From the Chancellor

Ninety-nine years ago, a small school that included grades 7 through 12 and two years of postsecondary education was created by Act 100 of the Arkansas General Assembly. The Fourth District Agricultural School was born in April 1909 and opened its doors for classes on September 14, 1910. Through the years, the little school that started with a handful of students has grown from a junior college to a four-year college to an integral part of Arkansas’ largest system of higher education. We’ve been known as the State Agricultural School, Monticello A&M, Arkansas A&M, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, but regardless of the name, this institution has never lost sight of its primary mission – to provide opportunities to the people of this state and region.

As we prepare to celebrate our centennial, we are constantly reminded of what UAM has meant to generations of students who came here seeking a better life for themselves and their families. I’ve been privileged to meet incredibly successful people who started with nothing but a dream, but because of the opportunities offered by UAM, were able to achieve goals they never considered possible.

All this comes to mind as we prepare for another school year, another new beginning for the next generation. They are part of a legacy that began almost a century ago. This is a legacy for which all of us should be justifiably proud.

Our centennial celebration will begin in January 2009 at the State Capitol with a formal kickoff on campus April 1. Our centennial committee is planning a wide range of activities that will culminate on September 14, 2010. We will be providing information about all our centennial activities as they are finalized.

We hope you will make plans to join us in October for Homecoming 2008. We’ll have a week of activities October 13-18, including our Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet on Thursday, October 16 and the Alumni Dinner on October 17. You can find a complete list of Homecoming activities in this issue of UAM Magazine.

When you do return to campus, you may notice a few changes. The renovation of Wells Hall and Sorrells Hall is nearing completion and Convoy Leslie-Cotton Boll Stadium has a new look, including chair back seating and an expanded press box. The steel is going up on the new indoor practice facility for athletics and the marching band. We are getting closer to breaking ground for our Centennial Clock Tower.

This is an exciting time for the institution as we grow to meet the challenges of a new century. We hope you’ll join us as often as possible to help us celebrate our rich heritage and anticipate our new opportunities.

Best Wishes,

Jack Lassiter
Chancellor
A STORY OF LOVE  Boo and Beth Cox couldn’t have children, so they decided to adopt. What they got was a ready-made family and no regrets.

Home Improvement

Todd Raney has always enjoyed fixing things, so he turned his passion into a lucrative business. Raney buys old houses and renovates them, including his current residence, the historic Rogers House in Little Rock’s Quapaw Quarter.

A Class To Remember

Alvin Ford (right) joins a stellar group that includes Roy Strickland, Byron Gasaway, Brenda Jones and Heidi Martin-Cox in the UAM Sports Hall of Fame’s Class of 2008.
Survivor

Libby Annulis, long-time director of Information Technology at UAM, was the subject of a recent cover story in SEEK magazine. The story tells of her successful battle with cancer.

An avid hiker, Annulis remains active and doesn’t view herself as heroic.

“I’m not heroic in any sense of the word,” Annulis said in SEEK. “It’s as simple as dealing with what you were given and then making the most of the time you have here.”

Cantrell Honored

Sharon Cantrell, coordinator of workforce development and adult education at the UAM College of Technology-McGehee, was honored recently for “exceptional service and dedication” by Bob Ware, vice chancellor of the McGehee campus.

Cantrell holds a master of education degree from UAM where she was a member of the Phi Rho chapter of Kappa Delta Pi international honor society. She is also a member of several local and state organizations, including the Dumas and McGehee Chambers of Commerce, the Arkansas Association of Continuing and Adult Education and the Arkansas Association for Administrator’s of Adult Education. Cantrell chairs numerous committees, including the UAM COT-McGehee’s Salary Study Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. She also serves on the McGehee Industrial Foundation Think Tank Committee, Dumas and Monticello WAGE Advisory Boards, the Dumas High School Vocational Advisory Board, and serves as president of the Desha County Hometown Health Improvement Project.

Cantrell recently coordinated the first Arkansas Minority Contractor Training State Pilot Project on the McGehee campus, which is one of four in the state, and she co-coordinates the South Arkansas Adult Education Professional Development Institute at UAM.

Leadership Role

Annie Dunlap, systems and electronic resources librarian at UAM’s Taylor Library and Technology Center, was recently elected to a leadership position of the Arkansas Innovative Users Group.

Dunlap will serve as vice chair and chair-elect for the 2008-09 academic year and assume the position of chair for 2009-10.

ArkIUG is comprised of Arkansas academic, public, and special libraries.

Find Your Brick On Weevil Walk

Want to find your brick on Weevil Walk? Go to the UAM website, click on “Alumni and Friends,” then look at the bottom left of the page for “Find My Brick.” Click on the brick, enter your name in the search box and hit return. An image of your brick on Weevil Walk should appear.
South Of The Border

Seventeen UAM students and faculty spent 10 days in Costa Rica recently to study the flora, fauna, and geology of the Central American country. The participants included public school teachers and undergraduate and graduate students. The program included a study of tropical wildlife, geology of a tectonic area, and culture, geography, economics, government and customs. The group visited a tropical rainforest at Tortuguero National Park, two active volcanoes (Vulcan Poas and Vulcan Arenal), took a tour in a canopy tram at Braulio Carrillo National Park, a boat tour of Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge, and visited Manual Antonio National Park on the Pacific Ocean.

Back In The Game

Hugh Heflin is getting back in the game. The former Boll Weevil football stand-out is trading in his hat as chairman of The Campaign for Athletics for a coaching hat.

Heflin and his former classmate – Jimmy “Red” Parker, will be prowling the sidelines at Woodlawn High School this fall, coaching the Bears’ football team.

Parker, who has coached everywhere from UAM to Clemson to Ole Miss, will be the head coach and Heflin will be his assistant.

“I’m not sure if I’ve lost my mind or not,” Heflin said, chuckling at the thought. “It ought to be a lot of fun. Red and I are both looking forward to working with these kids.”

Heflin was honored with a reception in July in gratitude for his work with The Campaign for Athletics.
**Homecoming 2008**

**Thursday, October 16**

12:30 p.m. — Homecoming Parade  
Parade begins at the Fine Arts Center and concludes at the University Center.

5:30 p.m. — Sports Hall of Fame Reception  
Chancellor’s Home 471 University Drive.

6:30 p.m. — Sports Hall of Fame Banquet  
University Center Green Room; Induction of 2008 Sports Hall of Fame candidates. Tickets $30.00 per person. Contact Jim Brewer at (870) 460-1274 or Bill Wisener at (870) 367-5334.

7:00 p.m. — Bonfire and Pep Rally  
Fine Arts Center.

**Friday, October 17**

6:00 p.m. — Welcome Home Reception, A&M/UAM Alumni and Friends  
Chancellor’s Home 471 University Drive.

7:00 p.m. — A&M/UAM Alumni Dinner  
University Center Green Room; Tickets $15 per person. Presentation of Alumni Achievement and Merit and Continuing the Connection Awards, Alumni Association Scholarships; Special recognition of A&M/UAM classes that end in 8 (’38, ’48, ’58, ’68, ’78, ’88, ’98, and ’08); 1988 NAIA playoff and 1958 AIC champion football teams; performance by UAM jazz band. Advance reservations requested; call (870) 460-1028 or (800) 467-8148 to RSVP.

**Saturday, October 18**

8:00 a.m. — 45th annual Dr. Scott Boyd Memorial Golf Tournament  
Monticello Country Club; 3-person, 9-hole scramble, $60 per team, contact Paul Griffin (870) 367-6892.

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. — Pi Kappa Delta Speech and Debate Team Reunion  
We invite all Pi Kappa Delta and speech and debate team members to the Debate House (brick house next to the tennis courts) for refreshments and fellowship; contact Scott Kutenkuler (870) 723-8585.

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. — A&M/UAM African-American Alumni Elite Breakfast  
University Center Capitol Room; Tickets $20 in advance and at the door; Contact Shay Gillespie (870) 367-2801 or Classie Jones-Green (870) 536-9159.
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Celebrating Classes that end in 8 ('38, '48, '58, '68, '78, '88, '98, and '08) Enjoy the festivities around Weevil Pond while reminiscing with classmates. (Alternate location in case of inclement weather is the University Center.) Contact Carrie Ashcraft (870) 460-1028.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Reunions of the 1988 NAIA Playoff and 1958 AIC Champion Football Teams Weevil Pond Tailgate area. Contact Carrie Ashcraft (870) 460-1028.

10:00 – 2:30 p.m. – Weevil Kid Zone Open Children can enjoy games, inflatables and other fun activities. The Kid Zone will remain open until the pre-game ceremonies.

11:00 a.m. – Tailgate Activities Bring your grill and join alumni and fans at Weevil Pond for the best tailgating experience in Division II football.

11:00 a.m. – Kappa Alpha Psi Luncheon and Business Meeting Sadie Johnson Community Building, Jordan Park, call Al Peer (870) 367-8216 or (870) 723-4496.

1:00 p.m. – Walk of Champions East of Weevil Pond.

2:30 p.m. – Pre-game Ceremony Willis “Convoy” Leslie-Cotton Bowl Stadium, Presentation of 2008 Homecoming Court and Coronation of 2008 Homecoming Queen.

3:00 p.m. – Homecoming Football Game – UAM vs. West Alabama

Halftime – Performance by “The Pride of Southeast Arkansas” Marching Band Recognition of Hall of Fame Inductees and UAM Spirit Award recipient; Recognition of 1958 AIC champion and 1988 NAIA playoff football teams.

After The Game – Agriculture Alumni Reunion Agriculture Building, 148 Scogin Drive.

7:00 p.m. – Jazzy by Candlelight Bash Sponsored by the Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. Sadie Johnson Community Building, Jordan Park, call Al Peer (870) 367-8216 or (870) 723-4496.

Sunday, October 18

11:00 a.m. – A&M/UAM African-American Alumni and Friends Worship Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, East Oakland Street.

1:00 p.m. – Alumni Softball Game Blossoms Field; Contact Alvye Early (870) 460-1158.
Todd Raney has renovated and restored the Rogers House, a mansion in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter. The house is available for weddings, receptions and parties.
Todd Raney likes to fix things. When Raney was a student at Sheridan High School, he spent his summers framing houses for a local building contractor.

After Raney enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1979, he bought an old house trailer for a bargain and rebuilt it from the inside out.

After graduating from UAM in 1983 with a business degree, Raney started buying old houses and restoring them. What started as a hobby has turned into a lucrative business.

"I guess it's a natural gift," says Raney, explaining his talent for restoring run-down structures. "As a teenager I worked summers for contractors and I worked for the building and grounds department at UAM. Either it's in your blood or it's not. I guess it's in mine."

In 2001, Raney purchased the Rogers House, a 10,000-square-foot mansion in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter. Built in 1914 by Francis Owington Rogers, the house is on the National Historic Register and sits across the street from the Arkansas Governor's Mansion. Designed by noted architect Charles Thompson, the Rogers House blends American Foursquare, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival architectural styles.

Raney spent several years restoring the red brick edifice to its original glory. "When I bought the house it was structurally sound, but cosmetically, it needed some work," he explains. "We rebuilt the front porch, put in new windows, new wiring and plumbing. And we added a pool."

Raney lives in the Rogers House and keeps an office there, but opens the mansion for weddings, receptions and parties. He stays booked as much as six months to a year in advance. "Our busy months are April, May and December, but we stay busy other times as well. We're about as booked as I want to be," he says.

Next on Raney's calendar was a Saturday afternoon event for a Chicago couple returning to their native Little Rock to renew their wedding vows in front of 50 guests. Raney provides the space, but guests are responsible for their own catering and entertainment.

Raney's latest project is restoring a house in Pine Bluff that belonged to the Trotter family but has fallen into disrepair. The huge 12,000-square-foot structure is located at 1200 Laurel near Pine Bluff High School. When Raney is done with the makeover, the house will be able to host events with up to 250 guests.

"Pine Bluff didn't have a special events location that incorporated an historic structure or an older home," Raney says. "A friend called and asked me to look at it. At first I wasn't interested, but when I finally went to Pine Bluff and saw it, I said I'll take it."

Raney used to be completely "hands-on" with his restoration projects, but now hires contractors to do much of the work. "I still get out there, get my hands dirty and work up a sweat," he says with a laugh. "But I don't do it all myself anymore."

Raney has dabbled in new construction (he has townhouses on Louisiana Street in Little Rock), but his first love is still taking something old and worn out and restoring it to its original state.

"Restoration is the aspect I love," he says.
Ready-Made Family
Lou “Boo” Cox grew up in a family of seven, so he thought he knew what it took to run a large household before he and his wife adopted four siblings.

But the 6-foot-4, 225-pound former University of Arkansas at Monticello defensive end wasn’t prepared for the physical demands that came with expanding their household from two to six overnight. From never-ending loads of laundry to relearning fifth-grade algebra, the Coxes often find their energy supply near empty.

The Coxes were unable to conceive children. Beth hoped to adopt two children, while Boo considered adding up to three to their family. But when an adoption specialist from the state’s foster-care program called to ask if the family would consider four, they wanted to know more.

After meeting the oldest two girls at Chuck E. Cheese’s in North Little Rock on August 11, Boo and Beth “fell in love” with them and decided that they wanted to adopt all four siblings.

The Coxes’ leap of faith reunited three sisters ages 8, 11 and 12, as well as their 4-year-old brother.

Separation from siblings is often one of the unintended consequences of foster care.

In fiscal 2007, only 41 percent of the 1,922 children in Arkansas foster care who also had siblings in the system were placed in a home with all of their siblings.

The state doesn’t keep statistics on how many children who are adopted out of the foster care system stay with their siblings. Typically, groups of four or more siblings aren’t adopted by the same family.

Keeping large groups of brothers and sisters intact demands extra time, money, bedroom space and patience from foster or adoptive parents. The Coxes immediately felt the financial impact.

The family’s first trip to Wal-Mart for bedding, clothes, shoes, towels, a booster seat and a bed cost more than $800. Their monthly electric bill doubled to $460. Their weekly grocery bill roughly tripled to $180.

Gifts from their family, church and neighbors helped soften the financial shock and a state adoption subsidy of $1,700 a month helps the family make ends meet. The Coxes are solidly middle class — Boo owns a tire store in DeWitt and Beth works for the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Clarendon as a rural development specialist — but the subsidy is a “lifesaver.” The Division of Children and Family Services plans to spend about $15 million in state and federal funds on adoption subsidies during the fiscal year, which ends June 30, Owens said. The subsidies are available to families who adopt three or more siblings, children with physical, emotional or mental disabilities and children who meet other criteria. Families must also meet certain income levels.

The Coxes say they have experienced numerous joys since adopting the four children.

They took the children to Heber Springs for their first camping trip and to their first rodeo at the Arkansas State Fair in Little Rock. The Coxes realized that 7-year-old Cheyenne had no idea what animals typically competed in such an event.

“Is this the rodeo?” Cheyenne asked viewing a shark tank.

Cheyenne prompted more laughs during an April hearing to finalize the children’s adoption. During a quiet

(Story by Charlotte Tubbs. Reprinted with permission from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.)
The four children adopted by Boo and Beth Cox have adapted to life on the farm. Boo and Beth (right) have learned to budget their time and carve out their own space.
moment in the courtroom, loud enough for everyone to hear, Cheyenne asked Beth Cox: “Momma, is that man wearing a dress?” Circuit Judge Robert Edwards laughed and told Cheyenne that he never understood the “robe thing,” either.

The children don’t hold back their affection for their new parents. On a recent Friday evening, 4-year-old Dillon and Cheyenne wrapped themselves around their mother as she arrived home from work.

“Momma, I love you,” Cheyenne said.

Dillon and Cheyenne began calling the Coxes “Mom” and “Dad” immediately. The older two girls initially called them Mr. Boo and Miss Beth, but switched to “Mom” and “Dad” within weeks.

“The kids are starving for attention,” Boo Cox said. “They swarm [Beth] like bees. It’s partly because they don’t get to see her a lot.... They’ve been here six months and can’t get enough love and attention.” After catching her breath, Beth Cox embraced 12-year-old Ina, asking about her social studies test.

“You’re almost as tall as I am, girl,” she said as Ina laid her head on Beth’s shoulder. “We need to measure you again.” Black marks on a doorway in the Coxes’ kitchen chronicle the growth of each child, including Boo’s 14-year-old son who lives with his mother, but regularly visits.

The Coxes have 12 horses, a foal, 16 cows, about 50 chickens, two dogs, several cats and five calves, including three who must be bottle fed twice a day. Caring for all of their animals and family sometimes leads to grueling days, although the children, especially Cheyenne, often help with the animals.

The couple typically start their days between 5 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. Beth Cox washes clothes and any dishes left over from the night before, checks the children’s homework, signs permission slips and updates financial records for the tire shop. Boo Cox bottle feeds the calves, then wakes the girls.

While they’re getting ready, he feeds five of the horses and lets out the chickens. Around 7 a.m., he wakes Dillon and gets him ready for school. Beth Cox leaves for her hourlong commute just after the school bus picks up the girls at 7:05 a.m.

Boo Cox leaves minutes later to drop off Dillon at preschool. He used to arrive at his tire store at 7 a.m., opening the business by the posted time of 7:30 a.m. Now he typically opens the door at 7:45 a.m.

When the occasional customer complains that he opened late, he tells him that “he has a life.” He and the children are usually home by 5:30 p.m. The siblings start their homework and help with chores while Dad starts dinner and feeds the barn animals.

Beth Cox arrives at about 6:30 p.m. and helps with any remaining homework. The children finish their chores, take baths and head to bed by 8:30 p.m. or 9 p.m.

Sometimes the couple catches up with each other between 9:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. or for a few minutes in the mornings.

The Coxes quickly realized they had to carve out time for each other, so they designated the three hours after Sunday lunch as alone time.

The children take a nap or read while Mom and Dad talk or watch a movie.

Despite the grueling days and hectic pace of life, Boo and Beth Cox say the difficulties have been worthwhile. Rewards come with everyday celebrations, like when Cheyenne lost her first tooth or when Dillon arrived home, grinning ear to ear, and reported that he had a “high-five day.” “You watch them accomplish stuff and the little bright light in their eye when they do something,” Boo Cox said.

Beth Cox said she now knows how the parent of a newborn feels even though she didn’t get to see her children’s first steps or hear their first words.

“So it’s all the firsts that I’m getting to experience,” she said. “It’s just too cool.”
A Class With Class

One of the key members of a 1950’s football powerhouse, a linebacker whose tackle records have lasted more than three decades, a tight end who excelled on the field and in the classroom, a basketball All-American and the first softball All-American in school history comprise the UAM Sports Hall of Fame’s class of 2008.

Alvin Ford, a two-time all-conference halfback, linebacker Roy Strickland, tight end Byron Gasaway, basketball star Brenda Jones, and Heidi (Martin) Cox, UAM’s first softball All-American, will be inducted at a banquet October 16 in the John F. Gibson University Center. Tickets are $30 and may be purchased by contacting Jim Brewer at (870) 460-1074 or Bill Wisener at (870) 367-5334.

Reginald Glover, a 1955 UAM graduate and long-time supporter of the school’s athletics program, was chosen to receive the UAM Spirit Award, presented annually in recognition of the recipient’s support for the Boll Weevils and Cotton Blossoms.

Rex Nelson, director of the Delta Regional Authority and long-time sportswriter for the Arkansas Democrat, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Ford was a first team All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference selection as a two-way halfback in 1956 and ’57 and is still the only Boll Weevil to return four kicks for touchdowns in his career. Ford returned two kickoffs and two punts for touchdowns and was a part of Convoy Leslie’s AIC dynasty that won four straight league titles from 1955-58.

Leslie once called Ford “the best little man I ever saw on a football field. He had tremendous quickness, he was shifty, and he was tough,” Leslie said. “He was the best broken field runner I ever coached.”
Despite his lack of size, Ford was highly recruited after an outstanding high school career at Lake Village. He was recruited by every AIC school plus Delta State, but opted to follow his older brother, Jerry, to the University of Arkansas. When his career as a Razorback didn’t pan out, Ford transferred to Arkansas A&M and became a star in Leslie’s split-T offense as well as a stellar defensive back. Ford rushed for 1,540 yards and averaged nearly six yards a carry. He still owns two of the five longest kickoff returns in school history with a 96-yard return vs. Delta State and a 95-yarder against Ouachita.

Leslie, who died in 1999, still had vivid memories of Ford’s return against Ouachita when visiting with a writer several years ago. “It came up a thunderstorm at halftime and just soaked the field,” Leslie remembered. “There was water standing nearly ankle deep along the sidelines. Alvin took the second half kickoff and broke loose down our side of the field. He was plowing through that water and I was out there waving him on. When he went by me, he soaked me from head to toe.”

Ford graduated from UAM in 1959 and currently lives in Lake Village where he is retired from farming.

It’s been 35 years since Roy Strickland played his last game as a Boll Weevil, yet he still holds school records for unassisted tackles for a career (335) and season (133). Against Southern Arkansas on November 17, 1973, Strickland made a whopping 35 tackles, 28 of them unassisted, both school records that still stand.

Strickland was a rare four-year starter and earned a slew of honors, including second team NAIA All-American in 1973 and first team All-AIC in 1972-73.

“Roy was a very aggressive, disciplined player,” said Joe Fakouri, a former teammate. “He was very much a team player. Our defense was structured around him and he had a knack for going to the ball. He had the ability to shuck blockers and get to the ball carrier. UAM was very fortunate to have gotten him. He could have played at a higher level.”

Strickland graduated from UAM in 1976 and lives in Alexandria, La., where he has a private chiropractic practice.

Byron Gasaway is one of three UAM athletes — and the only football player — to earn All-America honors on the field and Academic All-America honors in the classroom. The others were basketball/baseball star Darrell Rhodes and basketball/track standout Lisa McClure, both members of the Hall of Fame.

Gasaway was a glue-fingered tight end who earned honorable mention NAIA All-America honors in 1982 and was a two-time first team All-AIC selection in 1981-82. Gasaway was a first team NAIA Academic All-American in ’82.

After more than two decades, Gasaway still ranks ninth on UAM’s all-time career pass receiving charts (and second among tight ends) with 103 receptions for 1,510 yards and 10 touchdowns. Gasaway played for two of the more successful UAM teams of recent vintage – the 1979 AIC championship squad and the 7-2 team of 1981. Gasaway graduated in 1983 and currently farms in Lincoln County.

Brenda Jones’ basketball career at UAM was nothing short of spectacular. She made the All-AIC team in 1995, the All-Gulf South Conference team in 1996 and ‘98, was the GSC most valu-
Reginald Glover graduated from Arkansas A&M in 1955 and has been an active supporter of the university’s programs in both academics and athletics. He is a member of the UAM Board of Visitors and a past member of the board of directors of the UAM Sports Association. “Reginald Glover epitomizes the spirit of UAM,” said Chancellor Jack Lassiter. “This institution has no better friend than Reginald and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.”

Heidi (Martin) Cox is the first softball All-American in school history, earning third team honors from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association in 2002. She was first team All-GSC in 2001-02 and All-South Region in 2001.

One of the most feared hitters in the GSC, Cox owns the two highest single season batting averages in school history — .457 in 2002 and .445 in 2001. Cox shares the single season record for stolen bases with 17 and the career on-base percentage record of .487.

“Heidi was about more than just statistics,” said Early, who also serves as softball coach. “She was a clutch player who was at her best in big games and crucial situations. She was a joy to coach and just a special player.”

Martin graduated in 2003 and is currently head softball coach at Texarkana’s Arkansas High School.
A Very Busy Lady

Evangeline Parker doesn’t have a lot of spare time. A 1991 UAM graduate, Parker maintains a hectic schedule as a motivational speaker, radio personality, recording artist and entrepreneur.

Parker recently received a KARK 2008 Community Service Award for her work with Teen Promise, an organization she created to provide life skills training to young females ages 6 to 18. The award was presented at the 31st annual Community Service Awards banquet sponsored by KARK, St. Vincent’s Health Systems, the Office of the Governor, and the Arkansas Department of Volunteerism.

Parker was recently selected as the “Arkansan of the Week” by Little Rock television station KATV for her work with Teen Promise and received a DIVAS Woman of Distinction Award from the Women’s International Fellowship.

A former Miss UAM, Parker is the only two-time winner of the prestigious Boots Coleman Talent Award at the Miss Arkansas Pageant. She has performed at New York’s world famous Apollo Theater, served as the opening act for internationally-known gospel artist Karen Clark-Sheard, and has recorded two CD’s – “Inspiration from Heaven,” and “Conversations with God,” which officially launches October 3.

So what does she do with her spare time?

“Oh, I don’t think about that,” Parker says, laughing. “I just wake up every morning and say, ‘God, I’m ready to go to work.’”

Parker founded Teen Promise 11 years ago after seeing a need to help young girls. “I was giving motivational talks at high schools,” says Parker, “and I saw so many girls who were shy, had low self-esteem, and really didn’t have a purpose in life. So instead of going into schools, I decided to develop the program so they could come to me.”

Parker and her staff conduct workshops at Pulaski Technical College in North Little Rock, instilling confidence and a sense of purpose into their students.

“This is really my passion,” says Parker.
BIG CHANGES
Convoy Leslie-Cotton Boll Stadium is taking on a new look with a renovated press box and chair back seating (top) and the building of a new indoor practice facility (above and right) at the north end of the stadium.

Gifts of $100,000 – $4,500 / Naming Opportunities

Barton’s .......................................................... Press Box
(Neil Crowson)

The Ryburn Group ......................... Logo – Indoor Facility
(Bank of Star City, Bennie Ryburn, Jr.)
(Commercial Bank & Trust Company, George Harris)
(First State Bank of Warren, Freddie M. Mobley)
(Ryburn Motor Company, Bennie Ryburn, III)

Union Bank & Trust Company ............ Message Board
(Zach McClendon, Dave Dickson)

Dr. Jeffrey Reinhart ........... Large Team Meeting Room
Charlie Fred and Chuck Dearman .... Small Meeting Room

Mike and Susan Akin ..................... Unrestricted Gift
Jim Lindsey ................................. Unrestricted Gift

Arkansas Superior Federal Credit Union ... Film Room
(First National Bank of Crossett (3 years)
(Dewayne Ashcraft, Greg Mormon, David King)

Searcy & Associates ............ Coach’s Conference Room
(Charlie Searcy, Jim Searcy)

Reginald Glover ......................... Unrestricted Gift
Hugh Heflin & Family ....................... Unrestricted Gift
Maxwell Hardwood Flooring .............. Coach’s Office
(Tommy Maxwell, Kristi Maxwell Prince)

SeaArk Marine / SeaArk Boats .......... Coach’s Office
(Robin McClendon, John McClendon)

The Wisener Family .................... Wall Recognition
Billy and Mary Jo Barnett ........ Unrestricted Gift
Lucky’s of Monticello ........ End Zone Barrier (5 years)
(Carl Lucky, III)

Simmons First Bank ........ End Zone Barrier (5 years)
(Freddie Black, Bill Wisener)

Team Ward / War Eagle Boats .......... Boat Donation
(Mike Ward, John Ward)

UAM Sports Association .... End Zone Barrier (5 years)
Eugene & Harriette Mazzanti .......... Unrestricted Gift
Gilead Family Resource Center .... Unrestricted Gift
Dr. Joe Miles ........................ Unrestricted Gift
Dan & Charlotte Hornaday .......... Unrestricted Gift
Jack & Judy Lassiter .................. Unrestricted Gift
M.L. Mann ............................. Unrestricted Gift
First National Bank of Crossett .... End Zone Barrier (3 years)
STEEL GOES UP

The new indoor practice facility at the north end of Convoy Leslie-Cotton Boll Stadium is taking shape. The facility would not have been possible without the generous contributions of UAM alumni and friends.

Unrestricted Gifts Of $1,000 to $4,499
Dr. Russell & Gail Bulloch
Dr. Bobby & LeAnne Burch
First National Bank of McGehee
Don & Katy Hartley
Dr. James & Veleria Hobgood
Col. (Ret.) Byron & Billie Kite Howlett
Larry Lacewell
Bill & Doris Lawrence
Alesia & Bob Lucky
Dr. Betty Matthews
McGehee Bank
W. J. & Charlotte McKiever
Harold W. Mobley
Dr. Steve & Mrs. Debbie Morrison
Dwane & Jan Powell
Gus “Bubba” Pugh
Richard & Eddy Ann Reinhart
Alan & Lisa Riels
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Unrestricted Gifts Up To $999
Jack & Joyce Allen
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Robert & Faye Boyd
Anthony & Jill Brown
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William B. & Janet Clower
Denzil Cox
Jim & Nicole Daniels
Donald & Rebecca Davis
Anne & Gibbs Ferguson
Alvin & Diane Ford
Thad Freeland
Mike Fuller
Bynum Gibson
Roger Gilmore
Paul & Kami Griffin
Joe & Leeann Herren
Jay & Laura Hughes
Tommy Jarrett
Bonita & Emett Johnson, Jr.
Damon Martin
Allen Maxwell
Jack & Linda May
Michael McKeown
Miler Insurance Group, Inc.
Dorothy & Robert Moore, Jr.
Robert S. Moore
Kirk Morley
Jeff & Sallie Owyoung
Lawrence & Sue Pambianchi
Jimmy & Janice Parkerson
Pettit & Pettit Engineers
Paul & Phyllis Roberts
Louis & Nancy Sansevero
Mr. & Mrs. Don M. Smith
Rusty Thompson
Andrew Wargo III
Dr. Barbara Wood
Joe Dan Yee
Dr. James E. Young
Jim Young

Contributions received by July 31, 2008.
Carlos James Is New Baseball Coach

The UAM baseball team has a new leader. Carlos James has been elevated from interim coach to head baseball coach of the Boll Weevils. James is the first African-American to hold a head coaching position at UAM.

James' hire comes almost two months after he finished the 2008 season as the team’s interim coach following the resignation of former head coach Ron Hill on March 24.

"I want to express my greatest appreciation to the search committee, Coach Early, and the rest of the UAM community for giving me this opportunity," said James. "Baseball is such a great game, and it really means a lot to me to be able to share it with student-athletes."

Prior to joining the UAM staff, James was the manager of the Arkansas Prospects of Little Rock and the APAK Scout Team of Memphis, traveling baseball squads that showcase prospects to college coaches and major league scouts. He was also an associate scout with the Seattle Mariners.

James served as an assistant head coach at UA-Pine Bluff from 2000-04 and head coach of the Pine Bluff Senior Babe Ruth Team in 2004-05. He coordinated and directed the Arkansas Prospect Showcase, a camp designed to give baseball players ages 14-18 a chance to perform for professional scouts, college coaches, and certified player agents.


After being drafted by the Oakland Athletics again, he transferred and played two seasons at the University of Arkansas followed by two seasons with the now-defunct Pine Bluff Locomotives in the independent Big South League in 1995-96.

Volleyball Tops Academically

The UAM volleyball team has been awarded an American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award for its hard work in the classroom during the 2007-08 academic year.

This award honors teams who have matched their dedication to the sport of volleyball with excellence in the classroom.

“This is a great honor to receive,” said head coach Nicole Smith. “Their athletic ability may be the tool they use to get into college, but may not be the tool they use for their careers. What they do in the classroom is very important for their lives. I couldn’t be any more pleased with their devotion both on the court and in the classroom.”

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Cotton Blossoms combined to increase the team’s cumulative grade point average to 3.43.

Eight of the team’s 11 members finished the year with a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher. Highlighting the team’s academic success is senior MacKenzie Willis, who has never known anything but a perfect 4.0 GPA. Willis was a two-time academic award winner in junior college, which was immediately followed this past year by a selection to the Gulf South Conference Fall All-Academic Team.

Other members of the team sporting impressive GPAs include senior Taura Rush, sophomore Stephanie Hatten, sophomore Vikki Crisco, sophomore Keri Gilbert, senior Maegan Martin and junior Nicole Ferguson.

Weevils On TV

UAM’s football games at Ouachita and at home vs. West Georgia will be televised as part of the 2008 GSC-TV Game of the Week schedule. Both games will kick off at 7 p.m.

Comcast/Charter Sports Southeast will be the primary carrier, along with Cox Sports. Games are also available on other open-air channels. GSC-TV games will not be available on Dish Network or Direct TV.
Legendairy Texas coach Darrell Royal once described his Longhorns as having “plenty of Whoa, but not much Go!” Translation . . . great defense but not much offense.

As Gwaine Mathews prepares for his fourth season as head football coach at UAM, he faces a similar problem from a different perspective.

UAM had plenty of “Go” in 2007. The Boll Weevils went from last to third in the Gulf South Conference in total offense, last to first in rushing offense, and 10th to sixth in pass offense, thanks in large measure to the play of quarterback Scott Buisson, the GSC Freshman of the Year.

Defense was another story. The Boll Weevils gave up 438.5 yards a game (next-to-last in the league), allowed 438.5 yards a game in total offense, and were last in turnover margin.

For Mathews, who played defense in college and cut his coaching teeth on defense, those numbers have to change.

“We’ve got to get better on defense, no question about it,” says Mathews. “We’ve been way too inconsistent.”

In spite of the defensive problems in ’07, the Weevils improved from 1-10 to 4-7 overall, 3-5 in the GSC. It was UAM’s best finish under Mathews and a promise of better things to come.

“Are we where we want to be right now?” says Mathews. “No, But we’re getting there. With the people we have coming back on offense and the improvement I think we’ve made on defense, we have a chance to be really competitive.”

It all starts with defense.

The Boll Weevils must replace four starters from last year’s unit. The line in UAM’s 3-4 defense will be anchored by nose tackle Wendell Clark (5-11, 310). He’ll be flanked by JUCO transfer Stephen Harris (6-4, 235) at tackle and returning starter Danzel Issac (6-3, 220) at end.

The linebacking corps will be fast and experienced, led by returning starters Vincent Jackson (6-2, 215) and Larry White (5-11, 225). White, who will start at strongside linebacker, was UAM’s leading tackler a year ago with 102 stops, including 10 tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Jeremy Brown (6-0, 220) finished spring drills as the starter at middle linebacker. Brown started as a freshman and sophomore in 2005 and ’06 but missed last season with a knee injury.

Solomon Edwards (5-9, 185), a three-year starter in the secondary, will move from free safety to the other outside linebacker position, a move brought about by a high-profile transfer.

Augustus Ashley (5-11, 193), a senior transfer from Central Florida, will take Edwards’ spot at free safety. Ashley played in all 14 games for the Knights last season.

Joining Ashley in the secondary are returning starter Quenton Arnett (6-1, 185) and transfer Lowen Bapiste at cornerback. Two-year starter Scooter White (6-1, 200) returns at strong safety.

Offensively, as Scott Buisson goes, so go the Weevils. Buisson passed and ran for 2,926 yards last year, the third-best single-season total in school history. A quick, elusive runner with a strong arm, Buisson was second in the GSC in total offense, passing for 2,359 yards, while adding 567 yards rushing.

Buisson will have the luxury of a deep and talented receiving corps. Tim Harris (6-2, 210) caught 47 passes for 642 yards and four touchdowns last year. Clarence Denmark (5-11, 185) and Jywin Ceaser (5-10, 180) will man the other two wide receiver positions.

Denmark (37 catches, 599 yards, three touchdowns) and Ceaser (60 catches, 610 yards, six touchdowns) give UAM what could be the best group of receivers in the GSC.

Mathews plans a “tailback-by-committee” to replace the departed John L. Williams. Johnny Polite, a 5-5, 190-pound fireplug from McGehee, should draw the starting assignment. Polite rushed for 466 yards and four touchdowns in a back-up role last year. San Mateo (Calif.) JUCO transfer Quincy Lucas (5-11, 197) will form the other half of the tailback committee.

JUCO transfers Charles Spann (6-2, 225) won the starting job at tight end after a solid spring.

Up front, the Weevils have size, depth and experience.

Tackle Jonathan Meadows (6-5, 330), guards Joe Wilson (6-1, 307) and LaQuinton Peterson (6-3, 345), and center Jacob Hughes (6-0, 265) all have starting experience. Meadows will open at left tackle, Wilson will start at left guard, Hughes will open at center and Peterson will start at right guard. Talented sophomore Tripp Boatner (6-5, 315) won the starting spot at right tackle in the spring.

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**2008 Football Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td>@ Arkansas-Pine Bluff</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 6</td>
<td>Missouri Science &amp; Technology</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Delta State</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 20</td>
<td>@ Henderson State*</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Arkansas Tech* (Parent / Family Day)</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>@ Ouachita Baptist* (GSC-TV)</td>
<td>7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9</td>
<td>West Georgia* (GSC-TV)</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>West Alabama* (Homecoming)</td>
<td>3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>@ North Alabama*</td>
<td>6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
<td>Southern Arkansas*</td>
<td>6:00</td>
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</tbody>
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* Gulf South Conference Game
New Endowments

Phi Sigma Chi

The Phi Sigma Chi Memorial Award, created in 2003 by alumnae and friends of Phi Sigma Chi sorority, recently reached endowed status. The endowment will generate an award to be presented annually to a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority or its successor. The recipient must be a sophomore in good academic standing who demonstrates an unmet financial need.

Barbara Murphy Babin

A scholarship fund created in memory of the late Barbara Murphy Babin has reached endowed status. The endowment was created by Dr. Claude Babin, former president of Arkansas A&M and the first Chancellor of UAM, along with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Babin.

Paul R. and June Webb Carter

Paul R. and June Webb Carter have created an endowment that will provide scholarships to graduates of Drew Central High School. The Paul R. and June Webb Carter-Drew Central High School Scholarship will be presented annually to a first-time freshman who graduated from Drew Central. The recipient must be a business or education major.

Future Endowments

Dr. Ed Bacon Scholarship, established in June 2008 by Mrs. Isabel Bacon.

Bill & Marilyn Webb Forestry Scholarship, established in March 2008 by Kent Webb and the Monticello Church of Christ.

A.D. & Nellie Leonard Scholarship, established in December 2007 by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Leonard.

Bramlett Scholarship, established in July 2007 by Dr. and Mrs. Morris Bramlett.

Dr. Eugene Dillard Memorial Scholarship, established in March 2007 by family and friends.

Other Awards

A. O. Tucker Memorial Scholarship, established in February 2008 by Mrs. Glenda Carol Tucker Baker. Mrs. Baker intends to make an annual gift of $1,000 to the UAM Foundation Fund to be awarded as an annual scholarship in memory of her father, the late Mr. A. O. Tucker.

Georgia-Pacific Crossett Paper Operations Award, established in June 2008 to be presented annually to a GED graduate of the UAM College of Technology-Crossett.

Golf Benefits Boyd Scholarship

Golfers, make plans to join us at Homecoming for the 45th annual Dr. Scott Boyd Memorial Golf Tournament at the Monticello Country Club.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit the Dr. Scott Boyd Memorial Scholarship.
As we approach our 100th anniversary, we invite you to help us observe this event in a very special way. We are asking you to become part of our Centennial Circle, a group of 100 friends of UAM who pledge $10,000 each to be used to create a $1 million unrestricted endowment for the UAM Foundation Fund. Earnings from this endowment will be used on an annual basis to meet priority needs of the university. These priorities will be determined by a joint committee of administration, faculty, and students. None of the endowment earnings will be used to augment salaries. As part of our Centennial Celebration, the university will construct a clock tower to be located at the center of the campus. Members of The Centennial Circle will have their names, or the names of whomever they designate, inscribed on the Centennial Clock Tower.

If you would like to be part of the Centennial Circle, we encourage you to contact Linda Yeiser, UAM Office of Advancement, at (800) 467-8148 or (870) 460-1028.

**Centennial Circle Pledges**

Mike & Susan Akin
Joe Bob & Missy Allaire
Hoyt & Susan Andres
John & Elizabeth Annulis
Pervis (P.J.) Ballew
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Prof. Alaga H. & Myrtle I. Boyd (by Robert & Faye Boyd)
Martty & Erma Brutscher
Paul R. & June Webb Carter
James & Sue Cathey
The Centennial Class of 2009
Dr. Tim & Paige Chase
Jesse & Ernestine Coker
Van & Eula Mae Cruce (by Dan & Charlotte Hornaday)
Victor Felley (by Wayne & Mellie Jo Owen)
Barbara Blanks Gathen (by the UAM African American Alumni Association, family & friends)
Jerry, June, Jay & Judd Gibson
Lisa & Cliff Gibson
John W., Martha J. (McDougald), John W., Jr. & Marcus L. (Mark) Gibson

Diane Sull Gileland
Rev. Shay & Mrs. Sherrie Gillespie
John Dewitt Halstead (by Harry E. “Pete” Halstead)
Jim & Betty Jo Hardy Hercher
Frank D. Hickingbotham
Dan & Charlotte Cruce Hornaday
John & Nora Hornaday (by Dan & Charlotte Hornaday)
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Dr. Louis J. & Carol West James
J. Chester Johnson
Don E. & Joyce M. King
Curtis W. Kyle, Jr.
Judy & Jack Lassiter
Carol & Weaver L. Majors
Gerald & Sue Majors
Kenneth, Sharon, & Jennifer Mann
M. L. Mann
Bryan & Dr. Sue S. Martin
Allen & Dana Maxwell
Noel Waymon McDaniel (by Noel A. McDaniel and Marlene Ballard)
Julian W., Sr., and Jean Mettetal (by Wayne Mettetal, Sherry Mettetal Woods, Ted Mettetal, Mike Mettetal, and Mary Ellen Mettetal McAllister)
Kim Lloyd Mitchell
Moffatt Family (Walter Jr., Wells, Ruth, Minnie May and Pattie)
Jim Neeley
D. John Nichols
Donetra F. McGriff, RN (by Ray & Misty Paschall)
Jeff & Sallie Owyoung
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Randy & Neela Risher
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Jimnie & Linda Yeiser
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Peggy Doss Endowed Education Scholarship / School of Education Faculty/Staff and Mr. D. John Nichols
Vance W. Edmondson Scholarship / Dr. and Mrs. Vance W. Edmondson
Dr. Albert L. Etheridge Scholarship / School of Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Former Students and Friends
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Alumni Snapshots

Zach Baumgarten (BA ‘08) recently joined the Washington D.C. staff of Congressman Mike Ross (AR—4th District) as a Director of Constituent Services. Mr. Baumgarten previously worked as a Field Representative for Congressman Marion Berry (AR—1st District) in the Jonesboro, Ark. office. While at UAM, Mr. Baumgarten was a Senator in the Student Government Association, a member of UAM’s debate and forensic squad that captured the 2008 national championship of the International Public Debate Association and a member of the University Work Study program, employed by the Office of Advancement. Zach currently resides in Washington D.C.

Dr. James C. Green (BS ‘83) has been the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Arkansas Department of Human Services, since February of 2003. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Superintendent of the Alexander Human Development Center, a 112-bed Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded, for four years. A native of Monticello, he holds a master’s degree from the University of Central Arkansas and earned a Ph.D. in Special Education with an emphasis in Mental Retardation and Behavioral Disorders from the University of Missouri in 1994. During his days as an undergraduate at UAM, Green lettered in 1981 and ’82 as an offensive lineman on the Boil Weevil football team. Green and his wife Brenda live in Bryant, Arkansas with their one-year-old daughter, Claire Emma.

Crystal Tooke-Tubbs (BA ‘04) is employed by the United States Department of Defense as a Contract Specialist serving the Pine Bluff Arsenal for the past three years. She recently achieved certification as an Acquisition Professional Level II in Contracting through the United States Army Acquisition Corps. While working at the Pine Bluff Arsenal Contracting Division, Crystal has the privilege to procure various components in support of Ammunition Operations, Chemical and Biological Defense, and overall base operations. Crystal also works with the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity and Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to maintain the Intrusion Detection System which ensures the safety and security of the nation’s second largest stockpile of chemical weapons. She takes great pride in knowing that the work she does assists and protects the soldiers in the field as well as the surrounding community and state. Crystal has been accepted into the Acquisition Tuition Assistance Program and is currently pursuing a master’s degree in business administration. Crystal resides in Rye, Arkansas with her husband Jeffrey Tubbs (BA ‘05). Jeffrey is employed by the Bradley County Medical Center as the Information Technology Administrator. Crystal is the daughter of Tommy (BS ’81) and Sandra (BA ’82) Tooke also of Rye. She is an active member of Enon Missionary Baptist Church and the National Contract Management Association.

Jeff Weaver (BA ’98) is director of the Fourth Congressional District offices of U.S. Representative Mike Ross. Weaver joined Congressman Ross’ staff in July 2005, overseeing the Congressman’s operations in Arkansas, including four offices in Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, El Dorado and Prescott. Weaver oversees the Congressman’s economic development projects and works closely with state and local elected officials and community leaders. He recently accompanied Rep. Ross on a trip to Iraq. Prior to joining Ross’ staff, Weaver worked for U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln as an intern while attending graduate school at UA-Little Rock. He also worked for First District Congressman Marion Berry for three and a half years, starting as a field representative before becoming special projects manager. Weaver was raised in Dumas, graduated from Dumas High School in 1992 and attended UAM, where he received a degree in political science. He also holds a master’s degree in public administration from UALR. Jeff lives in Hot Springs where he is active in the community. He recently graduated from Leadership Hot Springs, and was chosen as one of Arkansas’ 40 under 40 by Arkansas Business magazine. Jeff spends a lot of time with his two daughters Lauren, 12 and Ella, 6 months old and is married to the former Aimee Riddell of Little Rock.

IRAQ VISIT U.S. Representative Mike Ross (left) and Jeff Weaver recently returned from visiting the troops in Iraq.
**Mettetal Family Includes Seven A&M / UAM Graduates**

The Mettetal Family has deep roots in the history of Arkansas A&M and UAM. Julian Mettetal (seated, right) graduated from A&M in 1950, and after earning a master's degree from the University of Mississippi, returned to Monticello to spend 33 years on the faculty in the School of Business. His wife, the former Wanda Jean Patterson, received her degree from A&M in 1970 and was a long-time teacher in the Monticello Public School System.

- Wayne Mettetal (standing, left), graduated from A&M in 1968 and is project manager for Dow Chemical in Freeport, Texas.
- Sherry Mettetal Woods (second from left) graduated from UAM in 1972 and earned a master's degree from UA-Fayetteville. She is a long-time special education teacher for the Drew Central School District.
- Mike Mettetal (standing, center) is a 1975 UAM graduate and later received a pharmacy degree from Northeast Louisiana. He is a pharmacist in Sherman, Texas.
- Mary Ellen Mettetal McAllister (standing, second from right) is a 1992 UAM graduate and a registered dental hygienist in Conway.
- Dr. Ted Mettetal (standing, right) is a 1974 UAM graduate and received his M.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He has a family practice in Athens, Texas.

**Ronnie Johnson (BSE ’68)** recently turned in his coaching whistle after 30 years and 858 wins as girls' high school basketball coach and administrator. Johnson announced his retirement after compiling one of the longest and most successful coaching tenures in Arkansas high school basketball history. Johnson coached at Bradford, Cabot, and Griffithville (where he also served as principal). He was principal at Rose Bud High School and served as Code Enforcement Officer in Beebe before returning to his coaching roots at Bradford. Along the way, Johnson earned a master’s degree in education from UA-Fayetteville. His basketball teams at Bradford reached the state semifinals three times. Johnson and his wife of 43 years, Jalynn, are both graduates of Glendale High School.

**Greg Easter (BS ’85)** was recently named head baseball coach at Pine Bluff High School. Easter has been employed by the Pine Bluff School District for 15 years. He is married to the former Tracy Kimbrell (BS ’87), who teaches health and physical education at several elementary schools in the Pine Bluff district. The Easters have two children – Jake, 18, and Harley, 13. Greg was a member of the Boll Weevil football team in 1980, ’82 and ’83. A linebacker and placekicker, Easter was part of one of the most dramatic comeback victories in UAM football history. On October 1, 1983, UAM trailed Ouachita 24-7 in Arkadelphia with just 8:00 left in the fourth quarter. The Boll Weevils rallied behind the passing of Joe Don Samples to score 18 points, capped by Easter’s 22-yard field goal with one second to play to give UAM a 25-24 win.

**Show Your Weevil Spirit!**

Hey, UAM graduates and Boll Weevil fans, you can display that Boll Weevil Spirit wherever you go with a UAM Collegiate License Plate, available as an official Arkansas Car Tag. The tag commemorates the 100th anniversary of UAM’s founding in 1909. For $35 above the cost of a standard Arkansas Tag, you can display a UAM Car Tag and help your university. The UAM Foundation Fund will receive $25 for each tag purchased. The UAM Car Tags are available at local revenue offices in southeast Arkansas and the State Revenue Office in Little Rock. For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at (800) 467-8148 or (870) 460-1028, or go online at www.uamont.edu/alumni.
Robert Sawyer (BA '91) was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel with the U. S. Marines. Lt. Colonel Sawyer will depart for New Orleans this summer after a three year tour of duty in Okinawa, Japan. He and wife Julia’s (BA '94) oldest son Hunter graduated from Kubasaki High School in Okinawa this spring.

David S. Barringter (BS '93) is a partner with Ernst and Young, LLP in London, England. He and his wife Tammy along with their two children, Ryan and Davis, have been living in London since 2004.

Friends We’ll Miss

Juanita Gibson (1914-2008)

Juanita Gibson, wife of the late state Senator John Frank “Mutt” Gibson, died June 11. She was 93. The third of six children, Mrs. Gibson was born in Ashley County on January 30, 1914. She is survived by sons John Frank Gibson Jr. and Charles Sidney Gibson, eight grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and a sister, Olivia Bell Gibbs. She taught home economics and second grade at Dermott and Tillar for 30 years and worked as a secretary during the legislative sessions at the state Senate. She attended Arkansas A&M (UAM) and graduated from State Teachers (UCA) and received a master’s degree from the University of Tennessee in 1937.

Jeff Allison ’86 of Rison, May 4, 2008
Randi Crowder ’82 of Camden, July 22, 2008
Shasta DelRio of West Monroe, LA, June 14, 2008
David B. Ebertd ’61 of Little Rock, February 7, 2008
Horace W. Goodnight of Redfield, June 25, 2008
Glennie E. Huie ’51 of Fort Smith, September 9, 2007

Curtis W. Kyle, Sr. of Benton, MS, July 25, 2008
Mary Jane Forney Murphy ’58 of Warren, July 12, 2008
Gary Lamont Sanders ’71 of Fort Worth, TX, June 23, 2008
Norman Kenneth Stedman ’49 of San Diego, CA, March 20, 2008
K. Wayne Tanton ’91 of Matthews, AL, June 8, 2008
Lester A. Youngblood ’55 of Nederland, TX, October 28, 2007

Wee Weevil Bibs

“Wee Weevil” bibs have been sent to the newest Boll Weevils:
Sadie Marie Beard, born May 5, 2008, to Marcus (BS ’97) and Dennia Beard (BS ’00) of Maumelle.
Addison Grace Cundiff, born on February 5, 2008 to John and Teresa Cundiff (BA ’94) of Garland, TX.
Landrie Kate Kizer, born on June 3, 2008 to Patrick (BS ’00) and Julie (BS ’00) Kizer of Star City.
Andrew Hayden Wells, born December 6, 2007, to Jeremy (BS ’04) and Jamie Wells (BS ’04) of Russellville.

Share your “Wee Weevil” and other news with us by going to www.uamont.edu/alumni and click on “Weevil Watch.”

You can buy it on eBay

Own a 15-foot custom Boll Weevil Bass Boat and trailer from War Eagle Boats. Online auction begins October 18, ends November 1. Bidding starts at $500. Proceeds benefit The UAM Campaign for Athletics.
RIDING THE RAILS IN CANADA  UAM alumni and friends made a memorable rail trip through the Canadian Rockies in May. Making the trip were (from left, first row) tour guide Gareth Evans, Faye Chandler of Monticello, Bonnie Kirshberger of Hensley, Sue and Bryan Martin of Warren, Carol and Lou James of Monticello, (second row) Barbara Abston of Monticello, Linda Yeiser of Nacogdoches, Tex., Kay and Charles McDonald of Monroe, La., Charles and Bitsy Beene of Monroe, La., (third row) Jim and Sammy Searcy of Monticello, Jimmie Yeiser of Nacogdoches, Tex., Harriet Erwin of Hamburg, Donna Shields of Hamburg, Emmie Kinnaird of Hamburg, Phyllis Hill of Hamburg, Mary Lou Gibson of Bella Vista, (top row) Cliff and Lisa Gibson of Monticello, Jack and Judy Lassiter of Monticello, Sarah Blackmon of Monticello, and Helen Bladon of Bella Vista.
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★ Enjoy a cruise up the spectacular Rogue River, taking you into Oregon’s rugged wilderness.

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008 • 6PM • University Center, Capitol Room
Contact Carrie at 870.460.1028 or email ashcraft@uamont.edu for details.

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TAILGATIN’ TIME

AUTUMN IS HERE AND THAT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING . . . IT’S TIME TO BREAK OUT THE GRILL AND JOIN US FOR A TAILGATE PARTY AROUND WEEVIL POND. THIS YEAR, WE’RE AWARDING PRIZES EACH GAME FOR THE BEST TAILGATE PARTY. MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR EACH HOME GAME. THE FUN STARTS SEPTEMBER 6!

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Alumni Association
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