Twenty-two years ago, Hafiz Chandiwala was an accounting student at UAB, struggling to balance college studies while supporting his young family. “I was working full time, I had a family, I was young, and I was going to school at night to try to finish my degree in four years,” he recalls. “I received some financial aid, including student loans, to support my way through school, but it was a traditional package with a large component to be repaid following graduation.”

Then, to his surprise, the School of Business Scholarship Committee awarded him the Louis Paul Kassouf Endowed Scholarship for accounting students. “I was very shocked — amazed and grateful — to receive a scholarship, and without it, I am not sure I would have been able to finish my education,” he says. “That scholarship changed everything for me.”

Today, Chandiwala is the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. And in 2005, he created his own scholarship in the Collat School of Business to provide more opportunities to UAB students who, like him, are juggling financial challenges and big dreams. The Hafiz Chandiwala Endowed Scholarship in Accounting is designated for accounting majors who are working full-time while attending college at UAB.

“I receive letters from the recipients,” he says. “It’s heartwarming to know that you are able to help others in a manner that you were once helped and pay it forward.”

After graduating in 1994, Chandiwala practiced public accounting for five years, then served as CFO for Birmingham Fastener & Supply, a southeastern manufacturing company, for two years before joining Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. as the Corporate Controller and Assistant Treasurer. By 2002 — less than 10 years after receiving the Kassouf scholarship — he had risen to the role of CFO. Since that time, he has lent his expertise to numerous committees both within the company and among related industry boards. He has also been a generous supporter of the Collat School of Business and UAB Athletics, and serves on the Leadership Cabinet for the Campaign for UAB. “I really believe in UAB — what it stands for and what it means to our community,” he says. “It’s fulfilling to be able to do something to give back. It takes everyone to move forward, so I’m happy to do my part.”

The Louis Paul Kassouf Endowed Scholarship was established in 1988 by the partners of L. Paul Kassouf & Co., a Birmingham accounting firm. The Kassouf family has continued to invest in UAB over the years, including their most recent gift to name the Kassouf & Co. Suite for the Department of Accounting and Finance in the new business building (see page 5). For more stories about gifts that changed everything:

For even more: uab.edu/changeeverything
Hugh Kaul Foundation Names Personalized Medicine Institute

A $7 million gift from the Hugh Kaul Foundation will accelerate UAB’s progress toward becoming a national leader in the emerging science of personalized medicine.

The Hugh Kaul Personalized Medicine Institute will enhance the delivery of personalized medicine — which uses an individual patient’s genetic profile to guide decisions for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease — by assembling and supporting UAB researchers and clinicians in an interdisciplinary program aimed at discovering new knowledge in fields such as cardiovascular disease, transplantation, cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases, immunology and the neurosciences.

The Institute was established in 2014 as one of three related programs focusing on personalized medicine, informatics and genome science. “These three institutes work collaboratively to transform the advancement of medicine — expanding research into the genetic factors related to diseases and how to precisely target treatments based on a patient’s individual genetic makeup,” said Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, senior vice president and dean of the School of Medicine. “The knowledge gained here will be transformative for Alabama and the nation.”

Hugh Kaul was a highly respected businessman, civic leader and four-term member of the Alabama Legislature. He was a founder, director and president of the Alabama Forestry Council and was president and treasurer of the Kaul Lumber Company from 1931 until his retirement. The Hugh Kaul Foundation gift will enable UAB to retain faculty, recruit new physicians and scientists, and build an administrative infrastructure to facilitate more federal and private research grants. Educating physicians, trainees and the broader biomedical community, including bioethicists, will build partnerships, advance the concept of personalized medicine and improve the overall health of the population.

“The Hugh Kaul Foundation is proud to support the future of medical care at UAB through the Hugh Kaul Personalized Medicine Institute,” says John Kaul Greene, a member of the Foundation’s distribution committee. “We hope this gift will accelerate medical progress, improve individualized patient care, and support the physicians and scientists who are conducting groundbreaking research at UAB.”

The institute will create a research framework based on genomic information that will allow UAB to ask questions regarding racial and ethnic disparities, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, neurosciences, and other areas.

The Kaul Foundation has previously provided support for the College of Arts and Sciences, Sterne Library and WBHM. In 2001, the foundation made the lead gift for the Hugh Kaul Human Genetics Building.

For information on investing in research:
Tom Brannan, 205.975.7240; tbrannan@uab.edu
Shah Supports Programs that Touched His Life

UAB has played a remarkable role in the life of retired Birmingham obstetrician and gynecologist Gunvant N. Shah, M.D. His late wife, Gunvant Shah, enjoyed a long career teaching cytotechnology in the School of Health Professions. His daughter, Parul Shah Nguyen, M.D., met her husband, Giang Dai Nguyen, M.D., while both were in medical school at UAB. And in the mid-1990s, he received a life-saving kidney transplant at UAB, allowing him to continue to enjoy his profession and his family in the more than 25 years since.

In the winter of 2014, while reading a UAB Medicine Magazine story about the generosity of another physician who made a significant gift to UAB, he was inspired to make gifts of his own totaling more than $2.6 million. Shah’s initial gift established an endowed medical scholarship in honor of his late wife, who served as director of the cytotechnology program in the School of Health Professions until her retirement in 2000. After a campus visit in summer 2014, Shah made an additional gift through his estate plan to support the programs and people at UAB that directly affected his life. He designated a portion of his estate gift to the Shah scholarship, with the balance divided between educational needs for obstetrics and gynecology, and an endowed support fund in organ transplantation, which will enhance organ transplant training and other components of UAB’s Comprehensive Transplant Institute.

Alacare Gift to Provide Simulation Lab in School of Nursing

Alacare Home Health & Hospice has committed $100,000 to the UAB School of Nursing Building Fund, to name a laboratory for simulating home health care visits in the School’s planned new building. The gift will establish the Alacare Home Health & Hospice Nursing Skills Suite in honor of Susan B. Brouillette, M.P.H., M.B.A., the company’s Chief Executive Officer.

Alacare Chairman/President John G. Beard, M.B.A., J.D., says the gift represents Alacare’s belief in the School’s ability to equip home health nurses with the skill sets needed today and in the future. “The UAB School of Nursing recognizes that we are in a health care reform era in which home health is dependent upon nurses who possess even higher skill sets than in the past – nurses who have learned critical thinking, who recognize ways to better manage a patient’s total condition, and who can use technology to expand overall capability,” Beard says.

Beard is pleased the suite will honor Brouillette, whom he knows both as Alacare’s CEO and as his younger sister. He believes it fitting that she be honored at UAB, where she earned master’s degrees in public health and business administration.

“Susan has done a great job in all positions she has held since joining Alacare in 1988,” Beard says. “She has a passion for what Alacare does and a love for our staff, including, of course, our nurses.”

The Alacare Suite will be part of a home visits simulation laboratory that will represent the UAB School of Nursing’s most progressive setting to date to teach home health skills. As students gain experience in delivering the best possible care to patients in the home setting, they will learn to assess home setting patient safety, address family interactions by positively engaging family members and/or diffusing unhealthy situations, educate family members and patients, identify potential problems and offer solutions.

“We are incredibly grateful to John Beard and for generous philanthropy like Alacare’s gift honoring his sister,” says School of Nursing Dean Doreen Harper, Ph.D. “We strive to provide the best possible education for our nursing students, and the Alacare Home Health & Hospice Nursing Skills Suite helps us do that through the most state-of-the-art teaching tools.”

Beard, a member of the UAB School of Nursing Board of Visitors, sees Alacare’s gift as promoting high standards set by his late parents. In 1970, his father, USAF Major Charles D. Beard, Jr., and his mother, Mary Sue Graham Beard, founded Alacare, now Alabama’s oldest and largest family-owned, Medicare-certified home health agency. The company and the family have a long history of supporting UAB, including significant gifts to Palliative and Supportive Care, the Comprehensive Center for Healthy Aging, the Acute Care for Elders Unit and research programs in the neurosciences.

“With health care reform, the home health care industry faces more pressure to keep patients out of the hospital as best we can,” says Beard. “We believe UAB knows how to educate nurses to help us do that, and in the process to provide patients and their families the level of home health services they deserve.”

For more information on supporting programs in the School of Nursing: Jeannie E. Horton, 205.975.2443; jhorton@uab.edu
With lead gifts from the Joy and Bill Harbert Foundation and Medical Properties Trust, UAB’s Collat School of Business is close to the halfway mark in an ambitious effort to raise $15 million for a new building at the corner of University Boulevard and 13th Street South.

“Our vision for this facility is to create a formalized structure that leverages UAB’s tremendous on-campus resources – from business expertise to world-class medicine to engineering – to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship leading to commercialization and economic development for the community, state and beyond,” said Eric Jack, Ph.D., Wells Fargo Endowed Chair in Business Administration and dean of the Collat School of Business. “We are honored to partner with generous individuals and organizations who share that vision.”

Four key programs will be housed in the new facility, which will serve as a landmark for the western entrance to the UAB campus:

• The Collat School of Business, named for Charles and Patsy Collat in recognition of their longtime support.
• The Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, named for the late Bill Harbert, Birmingham businessman and founder of Harbert Construction Corporation, through a gift from the Joy and Bill Harbert Foundation.
• UAB’s Healthcare Leadership Academy, a collaboration between the Collat School of Business and the School of Medicine to identify and develop future leaders of the UAB academic medical center.
• Institute for Financial Education, which will provide opportunities for learning skills and knowledge successfully manage personal finances.

The new building will feature leading-edge technology and multi-purpose classroom spaces to accommodate small-group learning, showrooms for entrepreneurial projects and sales presentations, labs for behavioral research and spacious common areas indoors and outdoors. The facility will also offer expanded space for the Career Services Office, the Student Success Center and student organizations.

“Our new building will also include a trading room with all of the supporting technologies and mechanisms for our students to trade securities through the Green and Gold Fund, a student-managed investment portfolio valued at approximately $575,000,” Jack added. “We also will have space to expand our MBA program for physicians, in partnership with the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Optometry.”

“This building will be home to key initiatives in education, research and economic development,” says UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D. “It is inspiring to see that business leaders in Alabama believe in our plan and share our priorities.”

For information on supporting the Collat School of Business and the Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship: David I. Allen, 205.996.5399; diallen@uab.edu.
Kassouf & Co. Names Accounting/Finance Suite

The Kassouf family — and the accounting firm that bears their name — have made gifts totaling $500,000 to name the Department of Accounting and Finance Suite in the new Collat School of Business building.

The Kassouf & Co. Suite is the latest investment in UAB by the Kassouf family and the firm, who also have established endowed scholarships in accounting and industrial distribution and have supported a range of programs across campus. The suite includes offices for the department chair and student advising staff, as well as a conference room, reception space and workroom.

David P. Kassouf, a member of the Collat School of Business Dean’s Advisory Board, says the “dividends” of investing in UAB are the accomplished graduates who enter the workforce, driving Birmingham’s business toward success.

Business Alumnus Honors Faculty Mentor with Classroom in His Name

Chad T. Hagwood, Senior Vice President and Regional Manager for Capital One Multifamily Finance in Birmingham, graduated from UAB in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in finance with a concentration in Commercial Real Estate Finance and Investment Institutional Finance. He’s been giving back to UAB ever since, by mentoring students, chairing the Finance Department Advisory Council, and establishing the Tommy and Anne Hagwood Endowed Scholarship in Real Estate in 2007 to honor his parents.

His latest gift of $250,000 will name a classroom in the new Collat School of Business and Bill L. Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in honor of Larry B. Cowart, Ph.D., Assistant Dean for Accreditation and Assistant Professor of Real Estate and Finance.

“I have been very blessed and fortunate to have several great mentors in my life, and one of those mentors is Dr. Larry Cowart,” he says. “I met Dr. Cowart in the fall of 1991 when I took an intro to real estate class. During my three years at UAB, Dr. Cowart’s advice, wisdom and knowledge was invaluable to me, and I attribute much of my success to what I learned at UAB from Dr. Cowart and other fantastic faculty at the Collat School of Business.

“Dr. Cowart and I remain close friends to this day, and I find his advice as valuable today as I did those many years ago,” he adds. “He is truly a credit to UAB, and I believe it is only fitting to honor my good friend who has helped so many people through his talents in and out of the classroom.”

Cowart says this is not the first time Hagwood has helped the School or its students. “He has always stepped up for student groups,” he says. “Just a few years ago, he made a sizable contribution to the finance club to help support their activities. He’s done a lot of things behind the scenes. He doesn’t seek recognition for his giving. He does it because that’s the way he feels about UAB.”

“The Collat School of Business has done so much for so many, including me,” Hagwood says. “Giving back and being a part of this transformational project is an honor.”

Nielsens Name Lab for Innovation in Collat New Business School Facility

Kate and Claude Nielsen have made a $500,000 commitment to establish the Nielsen Innovation Lab, which will serve as a home for student entrepreneurship clubs, as well as classes focused on innovation and business incubation. It also will provide a collaborative teaching space in which students can gain first-hand business experience working on faculty- and student-led startups.

“Claude and I hope this lab will cultivate the entrepreneurial spirit in the students of UAB, and be an economic driver for our community and our state,” says Kate Nielsen. “UAB has always furthered innovation efforts in this community. Our gifts to UAB signify the fact that we believe UAB is important today and will always be important to our community and state.”

The Nielsens’ steadfast support for UAB has included the establishment of scholarships, funding for research, support for the arts and more. Both Nielsens are members of The Campaign for UAB Executive Committee.

Kate Nielsen served as president of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham for 13 years before retiring in 2013. Under her leadership, the Community Foundation’s assets grew in size from $38 million to more than $169 million and each year grants funds of approximately $15 million to area nonprofit agencies. Claude Nielsen is Chairman and CEO of Coca-Cola Bottling Co. United, Inc. He also has contributed his time to several civic and corporate boards.

“People used to say the cities that were thriving usually had a river,” says Kate Nielsen. “What we’re coming to find is that urban universities are the river. A university brings vibrancy to the urban core. We are blessed that UAB is in the heart of our city. It is driving everything in the most positive ways: health care, business, education in general. Can you imagine anything more important in a city?”

“Claude and I are so excited that we have this to invest in,” she adds. “This is the new river. Students, faculty, administration, people — that’s what brings a city back to life.”
UAB fans and Blazer Boosters have met the first fundraising milestone for the return of football, rifle and bowling, with more than $2 million received as of September 1, 2015.

According to Director of Athletics Mark Ingram, UAB’s rifle team will resume competing with the upcoming 2015-16 season as a mixed rifle squad with coed participation. Bowling will return to competition during the 2016-17 academic year, and football will resume competition in the 2017 season at the Football Bowl Subdivision level.

“The outpouring of support shown by donors, alumni and countless fans who are investing in our programs has been overwhelming,” Ingram said. “We must capitalize on this exceptional opportunity within our community and give UAB student-athletes every chance to compete for championships while earning a degree from this outstanding institution.”

Hatton Smith, CEO emeritus of Royal Cup Coffee and Tea, has partnered with Blazer Boosters to assemble the UAB Athletics Campaign Committee, composed of community leaders charged with raising additional funds, with an emphasis on athletics facilities. Top priorities include a new football operations building and turf practice field, and a new facility for track and field.

“These community leaders understand that facility upgrades are essential, and we appreciate the opportunity to partner with UAB Athletics to build programs that generate proud moments for both UAB and Birmingham,” Smith said.

Commitments may be fulfilled over a five-year period and are counted separately from Blazer Booster annual donations made to maintain ticket and parking benefits.

For more on giving to UAB Athletics:
Brad Hardekopf, 205.996.9969, hardebp@uab.edu.

Facility upgrades in the UAB Athletics master plan include:

- Football operations building and turf practice field
- Track and field facility
- Wallace Gym renovations (men’s and women’s basketball and volleyball practice facility)
- Bartow Arena renovations, including Olympic sport locker room renovations
- BBVA Compass Field- Phase II (men’s and women’s soccer)
- Baseball and softball clubhouse
- Baseball and softball stadium renovations
- Tennis stadium
- Men’s and women’s golf short game practice facility
- Beach volleyball stadium

Facility upgrades in the UAB Athletics master plan include:
Governor’s Gift Recognizes Professionalism in Medicine

Former Alabama Governor Albert P. Brewer has established an endowed award recognizing faculty physicians who exemplify the highest ideals of professionalism. Brewer made the gift in appreciation of the professionalism he observed in Martin J. Heslin, M.D., the James P. Hayes Endowed Professor of Gastrointestinal Oncology, associate director for clinical programs of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, and chief of staff of UAB Health System. Heslin has been named the inaugural recipient of the Brewer-Heslin Endowed Award for Professionalism in Medicine in 2015.

Professionalism is a quality that has long interested Brewer, and it was one of things he most admired about Heslin. “One of the courses I taught at the Cumberland School of Law was in professional responsibility,” Brewer says. “Dr. Heslin was a surgeon of mine some years ago and I was impressed with his professionalism, not only with his competence and his relationship with me as his patient, but also with his interactions with the nurses and staff as well as his residents and colleagues.”

Heslin says it is a great honor to be recognized by Governor Brewer. “By all standards, the Governor is a rare individual who epitomized professionalism his entire career,” he said. “I am very grateful to him for such a positive gesture to be given to the UAB School of Medicine, and quite humbled to be the first recipient.”

Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine says professionalism embodies the best traits of physicians: integrity, bedside manner, teamwork, honesty, and the drive to continually improve oneself. “I think this award highlights how important it is for today’s physicians to not just have the knowledge, but also to have the character to apply that knowledge in a manner that benefits patients and supports their colleagues.”

For more information about supporting the School of Medicine: Virginia Gilbert Loftin, 205.975.5602; vgloftin@uab.edu

Dunlap Honors Mentors with Gift to Pulmonary Division

Nancy Dunlap says the roots of her success as a pulmonologist, scientist, healthcare administrator, and policy advisor can be directly traced back to the guidance, inspiration, and support she received from faculty mentors during her postgraduate medical education at UAB.

In acknowledgement of the contributions of four faculty members whose dedication and mentoring roles helped shape her career, Dunlap and her husband, John D. Johns, established the Pulmonary Faculty Development Endowment in the UAB Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine. The gift is made in honor of her most influential mentors: Benjamin V. Branscomb, M.D., founding director of the pulmonary division; J. Dunwood Bradley, M.D., founder of the UAB Lung Health Center; and Dick D. Briggs Jr., M.D., a pulmonary faculty member who also served as President and CEO of the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation.

“These mentors took the time and interest to teach and inspire the next generation of clinicians and scientists,” says Dunlap, who completed her internal medicine residency training and pulmonary fellowship at UAB, where she also earned a Ph.D. in microbiology. “My gift is a way to give back to UAB while honoring their commitment.”

Dunlap says her faculty mentors each contributed something unique that helped lay the foundation for a career marked with distinction. A former dean of the University of Virginia School of Medicine, she previously worked with the National Governors Association as Physician-in-Residence and on the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow, where she worked on the reauthorization of FDA legislation and issues related to Medicare, Medicaid, public health, and insurance.

Dunlap also served for 10 years as the medical director for the Alabama Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Program. She previously held positions as chief of staff, vice president for Ambulatory Services, and chief operating officer of The Kirklin Clinic at UAB. Dunlap continues her work in health policy with the National Governors Association and the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

Dunlap says discussions with medical faculty throughout her career served as a guidepost as she considered making a gift. “They often expressed a feeling of being ‘stuck’ once their clinical training had ended,” she said. “While patient care was rewarding, they had a desire for opportunities to continue growing and developing as clinicians, researchers, and scientists.”

The Pulmonary Faculty Development Endowment gives faculty members an opportunity for career enrichment, which might include sponsoring speakers and educational symposia as well as assisting with the cost to obtain advanced degrees or other continuing education.

“Patient care is demanding, and providing faculty with an outlet for continued learning and career development helps to increase their fulfillment and overall job satisfaction,” Dunlap says, “helping us to retain the best and brightest at UAB.”

For more information about supporting the Department of Medicine: Megann B. Cain, 205.934.7408; mbcain@uab.edu
Strain Endowment Brings Powerhouse Researchers to UAB

Geneticist Haydeh Payami, Ph.D., has spent the past two decades searching for a different type of DNA. In a series of studies she calls “fishing expeditions,” Payami has been trawling the genome for bits of DNA that can help explain the mysterious patterns seen in Parkinson’s disease: Why do smokers have a much lower risk of getting the disease? What role does the immune system play in Parkinson’s? Why do some people get the disease in their teens, while it appears in others in their late 80s?

She has already had several intriguing catches. If you have the right combination of genetic variations, she explains, a few cups of coffee per day could reduce your Parkinson’s risk by an astounding 87 percent. With other sets of genes, a nicotine patch—or some daily ibuprofen, or probiotic pills—could do the trick. “If you could identify people who are genetically susceptible and tell them what to do, or what to avoid, maybe you can prevent the disease from happening,” Payami said.

It’s a perfect example of the potential of personalized medicine. But there’s more. Payami is now expanding her work to Alzheimer’s disease, and the same techniques could revolutionize the study and treatment of many other conditions.

With a track record of success that includes several ground-breaking discoveries in Parkinson’s research, Payami was recruited to the UAB Department of Neurology in 2015, where she joined a team of Parkinson’s researchers and clinicians who are committed to finding a cure.

That recruitment was made possible in part because of a gift made almost 10 years ago by a couple who knew first-hand what people with Parkinson’s face each day. The John T. and Juanelle D. Strain Endowed Chair in Neurology, funded in 2006 through the Strain Family Foundation is now held by Payami, providing resources to power her efforts to find that cure.

Strain and his wife worked together in the construction industry, building homes, hotels and apartment houses across north and central Alabama. Strain was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 1980, and for the next 20 years was treated at UAB by Dr. James Halsey. His family credits UAB with extending Strain’s life and improving his quality of life through cutting-edge medications, two surgeries, and excellent clinical care. After he passed away, his family established the endowed chair to support the pursuit of new treatments that would improve the lives of others with Parkinson’s and other movement disorders.

David G. Standaert, M.D., Ph.D., was the first holder of the Strain Chair; as chairman of the UAB Department of Neurology, he now holds the John N. Whitaker Endowed Chair. “The Strain Endowed Chair provides essential and ongoing support for our efforts to find the cure for Parkinson’s disease,” he said.

“We are excited to have Dr. Payami on our team, as she is certain to accelerate our progress.

“Endowed chairs are a critical component to recruiting top investigators to any institution,” he added. “The generosity and foresight of the Strain family has given us support that is not only important now, but is also sustainable into the future.”

Payami is doubling her DNA collection, and tapping into the latest genetic sequencing and analysis systems. She will add 2,000 patients and 2,000 healthy controls from UAB’s renowned Parkinson’s clinics, and have access to the world-class machines and analysts in HudsonAlpha’s Genomic Services Laboratory.

“That will give us the power to do what we need to do,” Payami said.

For information on supporting Parkinson’s research:
Kate Tully, 205.934.0792; ktully@uab.edu

PET/MRI Funded with Gift from Julie and Jim Stephens

Thanks to Julie and Jim Stephens, a revolutionary research tool with cutting-edge neural imaging capabilities has been added to UAB’s Advanced Imaging Center.

The installation of a PET MRI positions UAB at the forefront of patient care and research, expanding the options for diagnosing, treating and monitoring response in patients with cancer, neurological conditions and cardiovascular disease. A PET MRI combines two fundamentally different scanner technologies, positron emission tomography (PET) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), to offer a more accurate and dependable way to diagnose disease.

PET MRI exposes patients to less radiation than PET CT or other imaging methods, which is important for cancer patients who must undergo repeat studies throughout their treatment and followup. Combining PET with MRI also can take less time than when done separately. Most important, PET MRI offers diagnostic information that may not be detected by other types of imaging until a patient’s disease is more advanced, such as evidence that a cancer may have spread to the brain or other organs.

The PET MRI is in close proximity to UAB’s cyclotron in the Advanced Imaging Facility. The cyclotron, the most powerful at any U.S. academic medical center, increases the diagnostic power and speed of the PET MRI. “With the addition of PET MRI, our facility gives our physicians and researchers opportunities in clinical care and research that they could not get anywhere else,” says Cherri Canon, M.D., chair of the UAB Department of Radiology. “It’s really unmatched.”

The Stephenses have a long history of support for UAB, including investments in the Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center — named for Jim Stephens’ mother — and ArtPlay, its outreach program; the Department of Neurosurgery, where they have funded resident research efforts and where Julie Stephens served as a member of the Neurosurgery Women’s Leadership Council; and patient assistance funds at UAB Hospital.

“The gift comes primarily from the belief that “better imaging is vital for medical discovery,” says Jim Stephens. “We wish to see UAB medicine, in all respects, be among the best.”

For information on supporting imaging research and technology:
Austín M. Hardison, 205.975.3529; austinh@uab.edu
Barkley investment launches young faculty careers

When Charles Barkley made a gift in 2005 to the UAB Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center, his intent was characteristically straightforward: Change the lives of minorities and the underserved through better health care.

Over the last 10 years, 42 young UAB investigators have received Charles Barkley Health Disparities Awards — pilot grants of $30,000 each — to explore new ways to level the health care playing field. Many Barkley Award winners have leveraged those initial funds into large grants from the National Institutes of Health — not only fulfilling Barkley’s wish to help others, but also helping to launch their careers. Projects have focused on a wide range of topics, including improving access to eye care among Hispanic children, exploring the rates of triple-negative breast cancer in black and younger women; and understanding hypertension among black men in a faith-based setting.

Surgeon Jayme Locke, M.D., who leads UAB’s Incompatible Kidney Transplant Program, used her 2012 Barkley Award to study health risks of organ donation for African-Americans, and used that data to secure an NIH Career Development Award on her first try. “I had an idea, but I didn’t have any data, and most research awards require that you come to the table with some sort of data. The NIH certainly does,” Locke said. “Without the Barkley Award, I wouldn’t have had that data, and I’m not sure I would have gotten funded by NIH.”

Locke’s efforts continue to pay enormous dividends for patients through UAB’s Kidney Chain, a pared exchange in which a recipient gets an organ from someone in the chain, and a relative or friend of that recipient agrees to donate a kidney to another participant. UAB’s kidney chain is the longest transplant living-donor kidney transplant chain ever performed on record at one institution or anywhere, and to date, 25 percent of the 102 participants in the chain have been minorities.

Monica Baskin, Ph.D., one of the first recipients of the Barkley Award, views the investment as a major contributor to her current success. An associate professor in the Division of Preventive Medicine, she used her Barkley funds to study interventions for obesity among African-American children. Testing her theory on a smaller scale made Baskin more competitive at the national level; since 2005, she has won more than $6.4 million in grant funding. Ten years later, Baskin continues to focus on obesity in the African-American community and acknowledges the ongoing impact of the Barkley Award. “It put me on a trajectory to be successful in the future,” she says. “There are threads of that project that are still very much alive.”

MHRC Director Mona N. Fouad, M.D., M.P.H., emphasizes the importance of the Barkley Awards and other support on the future of young investigators. “These programs prepare our young faculty to be successful by giving them what is often their very first funding,” Fouad said. “Having funds for the early stages of your research increases your chances when you are competing in a national or international arena.”

Fouad believes the greatest impact of the Barkley Awards is yet to come. “You don’t just think about the return investment as money, but as building the careers of a generation of scientists studying problems that need to be solved,” she said. “Charles Barkley wanted to make a lasting change for minorities and the underserved. He has done that, and so much more.”

For information on supporting young investigators: Megann B. Cain, 205.934.7408; mbcain@uab.edu

Monday Morning Quarterback Club Makes First Gift to Research

For more than 40 years, The Crippled Children’s Foundation — the charitable arm of Birmingham’s Monday Morning Quarterback Club — has provided critical support to a range of UAB clinical and educational programs, including the Multidisciplinary Comprehensive Diabetes Clinic, the H仔ffing-Salter Radiation Oncology Center, and the John D. Sherrill Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery.

The CCF recently made its first investment in research at UAB with a gift of $50,000 to support groundbreaking discovery in the UAB Stem Cell Institute. That gift brings the Foundation’s total giving to more than $3.6 million.

The research investment supports the efforts of Tim M. Townes, Ph.D., to develop a cure for severe combined immunodeficiency, a disorder that is lethal in infancy without treatment. Townes, the James C. and Elizabeth T. Lee Endowed Chair in Biochemistry and director of the UAB Stem Cell Institute, says the gift will provide one year of salary to support a postdoctoral fellow in the UAB Stem Cell Institute, and will help to accelerate UAB’s efforts to eliminate the threat of illnesses like sickle cell disease and severe combined immunodeficiency, or SCID.

SCID is a life-threatening genetic disorder characterized by the absence of white blood cells. The result is a highly compromised immune system, which leaves infants susceptible to severe bacterial, viral, and fungal infections. The most common treatment for SCID is bone marrow transplantation — an invasive and demanding procedure for already vulnerable infants. The discovery of a cure for SCID would be a historic breakthrough in biomedical research, and a miraculous gift for infants suffering from the disease.

Researchers in Townes’ laboratory have already developed groundbreaking cell therapies that have cured sickle cell disease in a humanized mouse model, and want to use these discoveries as a platform to develop a safe and effective cure for SCID. “There are many genes that are involved in the development of SCID, genes which are essential for a functioning immune system,” Townes said. “All of our new work is directed at developing an efficient and safe way to correct mutations to those genes. We are incredibly grateful to the Monday Morning Quarterback Club for helping us further these efforts. This is coming exactly at the right time, so we’re very excited about it.”

Organized in 1939 to provide fellowship among football lovers, the club’s priorities soon shifted to raising funds for a six-story, fully-equipped Crippled Children’s Clinic and Hospital, which opened in 1951. After the eradication of polio in the 1950s and 1960s, the hospital closed in 1969 and its building was sold to what is now UAB, with proceeds used to establish the Crippled Children’s Foundation to benefit children throughout Alabama. “We could not be prouder to continue our legacy of supporting children’s medical needs, and are pleased to partner with the clinical research and educational programs of Dr. Townes at UAB for the children and families of Alabama,” said club president Edgar Welden. “We know the work this investment will support will add value to all those affected by immunodeficiency. On behalf of all our generous members and supporters, we are grateful we can support the Stem Cell Institute with this gift, and continue the work towards finding a cure.”

For information on supporting biomedical research at UAB: Leah Beth McNutt, Major Gifts Officer, 205.975.5472; lbnmcnutt@uab.edu
Gifts for UABTeach Reach $2.65 Million for STEM Educators

UABTeach – an innovative effort to prepare educators to teach science, technology, engineering and mathematics — has received a total of $2.65 million to date in philanthropic support. The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham has committed $1 million over five years, and the Max and Lorayne Cooper Foundation has also given $1 million to honor the late Mrs. Cooper, who taught school for 58 years.

The only program of its kind in Alabama, UABTeach gives undergraduate students majoring in STEM subjects the opportunity to earn a subject-matter degree plus accreditation to teach at the secondary level in a traditional four-year plan. UABTeach is designed to quickly produce a new teaching workforce of highly qualified instructors in STEM fields, which are facing teacher shortages in Alabama and across the nation. The program is a partnership between the School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences with support from the School of Engineering and the Alabama State Department of Education, as well as the Birmingham, Hoover and Jefferson County school districts and business organizations.

Co-directors John Mayer, Ph.D., professor and associate chair of the Department of Mathematics, and Lee Meadows, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, recruited 70 students into the program last summer, pitching the idea of getting two degrees for the price of one.

“Our students can take the first two courses at no cost, which helps them consider teaching without having to think about cost,” Meadows says. “If they complete the courses, we rebate their tuition in the form of a scholarship.”

UABTeach students are taught and mentored by Master Teachers, veteran science and math educators who work full time in the program. Field experiences in area K-12 schools will allow students to observe excellent STEM teaching and to complete traditional “student teaching” in their last semester. Once employed, UABTeach graduates will continue to be followed by Master Teachers for their first two years.

Sophomore biomedical engineering major Emma Rose Latham of Sumiton signed up for UABTeach last year after learning about the program at freshman orientation. She jumped at the opportunity to explore both teaching and biomedical engineering.

“I had a teacher in high school who taught anatomy and chemistry,” Latham said. “After those courses, I couldn’t see myself doing anything else. I wanted to pick a major that encompassed both of those. And I want to be able to inspire someone like that teacher inspired me.”

Initial funding was provided by the National Math and Science Initiative through a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Early gifts from The Belk Foundation and the Mike and Gillian Goodrich Foundation positioned the program for success, meeting a critical need for scholarships and providing stipends for mentor teachers. The additional funds from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham and the Max and Lorayne Cooper Foundation will help sustain the program, building a cadre of excellent STEM teachers for classrooms across Alabama and beyond.

To support UAB Teach:
Rebecca J. Gordon, 205.975.6149; rjgordon@uab.edu

“I want to be able to inspire someone like that teacher inspired me.”

– Emma Rose Latham, Sophomore, Biomedical Engineering
Mulkin Donates Treasure Trove of History to Theatre Department

When her third child started college, Jane White Mulkin also enrolled at UAB. Her first class was a theatre course that changed her life.

“It gave me the confidence to go on with my education, and encouraged me to finish my degree in four years,” says Mulkin, a graduate of the Class of 1983. “It opened up the world to me.”

Mulkin was nervous about being a nontraditional student, so the theatre class was a “test course” to see how she would do. She was delighted by how the class allowed her to more easily transition from her comfort zone as a full-time homemaker to a successful member of the collegiate community.

Last fall, inspired by her positive memories of the experience, Mulkin gave a gift to the Department of Theatre in the UAB College of Arts and Sciences that offers a glimpse of the past and puts UAB in rare company. A vintage clothing collector, Mulkin donated more than 200 pieces — racks of dresses, skirts, bodices, hats, gloves, shoes, parasols, and more — that represent 90 years of fashion.

UAB assistant professor of theatre and costume director Amy Page, M.F.A., called Mulkin’s donation a “treasure trove of history.” The vintage collection offers “endless opportunities” to teach students, and she hopes that they experience wonder and surprise, just as she did when she met the donor and saw the pieces for the first time. “It’s always special when you recognize in someone else a love for something you both share,” she says.

Kimberly Schnormeier, M.F.A., associate professor of theatre and associate dean for academic advising in the College of Arts and Sciences, says the garments will allow students to learn how they were made, the materials used, and the role the clothing played in different era. They can see how something as simple as stitching — whether a piece was sewn by hand or by machine — will teach them a lot about the influence of taste, socioeconomic background, and more.

The collection will serve as a resource in the Costume Shop, where students create and maintain the costumes used in Theatre UAB’s four annual productions and its Festival of Ten-Minute Plays. Studying the collection of garments and their history can help a costume designer make decisions for the characters in a production, based on what is written in the script about them and the characterization each actor is using.

For instance, a silk taffeta skirt and bodice trimmed with peacock feathers, reveals much about the woman who wore it more than 125 years ago. Complicated fastenings indicate that “these garments were worn by someone who likely didn’t dress herself — she had help from a servant or family member,” Page explains. “The little-worn condition of that fabric hints that this individual also had several sets of clothing for each day — she would change for breakfast, for visiting, for hosting, and so on.”

Because the vintage clothes are fragile, student actors are unlikely to wear them on stage. Some could be reproduced, however — with a few key design alterations. “Productions often call for actors to move in ways that people in history may not have done, so we have to make compromises,” Page says. “For example, we would adjust the shape of 1880s sleeves to allow for more movement.”

The donated garments help place UAB’s theatre department in a national spotlight, says Amanda Mattes, interim director of The Costume Shop. “I can think of maybe three university theatre departments that have a full collection of vintage pieces, and those took years to acquire,” she says. The garments, along with pieces given to the Costume Shop by other donors in the past, could prove to be a draw for students considering a theatre education at UAB. In a recent costume workshop for high-school students, the elaborate vintage wear immediately caught their eyes.

That is exactly what Mulkin had in mind when she made the gift. “The clothes were just languishing in my closet, and I thought maybe I could sell them,” she says. “Then I thought back to my experience at UAB. I just love UAB so much and they have such a great theatre department, and I thought I will just give them to UAB.

“The thought of young people looking at those clothes — touching them, learning from them, and those clothes coming back to life again — it was just more than I could have ever imagined,” she says. “It was so much fun for me. I could never have sold them and gotten the joy I have seeing them come back to life.”

For information on supporting the College of Arts and Sciences:
Camille Epps, 205.934.5643; camilleepps@uab.edu
Entrepreneurs, artists and the Obama campaign were quick to realize the potential of online crowdfunding, pooling numerous small donations to help them bring big ideas to life. Now UAB Crowdfunding is helping faculty, staff, and students secure the public’s financial support for innovative projects.

“Crowdfunding allows project creators and those with a desire to give to have a collective impact on our community,” says Randy A. Kinder, senior director of annual giving and project manager for UAB Crowdfunding. “Anyone at UAB with a solution to a need or problem can apply for a crowdfunding project and form a team, which then explains its goals on a web page. Supporters can give varying amounts through the page, and 100 percent of each gift goes directly to the project.”

Since its launch in November 2014, nine projects have been fully funded through UAB Crowdfunding, with more than 667 gifts received. Of those donors, 315 made their first gift to UAB.

Several projects have received media attention, helping raise awareness and funding. Dr. Karen Cropsay, associate professor of psychology at UAB, launched the Save One Life project to fund the purchase and distribution of naloxone kits for the emergency treatment of opioid (including heroin) overdose. “I hope it’s causing people to reflect upon harm reduction strategies for those with addictions,” she said.

Sarah Dowdy, M.P.H., program manager and research coordinator for the UAB Center for Pediatric Onset Demyelinating Disorders, said crowdfunding was essential to holding the CPODD Family Retreat in June. Fifty people gave $13,205 so 13 families could connect over a shared bond of having a child living with pediatric neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica. They were able to share experiences and resources, and create a supportive community.

“Crowdfunding felt personal to us in a way grant-writing does not,” Dowdy said. “You are asking people you know to support you, and that is a different challenge. And we got surprising generosity from complete strangers.”

UAB’s Child Development Center used crowdfunding to purchase nine tablet computers and other learning tools to help pre-schoolers prepare for kindergarten. Student affiliates of the American Chemical Society raised funds to host the second annual Mad Science Day Jr., which promotes science and chemistry among middle schoolers. Several scholarship projects were successfully funded, including the UAB/Southern Company Co-Op Scholarship in the School of Engineering; 6,487 Steps for Blazers, a project to fund scholarships in conjunction with the 2015 UAB National Alumni Society Scholarship $10K; and the William M. Voigt Scholarship, a project to fund a scholarship in memory of the first president of the UAB National Alumni Society.

The Equal Access Birmingham project solved a problem that UAB medical students encountered while running a free clinic for the underserved. Because many patients did not have access to a telephone or permanent address, they were unable to receive lab results as quickly as necessary, causing a delay in treatment. More than 100 donors gave more than $12,000 to fund the purchase of an iSTAT system, a comprehensive machine that can perform diagnostic blood analysis immediately.

Find out more about Crowdfunding at UAB at crowdfund.uab.edu.
**Wilson Provide Vision for the Future with Legacy Gift**

“My parents wore glasses my whole life,” Sandra Wilson says. “My husband has worn glasses since he was two years old. I want to help people who have fallen through the cracks, who are working and struggling to make it, and glasses are an added expense.”

While the Wilsons have regularly contributed to various charitable organizations, this is the first time they’ve put something more permanent in place. “It’s so rewarding to me to see the expression on people when they receive glasses that clear their vision,” she says. “Glasses were very important to my parents. They’re important to my husband. We talked about it and for us, this seemed like the right thing to do.”

The endowment will be funded through a bequest of a percentage of the Wilsons’ estate. “It is our passion at the School of Optometry to ensure that those in need receive quality eye care,” says Dean Kelly K. Nichols, O.D., M.P.H., Ph.D. “The Wilsons’ generous endowment will help us provide the gift of sight well into the future to those struggling to make ends meet. Everyone deserves the opportunity to see the world, and the Wilsons’ kindness will allow us to fill this need over and over. It is truly a pay-it-forward gift.”

**For information on supporting the School of Optometry:**

Peggy Striplin, 205.934.9838; striplin@uab.edu

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**Mother Funds Medical Scholarship In Memory of Son**

Susan Holt’s connection to UAB began in 1977 among the stacks in Mervyn H. Sterne Library, where she worked as a cataloging librarian. During her three-decade career at UAB, she rose through the ranks to head of the cataloging department, and completed a bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1990. In 2005, her connection to the university grew even stronger when her son John Isaac Samuel Holt was admitted to the School of Medicine. “He wanted to be a doctor all his life,” she said. “Maybe it was because his father was seriously brain injured in an accident and never recovered. Maybe he thought he could do something to help other people in that situation. He was really thrilled to be admitted to UAB.”

Only a month before his first day of medical school, John Isaac Samuel Holt was killed in an automobile accident. Afterward, her mother found a way to carry on her son’s dream of helping others. With the help of John’s grandmother, she funded the John Isaac Samuel Holt Memorial Endowed Scholarship to provide aid to medical students at UAB. She recently made a gift through her estate that will significantly grow the endowment, so that more students can benefit. “My son would have been a good doctor because he was very smart, but he also had a lot of heart,” she said. “I think it’s really important for a doctor to have both. I’m hoping that the recipients of this scholarship will carry on that tradition.”

Mrs. Holt says she especially enjoys the annual School of Medicine scholarship dinner, during which she is able to meet scholarship recipients and hear their personal reasons for pursuing a career in medicine. “It lets us know that his name is living on in the students who are receiving the scholarship,” she says. “And he is doing some good even though he is no longer with us.”

**For information on supporting medical student scholarships:**

Jessica Brooks Lane, 205.975.4452; jblane@uab.edu

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**Ensuring the Arts for Future Generations**

Cele and Allen Montgomery have enjoyed many performances at the UAB’s Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center, but they’ve never been content to simply be members of the audience. “We have,” Allen Montgomery says. “By supporting the Alys Stephens Center, we’re touching lives. That’s pretty fulfilling.”

The Montogmerys’ gift will be directed in a variety of ways to meet the future needs of the ASC, which reflects their passion for sustaining the ASC as a community asset. “We want to do our part in making sure that ASC performances and educational programs will be here for our grandchildren to enjoy as much as we have,” Allen Montgomery says.

“The Montogmerys’ planned gift will not only enable the ASC to continue to bring artists of the highest artistic merit to our community, but also provide vital arts education and outreach programs to those whose access to the arts is limited by geography, economics or disability,” says ASC development director Lili D. Anderson. “This past year we increased our reach by 25 percent, which was accomplished through the generosity of individuals like the Montogmerys.”

**For information on supporting the Alys Stephens Center:**

Lili Anderson, 205.934.6196; lilia@uab.edu

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**Improved eyesight is invaluable**, but the cost for some can be prohibitive. With this in mind, Robert G. and Sandra Nichols Wilson have made a legacy gift to establish The Robert G. and Sandra Nichols Wilson Endowed Support Fund in Optometry. The fund will provide the working poor and those who have lost their jobs and are currently seeking employment with aid to cover the costs of full eye examinations, frames and lenses, and any follow-up examinations.

### Mother Funds Medical Scholarship In Memory of Son

**Susan Holt’s connection to UAB** began in 1977 among the stacks in Mervyn H. Sterne Library, where she worked as a cataloging librarian. During her three-decade career at UAB, she rose through the ranks to head of the cataloging department, and completed a bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1990. In 2005, her connection to the university grew even stronger when her son John Isaac Samuel Holt was admitted to the School of Medicine.

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### Ensuring the Arts for Future Generations

**Cele and Allen Montgomery have enjoyed** many performances at the UAB’s Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center, but they’ve never been content to simply be members of the audience.

Behind the scenes, Allen Montgomery, retired CEO of American Nutraceutical Association, is chair of the Alys Stephens Center Advisory Board. And recently, the couple made a gift to the Alys Stephens Center Endowment through their estate plan, ensuring that the performing arts center will continue to make an impact on the community for generations to come.

“We all have to realize that it’s not just about attending performances,” Allen Montgomery says. “By supporting the Alys Stephens Center, we’re touching lives. That’s pretty fulfilling.”

The Montgomerys’ gift will be directed in a variety of ways to meet the future needs of the ASC, which reflects their passion for sustaining the ASC as a community asset. “We want to do our part in making sure that ASC performances and educational programs will be here for our grandchildren to enjoy as much as we have,” Allen Montgomery says.

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**For information on supporting the School of Optometry:**

Peggy Striplin, 205.934.9838; striplin@uab.edu

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**For information on supporting medical student scholarships:**

Jessica Brooks Lane, 205.975.4452; jblane@uab.edu

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**For information on supporting the Alys Stephens Center:**

Lili Anderson, 205.934.6196; lilia@uab.edu
LEAVING A LEGACY

Glenn Ireland II

Glenn Ireland II, an admired and respected Birmingham executive and philanthropist whose family has long been among UAB’s most generous supporters, passed away on February 7, 2015. Mr. Ireland’s family founded Vulcan Materials Co., where he served numerous executive roles. He and his brothers — Charles Byron Ireland, Jr., John Scott Ireland, and William Reynolds Ireland — were leading mental health advocates, motivated by the experience of their sister Katharine, who struggled with schizophrenia when treatment options were scarce. The family, dedicated to promoting mental health research and education, helped found Glenwood Mental Health Services, now known as Glenwood Autism and Behavioral Health Center. In 1979, Mr. Ireland was appointed commissioner of mental health for the state of Alabama.

Along with the family, Mr. Ireland and his wife were long-time contributors to UAB, funding the Katherine Reynolds Ireland Endowed Chair in Pediatrics, held by Mitchell B. Cohen, M.D.; the Kathy Ireland Chair in Psychiatric Research, held by Rosalinda C. Roberts, Ph.D.; and the Charles Byron Ireland Chair of Psychiatric Research, currently held by Richard C. Shefton, M.D. Other gifts helped extended over two decades,” said CCC. “Many of these contributions to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama Endowed Professorship was established in 2012 and was completed as an endowed chair in 2015. It is held by Andres Forero, M.D., who treated Mrs. O’Neal throughout her illness.

“Dolly’s contributions to the Comprehensive Cancer Center and its breast cancer research program have extended over two decades,” said CCC Director Edward E. Partridge, M.D., holder of the Evaulia B. Spencer Chair in Oncology. “She led the Rays of Hope campaign, launched in 2005, to construct the Hazerig-Salter Radiation Oncology Center, which is state-of-the-art. She helped found the Breast Cancer Research Foundation of Alabama, which is largely the reason that our Cancer Center has such a vibrant nationally recognized breast cancer research program.”

In 2002, Mrs. O’Neal became the Director of Development at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. In that position, Mrs. O’Neal also helped raise significant funds for clinical trials of new treatments. After leaving that position in 2007, she continued to focus her efforts on the BCRFA and other community activities.

In 2009 — 15 years after her first diagnosis — the cancer returned. Forero prescribed Femara, a cancer-fighting drug developed in part with funds Mrs. O’Neal had helped raise. The treatment gave her more six months, during which she and her husband, Bert, saw their three children marry and welcomed six grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Bert O’Neal; their children, Bert Jr., Camper, and Amy Stevens; their six grandchildren; and the family she created through the BCRFA and the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Rachel Z. Booth

Rachel Z. Booth, Ph.D., Professor and Dean Emerita of the UAB School of Nursing, died June 24, 2015. Dr. Booth was the third dean of the UAB School of Nursing, serving in that position from 1987 until her retirement in 2005. Known especially for her pioneering work in nurse practitioner programs and for contributing to nursing’s role in global health, Dr. Booth in 1999 was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in nursing by the King of Thailand — making her the first foreign nurse to receive this honor in Thailand. During her years of nursing education leadership in Alabama, she was inducted into both the Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame and the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame.

A native of Seneca, S.C., she attended Furman University and graduated from the Greenville General Hospital School of Nursing. She married Richard B. Booth, whose U.S. Air Force career took the couple and their only son to Colorado, California, Greece, Texas, Alaska and Washington, D.C. She then earned baccalaureate and master’s degrees in nursing, and then a Ph.D. in education, with a major in administration of higher education, all from the University of Maryland. She joined the UM faculty, serving as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and leading the way for the nurse-practitioner movement.

After serving as assistant vice president for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Nursing at Duke University, she was recruited to become the third dean of the UAB School of Nursing. During the 18 years Dr. Booth led the UAB School of Nursing, she put in place strong resources for a research program, brought progressive nurse practitioner programs to life, established a Ph.D. in nursing program, and founded the School’s community-support group, the Board of Visitors. She also brought foreign students into the School and immersed the School’s faculty and students in experiences that stretched to such faraway locales as Thailand, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia, East Africa, Honduras, and Brazil.

Booth was preceded in death by her husband, Richard, who passed away in 2013. She is survived by her son, Kevin, and three grandchildren — Brittany Kay, Katherine Rae, and William Bryan.
Shirley Salloway Kahn Retires From UAB

After nearly 38 years of distinguished service to UAB and the University of Alabama System, Shirley Salloway Kahn, Ph.D., retired on September 30, 2015. Throughout her years at UAB, she has advised seven presidents and dozens of deans, vice presidents, and other senior leaders, and has also fostered the successful careers of countless members of the UAB family as a wise and encouraging mentor. During her 17 years as chief fundraising officer for UAB and the UAB Health System, UAB has secured more than $1.8 billion in philanthropic funding.

“Dr. Kahn has touched nearly every aspect of this university,” said President Ray L. Watts, M.D. “She has raised UAB’s profile, forged strong community partnerships, and led ambitious, successful campaigns to fund our strategic priorities. Her influence will be felt at UAB and across the community for years to come, and we are deeply grateful for her leadership and dedication to UAB.”

The daughter of the late Maurice H. “Sonny” Salloway and the late Margaret Goldberg Salloway, she graduated from Sylacauga High School in 1970, and then earned her bachelor’s summa cum laude (1974) and master’s (1975) degrees before completing a doctorate in higher education administration in 1978, all from the University of Alabama. She also attended the Institute for Educational Management at Harvard University, completing the program in 1982.

Demonstrating the leadership skills that would remain in evidence during her career, Kahn served as President of the University of Alabama Student Government Association for the College of Education, Mortar Board, Kappa Delta Epsilon Honorary Society, and Sigma Delta Tau sorority. She received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award as the Outstanding Senior Woman Graduate, and was one of the first 10 women in the nation tapped into Omicron Delta Kappa.

A job becomes a commitment

She joined UAB in 1978 as an assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Legal Affairs; the first senior staff position hired for this new area of the institution incorporating new offices of Development, Governmental Affairs, Public Relations and Marketing, Alumni Affairs, and Legal Affairs. She rose quickly through the ranks to become Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs in May 1980 and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership in October 1991. In these roles, she handled all matters related to finance and administration as well as physical facilities for Academic Affairs which at the time included the schools of Arts and Humanities, Business, Education, Engineering, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and Social and Behavioral Sciences; UAB Special Studies; the Mervyn H. Sterne Library; the Graduate School; and the University Honors Program.

In February 1996, Kahn assumed the role of Associate Vice President for Financial Development, a senior staff position in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, continuing her responsibilities in a new, expanded role encompassing all academic units on campus and overseeing a financial system conversion and operations of all physical academic facilities and developing the strategy for the first comprehensive campaign at UAB, all while maintaining her activities as Assistant Professor. She also served as Associate Provost for Facilities Administration from 1997 through 1999, overseeing operational and financial aspects of all campus facilities for the academic units reporting to the Provost Office as well as the newly built Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center, the UAB Research Foundation, the Office for the Advancement of Developing Industries, and the UAB Research Park.

Leading UAB development

In January 1998, in addition to her role as Associate Provost, she was asked to serve as Interim Vice President for Financial Affairs and Administration before taking the reins as the University’s Vice President for Development, Alumni and External Relations in September 1998. Under Kahn’s leadership, UAB experienced tremendous success, including The Campaign for UAB, at the time the largest fundraising campaign ever undertaken by an Alabama university, raising $368.7 million between 1998 and 2003. That success continued through the next 10 years, with $807 million in gifts and commitments secured between 2004 and 2013 to support campus initiatives.

In October 2013, Kahn led the launch of the $1 billion Campaign for UAB to propel the University into the next phase of transformational growth and development, with $617 million secured as of September 1, 2015.

She was promoted to Senior Vice President for Development, Alumni and External Relations in October 2014, in recognition of her service to the University, her deep commitment to UAB, and her ability to help the university and the community align their goals.

“When you think of people who have had a truly lasting impact on Birmingham, Shirley immediately comes to mind,” said Kate Nielsen, who served as President of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham from 2000 to 2013. “No one has raised more money to do more good for the University and the community than she has.

“Beyond that, she has inspired so many people, including me, to think big — to believe in the promise that both Birmingham and UAB can be transformed if we all just work together. She should be very proud of what she has accomplished.”

Active in community and professional organizations throughout her career, she has received numerous professional honors and awards, including the William S. Roth Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Alabama Chapter (2004), Honorary Life Member Award by the UAB National Alumni Society (2004), Woman of the Year award by the Professional Women’s Club (1990), and Outstanding Young Woman of America (1986). She has been honored among the “Women Who Make a Difference” (2014) and “She Runs This Town” (2013) by Birmingham magazine; listed among the Top Birmingham Women (1996) by the Birmingham Business Journal; listed among Birmingham’s Most Influential Women (1995) by community leaders; and named a Woman of Distinction (1994) by the Cahaba Girl Scout Council. Kahn and her husband, noted cardiothoracic surgeon Donald R. Kahn, M.D., have two grown sons, Alex and Mitchell.

“I have truly loved my years at UAB, and am proud of what we have all accomplished together,” Kahn said. “I cannot imagine a better place to have spent my career — or better people to have shared these years with.”
The Gifts That Changed Everything/Page 1