To the families of our graduates:

What an exciting weekend lies ahead of you! Commencement is a special time for you to celebrate the achievements of your student. Congratulations are certainly in order for our graduates, but for you as well! Strong support from family allows our students to maximize their potential, reaching and exceeding the goals they set.

As you spend time on our campus this weekend, I hope you will enjoy seeing the lawns and halls where your student has created memories to last a lifetime. It has been our privilege and pleasure to be their home for these last few years, and we consider them forever part of our UA family. We hope you will join them and return to visit our campus to keep this relationship going for years to come.

Because we consider this such a valuable time for you to celebrate your student’s accomplishments, my wife, Susan, and I host a reception at our home for graduates and their families. We always look forward to this time, and we would be delighted if you would join us at the President’s Mansion from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 3.

Best wishes for a wonderful weekend, and Roll Tide!

Sincerely,

Stuart R. Bell

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 3**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Reception for graduates and their families
Hosted by President and Mrs. Stuart R. Bell
President’s Mansion

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Commencement ceremony
Capstone College of Nursing
College of Arts and Sciences
College of Communication and Information Sciences
College of Education
College of Engineering
College of Human Environmental Sciences
Culverhouse College of Business
School of Social Work

Ceremony will last approximately 2 hours.

Out of respect for our graduates and their families, all guests should remain in their seats until the conclusion of the ceremony.
seating for those using wheelchairs or other mobility aids is on the main concourse level of Coleman Coliseum. These areas are open to guests on a first-come, first-served basis. One person may accompany the individual requiring the accessible seating. Additional accessible seating is found at the various portal entrances into the arena. Look for the wheelchair-accessible symbol on the end of the chair rows.

Accessible parking is located on the east side of the Coliseum. University Parking Services personnel will greet you there. Please enter from the Second Avenue entrance off Paul W. Bryant Drive. A state-issued accessibility placard or a state-issued accessibility plate is required.

Guests or graduates in need of wheelchairs or other mobility aids should make provisions to bring those with them. Wheelchairs and other mobility aids are not provided at Coleman Coliseum or at Crimson Ride locations. A wheelchair lift is available for graduates to access the Commencement stage.

Accommodations for those who are deaf or hard of hearing will be provided in the form of an American Sign Language interpreter who will be located on the Commencement stage. The interpreter will appear on the video board in the arena throughout the ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Guests can expect to take candid photos with their graduates after the ceremony. Portrait-style photographs will be taken prior to the ceremony in the Indoor Practice Facility. During the ceremony, official photographers will be on the floor taking photos of each graduate as they receive their diploma and shake hands with the president. They will also take candid photographs. Proofs of these photos will be made available to the student and/or parent along with information on how to order prints.

LIVE VIDEO STREAM

Commencement will be streamed live via the University’s website so family and friends not able to attend can watch the ceremony. This live feed can be accessed at UA.edu a few minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. Viewers can simply click the link to watch the ceremony. The live stream also will be posted to the Commencement website www.ua.edu/commencement after the ceremony and will remain there for approximately 30 days following the ceremony. It will then be available on the archive page of the website.

ASSEMBLY LOCATION FOR GRADUATES

There is no rehearsal for the Commencement ceremony. All graduating students should arrive 90 minutes before the start of the ceremony. They will report to the Indoor Practice Facility, which is located immediately adjacent to Coleman Coliseum on the west side. Upon arrival, they will report to their College’s administrator and line up alphabetically.

All graduates will take their portrait photos during this time. This is the ONLY time these photos will be taken. Late arrivals risk not having their photo taken and not participating in the procession.

WHAT GRADUATES NEED TO BRING

All graduates should bring their regalia items, including any hoods, mortarboards, gowns and cords. Purses and bags should be left with family members. If essentials are needed, graduates should only bring a small, wallet-style purse. Storage for personal items will not be provided.

ATTIRE FOR GRADUATES

All graduates are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes. Please consider wearing long-sleeve cotton shirts, slacks, skirts or dresses. Ties are optional.

TICKETS

No tickets are required for Commencement. Seating in the arena is on a first-come, first-served basis. The ceremony is heavily attended so we recommend that family members plan to arrive early and be seated at least 30-45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

Because seating is open, we kindly ask that you not save seats by any means other than someone sitting in the seat. A large video screen located in the center of the arena can be seen from all directions. This makes viewing the ceremony easy for everyone in attendance.

GUESTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Guests with accessibility accommodation needs may enter Coleman Coliseum by way of the ramp located in front of the Coliseum or at the northeast spiral. The front entrance places you on the main concourse where the accessible seating areas are located. The northeast spiral entrance is at street level from the accessible parking location. If using the northeast entrance, take the elevator to the main concourse level. Accessible
PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Commencement parking on campus is free. Free shuttle service is also provided via Crimson Ride buses from select parking lots. Please see the enclosed parking map (Page 12-13). Due to reserved parking at Coleman Coliseum, there is very limited public parking. However, Crimson Ride shuttles will transport guests directly to the Coliseum entrance.

Those needing to drop off guests can do so in the circle in front of Coleman Coliseum. This can be accessed from Paul W. Bryant Drive on the west side of the baseball stadium.

Reserved parking for those with accessibility needs is available in the Coleman Coliseum parking lot which is accessible from the Second Avenue entrance off of Paul W. Bryant Drive. Admission to the Coleman Coliseum parking lot is by State-issued accessibility placard or plates only.

DINING TIPS

Tuscaloosa has a number of excellent restaurants where you can celebrate with your graduate. Most do not take reservations for lunch, and only a few take reservations for dinner. Some dining establishments offer private rooms for small to large gatherings. You will want to plan ahead and check availability of reservations or special accommodations. A dining guide can be found at http://visittuscaloosa.com.
Adapted Athletics Facility
alabamadapted.com
The facility, the first of its kind in the nation, contains the Stran-Hardin Arena, which plays host to men’s and women’s wheelchair basketball games. UA also sponsors competitive wheelchair tennis. The facility is only open to the public during competitions, so be sure to check the website for upcoming events.

Alabama Museum of Natural History (Smith Hall)
amnh.ua.edu
Museum exhibits show off Alabama’s rich natural history, including fossil tracks, skulls and skeletons, a Basilosaurus cetoides – the state fossil of Alabama – and rocks and minerals.

Bryant-Denny Stadium/Walk of Champions
rolltide.com/sports/2016/6/10/facilities-bryant-denny-html.aspx
The Walk of Champions, featuring relief tributes to UA’s championship football teams as well as statues of Bear Bryant, Nick Saban and other championship-winning football coaches, is outside the stadium and free and open to the public. Ticketed tours are available in advance for $12.

The Corner
A popular destination for students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Corner on Bryant Drive is the home to Starbucks and the Supe Store, which features the latest in UA apparel and merchandise.

Denny Chimes
The tower was named in honor of former University president George H. Denny. Completed in 1929, Denny Chimes offers carillon performances. Outside the chimes, concrete blocks – the Walk of Fame – display handprints, footprints and names of UA football captains, including Joe Namath, Derrick Thomas and Amari Cooper.

Ferguson Student Center
ferguson.ua.edu
The center contains a theatre, where films and presentations frequently occur, as well as a ballroom, conference rooms, and offices for student government and student-related activities, a Starbucks and a food court. There is also a Supe Store in the Ferguson Center where you can purchase officially licensed UA merchandise.

Foster Auditorium
Built in 1939, Foster Auditorium is listed on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail. Outside the auditorium stands the Malone-Hood Plaza and Atherine Lucy Clock Tower, which honor the three people who integrated The University of Alabama: Atherine Lucy, Vivian Malone Jones and James Hood. The UA volleyball team also plays its matches in the facility.

Gorgas House
gorgashouse.ua.edu
Built in 1829, the Gorgas House is the oldest structure on campus and one of seven buildings to survive the campus Civil War burning in 1865.

Gorgas Library
lib.ua.edu/collections/williams
The library has several rotating exhibits a year in the Pearce Foyer on the second floor. It also features the A. S. Williams III Americana Collection, which contains displays of printed matter from the history of the South.

Graves Hall
The home to the College of Education, Graves Hall also holds historic significance as the site of the Atherine Lucy Foster historic marker. The marker was dedicated on September 15, 2017, to recognize the civil rights hero for her courage in opening doors and creating the opportunity for all races to attend the University.

Manderson Landing (on Jack Warner Parkway)
The site of a former lock on the Black Warrior River, The Park at Manderson Landing features walking trails, picnic areas, a great view of the river and the boat house for the UA Rowing Team. The site also features occasional rowing regattas during the academic year and Shakespearean performances in the summer.

Marr’s Spring
Tucked behind the Ferguson Center lies Marr’s Spring, originally the university’s main water source. The area encompasses the spring and a man-made lake, both surrounded by a walking path, and multiple benches. It is a great spot to unwind or have a picnic.

Observatory (Galileae Hall)
aronomy.ua.edu/public-events
The observatory offers a series of Public Nights for astronomical viewing both on the UA campus and at Moundville Archaeological Park, weather permitting.

Paul W. Bryant Museum
bryantmuseum.com
The museum collects, preserves and exhibits items and disseminates information on UA sports history. See Bear Bryant’s office, a Hall of Honor, the Tide Through Time timeline as well as memorabilia and artifacts.

President’s Mansion (opposite the Quad)
The President’s Mansion was built originally in 1841 and survived the 1865 Civil War burning of the campus. The building serves as the private residence for the UA president. It also serves as a reception center for dignitaries and events hosted by the president.

The Round House (next to Gorgas Library)
Built in Gothic revival style in 1860, the Round House served as a guard house during the University’s days as a military school, and is now a memorial to all UA honor societies. It can be viewed and photographed from the outside, no entrance is allowed.

Sarah Moody Gallery of Art (Garland Hall)
art.ua.edu
Part of the department of art and art history, the gallery has a schedule of art exhibits by contemporary artists as well as UA faculty and its permanent collection.

Student Recreation Center
urec.ua.edu
The Student Recreation Center features a large cardio area with equipment; weight room and group exercise studios; four-lane lap pool and outdoor pool complex; courts for basketball, racquetball and tennis; and climbing wall. Open to the public for a daily fee of $10; photo ID required.

Woods Quad
art.ua.edu/category/woods-quad-sculpture-garden
The original campus quadrangle built after the Civil War and the site of the first Alabama football game, Woods Quad now holds a Sculpture Garden. Currently, five sculptures occupy the quad grounds, including Goldie, a robot lying on its side, which was forged at Sloss Furnace in Birmingham.
OFF-CAMPUS ATTRACTIONS AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY

Alabama Birding Trails
alabamabirdingtrails.com/trails/west-alabama
One of eight trails, the West Alabama area features 28 sites in a nine-county region. Sites in Tuscaloosa County are Lake Harris, Lake Lurleen State Park, Lake Nicol, Rocky Branch Park and the UA Arboretum.

Moundville Archaeological Park
(634 Mound State Parkway)
moundville.ua.edu
Moundville Archaeological Park was the site of a powerful prehistoric community that, at its peak in the 14th century, was America’s largest city north of Mexico. On the Black Warrior River 13 miles south of Tuscaloosa, the park preserves massive flat-topped earthen pyramids, arranged around a vast central plaza. The park frequently hosts hands-on events that are included with regular admission.

Mildred Westervelt Warner Transportation Museum (Queen City Avenue just off Jack Warner Parkway)
warnertransportationmuseum.com
The museum features displays describing the development of Tuscaloosa as a transportation hub through its riverfront and, later, its railroad and highway connections.

Paul R. Jones Museum (2308 Sixth St.)
paulrjonescollection.as.ua.edu
The museum in downtown Tuscaloosa houses exhibits drawn from the Paul R. Jones Collection of American Art, one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of 20th-century African-American art in the world.

UA Arboretum (4801 Arboretum Way)
The Arboretum features walking trails through a native woodland, a wildflower garden, a collection of ornamental plants, an experimental garden, an outdoor stage and a children’s garden.
SEATING LOCATIONS

Graduates will be in the three seating sections on the arena floor as outlined below. All seating locations should be considered approximate. When degrees are conferred, graduates will ascend the stage on the right and descend on the left.

Seating for guests in the arena is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Accessible seating is on the main concourse level. One person may accompany the individual in the accessible seating.

COMMENCEMENT STAGE

STAGE EXIT

STAGE ENTRANCE

GETTING TO CAMPUS

DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO CAMPUS

From Birmingham, AL – exit I-59/20 onto U.S. 82 (McFarland Blvd.) Take the University Blvd. exit and turn right (west). This will bring you to the UA campus.

From Meridian, MS – exit I-59/20 onto I-359 into Tuscaloosa. I-359 ends onto Lurleen B. Wallace Blvd. Turn right at University Blvd. and travel east through downtown Tuscaloosa to the UA campus.

From Jasper, AL – take Hwy. 69 south. After crossing the Black Warrior River bridge, turn left onto University Blvd. Travel east through downtown Tuscaloosa to the UA campus.

From Moundville, AL – travel north on Hwy. 69. which becomes I-359 at the I-59/20 interchange. I-359 ends onto Lurleen B. Wallace Boulevard. Turn right at University Blvd. and travel east through downtown Tuscaloosa to the UA campus.

From Mobile or Demopolis, AL – travel north on U.S. 43 to I-59/20. Exit I-59/20 at the U.S. 82 (McFarland Blvd.) interchange. Turn left onto McFarland Blvd. Travel north to the University Blvd. exit. At University Blvd. turn right and travel west to the UA campus.

From Montgomery, AL – take U.S. 82 west to Tuscaloosa. Proceed past the I-59/20 interchange to the University Blvd. exit. At University Blvd. turn right and travel west to the UA campus.

From Columbus, MS – take U.S. 82 east. After crossing the Black Warrior River bridge, take the University Blvd. exit. Turn right onto University Blvd. and travel west to the UA campus.
While The University of Alabama is known for its legendary success in athletics, we have many other legends who are making their mark nationally and internationally in other areas. These are just a few of our legendary alumni.

ENTREPRENEURS

- Millard Fuller
  - Founder
  - Habitat for Humanity
- Joe Gibbs
  - Co-founder
  - Golf Channel
- John Hendricks
  - Founder
  - Discovery Channel
- Thien Rainer
  - President and CEO
  - LifeWay Christian Resources

BUSINESS LEADERS

- Marilyn Hewson
  - Chairman/President/CEO
  - Lockheed Martin
- Bruce Culpepper
  - President
  - Shell Oil
- Nan Boden
  - Head of Global Alliances
  - Google
- Chris Emerson
  - President
  - Airbus Helicopters
- Sam DiPiazza
  - Chairman
  - The Mayo Clinic
- Vicki Hollub
  - President/CEO
  - Occidental Petroleum

AUTHORS

- Harper Lee
  - To Kill a Mockingbird
- Lynne Olson
  - Corazon
- Kathryn Stockett
  - The Help
- Gay Talese
  - Honor Thy Father
- Mark Childress
  - The Help
- Harper Lee
  - To Kill a Mockingbird
- Winston Groom
  - Forrest Gump
- Kathryn Stockett
  - The Help
- Gay Talese
  - Honor Thy Father
- Mark Childress
  - The Help

STAGE AND SCREEN

- Sela Ward
  - Emmy Award-winning actress
- Jim Nabors
  - The Andy Griffith Show
- Anjelica Huston
  - The Walking Dead, Star Trek: Discovery
- Michael Luwoye
  - Hamilton (Broadway)
- Rece Davis
  - ESPN anchor and host
- Michael Emerson
  - Lost, Person of Interest

SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2018

Homecoming is a great time to reconnect with friends and former classmates. This year’s Homecoming festivities will be held Saturday, October 13 when the Crimson Tide faces the University of Missouri at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Contact The University of Alabama Alumni Association for more details. ua.edu/alumni

JOIN US AT FAMILY WEEKEND ON SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2018!

We are excited to announce that Family Weekend will be held September 28-30, 2018. It will be a weekend full of fun, food and tradition! Registration is open!

The Crimson Tide will take on the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin’ Cajuns at Bryant-Denny Stadium on Saturday. There will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy campus life, spend time with your student and get to know the resources that UA has available for your family. A schedule will be posted in the spring.

Mark your calendars for a weekend of fun with your family and the UA family!