

The Student Supporter



Student Support Services • 225 Osband Hall
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January/February 2007

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

January 18 – Last Date to Register

Financial Aid Workshop, 301 Ferguson,
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

January 24 – Get On Board Day, Ferguson
Center Ballroom, 10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

February 6 – Career Workshop, 301 Ferguson,
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

February 14 – Spring Career Fair, Bryant
Conference Center, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

February 16 – Sweet Honey in the Rock
Concert, Moody Music Building, 7:30 p.m.

SSS STUDENTS MAKE THE GRADES

Congratulations to all our students who excelled academically during the 2006 Fall Semester.

Fall GPA of 4.0

(*UA Cumulative GPA also 4.0)

Marcus Anderson
Randy Beavers*
Iesha Ellerby*
John Leverton*
Amanda Lynd
Candace Mock*
Loventrices Nash
Milton Nettles*
Jacquelynn Parks*

UA Cumulative GPA 3.0 or Above

Kari-Lyn Bjorn
D'Ariel Boykin
Stephen Brooks
Jennifer Files
Joy Garnett
Whitney Jones
Christopher Nelson
Kimberly Parker
Belinda White
Vanessa Williams
Lawrence Wilson
Joseph Wright

Fall GPA of 3.0 or Above

(*UA cumulative GPA also 3.0 or Above)

Laura Agerton
Timothy Aldridge*
Tiffany Bailey*
Ebony Bates*
Michael Becallo
Quovadis Berry
Ashley Brand*
Crystal Braxton
Kirema Brown
Nicole Brown*
Latara Burton
Kenesia Cade
Amellia Cannon*
Alesha Cannon*
Anna Carr
Brandon Carr*
Chrishauna Colbert*

Regina Crenshaw*
Tennille Daniels*
Bobby Davis
Erica Davis
Lindsey Davis*
Heather Dean*
Kristy Dubose*
Samantha Eldridge*
Crystal Ellis*
Ciara Fitts*
Charquetha Gaddis*
Dennice George*
Katrice Gilder*
Kendrica Gladden
Christina Goldsby
Keara Grant
Brian Hamilton*

Robert Harris*
Taneika Head
Jennifer Houston
Laterrian Hudson
Ebonie Jackson
Stephen Johnston
Laprecious Lawrence*
Amber Lindsey
Lynnette Moats (UA cumulative GPA 4.0)
Crystal Oliver
Stephanie Perkins*
Brandi Peterson*
Ellis Ponder*
Latrisa Pugh
Kimberly Rankin
Andrea Robertson*
Sandra Ruffin

Ryan Sanders
Keeonya Smiley
Ashley Smith
Rhonda Steele*
Johnny Tice*
Sherneria Warren
Joshua Warren
Latonya Washington*
Veronica Wilkerson
Tiffany Williams
Antoinette Shantay Williams*
Brandon Williamson
Vonquesha Winn*
Micah Wright*
Justin Zimmerman*



REALIZING MY DREAM

By Cynthia Tucker

After graduating from high school in 1989 I thought I was finished with school. My mother tried talking me into going on to college while I was worry free, but I told her, "I have had twelve years of school and I don't think I want anymore." Little did I know what lay ahead for my future. I ended up enrolling at Shelton State Community College and became pregnant with my first

child. So, I dropped out of school to look for work. I knew that I had a big responsibility and I had to act fast to do something to take care of her. I bounced from job to job trying to find something I liked. I got a job working at DCH Medical Center as a housekeeper. I quickly found that this was not for me—people treated me as though I were nothing. So, I decided to go back to

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In Fall of 2002 as a freshman at The University of Alabama, I was enrolled in nine hours of courses, working full-time and caring for my two daughters. Some time later I was married and still I continued to work towards my degree. This was the hardest challenge to take on, my new role of being a wife and mother. It was hard to juggle work, school, and a family. By the grace of God I managed to maintain my studies along with work and a family. I used most my weekends and late nights after everyone had gone to bed for studying. There were even times when I had a short break at work that I could use to catch up on some of my readings. There were times when I just wanted to call it quits, but I knew I had to press on for the

sake of my girls and be a role model to them. I know the support of my husband and two daughters sometimes saved me when I came home and found that they had cleaned the house and prepared dinner, which allowed me time to go right to my studies or to my next class that evening.

I think the toughest times were trying to make time for classes between work. I would have to work through lunch so that I would be able to attend day classes. I thank my loyal SSS team members for allowing me to take this time from the office to accomplish a dream. I think we work well together as a team and I have grown so much mentally and physically from being in this environment. We have become like a family away from home. It is always easier when you have the support you need to carry on. When you have this type of support it helps you to maintain your goals and to keep striving for what you want to accomplish most.

There have been times when I was discouraged. For example, when I was diagnosed with diabetes and I was so ill while working on an online class project and was unable to do my best to complete it. I had given up, but my professor allowed me to retake the course and continue where I had left off. This turned out to be a great success and I continued onward.

So those of you out there who feel that you have no strength to struggle on to accomplish your dream of graduating from college, I just want you to know that there is hope and you can achieve this goal with hard effort. Do your very best and it shall come to pass with prayer and the help of people who are so dear and supportive of you.

I am the first in my family to actually go to college and complete a degree. I am very proud to be able to accomplish a life-long dream. My ambition to further my education has also inspired my girls to strive for the best and put forth that extra

SSS Participants Gear Up for Graduate and Professional School

SSS participants will have the opportunity to participate in the SSS Graduate and Professional School Prep Program this spring. This program provides an opportunity for program participants to receive a number of benefits that will help them in graduate school selection and the application process. One objective of the program is to assist participants in finding and securing a faculty member, campus administrator, or local professional to serve as a mentor. Several participants have already been assigned in various areas of Medicine and Law.

On March 31, interested participants in the medical field will travel to The University of Alabama at Birmingham for a one-on-one chat with department heads, counselors and enrolled students in the following UAB programs—Medicine, Physical Therapy, Nursing, and Optometry. The follow-up seminar will be held later in the term at UA with Mr. Chris Hutt, Health Professions Advisor, who will assist participants in the academic preparation they will need for successful applications. SSS students interested in participating in the Prep Program should contact their counselor. Detailed information about the SSS Graduate and Professional School Prep Program is available on the SSS website.



SSS STUDENT FINDS TIME TO VOLUNTEER

Randy Fincher and "The Heat"

As part of a service project with the National Society of Black Engineers, Randy Fincher discovered he had a passion for this particular project, and has carried on his volunteer work far beyond the original deadline for his required involvement. Three days a week, Randy coaches sixth and seventh grade boys and girls in basketball at the Tuscaloosa YMCA.

Seeing himself as their mentor, both off and on the court, Randy teaches them proper techniques in the sport, helps them develop good team spirit, and makes sure everyone has a chance to play, regardless of their skill level. His team is called "The Heat" and they are looking forward to the playoffs in February. Congratulations to Randy and "The Heat!"

CAREER WORKSHOP

On February 6 we will be hosting a Career Workshop in 301 Ferguson Center at 6:00 pm. This workshop will cover degree selection, career placement, interviewing skills, resume preparation, and networking. Although many students wait until their senior year to seek this kind of information, we encourage all of our students to think about career planning throughout their college career. Many of the decisions you make today will impact your career in the future. We will also be covering good business etiquette for career fair attendance and participation. This information will be especially important for any students who are planning to attend the Spring Career Fair on February 14 in the Bryant Conference Center. Please contact your SSS counselor for more information.

GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING PERFORMERS TO APPEAR AT UA *Sweet Honey in the Rock*

On February 16, SSS students will have the opportunity to see and hear Sweet Honey In The Rock, a Grammy Award-winning African American female a cappella ensemble with deep musical roots in the sacred music of the black church - spirituals, hymns, gospel - as well as jazz and blues. The Sweet Honey experience is like no other. Six African American women join their powerful voices, along with hand percussion instruments, to create a blend of lyrics, movement and narrative that variously relate history, point the finger at injustice, encourage activism, and sing the praises of love. The music speaks out against oppression and exploitation of every kind. The septet, whose words are simultaneously interpreted in uniquely expressive American Sign Language, demands a just and humane world for all.

To reserve your tickets for this event, please contact Chris Lee at 348-6099 as soon as possible since this may be a sold-out performance.

RANDY FINCHER – JANUARY STUDENT ACHIEVER

Randy Fincher has been named Student Support Services Achiever for the Month of January. An Industrial Engineering major from Selma, Alabama, Randy attributes much of his success to support from family, friends, and great campus resources. Although Randy has a tight schedule and spends much of his time working with The National Society of Black Engineers, he does find time to volunteer three days a week at the local YMCA where he serves as a basketball coach for “THE HEAT”—a 6th and 7th grade boys and girls basketball team. When asked if there is one thing that motivates him to succeed, he stated, “Determination is the key. Just because something is difficult does not mean it is out of your reach.” After graduating, Randy plans to work as an Industrial Engineer and plans to one day become a Project Manager.



STEPHANIE PERKINS – FEBRUARY STUDENT ACHIEVER

Stephanie Perkins is our Achiever of the Month for February. Stephanie is originally from Birmingham, Alabama where she graduated from Huffman High in 2004. During her high school tenure she was a member of the marching band, choir, the SGA where she served as a senator and secretary, the National Honor Society, the Math team, and the Usher Board. She is currently pursuing a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. She is a member of the Million Dollar Band, Phi Sigma Phi, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. After graduation she plans to pursue a master’s degree in Early Childhood Education. Stephanie has this to say about the SSS program “SSS is a good program. It helps students get the information they need to succeed.”



THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR STUDENT LOAN

1. Federal student loans are real loans, just like car loans or mortgage loans.
2. Your student loans belong to you, you **HAVE** to pay them back.
3. You must repay the loans even if you don't like the education you received or can't find employment after graduation.
4. Your student loan balance and status will be reported to national credit bureaus on a regular basis. Responsible loan repayment leads to good credit ratings, just as failing to repay responsibly damages your rating.
5. There are repayment options available to assist you if you're having trouble making payments.

For more information on student loans, visit the National Student Loan Data System at <http://www.nslds.ed.gov>. At this site you can make inquiries about your Title IV loans and/or Pell grants, find your loan and/or grant amounts, outstanding balances, loan statuses, and disbursements.



CHRIS' CORNER- Start the semester right!!!

According to recent statistics in this program we learned that 73% of the students who have failing grades at midterm will have unacceptable grades by the end of the semester.

You can now see the importance of having a successful start and doing well on your first test and your first few assignments. This begins with having a good attendance record and being on time for every class. I know it's almost unavoidable that you may need to miss a class, and most instructors allow an absence or two. But you should not use up all of your allowable absences in the first month.

In addition to attending class you should also take good notes, and keep up with the assigned readings as you go along. Students often ask, "How far in advance should I begin studying for a test?" The answer to this question is that you should prepare for your next test on a daily basis.

If, during this first month of class you begin to fall behind, you should take an immediate proactive approach. Make an appointment with your instructor and discuss any difficulties you might be having. You could also request a tutor through SSS. And of course, you can always schedule an appointment with your SSS counselor to discuss strategies for improvement.

WORDS FROM ANTHONY



As a new year begins, I'm compelled to write about goals. Thinking about goals is something we all consider this time of year. But this time I decided to look at goals a little differently. See if you can get the message.

Sometimes our dreams and goals are like apples on trees. The best ones are at the top of the tree. Maybe we don't want to reach for the good ones because we are afraid of falling and getting hurt. Instead, we may settle for the rotten apples on the ground that aren't good, but are easy to reach. In climbing the tree, we can scar our knees, suffer a scratch or two, and even fall. That never means we should give up trying to reach the perfect apples at the top.

The amazing apples at the top are just waiting to be picked. It may be a long climb, but if we are brave enough we can reach them. Good things are worth waiting for and fighting for. Go for your dreams! Happy New Year!