciting environment. We urge you to view our website at <http://graduate.ua.edu> and explore your future at UA!



Dr. Ronald W. Rogers  
Graduate School Dean

## *UA Graduate Program Spotlight:* College of Education

- **Degrees Offered:** M.A., Ed.S., Ed.D., Ph.D.
- **Mission Statement:** The College of Education, as a part of the premier educational institution in Alabama, strives to provide teaching, research, and service that not only address State and regional interests but also accommodates national and international perspectives.
- **Areas of Study:** Counselor Education, Educational Administration, Educational Leadership, Educational Psychology, Educational Research, Elementary Education, Higher Education Administration, Human Performance/Kinesiology, Instructional Leadership, Music Education, School Psychology, Secondary Education, and Special Education
- **Conceptual Framework:** The University of Alabama's College of Education seeks to prepare professionals who value and demonstrate reflective practice and ethical decision making through respecting diversity, honoring difference, and promoting social justice. Experiences in academic programs are devoted to developing individuals' understanding of knowledge construction, learning, pedagogy, and responsible professional practice in the contexts of education.
- **Accreditations:** SACS, National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, Alabama State Departments of Education, and other National Accreditations for specific degree programs
- **Students Enrolled:** 965
- **Faculty:** 69 Faculty Members
- **Contact Person for Questions:** Lynda Kelly (lkelly@bamaed.ua.edu)
- **Website:** <http://education.ua.edu>
- **Address:** College of Education / Box 870231 / Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0231/ 205-348-6073

### Highlights of the Program:

- The University of Alabama College of Education received superlative scores on the most recent annual teacher preparation report card prepared by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- The University of Alabama In-Service Education Center has been awarded \$1.35 million from the Alabama State Department of Education to create a new Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative site, purchase resource materials, provide local staff and offer teacher training.



# UA Graduate School News

## *UA Mass Communication Program Ranks Seventh Nationally*

The nation's largest communication scholars association has ranked The University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences' doctoral program in mass communication seventh nationally. The National Communication Association's respected rankings are based on survey responses from communication faculty nationwide, who rated programs according to the scholarly quality of its faculty, its effectiveness in educating researchers, and its change in quality over the past five years. This new study marks the first time since 1996 that the National Communication Association has ranked communication doctoral programs.

## *UA Graduate Business Program Ranks Among Nation's Best, According to Princeton Review*

The University of Alabama's Manderson Graduate School of Business has earned three top-10 rankings in the most recent issue of The *Princeton Review's* "Best Business School" guide. UA's graduate business program ranked fourth for campus facilities, fifth for quality of professors and eighth for administration. UA ranked ahead of schools such as Duke and Harvard on the best professors list; Harvard, the University of California-Berkley and Virginia for best facilities; and Emory University in the best-administered category. There were a total of 237 schools surveyed for this year's edition. No other business graduate program in Alabama is listed in the top 10 in the 11 categories included in the guide. Forbes magazine ranked UA's business graduate program 21st among regional schools for return on investment last year. *U.S. News and World Report* placed the program 60th in its annual graduate schools rankings released this spring.

## *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.

## *Applying to UA: How to Make it Easier*

The Graduate School understands that applying to a graduate program can be quite overwhelming. For this reason, we want you to know that applying to The University of Alabama does not have to be a stressful task. Our application is simple, yet precise, and for your convenience, can be completed online. You will find pertinent information on the UA Graduate School's Application Center website at <http://graduate.ua.edu/application>. Additionally, it is important that you contact the department to which you are applying in order to ensure that all of the requirements are being met. Here is a checklist that will help guide you through the process of applying:

### OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

- Gather detailed information about your program
- Contact faculty members and ask about their comparable interests/skills
- Schedule required admission exams (GRE, GMAT, MAT) and obtain study materials
- Inquire about fellowship/assistantship deadlines and other forms of financial aid available to graduate students
- Find out if your department is hosting an Open House; plan a visit to UA and try to schedule an appointment with someone in your department

### NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER/ JANUARY

- Take required admission exams and have scores sent to the Graduate School
- Request recommendations from professors who know you well and can speak highly of your talents and growths
- Begin working on your Statement of Purpose and other essays required by your department (it is important to work through several drafts of these essays so that you will submit your best work)
- Request transcripts to be sent to the Graduate School
- Find out from your intended program how you can make your application more competitive
- Find out when your department's application deadline is because some programs have deadlines in late December/early January (You do not want to send in a late application)

### DECEMBER/ JANUARY/ FEBRUARY

- Submit your online application and mail supplemental materials to your department before deadlines
- Obtain recommendations and/or make sure they have been sent to your department
- Find out if a separate application is needed for an assistantship or fellowship and submit your application
- Ensure that you are aware of all required parts of the application for your department and try to send in the entire application at one time
- Check with the office of your intended UA department to make sure your application materials have been received and ask for the date when you will be notified of the department's admission recommendation

As with any process, there will be pauses along the way. However, if you cannot find the information on the website of the Graduate School, never hesitate to contact a member of the Graduate School staff at [usgradapply@alan.ua.edu](mailto:usgradapply@alan.ua.edu). The application process does not have to be the most complicated process if done in a timely fashion. As with anything, do not wait until the last minute to make a huge life decision!

#### **Materials to Submit to Graduate School (<http://graduate.ua.edu/application>):**

Application Form, Statement of Purpose, & Application Fee

#### **Materials to Send to Your Intended UA Department:**

Recommendation Letters & Supplemental Department Requirements

#### **Materials that You Request to be Sent to the Graduate School:**

All Transcripts & Admission Test Scores

# *Utilizing Graduate Students in Recruitment*

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

While graduate students are known to wear many different hats at various stages of their academic career, one least thought of by many departments is “recruiter.” But why not? It makes perfect sense! What better sales person than one in the academic trenches—a person who can provide personal testimony to prospective students about the life and times of graduate school at The University of Alabama broadly and one’s department specifically.

In my opinion, all students act as unofficial representatives of the University everyday they walk out of their front door whether they step foot on campus or not. Students live the life of a student in their workplace, in their hometown, at the gym, even at their place of worship. Some of us discuss our academic lives in everyday routine conversation while others advertise through license plates and other UA paraphernalia. The University’s name is a tag that we post at the end of our outgoing email messages; it is our affiliation when we attend and/or present at professional conferences; it is also how we are identified on manuscript publications. So why not take this informal recruitment on to the next level to benefit individual departments and the University as a whole?

As president of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) during the 2001-2002 academic year, I had the opportunity to work with the Graduate School in an official capacity as recruiter at several campus events as well as at a graduate school and professional fair held on the campus of my undergraduate alma mater, Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Since that time I’ve been asked by the Graduate School on occasion to attend various recruitment efforts, and most recently accepted a position as Recruitment Graduate Assistant for the Graduate School.

This year I’ve had the opportunity to travel to Mobile, Montgomery and Atlanta on recruiting trips. I’ve also had the opportunity to speak with new department chairs about utilizing graduate students in the recruitment process. During that particular workshop, I urged departments, as I urge you today, to allow graduate students the opportunity to assist you in your recruitment efforts. Allow your graduate assistants the opportunity to reach out personally, inviting new students in; we have a story to share, one that prospective students can understand and appreciate.

For details on how you can get involved in graduate recruitment,  
please contact Carl Williams, Ph.D. at  
(205) 348-5921 or [cwilliam@alan.ua.edu](mailto:cwilliam@alan.ua.edu).

## Graduate School Admissions Tests

Graduate admission examinations are required for applicants to most programs at UA and must be less than five years old. Most departments require an acceptable score on the general test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Some departments may allow substitution of the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) for the GRE. Applicants to the Manderson Graduate School of Business are required to submit acceptable scores on the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) although some departments allow the use of the GRE. Applicants should consult the department descriptions in the Graduate School Catalog or contact departments directly for more specific information about admissions examination requirements. Here is more information about the GRE, GMAT, and MAT.

**GRE:** The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test measures critical thinking, analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. Prospective graduate applicants take the General Test. GRE test scores are used by admissions or fellowship panels to supplement undergraduate records and other qualifications for graduate study. The scores provide common measures for comparing the qualifications of applicants and aid in evaluating grades and recommendations. The test consists of a verbal section, a quantitative section, and a writing assessment.

**GMAT:** The Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) exam was created to measure the academic abilities needed to succeed in graduate management education. Over the 50 years of its use, the GMAT exam has been repeatedly studied, tested, and modified to ensure that it continues to help predict performance in the first year or midway through a graduate management program. The GMAT examination is a standardized test designed to measure basic verbal, mathematical, and analytical writing skills that have been developed over a long period of time through education and work. The test consists of a verbal section, quantitative section, and an analytical writing assessment.

**MAT:** The Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is a high-level, analytic ability test that requires the solution of problems stated as analogies. The MAT consists of 120 partial analogies that are to be completed in 60 minutes. The MAT test forms include 100 core items, which count toward your score, and 20 experimental items that are being tried out for use on future test forms, which do not affect your score. Examinees may not request to take only the core items or to have only the core items scored. Because you will not know which items are experimental and which count toward your score, it is very important that you do your best on all the items on the test. The MAT is intended to measure your ability to recognize relationships between ideas, your fluency in the English language, and your general knowledge of the humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, and social sciences.

For specific information on departmental exceptions and modified requirements, please visit <http://graduate.ua.edu/catalog/200507/14300.html>.

For more information on admissions tests, visit [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

*\*Information obtained from [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org), [www.gmac.com](http://www.gmac.com), and [www.harcourtassessment.com](http://www.harcourtassessment.com).*

# *Avoiding the Holiday Woes*

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

School breaks can be advantageous and disadvantageous. Of course, they are good because students are able to relax from such hectic schedules and to release all of the stress that might have built up during the semester. However, for graduate students, breaks can become harmful. This is not to say that graduate students do not deserve to rest their brains and enjoy time with family and friends, but long breaks can become too long if one is not careful. The best way to avoid having your break turn into a regression is to maintain some productivity over the time period when classes have ended and “school” is not in session. While you do not want to stick to the exact same schedule that you have during the semester, it is worthwhile to set some goals for yourself while on vacation. For example, if you are in a writing stage, perhaps you should attempt to write a few hours a week so as not to get completely out of habit. The same goes for students conducting research or studying for comprehensive exams. One of the worst things that can happen over the holidays is ending the holiday period regretting that you haven’t accomplished anything. It is wise to keep your brain active and motivated to continue in your graduate work. This way, when the next semester begins, not only will you be rejuvenated, you will feel as though you have accomplished a task administered by your own standards and not just the academic calendar. Here are a few tips to help you avoid the holiday woes this winter vacation:

1. Comprise a schedule that works for you. Make sure the schedule is not too demanding, but relaxed enough that you will stick to it.
2. While you want to give your eyes a break, take the time to do some pleasure reading. It will keep your mind stimulated but will be a welcomed distraction from the stringent reading done during the semester.
3. Take the time to evaluate your progress toward your ultimate goal. This will help you to revise your goals for the upcoming semester.
4. Even if you don’t want to do any labor intensive work, engage in a discussion about your research/studies with someone in your family who might be able to offer an objective opinion.
5. Visit the bookstore to check out recent work done by colleagues in your field.
6. Consider the work you do over the holidays a hobby rather than a task. Mind over matter always helps to produce a positive attitude!
7. Remember the reason why you chose your specific field so that you will feel good about feeding your passion.

The winter break is just around the corner; make the most of it!

## *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 December 7, 2005 from 2:00pm until 3:00pm in 102 Rose Administration Building.  
(Future dates of the seminar are February 1, March 1, and April 5, 2006)

If you would like to obtain more information regarding writing theses or dissertations, please attend our Graduate School Seminar "Theses and Dissertations" to be held January 18, 2006 from 12:00pm until 12:50pm and January 19, 2006 from 3:30pm until 4:20pm, both held in Bidgood Hall, Room 140.

### **GSA Upcoming Events:**

The 9th Annual Graduate Student Research and Thesis Conference will be held February 13-15, 2006. The purposes of this event are to enhance graduate student awareness and involvement in research at The University of Alabama and to provide an opportunity for graduate students to showcase their work and promote understanding and communication among the various disciplines. All graduate students are encouraged to participate and share their research. All methodologies and analyses are welcome. An open invitation to attend the conference and discover exciting research at UA is extended to all students. If you have any questions or would like more information about the GSA, visit our website at <http://www.gsa.ua.edu> or email [bubri002@bama.ua.edu](mailto:bubri002@bama.ua.edu).

# *Graduate School Calendar & Deadlines*

## DECEMBER 2005

- 02 Last day to report results of comprehensive exams for graduating students NOT writing theses and dissertations
- 07 Graduate School Seminar “How To Apply” from 2pm-3pm in 102 Rose Administration Building; Contact Carl Williams at (205) 348-5921 for more information.
- 09 Last day of Fall semester classes
- 12-16 Final Exams
- 16 Fall semester ends
- 17 Graduate Commencement 9:00 a.m. in Coleman Coliseum

## JANUARY 2006

- 11 Spring semester classes begin
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 18 Thesis and Dissertation Seminar from 12:00-12:50pm in 140 Bidgood Hall
- 19 Thesis and Dissertation Seminar from 3:30-4:20pm in 140 Bidgood Hall
- 19 Last day to register or add a course

## *In Focus*

### Russell Student Health Center

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

Russell Student Health Center is an integral part of The University of Alabama. They provide quality care to all of the school's students and look forward to providing the same standard of care that students receive at home. RSHC is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. Only 175 student health centers in the country have received such an accreditation. Its accreditation means that RSHC has passed a series of rigorous and nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by the AAAHC. Accreditation is voluntary and demonstrates RSHC's long-standing commitment to providing quality care to UA Students. RSHC is also affiliated with The University of Alabama School of Medicine. All students may visit the Russell Student Health Center, regardless of insurance specifications. The Health Center also has a Pharmacy in which students may get prescriptions filled. Here's a look at the services that RSHC offers:

- .. Clinic
- .. Pharmacy
- .. Lab
- .. X-Ray
- .. Allergy
- .. Immunizations
- .. Women's Health
- .. Travel Services

At RSHC, walk-ins are always welcome. However, some types of visits require appointments such as GYN exams and physician-requested follow-up appointments. RSHC has five board certified physicians on staff and a number of quality medical workers. Their hours are:

- .. Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
- .. Friday: 9:00 am- 5:00 pm
- .. Saturday-Sunday: 1:00 pm- 4:00 pm (Closed on Home Game Day Saturdays)

RSHC will open a new facility in 2006 in order to better serve students' needs. If you need specific medical attention or just a routine check-up, call RSHC today!

Call RSHC at (205) 348-2778

Visit our website at <http://rshc.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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**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.*