

**Resolution Honoring University of Alabama Student Members
of the 2003 USA Today All-USA College Academic Team**

WHEREAS, five University of Alabama students have been named to the 2003 *USA Today* All-USA College Academic Team, the largest number of students from UA ever named to the *USA Today* team in one year and the most named from any college or university this year, claiming five of 83 spots on the list; and

WHEREAS, named to the First Team was Sarah Adair, a senior microbiology major, who hopes to pursue biomedical research. Named to the Third Team were: Kana Ellis, a senior psychology major who plans to attend law school; Allison Kellogg, a senior dance major who hopes to pursue a career in the performing arts; and Gabriel Walvatne, a senior interdisciplinary studies major who plans to attend law school. Receiving an Honorable Mention was Laura Medders, a senior journalism major who wants to be involved with urban community development; and

WHEREAS, since 1991, The University of Alabama has placed 22 students on the list. Critical in the process are faculty members who teach and identify competitive students, invite them to apply, help craft the applications, and mentor them through the process. This year's faculty mentors included Dr. Bob Halli, director of the UA Honors Program, Dr. Fran O'Neal, director of the International Honors Program and manager of the Honors Program, and Dr. Hank Lazer, professor of English and assistant vice president for academic affairs; and

WHEREAS, *USA Today* selects the "best of the best," what it considers the top 20 students in the nation for its First Team and includes Second and Third teams and Honorable Mentions in its "All American Academic Team." Students are chosen for their grades, awards and activities, leadership roles and their ability to use their academic skills outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, a Barry Goldwater Scholar, Adair received a scholarship for her potential as a future scientist, a Phi Kappa Phi Research Award, and a research grant to help fund her undergraduate research in the Caldwell biology lab. Last year she received the McWane Foundation Research Fellowship to begin funding her Parkinson's research. Adair is also active in the community. Two nights a week for the past three years she has volunteered for the Good Samaritan clinic in Tuscaloosa – a free clinic that serves patients who have no insurance and limited income. Adair also founded a student journal to help students publish their own scientific research and testified before an Environmental Protection Agency subcommittee on the pollution of Alabama's groundwater supply; and

WHEREAS, last year's National Honors Student of the Year, Ellis has received numerous scholarships including the William P. Bloom Scholarship Award, the Henry Pettus Randall III Scholarship, which recognizes the most outstanding research project for the year, and the XXXI Amanda Taylor Watson Scholarship, given to the top XXXI student. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society, Mortar Board Honor Society, and other honoraries. Active in numerous civic endeavors, including Habitat for Humanity, Ellis saw a need to introduce honors freshmen to the university setting before their freshman year and created a program called Alabama Action. She has delivered several national presentations on how to have successful honors program student associations and summer opportunities for honors students; and

WHEREAS, recipient of the James B. Rogers Jr. Mortar Board Scholarship and the Miss America Community Service Award, Kellogg is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Society, Lambda Sigma, Cardinal Key and Blue Key. A dancer, she has performed in the Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre and is a member of Dance Alabama. Kellogg was named a 2002 Point of Light Foundation National Volunteer of the Day and received the Doublemint Aces For Campus Excellence Award, a national grant given for her work in providing underprivileged children with dance classes. She teaches free dance classes through a program called "A Time To Dance." She has several on-going school programs where she mentors students and classes, including Make A Difference Day. She also created a program called "Star Kids," which teaches children how to use their gifts and talents to serve the community. She designed coloring books and program pamphlets and produced a video for the now copyrighted project.

WHEREAS, As part of his undergraduate McNair Scholarship, Walvatne conducted original survey research in criminal justice, which will be published in UA's "McNair Scholars Journal." He began by studying the attitudes of Tuscaloosa County criminal justice professionals toward victims, offenders, the community and the criminal justice system. By comparing these answers to the restorative justice principles of the system, victims and offenders, he was able to determine if the participants would be open to this innovative approach to justice. He has presented the results of his research at three professional conferences. He has received numerous awards and honors: Academic Walk-On Scholarship, Outstanding Sophomore, the Samuel Thomas Barnes IV Memorial Scholarship, the McKinley Student Excellence Award; and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society award. A talented writer, he is the senior editor of the New College Review, a nonfiction undergraduate magazine written and produced by New College students.

WHEREAS, through her Computer-Based Honors minor, Medders is developing a database and template for grant writing at the Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center,

which will enable the agency to apply for larger and more complex grants with greater ease. Her study of social inequality and educational gaps in the United States as part of her journalism major has prompted her to write for several publications both on and off campus. She has received numerous honors and awards: First Place, Georgia Associated Press Association for Deadline Reporting, Randall Undergraduate Research Award, Journalism Academic Achievement Award, XXXI's Women's Honor Society, and Outstanding Sophomore in the Computer-Based Honors Program. Her many activities include: Circle K International Service Club, Crescent East Housing Projects tutor; Holt Middle School's GEAR UP Program tutor, A Time to Dance volunteer teaching jazz, ballet and modern dance classes to boys and girls in local housing projects, and Kid's Club volunteer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Faculty Senate of The University of Alabama that it commends these five students for their excellence in academics, service and leadership and congratulates them on their being named to the *USA Today* All-USA College Academic Team.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate also expresses its gratitude to the faculty who aided and mentored these outstanding students to achieving the honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be included in the permanent minutes of the Senate.

Proposed by Student Affairs Committee

Adopted unanimously by the Faculty Senate

March 18, 2003