



FAITHFUL, LOYAL, FIRM & TRUE

2023-2024
YEAR IN REVIEW

Alabama, listen, Mother,
To our vows of love,
To thyself and to each other,
Faithful friends we'll prove.
Faithful, loyal, firm and true,
Heart bound to heart will beat.
Year by year, the ages through
Until in Heaven we meet.
College days are swiftly fleeting,
Soon we'll leave their halls
Ne'er to join another meeting
'Neath their hallowed walls.
Faithful, loyal, firm and true
Heart bound to heart will beat
Year by year, the ages through
Until in Heaven we meet.
So, farewell, dear Alma Mater
May thy name, we pray,
Be rev'renced ever, pure, and stainless
As it is today.
Faithful, loyal, firm and true
Heart bound to heart will beat
Year by year, the ages through
Until in Heaven we meet.





FAITHFUL, LOYAL, FIRM & TRUE

In 1908 undergraduate Helen Vickers penned our alma mater. She captured the core of the Capstone's identity in one line. And now, more than a century later, we remain **faithful, loyal, firm and true.**

We are faithful to our mission of teaching, research and service. We are loyal to our students, to the people of Alabama and to future generations around the world, who count on us to make a better society, one filled with potential and creativity.

We are firm, rising above obstacles and through challenges. We are true, with a core of integrity that empowers us to live authentically and hopefully.

And wherever we go, across the decades and the miles, our hearts are bound by the love we have for our University and the pride we feel in being part of it.



Dear Friend of the Capstone,

As we reflect on the past year, I am struck by the enduring qualities that define our institution: faithfulness to our mission, determined progress and pride in what we collectively accomplish. The timeless values found in our beloved alma mater still guide our commitment to our mission of teaching, research and service of the highest caliber.

We serve as faithful stewards of knowledge, empowering students to evolve into critical thinkers, compassionate leaders and engaged citizens. Through pioneering research and initiatives, we are addressing pressing global issues and enhancing lives.

Our loyalty transcends campus boundaries, embracing the communities we serve and future generations. We remain dedicated to equipping and empowering every student in their pursuit of excellence.

Together, we surmount barriers, viewing them as opportunities for growth and transformation. With resilience and determination, we defy limitations, inspiring others to join our quest for knowledge and discovery.

We stand firm in our commitment to integrity, shaping not just our future but also generations to come. With our UA community leading innovation and progress, we'll continue to uphold our alma mater's proud legacy, ensuring that The University of Alabama remains at the forefront of shaping the future.

ROLL TIDE!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart R. Bell".

Stuart R. Bell
President

ENROLLMENT

2023-2024

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

39,623
STUDENTS

FROM ALL
67 ALABAMA COUNTIES,
ALL **50** STATES, THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AND **92** COUNTRIES

NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARS:
1,142

FRESHMAN CLASS

AVERAGE
HIGH SCHOOL GPA:
3.87

4.0 HIGH SCHOOL GPA:
43.4%

IN-STATE FOCUS

3,184
FRESHMEN FROM
ALABAMA

MOST IN-STATE
FRESHMEN SINCE
2010

5TH
CONSECUTIVE
YEAR OF IN-STATE
INCREASE

BY THE NUMBERS

UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES WITH FEWER
THAN 20 STUDENTS:

48%

STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO:

19-TO-1

FACULTY FULBRIGHTS:

6

STUDENT FULBRIGHTS:

14

SECOND-YEAR RETENTION RATE:

86.1%

PELL STUDENTS IN FIRST-TIME,
FULL-TIME COHORT:

20.2%





\$2.9 BILLION

STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR THE
2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

\$15.47

IMPACT PER DOLLAR APPROPRIATED BY
THE STATE TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE
2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

37

FACULTY WITH NSF CAREER AWARDS

13

ATHLETIC TEAMS SCORED 90-OR-BETTER
IN 2023 NCAA GRADUATION
SUCCESS RATES

11

CRIMSON TIDE TEAMS SPORTED A
PERFECT 100 FOR THIS YEAR'S GSR,
WITH EACH TOPPING THE SEC IN THEIR
RESPECTIVE SPORT

RESOURCES

One way we live out our loyalty to students, faculty and staff is by investing in and tailoring the resources needed to excel now and in the future.

CATHERINE AND PETTUS RANDALL WELCOME CENTER

In a recent survey conducted by Niche.com, nearly 70% of high school students said a good campus visit experience could significantly increase their interest in a college or university. And with the **Catherine and Pettus Randall Welcome Center at Bryce Main**, no one provides a better campus visit experience than The University of Alabama. The RWC is the new front door to the Capstone, especially for Undergraduate Admissions campus tours. The more-than-**15,000-square-foot** RWC includes a lounge, theater, multiple galleries and the one-of-a-kind Roll Tide Room, providing an immersive game day experience.

More than 8,000 people visited the RWC within the first three months of its opening on Jan. 19, 2024, including more than **3,000 prospective students** and their families. Research routinely shows campus visits are where many students are “sold” on a college or university, so the importance of that first impression cannot be overstated. The RWC is and will continue to be a powerful tool in showcasing the Alabama experience, especially at this pivotal time, keeping UA ahead of the game as college enrollment numbers across the country continue to decline.

UA LIBRARIES

In 2023-2024, University Libraries faculty in Research Data Services provided transformative resources and instruction on Geographic Information Systems and High Performance Computing which supports the University’s rapid growth in the research enterprise. Coding workshops were provided for UA students and faculty to increase innovation and technology initiatives. Notably, the creation of the nationally recognized Scholarly API Cookbook has empowered the UA community with tools on text and data mining across multiple programming languages.



University Libraries collaborates with faculty across campus to develop coding scripts for cutting-edge projects while leveraging classroom integration of technologies that lead to transformative research and learning initiatives across all UA colleges and departments.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN RISES TO NEW HEIGHTS

The University of Alabama's Rising Tide capital campaign is setting a new standard for higher education within the state of Alabama, now aiming for an unprecedented **\$1.8 billion**. With the initial target of \$1.5 billion achieved years ahead of schedule, the University has embarked on The Rising Tide 2.0 — a **20% increase** in the campaign's goal, to be reached by the original end date of Sept. 30, 2026.

In November 2023, the Angelo Bruno Business Library was featured in the American Libraries magazine 2023 library design showcase issue for its stunning renovation. The renovation updated the entire interior with new fixtures, carpet and decor. Twenty new team workrooms were built with modular furniture, whiteboards from floor to ceiling, and large monitors for collaborative research. According to UA Libraries, Bruno Library is seeing a record number of students using the updated spaces and technology.

Through the faithfulness and love of our alumni and supporters, UA continues its progress toward the original campaign pillars for endowed scholarships, endowed faculty and research positions, campus facilities and Crimson Tide Athletics.

THE WITT UNIVERSITY FELLOWS PROGRAM

The University Fellows Experience at The University of Alabama Honors College has been named for its founder and **former UA President Robert E. Witt** following a gift from UA alumna Reta Mudd. Witt, who served as president of the University from 2003 to 2012 and chancellor of The University of Alabama System from 2012 to 2016, continues to support the Honors College as a professor.

Rooted in service with a focus on leadership, Honors College students selected for the **Dr. Robert E. Witt University Fellows Program** earn a minor in social innovation and leadership, develop service projects with partners in the Black Belt and Tuscaloosa communities, and conduct research with UA professors.

The gift will also support the Witt University Fellows Program by:

- Expanding professional development services offered to fellows.
- Providing scholarship support to fellows for summer internship experiences and presentations at academic conferences.
- Establishing seed grants for significant Magnum Opus projects.
- Creating immersion experiences focused on economic development, culture and ecology and supporting shadowing opportunities with professionals in the region.
- Procuring and maintaining an inventory of critical items to support activities of Witt Fellows, such as work tools for the Black Belt Experience, software licenses and audiovisual equipment.

RESEARCH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The University of Alabama remains true to our mission of improving the lives of the people of Alabama and the world through visionary research that powers economic growth. For the 10th straight year, outside support of research and other sponsored activities at UA increased.

One of the fastest-growing major research institutions in the nation, the University saw a **21% increase** in sponsored awards in fiscal year 2023 over the previous year. In all, nearly **\$256 million** in support from external partners boosted research and discovery activities across campus.

PARTNERS FOR THE FUTURE OF WATER TECHNOLOGY

UA and the **Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Authority** are partnering with **Techstars**, the most active pre-seed investor in the world, to bring first-of-its-kind, hydrologic innovation-focused accelerator and pre-accelerator programs to Tuscaloosa.

Techstars WaterTech and Sustainability, an accelerator program for early-stage startups, and Founder Catalyst WaterTech and Sustainability, a pre-accelerator program for idea-stage startups, will create a pathway for founders to progress through their entrepreneurial journeys in building water technology companies.

This partnership is a collective effort to ignite the critically important water technology sector while also highlighting Alabama's tremendous business and innovation opportunities.

The University of Alabama stands as a national hub for water-related research and is home to an unrivaled academic and federal water research enterprise. The **Alabama Water Institute** offers cutting-edge water research addressing water challenges on a local, regional, national and global scale through its affiliated centers and initiatives such as **CIROH** – the **Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology**, the **GWSC** – **Global Water Security Center** and **CONSERVE** – the **Community Oriented Nature-based Science for Ecosystem Restoration and Versatile Engineering** group.



RISING TO THE BATTCHALLENGE

UA is one of 12 North American universities selected for the **Battery Workforce Challenge** collegiate competition. It is managed by Argonne National Laboratory for the United States Department of Energy in partnership with Stellantis and other government and industry sponsors.

During the three-year competition, teams will design a custom battery pack utilizing production battery cells and complete a professional battery design review with the competition's subject matter experts. Once teams meet the rigorous automotive safety and design requirements, they will build, test and integrate their advanced battery packs into a production Stellantis vehicle.

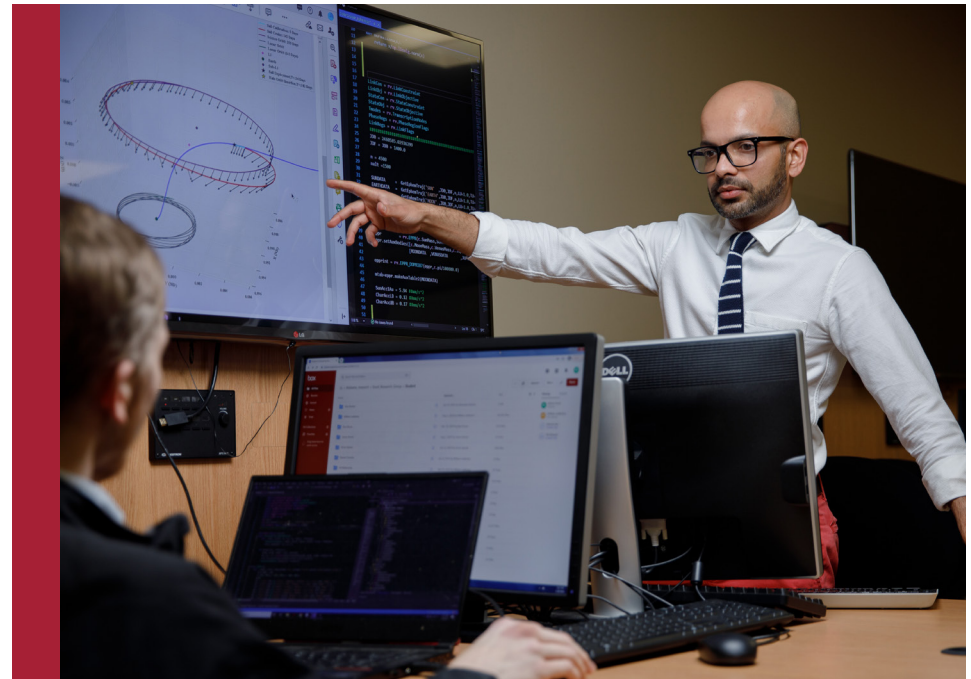
This student-focused, experiential learning program supports UA's strong commitment to lead in transportation electrification including in research and development of EV and battery technologies and in educating and training the future workforce.

THE HPC: EXPANDING INNOVATION OPPORTUNITIES

Approved in 2023, the **High Performance Computing and Data Center** will allow the UA campus to host a large, connected computing system that will be the fastest in the state.

The planned **40,000-square-foot facility** will also enable UA to continue to attract world-leading faculty members who strengthen instruction and co-curricular activities for students, to recruit more high-achieving students and to provide leading-edge educational and workforce development programs. The HPC center positions UA for more industrial, government and peer partnerships that enlarge economic development and intensify discovery particularly in the areas of water, transportation, national security and human well-being.

The **\$96 million** project is planned for completion in 2026.



STUDENT LEADERS

MAJOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

CRITICAL LANGUAGE SCHOLARS
6

HOLLINGS SCHOLARS
3

GOLDWATER SCHOLARS
3

OWENS FELLOWS
3



BOREN SCHOLARS
3

MITCHELL SCHOLARS
2

UDALL SCHOLAR
1

VOYAGER SCHOLAR
1

FULBRIGHTS

The University of Alabama has been recognized as a Top Producing Institution of **Fulbright U.S. Students** for the seventh time in nine years as well as a Top Producing Institution of **Fulbright U.S. Scholars** for the first time. UA is one of 12 universities in the nation to receive both designations.

FULBRIGHT STUDENT AWARDS
14

FULBRIGHT FACULTY AWARDS
6

Below: UA men's basketball senior Max Scharnowski received the NCAA Elite 90 Award, given to the student-athlete with the highest GPA in this year's Final Four. Scharnowski, who also earned the SEC Community Service Award this year, has a 4.0 GPA as a pre-med major.



VOLUNTEERISM

For 30 years the **Center for Service and Leadership** has been the hub for students seeking active and diverse engagement opportunities in the community. Through CSL programs, our students mentor children, raise food for the West Alabama Food Bank, build houses with Habitat for Humanity and serve in many other ways domestically and abroad. Whether in their hometown or in another country, students learn through service to become better citizens of the world.

This year our students invested more than 100,000 hours of service, equal to more than \$3 million.

Below: The student-led group UA Miracle raised \$233,200 for Children's of Alabama, bringing its 13-year fundraising total to \$2.5 million.



ADAPTED ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS

It's been an epic year for UA's adapted athletics programs and student-athletes.

The women's wheelchair basketball team won its fifth consecutive national championship, defeating the University of Texas at Arlington 75-57.

Dani Kanas, a thrower on UA's inaugural Para Track and Field team, became the 2024 National Champion for USA Para Track and Field in the Javelin F46 classification. She also beat her personal record of 27.59 meters.

Four student-athletes represented the U.S. in the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation World Championships in Dubai in June where Team USA earned the bronze medal.

MONTANA FOUTS RECEIVED THE 2023 HONDA SPORT AWARD FOR SOFTBALL

For the first time in program history, an Alabama softball student-athlete won the Honda Sport Award as pitcher Montana Fouts was named the 2023 softball recipient from the Collegiate Women's Sports Awards. The CWSA presents the Honda Sport Award annually to the top women athletes across 12 NCAA-sanctioned sports, signifying "the best of the best" in college athletics.



A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF ALL AGES

RISE

Since 1974, the **UA RISE Center** has served children with special needs and their traditional learner peers. There are six RISE programs across the country and RISE Tuscaloosa is the only program that does not charge tuition to families with children who have special needs. The center's REACH program offers job opportunities to adults with special needs.

Right: Just a short walk from the RISE Center is Capstone Village, a premier residential community for active retirees, also offering assisted living and memory care.



FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

The University of Alabama is recognized as a **First-Gen Forward** institution. The First-Gen Forward designation is a national honor that recognizes institutions of higher education that have demonstrated a commitment to improving experiences and advancing outcomes of first-gen college students. Twenty-five percent of the current freshman class are first-gen students.

Left: In November, UA held its inaugural First-Gen Week of Celebration.

A TOP 5 MILITARY FRIENDLY CAMPUS

The University has once again been named a top military friendly school, and now a top military spouse friendly school.

Below: Members of UA's Campus Veterans Association marched alongside Auburn's Student Veterans Association for Operation Iron Ruck, an annual march to call attention to the 22 veterans lost to suicide daily.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

More than 1,100 students from 92 foreign countries chose to study at UA in fall 2023. Events such as the Holi Festival allow students, staff and faculty from across campus to meet and mingle.

BEAUTIFUL BAMA

UA has been named a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation nine consecutive times and is regularly ranked as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the nation, accolades earned through the hard work and dedication of many Facilities and Grounds staff.

To safeguard the future supply of trees that make up so much of the beauty of campus, Facilities and Grounds now has its own tree farm, cultivating new trees from the seeds and cuttings of mature trees, especially the striking oaks, magnolias and ginkgoes on campus.

The University of Alabama encompasses 1,400 acres with wide green spaces, ponds and an urban tree canopy made up of more than 12,000 trees.

FACILITY GROWTH

30
COMPLETED
CAPITAL
PROJECTS

APPROXIMATELY
**\$135
MILLION**
COMPLETED
PROJECT VALUE

APPROXIMATELY
250,000 NEW
AND ACTIVATED
GROSS SQUARE
FOOTAGE



DRUMMOND LYON HALL opened just in time for the fall semester. Part of the College of Human Environmental Sciences, the 25,000-square-foot facility houses The Fashion Archive historical garment and textiles collection, a conservation laboratory, exhibition galleries, two cutting-edge studio classrooms, flex space for receptions or lectures, and offices for fashion retailing and apparel design faculty.

THE RANDALL WELCOME CENTER provides an exciting new front door for the University where visitors are engaged and immersed in all aspects of UA's history and campus experiences.

The RWC is part of nearly 118,000 square feet of renovation and additions at this site on the Bryce Campus including the Smith Family Center for the Performing Arts, which ceremonially broke ground in October 2023.

THE SMITH FAMILY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, a state-of-the-art facility, will accommodate UA's ever-growing theatre, dance and opera programs. The center will connect to the restored Bryce Main, which houses the Randall Welcome Center, and is scheduled for completion in 2026.

THE SHELBY HALL AND THE EAST QUAD ENERGY PLANTS recently joined in the next phase of the Central Campus Thermal Energy Project. The energy plants provided chilled water and hot water to the air conditioning units across campus to provide comfortable temperatures for students, faculty and staff.

THE SHELBY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP, housed in newly renovated Tuomey Hall, will provide a premier, immersive learning community for students committed to shaping public policy and focus on nurturing and equipping the next generation of leaders through the Shelby Scholars program.

ATHLETICS

NICK SABAN ANNOUNCED RETIREMENT AFTER 17 SEASONS AT ALABAMA

Alabama's Nick Saban, who won more college football national championships than any coach in the modern era, announced his retirement in January 2024. The mark that Coach Saban and Terry Saban leave on the University and its campus community will have ripple effects for years to come.



28 YEARS as a college head coach

Coached in the NFL for **TWO** seasons with the Miami Dolphins

SEVEN national titles; **SIX** championships while coaching the Crimson Tide

In **10 SEASONS** of the College Football Playoff, Saban's Crimson Tide teams qualified eight times.

297-71-1 (.806) collegiate coaching record, including a 206-29 (.877) mark in Tuscaloosa.

His teams won a combined **11 SEC TITLES**, going 11-1 in SEC Championship games, including nine at Alabama (9-1 record).

Alabama was ranked **NO. 1** in the Associated Press Poll for at least one week for 15 straight years (2008-2022).

Saban coached **FOUR HEISMAN TROPHY WINNERS**, the only coach to ever coach Heisman Trophy winners at three different positions.

Since Saban's arrival in 2007, Alabama football has seen **656 DEGREES** earned, including 103 master's degrees.

The Nick's Kids Foundation is a vibrant example of the family's continuing concern for disadvantaged children. Over **\$12 MILLION** has been distributed to students, teachers and children's causes at over 150 charities through the Nick's Kids Foundation, and more than 20 Habitat for Humanity homes built.



Chris Robinson celebrates individual NCAA title.

TRACK AND FIELD STUDENT-ATHLETES MADE HISTORY

Distance runner Doris Lemngole became Alabama's first national champion in the 3,000-meter steeplechase after running a lifetime-best 9:15.24 to secure the collegiate, meet and school records.

Chris Robinson won the Crimson Tide's first outdoor individual NCAA title since 2021 and the program's first individual win in the 400-meter hurdles.



Alabama defeated Georgia 27-24 to win its 30th SEC football championship.

KALEN DEBOER NAMED HEAD COACH OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL

Kalen DeBoer, who received seven 2023 National Coach of the Year awards, was named the Crimson Tide's 28th head coach in January 2024. DeBoer came to Tuscaloosa after spending the last two seasons at the University of Washington. In his nine seasons as a head coach, DeBoer won 104 games while only losing 12, which includes a 25-3 record with the Huskies. In 2023, he led Washington to the College Football Playoff National Championship Game, won the Pac-12 Championship, and recorded the most wins in a season in program history (14).



FILIP PLANINSEK MADE HISTORY BY WINNING ALABAMA'S FIRST NCAA SINGLES TITLE

Planinsek made UA men's tennis program history recording the Crimson Tide's first-ever NCAA title in addition to claiming the school's first-ever singles crown between the men's and women's tennis programs. No. 29 Planinsek posted a thrilling 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-2 come-from-behind win against No. 23 Michael Zheng (Columbia) to capture the victory and take his spot atop the NCAA.

ALABAMA REACHED ITS FIRST-EVER MEN'S BASKETBALL FINAL FOUR

The men's basketball team made history during March Madness 2024. The No. 4 seed Crimson Tide reached the program's first-ever Final Four, defeating No. 6 seed Clemson 89-82 in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Elite Eight. Mark Sears was named the West Region Most Valuable Player, and Grant Nelson was tabbed to the West Region All-Tournament Team. The Crimson Tide's historic 2023-2024 season ended in the national semifinals when the team fell to the eventual national champion and top overall seed UConn 86-72. Alabama finished the season with a 25-12 overall record.



FACULTY EXPERTS

University of Alabama faculty are frequently called upon to share their expertise in their respective disciplines. During the 2023-2024 academic year, subject matter experts from UA were quoted in more than 5,120 print, online and broadcast stories.

The New York Times

"The seemingly simple task of deciding what to eat is, in reality, intricately woven into a complex tapestry of interconnected factors. While there's been growing awareness of issues like greenhouse gas emissions from ranching and agriculture, water usage in food production is still an aspect that is not widely discussed."

- Dr. Mesfin Mekonnen, assistant professor, department of civil, construction and environmental engineering, College of Engineering

Forbes

"Somewhere around 4c [charging rate] the battery starts getting permanent damage. The rate of 4c refers to fast charging rates where a car gets a full fast charge quickly. If you charge it at 110 kilowatts, you will be charging it at 1c. If you charge it at 220 kilowatts, you're charging it at 2c...and so on."

- Dr. Bharat Balasubramanian, executive director, Center for Advanced Vehicle Technologies, College of Engineering; chief mobility research and development officer, Alabama Transportation Institute



"Even though Illinois is the first state to pass such a law, this legislation is a long time coming. Social media labor and careers are becoming increasingly common and viable forms of income, and it's important that the law catches up with technology to ensure minors aren't being exploited. I've seen organic conversations start to emerge between individuals who had been featured heavily in their parents' social media content but are now of age to tell their stories and admit that had they really understood what was going on, they would have never consented for their lives to be broadcast for everyone."

- Dr. Jessica Maddox, assistant professor, department of journalism and creative media, College of Communication and Information Sciences; Co-Director of the Office of Politics, Communication and Media

The New York Times

"'Just when you think they couldn't get any weirder, anglerfish outdo themselves,' said Dr. Hart, an associate professor at the University of Alabama who researches fish that live in extreme conditions."

- Dr. Pamela Hart, assistant professor, department of biological sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

TIME

"The views of the Supreme Court have been that unless Congress is explicitly clear and thorough with the amount of detail about the scope of authority, it's going to look very unfavorably on exactly these sorts of broad, undefined grants of authority."

- Dr. Luke Herrine, assistant professor, School of Law







Watch our 2023-2024
Year in Review video
for more details.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA[®]

W H E R E L E G E N D S A R E M A D E[®]



PART
OF THE



University of
Alabama System.