COLLEGE OF HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES I THE SCIENCE OF IMPROVING LIVES

REUNION

2020

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Human Environmental Sciences is to empower individuals with knowledge and skills to bring about positive change in our world. Across multiple disciplines, we conduct advanced research, provide outreach, and prepare a new generation of professionals with a shared goal of improving lives of individuals, families, and communities.

"Minerva Path of Wisdom" by Caleb O'Connor
Photo by Craig Graves

REUNION 2020

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ON THE FRONT COVER
Dr. Lingyan Kong at work in his lab.

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MESSAGE FROM THE *Dean*

CHES closed out the fall semester of 2019 in typical fashion celebrating the successes of our outstanding graduates and the hard work of faculty and staff who met and, in many cases, exceeded the instructional, research and service goals set for them by the College and the University. Spring 2020 began with the usual excitement of a new semester but, as we know, by mid-March the world took an unexpected turn.

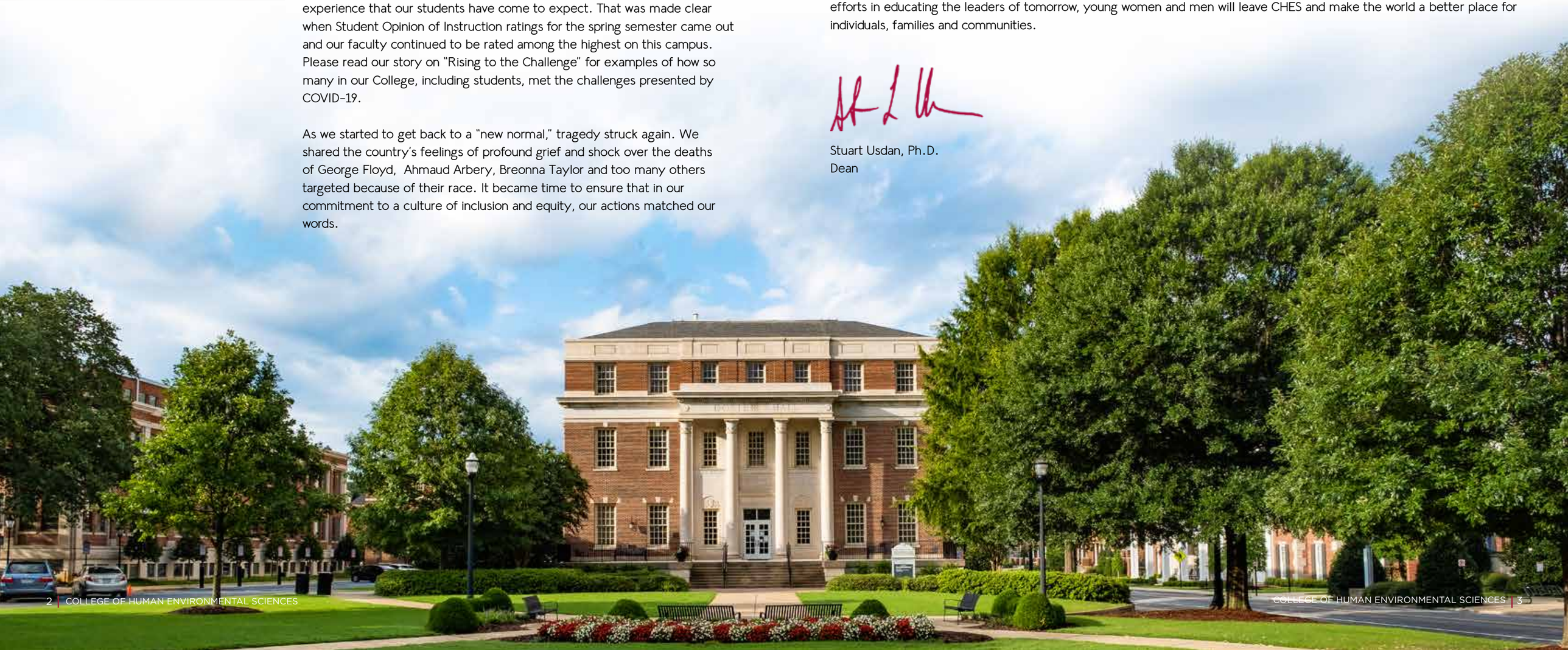
When it became clear that we would not complete the semester with in-person instruction, our College scrambled like countless others across the country to adjust quickly to online delivery of our academic programs. I couldn't be any prouder of the way that CHES faculty, with help from our administrators and staff, delivered the type of high-quality learning experience that our students have come to expect. That was made clear when Student Opinion of Instruction ratings for the spring semester came out and our faculty continued to be rated among the highest on this campus. Please read our story on "Rising to the Challenge" for examples of how so many in our College, including students, met the challenges presented by COVID-19.

As we started to get back to a "new normal," tragedy struck again. We shared the country's feelings of profound grief and shock over the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and too many others targeted because of their race. It became time to ensure that in our commitment to a culture of inclusion and equity, our actions matched our words.

In addition to continuing to provide programs that strive to increase cultural awareness and sensitivity, the CHES Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity has worked to collect new resources that our faculty and students can use for personal enrichment, classes and community outreach. Our newly appointed Director of Diversity and Inclusivity, Dr. Wanda Burton, will guide the committee in college-wide initiatives to enrich our learning and work environment and provide an accepting, inclusive community that attracts and supports a diverse faculty, staff and student body. We know that as a human sciences unit within an institution of higher education, we have the power to change lives and instill within our students a sense of courage, respect and dedication towards a more equitable society.

Through our continued dedication, hard work and cooperation, we hope to end 2020 on a high note. Although the nature of our finish may be different than any seen before, as I've stressed to our students this fall, we will make the very best out of what life throws at us. While these have certainly been strange, sad and scary times for our world, we are confident in the ability of CHES to overcome the challenges we face and continue our mission of improving lives. It is our hope that with our efforts in educating the leaders of tomorrow, young women and men will leave CHES and make the world a better place for individuals, families and communities.

Stuart Usdan, Ph.D.
Dean



FOOD for Thought

Can a food scientist help solve our dependence on fossil fuels? By working alongside a materials scientist, to develop a sustainable and more efficient way to capture solar energy, it could become a reality.

CHES nutrition faculty member Dr. Lingyan Kong and UA College of Engineering's Dr. Feng Yan have teamed up to do just that. The USDA found their cutting-edge proposal to develop Photoactive Nanoparticle-Decorated Bio-Nanofibers for Solar Energy Conversion promising and have funded their research.

As luck would have it, Kong and Yan are neighbors. Some casual shop-talk between these two led to a research collaboration that started about a year ago. "My PhD thesis work was on biopolymer nanofibers [microscopic fibers made from bio-based polymers such as starch and cellulose], and one potential application is to use them in the energy sector. With extensive discussion on this with Dr. Yan and preliminary experiments to show the feasibility, we decided to explore this opportunity," says Kong.

In their grant application to the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the researchers proposed to incorporate photoactive nanoparticles into engineered fibers of plant origin for use in solar energy conversion.

Using nanotechnology involves employing advanced equipment such as a field emission electron scanning microscope to work with matter at the nanometer scale, with particles that are one million times smaller than a millimeter. At this microscopic level, the nanoparticles have unique phenomena and properties which enable a wide variety of applications.

Additionally, materials made up of nanoparticles have a relatively larger surface area when compared to the same volume of material made up of bigger particles, so using nanoparticles and nanofibers makes the process of collecting solar energy more efficient.

In another stroke of luck, UA installed a new electron scanning microscope last year that is ideal to use in this research project.

Dr. Kong's food science expertise comes into play for this project in the choices of biomaterials that will be used to make the nanofibers. They will be made from polymers that naturally occur in food and agricultural products, for example complex carbohydrates. Cellulose, starch and chitosan (a sugar extracted from the shells of shrimp and other crustaceans) are among their choices to investigate. All of these biopolymers are among the most abundant and inexpensive ones in agricultural production.

While improving the efficiency of clean solar energy was the major driver behind the project, there was another eco-friendly goal. Synthetic polymers often used now in many industrial applications can have a harmful impact on the environment. Kong explains, "For example, microplastics are a great challenge to the marine ecosystem. In the applications we proposed, such as water desalination and water splitting through solar energy conversion, we don't want to use synthetic polymers because they will eventually be eroded and form tiny pieces, also known as microplastics. These microplastics can escape treatment by sewage plants, float in rivers, lakes and oceans, and eventually accumulate in higher level organisms including humans.

"Biopolymers are from agriculture and food systems and we have studied these for a long time for their uses in food products. They are biodegradable, biocompatible, and renewable, and thus good candidates to replace synthetic polymers for non-food applications, especially where environmental impact is of concern."

This project is only funded for two years, but it is a seed grant that they plan to expand into a larger scale research project. The researchers hope that the development of this technology will benefit both agriculture and energy sectors by adding value to agricultural commodities that aren't often used widely (like shrimp shells) and promoting the use of renewable energy for energy security.

Although this particular USDA project falls a bit outside of the food and nutrition field, Kong is happy to have the ability to contribute to advancements in other fields.

For those reasons, Kong makes sure that the research teams he assembles includes individuals from different disciplines. The 2020 Kong Food Biomacromolecules Lab research team has scientists and students from human nutrition, food science, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics and health science.

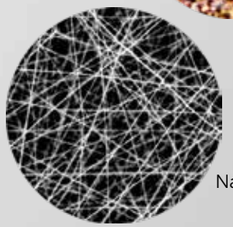
Scientific advancement is paramount to Kong. He shares the lofty goals of his research team, "finding solutions for a safe, nutritious, and affordable food supply that enhances quality of life and human health." Kong admits that this is far-reaching and ambitious but hopes that his team's efforts will contribute to real solutions.

Kong works hard to achieve his goals. His scholarly productivity is impressive for a young faculty member who divides his time between teaching, mentoring students, conducting research and sharing his knowledge with the scientific community.

Dr. Lingyan Kong

Dr. Kong and Dr. Libo Tan consult with Alabama farmers during their project on microgreens.

Growing microgreens in the Nutrition Lab.



Nanofibers.

He is an editor of two peer-reviewed journals, a prolific author with more than 35 published works in highly regarded publications, and a reviewer for more than 10 journals with 100 reviews under his belt. He also served as a panel reviewer for the UA Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) internal research grant program, The USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's Competitive Grants Program, and The USDA Agricultural Research Services 5 Year Project Plan (Midwest Area).

After only three years at CHES, Kong has mentored over 20 student researchers from all kinds of majors in his lab. Their work has resulted in a number of presentations, awards and publications.

When asked if he preferred teaching classes, mentoring young scientists, writing articles or working in his lab, Kong responded, "I think all these activities (or duties) are essential elements of a virtuous circle for scientific advancement."

"I am always looking for enthusiastic undergraduate, graduate students and visiting students/scholars to join our research group," says Kong. He adds, "I like to see their [students'] growth intellectually. Whatever their field or major, the basic principles of science and scientific research are identical. I am training them with these principles, and with scientific skepticism and critical thinking skills so that they will one day become the next generation of scientists to solve more complex or urgent problems."

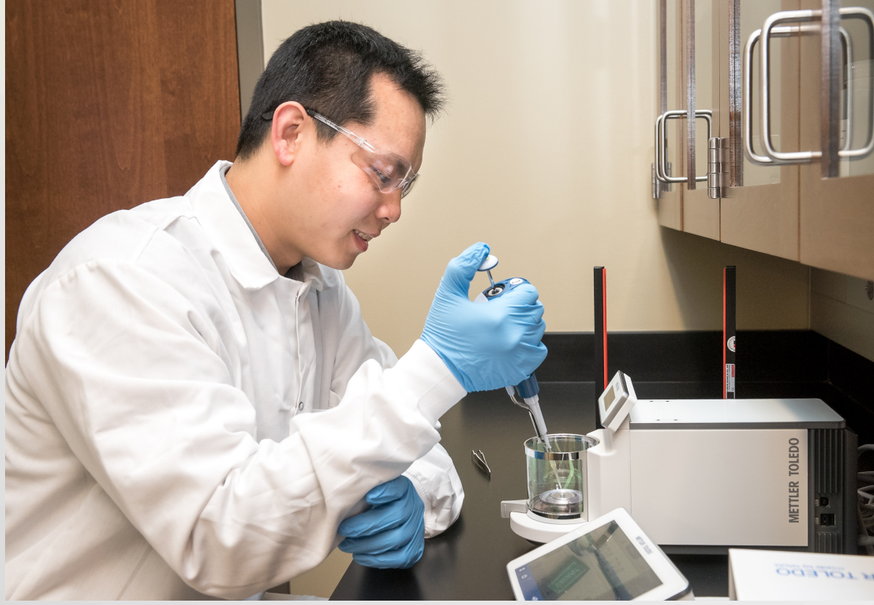
Kong explains how he came to be passionate about his field of study, "I became interested in food science in my college years, as foods are essential for human beings but so complex. Even today, the world still faces challenges of food safety, food security, food adulteration and malnutrition. Food scientists are striving to solve real-world issues by generating novel ideas and value additions."

Developing biopolymer nanofibers from food sources for use in solar energy conversion is not Kong's only area of interest. Prior to the USDA-funded project with Yan, Kong received two USDA-NIFA grants totaling $850,000 for developing starch-based materials to improve food quality. And although Kong and his team currently have a range of ongoing projects, the structure and functional relationship of starches continues to be a main topic of investigation. Kong explains one project this way, "To elucidate the detailed crystalline structure of starch, I used neutron radiation generated by the nuclear reactor in the Oak Ridge National Laboratory." This project earned him the 2018 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award.

Kong earned his Ph.D. in Food Science from Pennsylvania State University in 2012 and bachelor's degree in Food Science and Engineering from China Agricultural University in 2007. Before he joined The University of Alabama, Dr. Kong worked as a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State and in the USDA-ARS soft wheat quality lab.

Married to Dr. Libo Tan, a nutrition biochemistry researcher, Kong moved to Tuscaloosa when Tan joined the nutrition faculty of CHES in 2014. Having learned great things about the College and its recent investment in research infrastructure and support, Kong applied when a position that fit his background and interests arose in 2017. The couple's research interests marry quite well with the mission of CHES to improve lives.

"Whatever their field or major – I am training them with scientific skepticism and critical thinking skills so that they will one day become the next generation of scientists to solve more complex or urgent problems."



Kong at work in the lab.

Husband and wife researchers sometimes team up on projects of mutual interest. For one such project which could directly benefit Alabama farmers, Kong joined forces with his wife to look for ways to promote food safety and consumption of specialty crops, including microgreens. This work has been funded by the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries for three consecutive years.

Kong's other research projects include investigating the health benefits of dietary fiber and resistant starch, the nanoencapsulation of dietary bioactive compounds and the utilization of natural extracts in food, nutrition and sustainable infrastructure.

In one project, Kong uses various microscopic, spectroscopic and crystallographic techniques to map out the structural details of different starches. Kong searches for a more complete understanding of starch structure to help explain its functions in food and for health.

Another looks at the portion of plant food that cannot be completely broken down by human digestive enzymes, dietary fiber. Research has shown that dietary fiber may benefit health in several different ways. Resistant starch, the enzyme-resistant portion of starch, can be considered as part of dietary fiber and have a host of health benefits.

Flavor modulation is yet another topic of interest for his research team. Kong describes the motives behind this research, "Flavors are often the most expensive ingredients in a product formulation. Flavor stability and release behavior are significant quality and acceptability factors for food, but they are difficult to control. We are developing innovative solutions to the challenges of food flavor uses, including extended release of aromas, improved stability of flavors, taste masking and off-flavor scavenging."

His team is also looking at nanoencapsulation. They are developing structures made up of multiple molecules as protective delivery systems for more delicate substances, like certain vitamins, drugs and essential fatty acids. These "supramolecular structures" should protect these products from adverse environments, like high temperature, ultraviolet radiation, and the acidic environment of the stomach, and increase their overall bioavailability.

Biopolymer nanofibers interest the group because of their biodegradable, biocompatible and sustainable qualities. Hoping to make them useful for food packaging and biomedical applications, the team has been developing biopolymer nanofibers using electrospinning techniques and exploring their reinforcement using nanostructured fillers.

Lately, tree nuts have garnered the research group's attention not just because they are good sources of fat, fiber and protein but also because they contain various types of phytochemicals that warrant more exploration. Some of these phytochemicals are believed to protect cells from damage that could lead to cancer. Kong's lab is also working with civil engineers to find natural ingredients for reinforcing infrastructure materials, such as concrete.

Exploring these avenues of food science takes a keen mind and serious study. The work of Dr. Lingyan Kong is varied in scope and has the potential to help many individuals and industries. CHES is excited and proud to have research scientists like Kong on our team advancing our mission of improving lives.

"Ernestine was more than a teacher or a mentor to all of us in dietetics at Doster Hall, she was our friend."

Known for holding people and herself to the highest of standards, being honest and loyal, generous to friends, family and students, having a green thumb when it came to vegetable gardening, and making fabulous sourdough bread, Ernestine Jackson was many things to many people. After a long life of helping others, she passed away on Christmas Eve, 2019.

Jackson was an important fixture at the College of Human Environmental Sciences for 57 years, first as a student, then as a devoted teacher and, in retirement, as an involved alumna and supporter.

A native of Pensacola, Florida, Jackson found a passion for food and nutrition in high school. Influenced by a family friend who headed the dietetics program at Florida State College for Women (now FSU), she headed to FSCW for two years, then transferred to The University of Georgia where she graduated in 1947 with a degree in food and nutrition. She completed a dietetic internship at Ancker Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1948.

Eager to return to the south, Jackson accepted a position in 1949 at the Mobile Infirmary as the therapeutic and teaching dietitian for student nurses. Within the year, she became head of the department and held that position until 1962.

Jackson entered graduate school at The University of Alabama in 1962 and accepted a graduate assistantship in the department of food and nutrition. She received her M.S. in Food and Nutrition in 1964 and joined the CHES faculty as an instructor. Jackson developed and implemented the coordinated program in dietetics in 1972 becoming its first director.

This educator made it a priority to see that her students succeeded both during college and after they entered the profession. She set high standards for her charges but mentored them with understanding and compassion. Jackson was recognized by the University in 1986 with the highest award for teaching, the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. To honor her achievement, family, friends, fellow faculty and former students founded the Ernestine Jackson Scholarship in Dietetics.

Beloved by her students, Jackson influenced a generation of successful dietitians. From CEO, author and founder of Computrition Ellyn Green Elson, "Ernestine was more than a teacher or a mentor to all of us in dietetics at Doster Hall, she was our friend. One of the last conversations that I had with Miss Jackson before graduation was concerning which area of dietetics she thought I should pursue in my internship – without a blink she said 'Miss Green, the only area for you is administrative…as you love to be the boss!' Without much more conversation, I was on my way and her advice was well-heeded."

CHES Dean Emerita Milla Boschung knew Jackson first as a teacher and later as a fellow faculty member. Boschung says, "Although I was not a human nutrition major, I was lucky enough to have Miss Jackson for a food science class. In that course, she made sure her students followed the scientific method in ways many of us had not considered, incorporating components into a foods lab manual we were required to keep. I referred to that manual for many years. Filled with useful information, I wish I still had it today." Boschung also remembers student gatherings hosted by Miss Jackson in her home, especially ones for the family and consumer sciences honor society, Phi Upsilon Omicron. "Those events were as perfect as she was."

Vicki Peeples (r) inducts Jackson into the CHES Faculty Hall of Fame.

Another student and admirer, Caroline Giles Mixon had this to say, "Ernestine Jackson was a very predictable, consistent and dedicated lady. I have not met that many remarkable, unselfish women in my life, but she was one. All my classmates loved her, too." The retired dietitian and proprietor of Carodel Farm, Inc. adds, "She was a dietitian's role model and an icon of southern poise." Mixon recalls the times she was required as a graduate assistant to set up the food and nutrition niche across from the dean's office. "After reviewing the display, Miss Jackson would ask 'does it represent us well?' She would stay on you until it was perfect. Truth and honesty were always paramount from all my professors, but Miss Jackson kept us on task and for that I will ever be grateful."

Throughout her career, Jackson was involved in associations that elevated the field of nutrition including the American Dietetic Association (now the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics) and the Alabama Dietetic Association. She was recognized by ALDA as Outstanding Dietitian in 1967 and went on to serve as its president from 1968-1969. She freely gave of her time and expertise for 15 years to conduct site visits to other dietetics programs for the Council on Education Review Panel for Accreditation of Dietetics Programs, using her knowledge to keep educational standards high for future generations of dietitians.

After retiring in 1986, Jackson did not slow down. She enjoyed traveling, helping friends within her retirement community, gardening, baking fresh bread for her church bake sale, attending football games, using her season softball tickets and staying involved with CHES.

Our College honored Jackson with the Jack Davis Professional Achievement Award in 1989 for outstanding work in her chosen field, and she was subsequently inducted into the CHES Faculty Hall of Fame.

Dr. Kristi Crowe-White, chair of the department of human nutrition and hospitality management, appreciated the welcome she got from Jackson. "Ernestine was one of the most generous people I have ever met. When I joined the faculty 10 years ago, she reached out to me to introduce herself and share the legacy of our great program. She was passionate about wanting new faculty to know our departmental history. Through these conversations, I learned of her significant contributions to the field of dietetics. In sharing her roles, she was not bragging but rather encouraging me to get involved at the highest levels in our profession. She is greatly missed," says Crowe-White.

Elson will never forget Jackson, "Ernestine will always have a special place in my heart." She adds, "I never visited campus in the following 50 years without setting aside time for a visit with Miss Jackson. She was always upbeat and positive and a true "Tide" fan to the end."

Ernestine Jackson will be missed by many whose lives she touched. The students she taught, the educators she mentored and the many students who will benefit from the Ernestine Jackson Scholarship in Dietetics will continue her rich legacy of improving lives.

The United Way carried on with their work more safely thanks to CHES mask makers.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Under the challenging circumstances of COVID-19, the CHES community pulled together to do what we promise in our mission – conduct advanced research, provide outreach and prepare a new generation with a shared goal of improving lives. Faculty, staff and students exhibited a willingness to do what it takes to continue our traditions of service and academic excellence.

One of the biggest challenges brought about by COVID-19 was the transition from in-person to online learning. CHES faculty members met the challenge with determination and creativity. Learning continued and our instructors once again received praise from their students. After the spring semester, our Student Opinions of Instruction ratings remained above the average among UA colleges.

Delivering engaging content took not only a valiant effort by individual faculty but also a willingness for experienced online instructors to collaborate with colleagues who usually deliver face-to-face instruction. CHES hosted a series of web conferences over the summer to allow faculty to share their success stories and strategies from the world of online learning. Presenting best practices and bouncing ideas off each other increased teaching effectiveness and relieved some faculty stress as instruction transitioned from in-person to online to hybrid structures. The HES TEACHING SERIES garnered attention from other colleges on campus and is being shared to add to the bank of resources for UA instructors.

A challenge that many instructors in the online teaching world face is how to get students involved in the course. When faculty and students don't see each other and students don't see their peers, creating a sense of community and buy-in can be difficult.

With that in mind, the first session in this series was on Engaging Students Online. Darryl Thornton, HES faculty, has been recognized by Blackboard (UA's online teaching platform) for his exceptional course development work. His classes are consistently characterized by high levels of student engagement. Thornton shared his strategies for getting students involved, including information on tools, apps and activities that have worked.

Shannon McMahon, nutrition faculty, is part of a team that has been successfully delivering full academic programs online for several years now. In the second presentation of the HES TEACHING SERIES, McMahon shared Best Practices in Organizing Your Online Class.

In another session, faculty members Dr. Marcy Koontz, Dr. Lizzie Elder, Dr. Jessica Wallace and Courtney McGahey walked participants through a 'class' about how you can incorporate Zoom into teaching.

Other CHES faculty have been recognized by department chairs, colleagues and students for their exceptional work during COVID-19.

Dr. Maria Hernandez-Reif, HDFS faculty, has been a shining example of working around distance education issues to provide a better experience for her students. She, in turn, has worked closely with HDFS adjunct instructors to find and incorporate into our child development classes alternatives to the in-person observation required of students. HDFS chair, Dr. Robert Laird says, "I'm appreciative of Maria's efforts to do so in her own class, but particularly proud of her leadership in mentoring adjunct instructors."

Some CHES faculty and staff put their expertise to work in helping the public through this crisis.

Brian Taylor, apparel and textiles faculty, coordinated mask-making efforts of CHES stitchers including these made by CTD colleague, Paula Robinson.

Dr. Han-A Park (l) and Dr. Amy Ellis (r), human nutrition faculty, are studying whether lifestyle factors such as vaccination history, diet and outdoor activity impact the severity of COVID-19 symptoms.

Early in the spring, Brian Taylor, apparel design faculty, organized a group of CHES stitchers to make face masks for the United Way. Thanks to the efforts of Marcy Koontz, Sarah Roberts, Laurl Self, Arkeisha Thomas, Kailyn Thomas, Stephannie Nixon, Leslie Davis, Amy Walker, Danielle Reaves, Virgl Felton, Kimberley Severt and Diane Bridgewater, United Way agencies were able to continue serving the public in a safer manner. Melissa Wilmarth and Paula Robinson also contributed to the mask-making endeavors.

Having the Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) has paid even bigger dividends for families this year by providing support, resources and a sympathetic ear to parents and other caregivers troubled about issues facing them because of COVID-19. During the pandemic PAL has seen a 73% increase in calls and contacts (texts, chats, web traffic, and social media), not only from families in Alabama, but from around the world.

Both CHES programs that serve young children went above and beyond to deliver quality learning experiences for their preschoolers. While children in the Children's Program and RISE Center were home, they continued to connect with teachers, learn and play through inventive and individualized online interactions. RISE also provided therapy sessions to families targeting children's individual therapy goals through videoconferencing and phone calls.

UA recognized the importance of drawing from its faculty knowledge base and sharing their expertise with others through the media. They put together panels of faculty members whose specialties fit issues of the times. Seven CHES faculty were identified as UA Experts and several have been quoted in articles about how industries and individuals are faring, coping and learning from COVID challenges. Lori Greene and Drs. Kimberly Blitch, Deborah Casper, Karly Downs, Kimberly Severt, Richard Stebbins and Tricia Witte, have fielded questions from UA and the media. Severt was called upon by AL.com to reflect on the state and future of the hospitality industry.

Six campus-wide projects designed to deepen understanding of the coronavirus pandemic and future pandemics and positively influence society have received seed funding from The University of Alabama. One of those conducted by CHES nutrition faculty members, Dr. Han-A Park and Dr. Amy Ellis, will be to research whether lifestyle factors such as vaccination history, diet and outdoor activity impact the severity of COVID-19 symptoms through a nationwide survey of adults younger than age 50 who recovered from a diagnosis. Survey data may also be used to conduct future clinical studies with blood and genes investigation.

Over the summer, Brian Taylor taught, along with Drs. Rob Morgan and Lou Marino from C&BA, "Catalysts for Change: COVID Pandemic 2020 Lean Innovation." In the course, students identified and addressed challenges that have arisen due to the pandemic. Students from business, engineering and CHES were mentored throughout the summer by faculty members and worked together in teams to propose and implement real solutions to challenges identified. Topics ranged from food insecurity, working from home, personal protective equipment and helping to make public spaces safer. A group addressing food insecurity developed a local network that connected local restaurants with food banks in order to provide free meals to those in need.

Our students are also rising to the occasion as we learned from a Tuscaloosa News story about public health student, Abigail Gunter. Volunteering with AmeriCorps every Monday, she helped distribute meals to students who came to the city school distribution sites. This effort helps feed the hungry in West Alabama and provides enough food for two meals a day throughout the week.

While we have highlighted the "good works" of a few members of the CHES community, we are sure that many more are out there improving lives in the face of this unprecedented challenge. It is, after all, our mission.

WHAT'S IN A #HASHTAG?

On the College of Human Environmental Sciences' social media, our most frequently used hashtags are #ThisisHES and #ImprovingLives. Together, they say it all. From interior design to public health, our faculty, students and graduates are finding ways to enhance well-being and improve quality of life. Annually, we honor stellar alumni who are making a difference for individuals, families and communities.

The Jack Davis Professional Achievement awards celebrate a CHES graduate who made a career out of improving lives, Dr. Lewis Clifton "Jack" Davis, Jr. In 1939, Davis was the first man to earn a degree in nutrition from our College. He went on to lead a distinguished career as a dentist, pioneering a link between diet and dental health. Though Dr. Davis is no longer with us, his family and the College of Human Environmental Sciences, continue his legacy by recognizing the accomplishments of talented alumni.

"CHES brings together a wide range of disciplines focused on the interaction between individuals, families and the environment. Our graduates touch people's lives in the home, in the workplace, at the dinner table, on the athletic field, and in many other places with the goal of improving lives in ways both large and small. It is a joy to celebrate their accomplishments and share them with others who, we hope, will follow in their footsteps," says Dr. Stuart Usdan, dean of CHES.

Christie Gibson accepted an award for outstanding professional achievement from the department of human development & family studies. Gibson, who earned her master's degree at UA, is a licensed marriage and family therapist and owner of Gibson Therapy Services in Tuscaloosa. A successful clinician serving individuals, couples and families, she has also created specialized non-profit programs under her practice for first responders and military personnel and families coping with autism.

Congratulations to Jack Davis Professional Achievement Awards winners: (l-r, front row) Holly Grof, Jan Strickland, Averie Armstead, Jessica Smith, Holly Taylor, (l-r, back row) Brittany Fuson, Ben Cleveland, Daniel Lewis and Alison Parker. Not pictured are Christie Gibson and Kate Thomas.

The department of human nutrition and hospitality management (HNHM) conferred three awards. Holly Grof, a registered dietitian and hospitality management professional, was honored for her achievements in human nutrition. Grof earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from CHES. In her current role as coordinator for food service at The University of Alabama, she is part of a three-member team overseeing the foodservice contractor at UA in more than 20 buildings across campus. Grof also serves as a preceptor to our nutrition students and an adjunct instructor.

Daniel Lewis' professional accomplishments in hospitality management earned him an award from HNHM. For the past eight years, Lewis has been helping people experience the magic of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Beginning as a vacation planner with Animal Kingdom Park, he moved to his current position as sales manager for resort group sales. In 2015, he won a Platinum Circle award for being responsible for over $6 million in total room revenue sales. Lewis completed his bachelor's from CHES in 2008.

Averie Armstead, of Birmingham, was honored for outstanding professional achievement in sport hospitality. While getting her master's in sport management, Armstead worked for University Programs at UA rising from student worker to program event coordinator and organized more than 250 campus events each year. Armstead earned a J.D. from Samford University School of Law, and is an associate at Starnes Davis Florie, a complex litigation group which handles Title IX and NCAA compliance investigations.

The health science department recognized professionals in athletic training and public health. Honored for outstanding achievement in athletic training, Ben Cleveland has served as the assistant athletic director for sports medicine at Oklahoma Baptist University since 2015. At OBU, he manages and oversees all aspects of the sports medicine/athletic training department. He also serves as an adjunct instructor. Cleveland earned his B.S. in Athletic Training from The University of Alabama and while here completed an internship at the NFL Cleveland Browns Training Camp. He went on to earn an M.S. in Sport Management/Administration from Florida State University.

Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas, who earned her Ph.D. in Health Education and Promotion in 2014, was honored for outstanding professional achievement in health science. Thomas serves on the faculty for George Mason University's global and community health department. Having served as a Marine Corps officer in combat, garrison and training environments, Thomas is making a significant impact in the area of health status of military veterans providing advisory and research support as a Fellow with the Service Women's Action Network.

The department of clothing, textiles, and interior design (CTD) chose three stand-out alumni to honor. Jan Hales Strickland earned her B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences in 2010, and was recognized for outstanding professional achievement in interior design. Since graduating, Strickland has enjoyed a successful design career and also made a difference in her community with charitable work. As an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers, she has served as the lead interior designer for the Monroe, Louisiana St. Jude Dream Home in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Each of these homes has raised over $750,000 for the St. Jude Research Hospital, completely selling out tickets each year.

Brittany Fuson, 2009 CTD graduate, has found tremendous success with a full stationery product line sold nationwide at a variety of shops and online stores. Honored for her achievements in apparel design, her unique fashion illustrations have been featured on a variety of products from greeting cards, luggage tags, and tumblers, to apparel and gifts. Fuson has collaborated with celebrity clients and brands such as Giuliana Rancic of E! News, Neiman Marcus, Macy's and HGTV's Alison Victoria.

CHES honored Alison Parker for outstanding professional achievement in fashion retailing. Parker is a proven footwear and accessories expert with experience in strategically growing business and profits. She is the sales manager of footwear at Tory Burch in New York. She has worked with other NYC companies such as Rachel Zoe, Inc., Schwartz & Benjamin, Alice + Olivia and Dolce & Gabbana. Prior to her move to New York, she served as the footwear manager at PAIGE in Los Angeles. Parker graduated from Alabama in 2008.

Consumer sciences honored Jessica Hovis Smith. A partner and vice-president at Longview Financial Advisors, Smith focuses on leadership, strategy, business planning and team development. Smith holds Certified Financial Planner (CFP®), Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP®), Certified Private Wealth Advisor (CPWA®) and Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU®) designations. She was named to Investment News' 40 under 40 list. Smith graduated in 2005 earning a B.S. in Human Environmental Sciences with an emphasis on family financial planning and counseling.

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Holly Taylor was honored for outstanding professional achievement in interactive technology. She is a two-time graduate of CHES earning her bachelor's degree in 2008, her master's degree in 2010, and is pursuing a doctorate in instructional leadership. In Lt. Cmdr. Taylor's most recent assignment, she served on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower managing five divisions comprised of a 60-person team responsible for administrative and human resource programs for 2,900 employees. Among her onshore assignments, she served as executive officer of the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, more commonly known as the Blue Angels. Taylor has received the Meritorious Service Medal, a Joint Commendation Medal, and six Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals, among others.

CHES thanks our most recent Jack Davis award winners and those honored before them for making us true to our word. #ThisisHES #ImprovingLives.

FAMILY TIES

CHES grads Amanda Lightsey and Dre Vaden work to make families strong at Tuscaloosa's One Place.

For more than 20 years, Tuscaloosa's One Place (TOP) has worked to improve quality of life in West Alabama. The agency strives to be the "one place" families can come for services that empower them to achieve their full potential. TOP meets the needs of their clients through after-school programs, healthy relationship education, parenting and fatherhood programs, career development, GED classes, teen intervention and community outreach.

Amanda Lightsey, executive director of TOP and a CHES graduate, explains what drives the agency and the way they work, "We believe in the power of families and, that's where change happens. It's our job to help our families to have the resources they need to be safe, healthy and strong," adding, "Strong families build strong communities."

Throughout the agency's history, it has enjoyed a strong connection with the department of human development and family studies in the College of Human Environmental Sciences. "TOP, CHES interns and CHES graduates at all levels, are working together to support families in Tuscaloosa. TOP has had a long, close and mutually beneficial relationship with CHES and HDFS involving students, faculty and alumni," says Dr. Robert Laird, chair of the department.

It is no wonder these two entities have close ties. They are aligned by a common mission, to improve the lives of individuals and families using evidence-based practice and a strengths-based perspective. Lightsey says, "Our relationship goes back to the beginning of TOP. The field of human development aligns so much with what we do. Human development is strength-based and so is our work. It's holistic with an emphasis on family and interpersonal dynamics."

Over a friendly lunch in 2000, a cooperative arrangement between the newly established family resource center and HDFS was created by Dr. Mary Liz Curtner-Smith and the center's founding director, Teresa Costanzo. Curtner-Smith's Parent and Family Development class, HD382, had a service-learning requirement and the center's after school program needed mentors. So, each semester for many years, over 100 CHES students served as positive role models for elementary and middle school children during two hours of academic and social enrichment.

HDFS interns soon found a place for experiential learning at TOP. "In many ways, TOP is a real-world example of what

Intern, Raine Cook, will take what she learned from TOP to law school and a practice in family law.

TOP's after school program includes enrichment opportunities like this music demonstration.

Fun times at TOP's annual Fathers in the Park community event.

Members of the TOP team together during Child Abuse Prevention Month activities including CHES grads, Amanda Lightsey Torre McDonald, Alisha Dunning, Tiffiney Jenkins and Vadonna Williams.

HDFS teaches students in the classroom where they learn about developmental principles that impact child development, healthy family functioning and positive relationships," says HDFS academic advisor and internship coordinator, Kelly Schaefers. She learned on a personal level how valuable the TOP internship could be when she completed her internship there in 2013.

One of the biggest benefits for CHES students interning at TOP is the breadth of programs there. Students are usually assigned to one of the programs as their primary responsibility, and they develop close relationships with the employees and clients in that program. But the agency requires them to shadow all of the programs, which helps students discern and clarify what they want to do after graduation.

The list of family-centered services at TOP that provide meaningful experiential learning opportunities for CHES students is long. In addition to after school programs, the agency offers a Summer Academy in June where children spend four hours in a safe, structured environment that is designed to promote academic retention and improvement, reduce behavioral problems and improve self-esteem. The agency is also there for new parents offering two initiatives, Baby Box and Cribs for Kids, to promote safe sleeping in infants and reduce SIDS/SUID.

For kids who may be involved in the juvenile court system, the agency provides civil legal assistance, family-centered intervention services and mentoring. Lightsey says, "A lot of families don't know what to do when they are in the court system. They are overwhelmed. Being able to be a support system for those families is crucial." As with every program under their umbrella, TOP serves more than the individual. Lightsey explains why it is so important to involve the entire family, "Limited change would happen if we worked just with them [the individual client] but if we work with them and their families, we are increasing their opportunities for success because we are changing some of the dynamics inside the family."

The agency coordinates community outreach projects like an annual Fathers in the Park which celebrates fathers and the parent-child relationship, and Tinsel Trail which brings the entire community together over the holidays. "We are also feeding Tuscaloosa families with weekly mobile food pantries. We have secured funds to help others we serve who have been affected by COVID and have lost their jobs by helping them make mortgage payments and meet other basic needs. Workforce development, always an important TOP service, has taken on increased importance with the need to link people back to employment after COVID-related job loss," says Lightsey.

As you can see, there is much to do at Tuscaloosa's One Place. Every year, they serve about 8,500 people or 2,500 families with 36 full-time employees. Volunteers and interns play an important role at the agency. In just the last five years, HDFS has placed 29 students at TOP. Each intern works at least 300 hours during the semester, so this represents over 8,700 hours of service to the community.

The most important things executive director Lightsey tells interns when they start at TOP are "Whatever they put into their experience, they will get out of their experience. And I advise them not to limit themselves to working with only one population. So often we hear interns say, 'I don't want to work with children, I want to work just with adults.' Then it turns out they are fabulous working with children. I always tell them that you have an opportunity here to work with young children, adolescents and adults and doing that will help you figure out what you want to do."

Raine Cook graduated in May 2020 and during her last semester at UA enjoyed an internship at TOP. She appreciates what the agency taught her about family dynamics, child development and the resources available to children and families. All will help her when she finishes law school at The University of Alabama and follows her plan to practice family law.

Aubriana Minimi who completed her internship in August 2020, says, "I think the most important thing I learned during this internship was the value of being there for others during their time of need. It takes a lot for someone to come in and ask for help. This internship has exposed me to real situations that people are going through and reminded me that at any time I could be that person too, if life happens to throw tough circumstances at me. I think knowing this will enable me to treat others with dignity, even when they possibly don't feel dignified." She plans to work in social services and continue learning Spanish, so she can help a population that is often underserved due to language barriers.

While many interns have come and gone over the years at TOP, some like Dre Vaden find a home there. She finished her internship early to start work there and received her first paycheck before graduation.

Vaden complimented TOP for doing a great job of allowing student workers to gain experience in each program that they offer. Her big takeaway from the internship was this, "I learned that I can help people and provide them with resources and the tools they need to grow and be successful."

Today, she is making a difference in lives by working as a case manager in TOP's Youth Workforce Training Initiative. "The thing I like most about my job is helping the youth and being able to be a mentor for them." She is the go-to person when clients need anything from coordinating transportation to teaching financial literacy and soft skills that prepare them to enter the work place.

At last count, the agency employs 10 CHES graduates including its leader, Amanda Lightsey, who first learned of TOP while taking Dr. Curtner-Smith's HD382 class. "Two years later," Lightsey says, "when it was time for me to do an internship, I went to Dr. Curtner-Smith and said, 'Where do you think I should go?' And she said, 'you should go to Tuscaloosa's One Place.'" Lightsey did, and again, found she loved the agency and the people who worked with her.

Lightsey went on to get a master's in marriage and family therapy at CHES. She did one-on-one and crisis counseling but knew that wasn't what she wanted to do long term. Remembering how much she enjoyed Tuscaloosa's One Place, Lightsey contacted the agency's director inquiring about job openings. She began a part-time position at TOP teaching healthy marriage classes in the evening. Four months later, she accepted a full-time position as the intake and volunteer coordinator which included responsibility for over 2,000 volunteers. A year later, she was promoted to a supervisory position. Next, she took on fundraising for the agency and developed Tinsel Trail. After the founding executive director retired, Lightsey was promoted and has been leading the organization where she first started as a volunteer.

In her 11 years at the agency, Lightsey has been a committed and caring leader who hopes her legacy is that people look at Tuscaloosa's One Place and know how much they care about the community. She says, "I want us to be a generous agency. I want us to be an agency that goes the extra mile for people. I want families to feel good when they walk out of our doors and feel like people care about them and are on their side."

By providing resources that promote self-sufficiency, strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect, Lightsey and the agency she runs have had a lasting impact on the local community. TOP had served 35,000 families and 110,000 individuals in West Alabama by its 20th anniversary in 2019.

At the College of Human Environmental Sciences, we are proud to have played a part in TOP's success story through the efforts of CHES students, faculty and alumni. We look forward to a long and meaningful relationship with Tuscaloosa's One Place that strengthens our HDFS programs, student growth and, most importantly, West Alabama families for years to come.

BETTER TOGETHER

Entrepreneurial ingenuity could play a significant role in bringing businesses back to life and reviving the economy after COVID-19. With The EDGE Incubator and Accelerator, Tuscaloosa has a wonderful environment in which to encourage that pioneering spirit.

The EDGE had its genesis in the aftermath of the 2011 Tuscaloosa tornado. Created jointly by the City of Tuscaloosa, the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama and The University of Alabama, it supports both new and established firms by providing space and learning opportunities designed to help build and grow businesses and jobs.

The 26,300 square-foot facility features 20 offices, 100 workstations and several conference rooms.

CHES interior design alumna, Brittany Kyles, played a role in making The EDGE what it is, a space that encourages innovation and collaboration. A Registered Interior Designer and Interior Designer II in The University of Alabama's department of furnishings & design, Kyles oversaw the programing, planning, coordinating, procuring and installation of the furniture for the space.

Kyles has always been attracted to architecture and the history it shares. That interest evolved to include interior design. She remembers at a young age being drawn to the creativity and problem-solving aspect of designing spaces. When she got to college she says, "I knew after my first 'Introduction to Interior Design' class with Dr. Shirley Foster that this was the profession for me."

During her time at CHES, Kyles says she discovered her strengths, her weaknesses and her drive for interior design. "My professors supported, challenged and encouraged me to do my best. The interior design program gave me the building blocks to construct my own professional future. It was the first step in achieving my professional goal of becoming a Registered Interior Designer," says Kyles.

According to Kyles, when a designer begins programming for a space one of the first questions they ask is 'How will this space be used?' For The EDGE encouraging innovation was a big priority.

Brittany Kyles, at home in the space she designed.

High backs and semi-enclosed sides give this seating area privacy.

"IF THIS UNDERTAKING SAYS ANYTHING, IT WOULD BE THAT WE ARE ALL BETTER TOGETHER."

Spaces in the facility are designed to encourage innovation and collaboration.

"We were tasked to appeal to the current generation of upcoming entrepreneurs, move away from closed offices and take more of a 'Google' approach," she says. "And by supporting the fluidity of ever-changing technology and work environments, design a space that supports collaboration, communication and learning from each other."

Other goals included creating a hierarchy of work spaces (for leasing option purposes), spaces that suggested collaboration and had access to technology, training and meeting spaces, teaming spaces, and a few private zones as well.

"My team and I were responsible for interpreting the end user's functional goals and parameters outlined in a government-funded grant for each space while creating a furniture package that made it come to fruition," says Kyles. They satisfied those requests with private offices, open benching, modular and mobile furniture, and collaborative groupings that included provisions to support technology.

"As an incubator space that supports growth and versatility, its furniture needed to reflect those traits. The open, collaborative furniture footprint directly supports this philosophy. We created a furniture design that complemented the building's footprint, provisions and finishes while preserving the functional needs of accessibility, convertibility and flexibility," says Kyles.

Although the furniture plan for The EDGE encourages open dialogues with shared and mobile spaces, it still incorporates subtle details that establish a sense of territory and provide privacy.

Separate lockable storage units, privacy screens and consistently sized breaks between work surfaces are territory details. They give EDGE entrepreneurs a place to touch down and make it their own by configuring spaces to their way of working.

The footprints of the various furniture groupings send messages of inclusion and collaboration which differs from typical office footprints that exude privacy and a sense of authority.

One wing of the building is predominantly a fully flexible open plan space that includes nesting tables and chairs that can be stowed away for versatile events. The other wing has a combination of mobile and stationary furniture that supports collaboration and productivity.

Color plays a role as well. The EDGE is full of bright stimulating colors. All combine to support productivity, creativity and mood. Kyles explains, "We also used color coding to help create identity among the open floor plans. Privacy screens are specified in different groups of colors. You will also notice that each station has the same amount of pedestals and work surface sizes. This helps communicate 'this is my space and this is your space.' "

Dr. Theresa M. Welbourne, Executive Director of the Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute and The EDGE says of the furniture installation, "It has been a critical asset for attracting tenants and members as well as building a collaborative and innovative culture. Members love the stand/sit desks. And being able to move chairs, desks and white boards to create short-term huddle spaces or pseudo offices has been a big plus. The design choices really complement the light and open spaces at The EDGE.

(l-r) One wing of the building is fully flexible for events with easily stowed, moveable furniture. Colors help create identity among the open floor plans. The EDGE design will support ever-changing technology and work environments. Incorporating a few areas for relaxation are the norm in innovative office design.

"Colors, style and everything come together to provide ample options for how we use the building. From running a workshop to hosting a speaker, we have been able to provide amazing content and educational/networking opportunities across our audiences. Additionally, with the onset of the pandemic, we had the freedom to allow our members and tenants to easily spread out at a safe distance to assure they can continue to work safely."

Kyles described her team's end-product this way, "The EDGE is definitely edgy and innovative in both aesthetics and functionality."

Kyles' team included three other CHES grads, director of furnishings and design Susanna Johnson, fellow Interior Designer II Laura Nichols and interior design intern Mollie Evans, along with representatives of furniture vendors. Kyles explained, "Susanna helped support me the entire way, especially with navigating grant and procurement language and making sure that we reached our tight deadline to place a $1.1 million furniture order. One of the biggest challenges of the project was the furniture order and install timeline which left no room for error."

"Laura, who also has a wealth of furniture knowledge, was essential on-site when the furniture was delivered, installed and punched. Mollie aided in the behind the scenes operations by preparing presentations and creating necessary documents. Each vendor went above and beyond to help turn around furniture orders and I am so thankful for their commitment to making this a success."

Welbourne praised the group's efforts saying, "First, Brittany and her team did a great job of requirements gathering and looking at similar buildings to provide ideas. Second, I really felt she worked with us as a team; she never pushed a product or options that we didn't want. She paid attention to the small things we discussed.

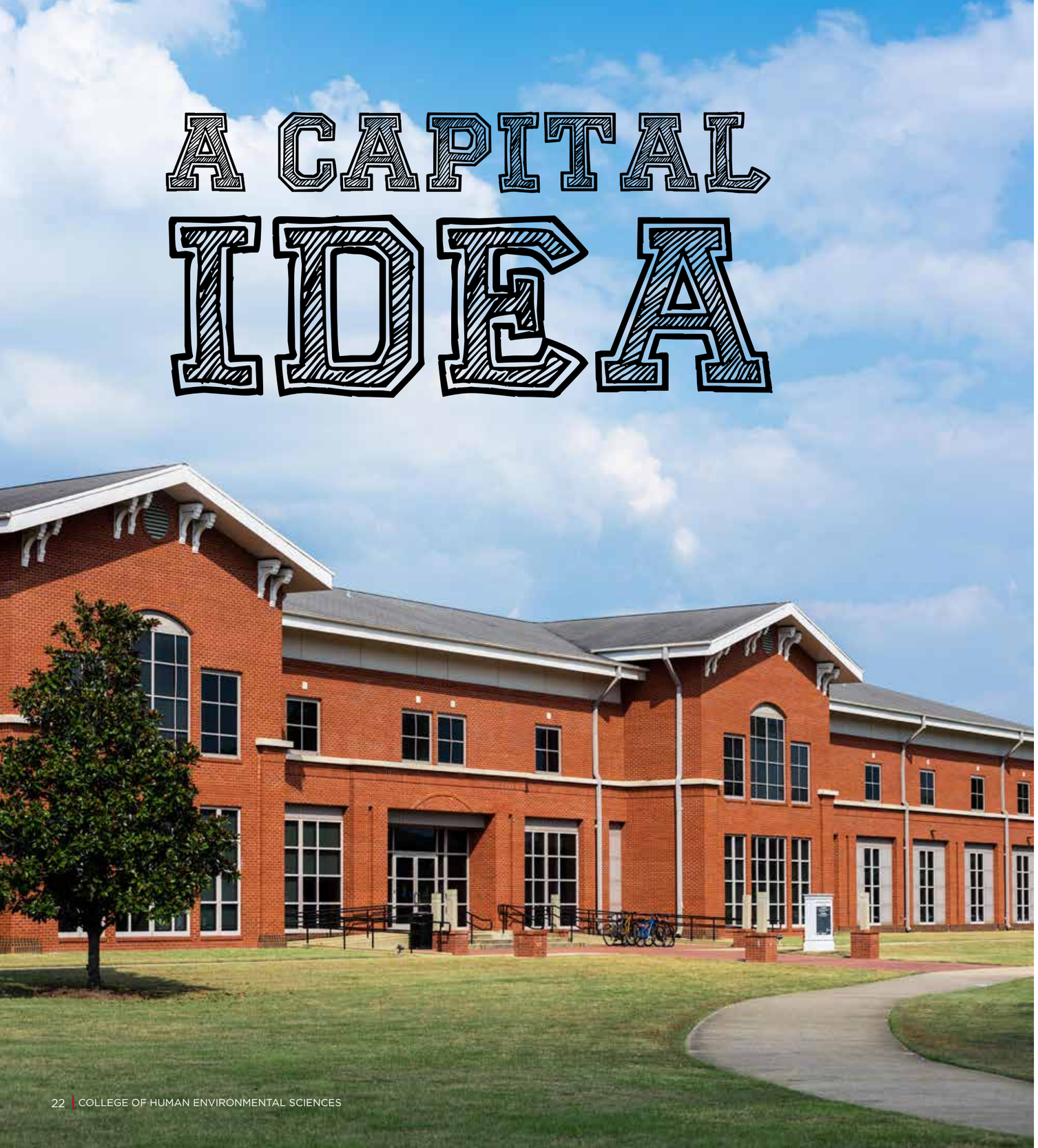
"It was never a design vs. functionality issue; she knew what we needed. Also, she respected our budget. I very much enjoyed working with them. She continues to support us, answering calls almost immediately and following up with any concerns we have. I feel very fortunate to be able to work with such a professional and talented team."

For Kyles, the most rewarding part of this project was the honor of playing a constructive role in helping to create a space for growth, entrepreneurship and innovation in the Tuscaloosa community.

Kyles adds, "The successful completion of this project took a collaboration of professionals from the City of Tuscaloosa, the Chamber of Commerce and UA. If this undertaking says anything, it would be that we are all better together."

The furnishings package that Kyles and her team dreamed, designed and delivered does just that, making The EDGE function much like her team - better together.

A CAPITAL IDEA



In Fall 2019, the athletic training (AT) program moved into a newly renovated space at Capital Hall on the Bryce campus. CHES administrators and AT faculty were thrilled to secure a new home that brought classrooms, labs and faculty offices under one roof. The move was important to the program for a number of reasons. Crucial was the fact that the group had outgrown their old space.

In Moore Hall where lab and classrooms were formerly located, AT only had one area with treatment tables which limited the ability to offer more than one class at a time that had a skills component. Classes often had to be scheduled in the evenings, required extensive setup of rooms to make them lab space, or teaching methods had to be changed to accommodate the space limitations.

"In the new space, we have two large rooms for lectures, a lab and two smaller rooms that can be used as either lecture or lab space. This lets us adjust the classes to better fit our students' intensive schedules, giving them more time to spend at clinicals and get involved in other campus activities. It also allows us to use better pedagogical strategies to enhance their learning experience," says Dr. Lizzie Elder (Hibberd), program director.

The move offered opportunities to incorporate versatile design plans that meet the unique needs of AT instruction. In one of the classrooms, tables have a hard surface like a writing desk but include a pad that can be flipped up to provide a soft surface where students can practice their skills.

These touches allow AT to maximize space and minimize set up and take down. In the teaching lab, television screens line the walls enabling students to see skills such as suturing or IV insertion performed as they are practicing them.

The AT suite also includes seven offices, a conference room, an administrative room, a student study area and lots of storage.

A big plus of housing classroom, lab and faculty offices in one building is that faculty are able to see and engage with the students more. Elder explains, "I had more students in my office for office hours last year than I did in my previous five years combined! Because we were convenient to them, they viewed us as more accessible." That is a win-win situation in an intensive program that benefits from one-on-one interaction between students and faculty and close-knit student cohorts.

We are very thankful for our new space in Capital Hall and the enhanced educational experience for the students.

Capital Hall on Bryce campus is the home of the athletic training program.

"We are very thankful for our new space in Capital Hall and the enhanced educational experience for the students. We love connecting with alumni, so if you want to see the new space, just reach out," says Elder.

Along with a welcomed change in location, athletic training at Alabama is altering its program model. In 2015, the Athletic Training Strategic Alliance announced that the CAATE Standards for Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs would be changed to require that professional programs be at the master's degree level.

CHES faculty and administrators have dedicated themselves to meeting this accreditation requirement and to continue providing an exceptional education for athletic training health care providers.

Our Master of Science in athletic training degree was approved by the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, and we anticipate that the first cohort of the new master's program will begin in Fall 2022.

This change will have no impact on students that are currently enrolled in the professional phase of the B.S. in Athletic Training degree program. AT on the undergraduate level continues with the last class starting the program in August 2021 and graduating in May 2024.

Additionally, an undergrad minor has been approved and will be a future part of the Alabama athletic training program.

In the midst of the many changes taking place in the AT program, a smooth transition of leadership took place as well. Dr. Lizzie Elder was appointed director of the program when long-time leader, Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn, was promoted to CHES associate dean for academic affairs. Elder has taught in the program and conducted research here since 2014. She earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees in Athletic Training and a Ph.D. in Human Movement Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The athletic training program at The University of Alabama is in good hands, and in a good space. It is poised to continue to be recognized as one of the best places in the country to prepare professional athletic trainers.

AT students learn to suture, and how to put in IVs.

OUTSIDE THE BOX

CSM 441's Bama Buzz was recorded in UA's digital media center within Bryant-Denny Stadium.

Knowing that collaboration, done well, should be mutually beneficial, consumer sciences instructor, Courtney McGahey, reached out to Amy Martin, WVUA's director of creative services and programming, with a unique idea. Together, they devised a plan to provide real-world experience for students and fulfill the television station's desire to better serve their community.

Designed to teach students to develop, present and evaluate a complete consumer communication program, Consumer Communications (CSM 441) equips consumer sciences and other CHES majors with tools to assist their clients or employers in identifying target markets and reaching out to them effectively. Taking on the UA station as a "client" allowed students to achieve these goals through experiential learning in an actual business setting.

The assignment, divided between two semesters, began with a spring section of the consumer communications class. Students conducted surveys to help determine what college students would want to see on WVUA. They explored formats that might work and the following fall, CSM 441 students completed the job.

"This project actually started in a totally different direction than where it ended. My intention was for the students to serve a real client. WVUA was looking for ideas for their online presence that would attract a younger demographic to their website and ultimately to their TV broadcasts. Our students were going to create a 'Consumer Corner' for them," explains McGahey.

McGahey describes her goals for the fall section of the CSM 441 project this way, "Design was my intent. We use Photoshop and Illustrator in the class, so creating a logo for the segment, coming up with web content and working with a physical client would put my students' skills to the test." She wanted them to demonstrate advanced knowledge of these Adobe design tools.

The exercise worked much like it would in many business endeavors and evolved in unexpected ways. McGahey explains, "Students used the software to design logos for the client to critique and choose the one they would want to use. The way it worked out was brilliant. WVUA liked a couple, gave the students things to fix and asked them come back with the revised logos."

Exhibiting writing skills for use in professional, consumer and community settings was another goal of McGahey's. Students came up with a business plan and proposed it to their client in a corporate setting.

"There are groups of students you teach, and you hope they get something out of your content. And then you get a group of students who you enjoy and have so much rapport with that you wish you had more time with them."

This project was a good fit for WVUA because one component of their mission is to serve University of Alabama students by providing a real-world experience that enhances student recruitment, education and professional development. Martin says this, "Our objective [in the collaboration with CHES] was to help the students in CSM 441 find a unique way to distribute information to their peers. We talked about different ways to communicate their messages and since many students listen to podcasts now, the class decided this was the best way."

"It was exciting for us to work with CHES on a podcast production with students that were not communication majors yet wanted to learn about how to produce one," Martin adds.

For the final phase of the project, fall CSM 441 students were divided into teams, each designing logos and writing a proposal for WVUA. The class voted on a winning logo and ultimately, each team wrote and produced podcasts called Bama Buzz aimed at filling a need they saw to guide UA students through their time on campus.

CSM 441 students not only got the opportunity to use WVUA's state-of-the-art media center in Bryant-Denny Stadium to record their podcasts but also learned about the process from the seasoned professionals there.

"The Digital Media Center (DMC) has a podcast setup for other projects, so we worked with the students on how to produce a podcast, what a podcast format should look like, and then they came to our studio and each team produced their podcasts," Martin explains.

Students in CSM 441 had nothing but positive things to say about the experience, even the challenges they faced and overcame. Recording the podcasts themselves seemed both the most intimidating and the most rewarding.

"I was kind of nervous about hearing my voice on-air," Max Weber admits. By the end of the project, he was much more comfortable.

His favorite part of the experience was "my interview with a couple of different athletes where we sat down with them and heard about their life. A lot of people see an athlete as a famous person. When you get to sit down and talk to them it changes your perspective."

Weber continues, "I'm mind-blown about all the technology we got to use and how good it came out. I thought it was awesome because everybody worked really well together. And with such a large group, you bring so many different opportunities and ideas to the table. I think that will help [me] in the future when working with other teams."

Jake Pasquine's biggest challenge was being naturally involved on-air and being himself. He discovered, "Just being in a good mood and talking to my friends resulted in a good outcome." For Hannah Worley, "Public speaking was weird at first but the more I did it the more confidence I had."

Speaking about the day when the group pitched their idea to WVUA, Mason Swain says, "I felt like that was when things were getting real. It wasn't just staying in the classroom anymore. It was fun and encouraging to see that they [the clients] were engaged in our ideas."

Decision making session with WVUA representatives.

Hannah Worley gets comfortable behind a mic for the Bama Buzz podcast.

CSM 441 students get a tour of UA's digital media center.

Taquesha Freeman hopes to use what she learned when she gets into a corporate setting. She says, "I'd like to work in management and will be communicating with a lot of people. It helped me come out of my shell by working with people I didn't know."

Worley reflects on the project, "It was super rewarding and I made something that was super cool." Her big take away from the project, "coming up with an idea, following though and seeing the results gave me a lot of confidence."

"I think, especially in this course, real-world learning opportunities are extremely valuable. Students, by getting out of their safe college bubble, can anticipate how it is going to be when they deal with their first client. Getting to use what I am teaching them in an authentic setting adds so much more to the content of the course," says McGahey.

McGahey was thrilled with the outcome of this project. "Fall students actually started out as a very shy group. They learned how to work together. If someone wasn't pulling their weight, they would encourage teammates instead of putting each other down. Learning to work as a cohesive unit was a big step forward. Most of these students had never presented a project to a professional, so they had to work hard to polish their speaking and presentation skills. Coming up with content for the show and speaking on-air added even more tools to their skillset," she says.

It was a rewarding and enjoyable experience for McGahey, "There are groups of students you teach, and you hope they get something out of your content. And then you get a group of students who you enjoy and have so much rapport with that you wish you had more time with them. Both sections of this class were like a family, they worked well together, encouraged each other and were a pleasure every minute!"

McGahey concluded her reflections on the CSM 441 assignment with this, "I will continue to try and find projects around the University and our community which enhance the classroom experience. How great it is to know my students got something out of a project that they can put on their resume and continue to talk about how exciting it was for them."

That sounds like a win-win situation for all.

FACULTY & STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR SETTING A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

College of Human Environmental Sciences faculty and staff members strive daily to maintain relevance and distinction, giving our students a rich academic environment in which to learn. Their efforts are often recognized by others.

Congratulations to these colleagues for being acknowledged for the hard work they do.

Dr. Jeannine Lawrence was appointed senior associate dean. Lawrence has served CHES as assistant dean and most recently, interim associate dean for research. She also chaired the department of human nutrition and hospitality management for five years. Her research focuses on clinical nutrition assessment and interventions with nutritionally at-risk populations, and interprofessional education in clinical healthcare.

Dr. Deidre Leaver-Dunn has been named associate dean for academic affairs, replacing retired associate dean Dr. Mary Kay Meyer. Prior to her appointment, Leaver-Dunn served as an associate professor and the director of the athletic training program. During her tenure at UA, she has coordinated AT program activities, taught classes and led the successful accreditation efforts for the AT program. She has been a full-time CHES faculty member for over 20 years.

Dr. Melissa Wilmarth, consumer sciences faculty, was appointed assistant dean for student affairs after serving in that capacity as interim assistant dean. Wilmarth teaches classes in consumer decision making, public policy and consumer protection. Her research interests focus in the area of family and consumer economics.

Dr. Kristi Crowe-White, nutrition faculty, was named chair of the department of human nutrition and hospitality management after the promotion of Dr. Lawrence. A faculty member for nine years, Crowe-White has received funding to support her research from such sources as the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and the American Heart Association. She is an active member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Dr. Lizzie Elder, athletic training faculty, was named athletic training program director after the promotion of Dr. Leaver-Dunn. Elder has been on faculty at CHES since 2014. Her research focuses on assessment of shoulder dysfunction using neuromuscular and biomechanical measurement models and injury prevention in overhead athletes.

Dr. Wanda Burton, human environmental science faculty, was named the first Director of Diversity and Inclusivity for the College. In this role, Burton will guide the CHES Committee on Diversity and Inclusivity in college-wide initiatives to enrich the college's learning and work environment and provide an accepting, inclusive community that attracts and supports a diverse faculty, staff and student body.

Dr. Don Chaney was tapped to lead the department of health science as its chair. Prior to coming to UA this fall, he chaired the department of health education and promotion at East Carolina University's College of Health and Human Performance. Some of Chaney's recent research interests include e-health literacy and technological applications in public health education. He is also well-known for his expertise in online learning and distance education.

Annually, the College recognizes faculty and staff members who are nominated by their peers or by their students for outstanding work. The following awards were presented at the fall convocation.

CHES recognized **Dr. Lizzie Elder's** teaching skills by giving her the 2019 Joseph S. Rowland Teaching Excellence Award. Elder, associate professor and director of the athletic training program, was nominated by the members of the Athletic Training Student's Association. The students appreciate her passion for helping students succeed. Her wealth of knowledge for athletic training shows in the classroom where she shares the most current information and challenges students to continue to grow as clinicians after leaving her classroom.

Receiving this year's HES Leadership Board Excellence in Scholarly Research Award was **Dr. KT Kim**, consumer sciences faculty. Kim, in his seventh year at UA, has an extremely strong body of scholarly works. His research appears in many of the most notable journals in his field, including the Journal of Consumer Affairs, Journal of Family and Economic Issues and Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning. Kim was also selected the winner of the Richard L. D. Morse Early Career Award at the 2019 American Council on Consumer Interests Research Conference.

Karen Carpenter received the CHES Staff Professional Excellence Award for exempt employees. For over 15 years, Carpenter has been an academic advisor in student services serving the students of CHES, coordinating Bama Bound orientations and helping at-risk students with specialized advising and resources. Colleagues note that she always maintains a positive attitude, pays close attention to detail and communicates thoughtfully with students and others.

Amanda Atkins received the CHES Staff Professional Excellence Award for non-exempt employees. As an IT technician, Atkins goes above and beyond to ensure that faculty, staff and students have the technological resources available to accomplish their work. No matter what road blocks get in her way, this ultimate team player always finds a way to get the job done.

Organizations outside our College acknowledge the exceptional performance of our faculty with awards, honors and appointments. Congratulations to these CHES notables.

Dr. David Birch, health science faculty, was named the 2019 recipient of the American School Health Association's William A. Howe Award. The award is ASHA's highest honor and recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions and distinguished service in school health. Birch was recognized at the ASHA Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Birch was also named one of 16 members of the Coalition of National Health Education Organizations, Terminology Committee. This national committee is charged with determining definitions for terms that are pertinent to professional practice in all health education and promotion practice settings.

Dr. Sherwood Burns-Nader, human development and family studies faculty, began serving a term as the chair for the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) of the Association of Child Life Professionals. In this capacity, Burns-Nader leads seven committees whose mission is to set and uphold the standards of certification and recertification for the child life profession.

Dr. Jessica Jaiswal, assistant professor of health science, was invited to serve on the Senior Associate Editorial Board of a new academic journal, Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health.

Dr. April Kendrick, director of Child Development Resources, received a 2019 Women's Leadership Award given by the University of Alabama Women's Basketball team in partnership with the Tuscaloosa Junior League. She also received the First 5 Alabama Pioneer Award for being the first person in the state of Alabama to earn the highest endorsement as a level 4 mentor for Early Childhood Mental Health Research/Faculty. Kendrick currently serves on a national task force to train and mentor those interested in seeking the endorsement. In 2019, Kendrick completed a distinguished two-year fellowship in Infant Parent Mental Health at UMASS Boston which included fellows from Israel, Ireland, Brazil, Canada, India, England and across the U.S.

Dr. Linda Knol, human nutrition faculty, was appointed a Fellow of the Alabama Life Research Institute at UA. ALRI brings together researchers from multiple disciplines to study problems that directly affect the health and well-being of individuals and communities in Alabama, as well as across the nation and world. As an ALRI Fellow, Knol will collaborate with others on innovative ways to implement and evaluate programs that address obesity and food insecurity.

Kristin Maki, interior design faculty, was appointed by the Interior Design Educators Council to serve as Abstract Review Co-Coordinator from 2019-2021. In this position, Maki manages all aspects of the review process for written scholarship submissions to the organization's annual conferences. IDEC is the professionally recognized association for interior design educators in North America.

Morgan Milstead, human nutrition faculty, and **Darryl Thornton**, human environmental sciences faculty, were acknowledged by their peers in the Blackboard community for excellence in online teaching. Blackboard, a leading education technology company for teaching, learning and student engagement recognized faculty and course designers from schools, colleges, and universities around the world who develop engaging and innovative courses that represent the very best in technology and learning. Milstead's course, "Principles of Food Preparation," and Thornton's, "Self-Managed Mentoring," were winners of the 2019 Blackboard Exemplary Course Program Awards. Thornton has been nominated for a 2020 Blackboard Exemplary Course Award for HES450, "Volunteerism & Civic Responsibility."

John Peaslee, interior design faculty, was named the 2020 recipient of the Dr. Mary Ann Potter Outstanding Educator Award by ASID Alabama. Peaslee was honored for 25 years of excellence in teaching and for his service on the Alabama Board for Registered Interior Designers and as regional chair for the Interior Design Educator's Council.

Karin Pennington, adjunct nutrition faculty, has been named Missouri Outstanding Dietitian of the Year. Annually, the Missouri Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognizes the professional contributions of experienced dietitians in MOAND and encourages their continued participation in mentoring others and leading the association.

Laurl Self, interior design faculty, was elected as the south regional director for the Interior Design Educator Council from 2020-2022, where she will serve as the liaison to the membership of the nine-state region. In this role, she will guide and direct the business of the region, including serving as the student design competition co-coordinator and managing other collaborative council activities.

Dr. Kimberly Severt, hospitality management faculty, was elected Director of Conference for the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE.)

Drs. Rich Stebbins and KT Kim, consumer sciences faculty, received the 2020 FINRA National Financial Capability Study Research Award which was presented virtually at the annual American Council on Consumer Interests conference in May. Their research paper used new NFCS questions to investigate the role of financial education on estate planning in the U.S. The annual award is nationally competitive and was awarded to them for the best research paper based on data from the study.

Dr. Melissa Wilmarth, consumer sciences faculty, received the Family & Consumer Sciences Research Journal Best Paper Award in Professional Issues for 2019. Wilmarth was presented the award at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) held virtually in June 2020. The title of her paper was "Family and Consumer Sciences Graduate Research Productivity in 2018." The Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal publishes original research in all areas of family and consumer sciences.

Lastly, congratulations to faculty members in the athletic training program for receiving the 2020 Provost's Award for Assessment. Their program's assessment report most strongly exhibited the award criteria: meaningful, measurable, manageable and innovative.

RESEARCH MATTERS

CHES has taken UA's strategic goal to increase the University's productivity and innovation in research, scholarship and creative activities to heart and created an environment to encourage and support faculty in their scholarly pursuits. One of the initiatives the College undertook to boost research was the establishment of the CHES Grant Writing Institute (GWI).

Established in 2017, the GWI helps faculty members secure external funding to support a specific program of research. The Institute is an effort to provide mentorship and training opportunities for research faculty and accelerate progress in establishing a nationally recognized research program within the College of Human Environmental Sciences.

The training includes group seminars as well as individual mentoring sessions, with opportunities to meet with program officers from various funding agencies. Faculty selected for the GWI are expected to finish the Institute with a grant proposal ready for submission.

This year's cohort adapted to online sessions, continuing progress towards their research goals despite COVID-19 challenges (bottom row, l-r) Blake Berryhill, Joy Douglas, Libo Tan, (top row, l-r) Jessica Jaiswal, GWI facilitator Jeannine Lawrence and Ryan Moran.

Participation is competitive and the application process requires submission of a concept paper that states the need for and specific aims of a proposed project; identification of a funding opportunity providing at least $100,000; and a specific plan for completing an application in the required timeframe.

Dr. Jeannine Lawrence, senior associate dean, serves the GWI as a mentor and facilitator. She says, "the group really works on peer support and peer evaluation. Participants bring their grant ideas to the group at the very beginning. Through the process of participating in GWI sessions, they develop their grant sections and members review and give feedback. It's particularly effective because their areas are so different that the perspectives they bring to reviewing grants in other fields seems to strengthen the proposals overall."

In addition to peer support, research experts play a vital role by sharing their insights into various parts of the grant proposal process.

Senior Associate Vice President for Research & Economic Development at The University of Alabama, Dr. John Higginbotham, spoke to the group about meeting with NIH program officers.

Michelle Beck, a senior grant and contract specialist from UA's Office of Sponsored Programs, shared information about preparing a grant budget.

The GWI's inaugural cohort consisted of Dr. Sherwood Burns-Nader and Dr. Deborah Casper from human development and family studies (HDFS), Dr. Shinae Choi from consumer sciences (CSM), Dr. Lizzie Elder from athletic training (AT), Dr. Han-A Park from human nutrition (HN), and Dr. Levi Ross from health science (HS). Making up the 2018-2019 cohort were Dr. Amy Ellis and Dr. Lingyan Kong (HN), Dr. Jason Scofield (HDFS), Dr. Su Shin (CSM), and Dr. Casey Totenhagen (HDFS).

The 2019-2020 GWI cohort is made up of faculty members, Dr. Blake Berryhill (HDFS), Dr. Joy Douglas (HN), Dr. Jessica Jaiswal (HS), Dr. Ryan Moran (AT) and Dr. Libo Tan (HN). Members of this year's GWI are well on their way to meeting their commitment to submit proposals by semester's end. Their research projects include an interesting mix of topics.

Dr. Berryhill's project explores the implementation of a school-based, evidenced-based treatment delivered via online psychotherapy for adolescent depression in rural areas. Berryhill explains the motivation for his research, "Adolescent depression is a leading cause of disability worldwide and a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease. Access to providers and evidenced-based treatment in rural areas is scarce, as rural areas have approximately eight-times fewer providers than urban and suburban areas. Online psychotherapy can increase accessibility to providers and treatment."

Dr. Tan describes her project this way, "The aim of my proposed research project is to determine the impacts of maternal obesity, which is prevalent in the United States, on the status, metabolism and requirement of vitamin A in neonates, using rats as the animal model. Vitamin A is an essential micronutrient for the normal growth and development of newborns and infants."

Dr. Moran will be exploring neuromechanical baseline and post-concussion assessment in wheelchair sport athletes. He recently conducted a pilot at UA that found wheelchair sport athletes who live with spinal cord injury present differently than varsity collegiate athletes on baseline concussion assessment."A common measurement that we use to diagnose and manage concussions is balance and postural stability, but with most wheelchair sport athletes using a wheelchair for both sport and daily living, we are not able to use the standardized balance and postural stability tools that we typically would with varsity athletes. This project is requesting funding for a device that uses over 2,000 sensing elements to provide real-time information on pressure distribution and center of force trajectory when an individual is seated in a wheelchair, to better understand their neuromechanics," says Moran.

Dr. Douglas explains her research proposal, "My project will use data collected by the National Institutes of Health to investigate nutrition-related factors that can protect against dementia in older adults. From this project, we hope to be able to suggest some lifestyle choices that people can use to reduce their risk of dementia later in life."

"GWI has strengthened my grant writing skills in a structured, mentored setting. Even though we are all working in different areas, coming together as a group lets each of us give and receive detailed feedback on our proposals."

Dr. Jaiswal states "My study will examine stigma and medical mistrust around biomedical HIV prevention strategies (e.g., PrEP, pre-exposure prophlyaxis, a daily pill to prevent HIV) in opioid agonist treatment settings. Although PrEP is extremely effective, most people don't know about it-especially folks that are placed at risk for HIV due to structural inequality."

All of the members of the 2020 cohort agree that the CHES Grant Writing Workshop has benefitted them. "The GWI workshops have created a convenient avenue to meet with peers from different disciplines within the College, who are also at very similar stages of their careers and grant proposal submissions, to get feedback and insight to create a better proposal and research agenda,"says Moran."The workshops helped us understand the different grant mechanisms and how to craft the different sections of the grant proposal," added Berryhill.

RESEARCH MATTERS

(Continued)

Tan appreciated input from her colleagues and says, "The peer review and feedback gave me the opportunity to look at my research from different perspectives, which has really strengthened the research and improved the proposal," says Tan. For Jaiswal, "GWI has strengthened my grant writing skills in a structured, mentored setting. Even though we are all working in different areas, coming together as a group lets each of us give and receive detailed feedback on our proposals."

Douglas added, "The Grant Writing Institute has been so helpful in maintaining momentum for this project, especially amidst COVID-19."

Increasing CHES grant productivity this last academic year, with external grant submissions currently at $3.5 million higher than the previous year, took hard work and determination from talented, dedicated faculty and administrators. But, between the seasoned research faculty and the motivated, up-and-coming junior researchers, the future at CHES looks bright.

CONGRATULATIONS

to these faculty members whose grant proposals were successfully funded!

Dr. Blake Berryhill's, HDFS faculty, project "Increasing Behavioral Health Services in Pickens County: A Collaboration with School SMART Clinics, Pickens County Primary Care, and Pickens County Medical Center" was funded by The University of Alabama.

Dr. Kristi Crowe-White, HN faculty and HNHM chair, and her doctoral student Katelyn E. Senkus, were awarded grants from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) to investigate the clinical influence of "Mouth Rinses Infused with Nitrates/Nitrites and Antioxidants to Support the Enterosalivary Pathway for Oral and Vascular Health: The RINSE Study." Crowe received funding from the US Army Small Business Innovation Research through Eldertide, LLC for "Novel Concentration Technology for the Development of Antioxidant-rich Prototypes for US Army Rations."

Dr. Joy Douglas, HN faculty and her team, received a seed grant from The UA Council on Community-Based Partnerships to implement their research project, "Students Supporting Brain Injury Survivors and their Caregivers: A Community Engagement Project." The project is a collaboration between the Alabama Head Injury Foundation and UA which aims to provide interdisciplinary health and support services to brain injury survivors and their caregivers in West Alabama, and to provide experiential learning opportunities for UA students.

Dr. Amy Ellis, HN faculty, secured UA funding to support her research on the "Assessment of Dietary Intake and Oxidative Stress in Parkinson's disease" from the Research Grants Committee (RGC.)

Dr. Jessica Jaiswal, HS faculty, received funding from the National Institutes of Health and New York University to explore how methadone patients and providers think about HIV vulnerability and pre-exposure prophylaxis use.

Drs. Amy Ellis and Seung Eun Jung, HN faculty and co-principal investigators, received the 2019 Julie O'Sullivan Maillet Research Grant Award, which is funded by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation, for a research project entitled "Dietitians Investigating Needs for Nutrition Education among Retirees: The DINNER Study." This grant was given for a research project that demonstrates the value of dietetics professionals on the health of the public or illustrates the evolving role of dietetics professionals in the profession.

Andi Gillen, director of the RISE Center, procured funding from local school systems to support RISE programming for the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. April Kendrick, director of Child Development Resources, secured funding to support ongoing programs such as PAL and BabyTALK and a number of special projects including a grant to bring childcare providers together to talk about challenges and barriers they face, Help Me Grow Alabama, Healthy Kids Healthy Future and the Child Wellness Council - Project Hope Now.

Dr. Linda Knol, HN faculty, received funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama for the project "Mindful Eating for Early Childhood Program Providers."

Dr. Adam Knowlden, HS faculty, secured multi-year funding from the National Institutes of Health for his study, "Adiposity and Sleep-Associated Cardiometabolic Disease Risk Factors."

Dr. Madelaine L'Esperance, CSM faculty, received funding from the American Institutes for Research and the UW-Madison Retirement and Disability Research Center for "Youth Employment and Financial Well-being: Does Work in High School Build Financial Capability?" and "Junior Scholars in Training" respectively.

Dr. Heather Love, HDFS faculty, was funded by the Mary A. Crenshaw Endowed Research Fund to complete the study "Exploratory Study of Barriers to Help-Seeking and an Unstructured E-Bibliotherapy Intervention for Individuals with Suicidal Thoughts."

Dr. Ryan Moran, AT faculty, secured funding from the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association (SEATA) to study "Individual and combined effects of a history of concussion and ACL injury on neurological performance and quality-of-life."

Dr. Han-A Park, HN faculty, and fellow researcher, Yonghyun (John) Kim, chemical and biological engineering department in the College of Engineering, received funding from the Alabama Life Institute for a pilot project entitled: "Fluid shear stress-induced reactive oxygen species response during cancer metastasis." This study addresses cancer, which is the second leading cause of death in the United States. A major obstacle in oncology is developing appropriate chemotherapeutics that target circulating tumor cells in their native FSS environment. The researchers' goal is to gain better fundamental insights into the CTC biology in the presence of biophysical FSS. Dr. Park also received CHES funds to study "Regulation of N-Bcl-xL-mediated Mitochondrial Death Pore in Hippocampal Neurons."

Dr. Angelia Paschal, HS faculty, received funding from the Alabama Department of Public Health for research focused on the evaluation of nutrition education and physical activity programs that are part of the Alabama State Partnership Initiative to Address Health Disparities.

Dr. Jason Scofield, HDFS faculty, is studying "The Effect of Parent Technology Use on Parent-child Interactions and Child Development Outcomes" with a grant from Alabama Women's Commission.

In a collaborative effort between HN and hospitality management (HM) faculty, researchers will examine factors tied to students' perceptions of Alabama-grown produce and create a plan to increase awareness and consumption. The principal investigators are **Dr. Yeon Ho Shin** and **Dr. Seung Eun Jung** with Co-PIs, **Alvin Niuh** and **Dr. Kimberly Severt**. The Eat Local research project funded through a grant from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries aims to help students to make informed food choices, preserve natural resources and ensure food security for future generations.

Dr. Shatina Chen, HM faculty, and collaborators Drs. Kimberly Severt and Yeon Ho Shin, HM faculty, received a grant from the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) for "Women Leadership in the Meeting Industry."

Drs. Libo Tan and Lingyan Kong, HN faculty, received a grant from the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries to continue their research on the nutritional quality of microgreens.

Dr. Xiao Tong, Clothing and Textiles faculty, received a UA Research Grants Committee (RGC) Award for "Retail Apocalypse's Impacts and Opportunities for Local Retailers."

Dr. Casey Totenhagen, HDFS faculty, received CHES funds to study "Finances and Relationships in Same-Gender Couples." She also received the APLUS research award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an award designed to promote multidisciplinary research and policy discourse on the financial well-being of young adults through scholarly publications
.

Dr. Jessica Wallace, AT faculty, received funding from the National Athletic Trainers' Association International Committee for the "Preliminary Exploration of Baseline Concussion Measures Among Zambian Football Athletes." Wallace also received funds from UA's Capstone International Center for the study.

Drs. Melissa Wilmarth, KT Kim, CSM faculty, and Tae Young Pak were awarded a grant from the National Endowment for Financial Education to investigate how financial literacy is measured in survey research. This team hopes that the findings will help researchers assess the depth of financial illiteracy in a variety of populations and institutional settings, understand how to control for psychological confounders when evaluating financial education programs, and ultimately lead to improved financial capability and financial well-being of individuals and households.

Dr. Tricia Witte, HDFS faculty, is Co-PI on a HRSA grant combatting the nation's opioid crisis. The grant was awarded to UA to plan, develop, operate or maintain graduate programs in behavioral health practice to train psychologists to work with underserved populations.

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