

The **Linly Heflin** Newsletter 2007

In this issue we are once again spotlighting a few of our scholars. We are proud of their accomplishments, and know you will be, too.



Dr. Bradley holding a one month old infant she helped to save from dying of dehydration. His father is in the background.

*Dr. Susan
Ferguson
Bradley*

Linly Heflin Scholar,
Oncologist,
Medical Missionary
& Mother of Three

Back in the 1970's we awarded a scholarship to a bright young student, unaware of how much she would change the world. That student is now a renowned oncologist here in Birmingham, a medical missionary, and a mother of three. Her name is Dr. Susan Ferguson Bradley, and her practice of medicine

has saved the lives of men, women, and children not only here in Alabama but also around the world.

Susan grew up as the daughter of a Baptist minister in Louisiana who moved frequently, finally settling in Mobile, Alabama. She was an undergraduate student at Samford University when she first received a Linly Heflin scholarship. Several years later, when she was in medical school, she was the first person to receive a Linly Heflin scholarship for postgraduate work. Susan spent another three years training in Hematology and Medical Oncology at UAB. By the time she had her three children, she and her husband volunteered to be medical missionaries to Nicaragua. From Susan's own words "These two years were a life changing experience and never again would I view life in the same manner." While she always had a soft spot in her heart for those struggling in life, Nicaragua helped her to see how the lack of the benefits we take for granted in the States affects those living in a third world country.

Returning to Birmingham, Susan worked to develop the UAB Interdisciplinary Breast Cancer Clinic, which became quite successful and is still operating today. She devoted the next few years to helping indigent women at the Cooper Green Hospital and became Director of Hematology/Oncology there. Susan also became the director of the Hepatitis C Clinic for the Jefferson County Health Department. With her staff at Cooper Green, she was able to procure millions of dollars for drugs to treat cancer patients in Alabama. During those years she traveled back to Nicaragua carrying medical supplies whenever she could find time. In 2006 she joined another medical mission team and traveled to Sudan with MakeWay Partners. There she treated refugees of the Dinka tribe who had been kidnapped and tortured by their northern Sudanese neighbors. An orphanage was built there by a Birmingham organization to save the lives of many homeless children who were forced to sleep in trees to escape the wild animals.

Here in Alabama, Susan's oncology practice provides care to people whether they have insurance or not. She gives generously of herself to the community by volunteering her time and expertise at the MPower Clinic located in Avondale. This is a free medical clinic for the working poor. She is on the board of Cahaba Valley Health Care, a non-profit organization that provides dental and eye care to the Hispanic population in Jefferson and Shelby Counties. Susan also serves on the board of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, which provides funds for research and education about breast cancer.

Dr. Bradley credits her accomplishments to her education and speaks out publicly to thank those who made that education possible. When Linly Heflin awarded those two scholarships many years ago, we had no idea that they were an investment that would literally save the lives of people all over the world.

Questions and Answers

What is Linly Heflin?

The Linly Heflin unit was founded in 1920 as a women's service organization. Since 1923 the major focus of the group has been to further the education of young women in Alabama. The Linly Heflin Unit is small in number - only 125 women - but each is dedicated to sharing her time and abilities. Through the years, *over 3,000 four-year scholarships* have been awarded to Alabama girls attending Alabama colleges and universities.

How does Linly Heflin fund so many scholarships?

The annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show continues to be our primary fundraiser. Other funding comes from our Scholarship Trust Fund, which is our permanent endowment fund. Named scholarship funds and gifts and memorials are deposited in this fund.

What actually happens to my donation to Linly Heflin?

Simply put, *100% of it goes straight into funding scholarships*. Your donation will not be used for administration or overhead. Linly Heflin has an administrative account, funded solely by membership dues, which pays all administrative expenses. Furthermore, volunteers do all of our labor. Different ways of giving to Linly Heflin include cash, stock, starting a named scholarship, grants and memorials. Grant money is used immediately; all other, including profit from our fundraiser, goes into the principal of the endowment fund, ensuring the perpetuation of scholarships. When a donation is received, it is put into our bank trust account. The bank sends the donor an official letter acknowledging the contribution, and stating that we are a 501(c)(3) corporation, making all contributions tax deductible.

How does Linly Heflin select the scholarship recipients?

We seek bright, motivated young women who need financial help to pursue their goals. A vital part of the Linly Heflin Unit is our Scholarship Committee, which has the responsibility of interviewing and selecting the new recipients each year. Approximately 250 applications will be examined, and this list will be reduced to the 100 deemed most likely to receive a scholarship. The criteria used in the selection process includes: high G.P.A.s and SAT or ACT scores, extracurricular activities, proof of financial need, and the over-all impression the candidates make during the interviews. A two-member team interviews each girl at a designated time in the spring. Subsequently, the entire committee meets for several days to discuss and evaluate the candidates. Between 20 and 25 girls will be given scholarships. Our scholarships are for \$2,500 per year, for four years of undergraduate study. We currently have 88 girls on scholarship at 15 colleges and universities in Alabama. The Unit stays in touch with the girls on a regular basis throughout their college careers. Serving on the Scholarship Committee is both a demanding and rewarding experience. We have an excellent record of selecting responsible and productive recipients who prove to be tremendous assets to their communities.

Which colleges do Linly Heflin scholars attend and what are their majors?

This year we have scholars attending the following schools: Alabama A&M, Auburn University, Birmingham Southern College, Huntington College, Jacksonville State University, Miles College, University of Mobile, University of Montevallo, Samford University, Troy State University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama in Birmingham, University of Alabama at Huntsville, and the University of South Alabama. Our recipients engage in a wide range of studies. Currently their majors include: Pharmacy, Nursing, Accounting, Political Science, Engineering, Criminal Justice, Speech Pathology, Education, Interior Design, Pre-Med, Pre-Vet, Business Management, Marine Biology, Psychology, Mathematics, and Meteorology.

What age is the typical Linly Heflin Scholar?

As education opportunities change and expand, Linly Heflin recipients are changing also. We receive the most applications from traditional high school seniors, but in addition, we consider older applicants. Some are returning to the educational world after their children are in school, some are single parents eager for an education to increase their earning power, and still others are going back to school after working to save for their education.

Ja Vone Williams

Future Teacher

Ja Vone Williams, an honor graduate of Ensley High School, received a Linly Heflin scholarship in 2006. This past year, she has been a student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. There she earned an outstanding 4.00 G.P.A., and was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta Honorary Society. She has decided to transfer to the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa this fall, and will be majoring in English.

Ja Vone loves working with children, and has done extensive volunteer work at Better Basics and at summer camps. Her ultimate goal is to be an English teacher. This summer has been occupied with taking classes in Biology and Speech at Jefferson State. At the same time, she has been able to hold down a forty-hour-a-week job with a local retailer. Ja Vone is grateful that her Linly Heflin scholarship will enable her to pursue her dream of a teaching career.



Ja Vone Williams

Anu Mahatekar Brady

Lawyer, Mother of Triplets

Anu Brady was awarded a Linly Heflin scholarship during her senior year at Hewitt-Trussville High School. This financial help enabled her to attend the school of her choice, Birmingham Southern. She made an enviable record there, graduating Summa Cum Laude in 1992. She was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society. She made wonderful friendships at the school, which she enjoys to this day. She entered the University of Alabama Law School, and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1995. After practicing law for several years, she married Chris Brady, who is the City Engineer for Vestavia Hills.



Anu with her triplets (left to right) Raneer, Maleah, and Shalini

At this stage in her life, Anu finds her most rewarding job is to be the mother of triplets: Maleah, Raneer, and Shalini. The girls turned three years old on March 1st of this year. With her interest in education, Anu is encouraging her daughters to learn to read early. The girls have already learned the alphabet and the sound of each letter. She is practicing sight-reading with them with the use of flash cards. The refrigerator is adorned with magnetic letters, and there is an extensive collection of learning videos for the girls' use.

Anu works part time at the Hoover Library as the Business Law Librarian. When the girls are older, she hopes to return to her law practice, but right now she is a wife and mother to three adorable girls. Although she concedes that "everything is never done", she is happily enjoying her present career. Through raising and teaching her daughters, Anu is a perfect example of the Linly Heflin motto: "Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family".

4 Linly Heflin Fashion Show 2006

The 48th Linly Heflin Fashion Show was held on September 14, 2006 at the Sheraton, Civic Center. Approximately 1,000 guests enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by a spectacular fashion show sponsored by Gus Mayer. Audrey Lindquist narrated the presentation of lovely fall fashions from the store, followed by designs



Photo by Anne Hicks

brought to us by Neil Bieff of New York. Mr. Bieff's classic and elegant designs and his charming, friendly manner won the hearts of the audience. We are deeply indebted to Jeff Pizitz and his outstanding staff at Gus Mayer for sponsoring our show. Total proceeds for the event were \$121,747.41, the most ever raised by a Linly Heflin Fashion Show. Congratulations to Co-Chairmen Pat Hiden and Patty Ringland and their committee!



Photo by Anne Hicks

2006 Co-Chairmen Pat Hiden and Patty Ringland with 2006 Linly Heflin Designer Neil Bieff



Photo by Barrett Hicks

Mildred Knight, 2006-2007 Linly Heflin President

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Linly Heflin Fashion Show 2007

The 49th Linly Heflin Luncheon and Fashion Show will be held at the Sheraton, Civic Center, on September 20th, 2007. Once again, Gus Mayer will be sponsoring the event, which will feature the store's fall collection. In addition, Hilton Hollis of New York will be presenting his latest designs. Co-Chairmen Ruth Jones and Valerie Watson, and their able committee members have been working diligently all year preparing for the big event. We wish to express our deep appreciation to Jeff Pizitz and the Gus Mayer staff for once again making all of this possible. We also wish to thank our other sponsors, Harbert Management Corporation and Vulcan Materials Company Foundation, as well as co-sponsors Belk, EBSCO Industries, Marathon Corporation, Regions Bank and Sterne Agee. A complete list of our corporate sponsors can be found on this page. We cannot begin to express our gratitude to all of them, as well as to the businesses that took out ads in our program, and to the many individuals who have contributed generously to our endeavor. With such wonderful support from our community, we know that the 49th Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show will be a huge success!



Photo by Eve London

Happy Anthony and Co-Chairmen Valerie Watson and Ruth Jones enjoyed previewing a few of Hilton Hollis's designs when he visited Gus Mayer a few months ago.

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Photo by Barrett Hicks

Pat Forman, Corporate Funding Chairman

Linly Heflin Trust Fund Named Scholarships

Each year Linly Heflin receives a number of named scholarships. These are established by a gift of \$15,000 to the Linly Heflin Scholarship Trust Fund. Some donors choose to give a lump sum, and others spread out their giving over a number of years. The Linly Heflin is extremely grateful for the generosity of all of our donors. Here are the named scholarships established during the past year:

- Lucy Sharpe McCall Scholarship
- Earle B. Murray Scholarship
- Caley-Chenoweth Scholarship
- Barbara Garforth Jackson Scholarship
- Carol P. Poynor Scholarship
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- Douglass Rushton Corey Scholarship
- Deborah Davis Denson Scholarship
- Sally Vann Worthen Scholarship
- Kathryn J. Harbert Scholarship
- Katherine Johnston Myatt Scholarship
- Hill Crest Foundation Scholarship

A Letter from Hilton Hollis

Dear Ladies of Linly Heflin,
My summer has been filled with excitement designing our Spring 2008 collection and a bit of beach time, but nothing is as exciting as the upcoming Linly Heflin show in conjunction with Gus Mayer.

The show will be a great opportunity for us all to get to know each other, experience a wonderful day of fashion, and make a difference in some young ladies' lives. This show means so much to me. Growing up in Mississippi, I understand how important it is for organizations like yours to exist. I know that many of the scholarships that I received through college made my career possible and molded who I have become today. The will and determination to succeed is what I admire in the women chosen to receive your scholarship and that is why you will always have my support and dedication to this cause.

I am honored to have been selected to be "your" designer for this event. I am coming home to the South, so get ready for the best and most exciting fashion show ever.

Sincerely yours,
Hilton Hollis



Photo by Anne Hicks

Hilton Hollis
Designer for 2007 Fashion Show

Katy Terry
Linly Heflin President 2007-2008

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A Letter from the President of Linly Heflin

It is a great privilege to serve as President of the Linly Heflin Unit. Our motto: "Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family" is an inspiring one. Since our founding in 1920 we have furthered the education of over 3,000 young Alabama women. This issue of our newsletter showcases a few of these scholarship recipients and their accomplishments. Their stories illustrate that our scholars are an enormous blessing to both their families and their communities. They reaffirm for us the validity of our mission of helping deserving women to fulfill their dream of higher education.

This year we are providing funding for 88 girls to attend the colleges of their choice. This would not be possible without the help of countless individuals and businesses in the Birmingham area. The entire Unit joins me in thanking all of our supporters. Your generosity will bear good fruit for years to come.

Sincerely,

Katy Terry

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6 *Ashley Hampton*
Teacher, Counselor, Ph.D. Candidate

Ashley Hampton has an impressive resume. As an outstanding Pelham High School student, she received a Linly Heflin scholarship in 1997. In 2001 she graduated with honors from UAB with a B.S. in Psychology. She was awarded a Graduate Honors Scholarship at Montevallo, and earned a Master's of Education in Counseling and Guidance degree in 2003. Continuing her education, she entered U.A.B. once more, and earned an Education Specialist degree in 2005, with a 4.00 G.P.A. During this time, Ashley held down a full time job as a counselor in the Shelby County school system. During the past two years, she has worked as a Student Counselor and Academic Advisor in the Department of Psychology at UAB. She has found time in her busy schedule to be actively involved in a number of professional organizations. She served as President of the Alabama Counseling Association in 2006-2007. She has also served on the faculty of Virginia College, teaching Introductory Psychology courses. Ashley is obviously an organized, highly motivated individual, who is utterly devoted to her chosen field. Asked how she became interested in psychology and counseling, she replied that she took a class in psychology at Jeff State, while she was still in high school, and "fell in love" with the subject. She is definitely a "people person", and has always enjoyed helping friends solve various problems in their lives.

One of Ashley's long-term goals has been to earn a Ph.D. in her field. This fall she will be on her way to making that dream a reality, for she has been awarded a Graduate Assistanceship to the University of Memphis where she will pursue a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology. Ashley tells us that having the Linly Heflin scholarship was a great help to her. In her words: "I want to thank the Linly Heflin and all who are involved in the organization for the opportunities my scholarship allowed me to pursue."

Frankly, Good Things Come in Threes!
Three Linly Heflin Scholars In One Family

The Linly Heflin has given many hundreds of scholarships through the years but only once have three girls in one family been chosen. In 1994 Erica Frank, from Foley, Alabama, was the first of three sisters to attend college. She learned about the Linly Heflin scholarship from her high school guidance counselor. This scholarship helped enable her to reach her goal of attending college. Erica attended the UAB Honors Program. She was on a work-study program, working in a lab on campus, while majoring in biology. After graduating, she attended UAB School of Medicine, also with a Linly Heflin scholarship, and is now a pediatrician with a practice in Pensacola, Florida.

Jill Frank Styron was the second of the sisters to receive one of the scholarships. She graduated from Auburn with a Master's in English and is getting her Doctorate in Education from the University of West Florida. She says that this is a slow process because she and her husband have a new baby and she teaches 8th grade English in Foley. Jill says

now that she has a child, our motto, "Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family" is even more meaningful to her and she hopes to pass along the desire for a good education to her child and to those she teaches.

The youngest of the Frank girls, Abby, received her scholarship in 2002 to attend Auburn University. Her major was Animal Science and she is now doing research for her Master's thesis on grass-fed beef. She works in the Meat Lab at Auburn and teaches labs there. In her spare time she is planning her wedding, which will take place in October. She met her fiance at Auburn and he, too, majored in animal husbandry. They plan to move to Georgia, where his job will take them, and she will apply to Vet school.

These three young women are wonderful examples of the kind of students who are helped by Linly Heflin to become outstanding members of our society.



Sisters (from left to right) Dr. Erica Frank, Jill Frank Styron (with her baby, Davey) and Abby Frank



Photo by Barrett Hicks

Cherry Allen Billings
Linly Heflin Scholar becomes Linly Heflin Donor

Cherry Billings, a 1966 Linly Heflin scholarship recipient, has had an interesting and fulfilling career in Washington D.C. She grew up in a family of five children in the western area of Birmingham. Her father was a steelworker and her mother worked for Social Security. During her years at West End High School, Cherry supplemented the family income by working at a department store. Her parents supported her dream of going to college, but because of financial problems, her prospects seemed bleak until she was offered a Linly Heflin scholarship. By working two part-time jobs, she was able to graduate from Samford University with a degree in Elementary Education in 1970. Unfortunately, the job market for teachers was tight that year, so Cherry found employment with a local engineering firm. Several years later, she moved to Washington, D.C., and took a job as personal secretary to Ohio Senator Howard Metzenbaum. Four years later, she joined the staff of James A. Johnson, who was then chairman of the Mondale for President Campaign. She was with Mr. Johnson for 25 years, working as his administrative assistant. In Cherry's words: "I had a great experience working at Fannie Mae while Mr. Johnson was chairman, as well as working with the Kennedy Center and the Brookings Institution, both of which he chaired. I met hundreds of wonderful people all across the country. It was thrilling, with my modest beginnings, to find myself among Senators, Congressmen, Presidents and Presidential candidates. None of this would have been possible without that Samford University degree on my resume."

Cherry's husband of the past twelve years, Leon Billings, has also spent his career in Washington, D.C. He drafted the original Clean Air and Water Act while working for Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine. Leon served in the Maryland State Legislature, and now has a private consulting firm. Cherry and Leon have been generous donors to the Linly Heflin Scholarship Fund for years, for which we are extremely grateful. Cherry tells us "I would never have been able to enter college without a Linly Heflin scholarship. Linly Heflin gave me the financial start I needed. It was difficult working two part-time jobs while attending Samford; however, I always knew that the effort was worth it... mainly because my father told me so! I sincerely appreciate the work and time you spend helping young women meet their dream of attending college. It has been a pleasure to be able, in a modest way, to give back to the scholarship program so that other young women can have the kind of opportunity and the freedom Linly Heflin made possible for me."

Photo by Steve Wood



Wendy in "hog heaven"...at Harley Davidson last summer.

Suphatta "Wendy" Sudsinsunthorn
Mechanical Engineer

Wendy Sudsinsunthorn received her degree in Mechanical Engineering from UAB in August. As a child, she thought that she wanted to be a doctor; however, she changed her mind when she realized that she couldn't stand the sight of blood. She always enjoyed taking things apart and putting them back together, so she decided that engineering was the career for her. She entered UAB with the help of a Linly Heflin Scholarship, and majored in Mechanical Engineering. To help with school expenses, she did research for the department.

Last summer she participated in a co-op program with Harley-Davidson Motor Company in Talladega. She tells us: "It was an amazing experience just being around all that makes Harley-Davidson what it is. Seeing what engineers do in the 'real world' actually gave me a new perspective. My experience there completely confirmed my goal of being a mechanical engineer. Choosing this field was the best decision of my life." Wendy now has a job as project manager with Summit Products, LLC in Trussville. Many of the toys, such as "Backyard Safari", are designed to encourage children to turn off the TV and play creatively outside. She is quite happy with her present employment, which enables her to put to practical use the skills she acquired at UAB. Wendy is very grateful for her Linly Heflin Scholarship, saying that it was a big help in a time of financial strain for her family.

Picture by Steve Wood used with the permission of the UAB Magazine

Photo by Barrett Hicks



Onna Sweatman

Future Lawyer, Advocate for the Poor

Onna Sweatman, a Birmingham Southern College senior and Linly Heflin Scholar, had an exciting and rewarding summer. She spent some time in Peru as a volunteer with Cross Cultural Solutions. This is a non-profit organization which seeks to better the lives of people in underdeveloped nations. This summer Onna joined twelve other volunteers working at a school for children with special needs in Villa El Salvador, Peru. Villa El Salvador is located in the outskirts of Lima. Most of its 52,000 families live in shanties. 70% of the population has no running water. The purpose of the school, which has 100 students, ranging in age from 3 to 18 years old, is to help the students overcome their handicaps and learn to function as independent, self supporting members of society. The school is understaffed, and Onna was assigned a job as “teacher’s aid” to kindergarten-age children. Since Onna is fluent in Spanish, she was able to communicate well with her students, as well as serve as interpreter for the other volunteers. One of her main jobs was to teach basic motor skills to her small charges, some of whom were afflicted with Down’s Syndrome, autism, and other disabilities. She found her work both challenging and rewarding. She tells us that her food and accommodations were good, and that security guards made them feel safe, but one drawback was the lack of heating. (July is in the middle of the winter for Peru, so the temperatures averaged fifty degrees.) Also, without hot water, showers were a little brisk. Overall, it was a wonderful experience, and Onna hopes to return to Peru some day and to be able to help those less fortunate than she.

Onna is looking forward to her final year at Birmingham Southern. She will be working hard to uphold her current 3.5 G.P.A. Her major is Latin American Studies. She plans to revise a grant proposal that she wrote for a seminar last spring that would seek funds to provide water in under-developed nations. She learned that in some depressed areas the population has to spend up to 50% of their income buying water. Onna’s ultimate goal is to go to law school and major in international law. She would like to have the skills to become an advocate for deprived populations in under-developed nations.

Onna comes from a family that is sold on the values of education. Her mother, a teacher, is currently working on a Ph.D online from Auburn University, and her father, a firefighter, is pursuing an MBA at UAB. Onna has two younger brothers and recently the family adopted two sisters who are six and seven years old. To help with her college expenses, Onna is serving as House Director for students this year, a position which pays for her campus housing. She also is employed at Arlington School, teaching Spanish and Latin American History to high school students. Her third job involves working 12 to 20 hours a week at a retail establishment. Asked how she became so interested in her chosen field, Onna replied that she was profoundly influenced by a wonderful Spanish teacher at Cleveland High School. Her teacher had served ten years in Latin America with the Peace Corps and taught his students about the culture and art of the Spanish-speaking countries, as well as the language. Onna is a prime example of the importance of having excellent, dedicated teachers in our school system. Onna says her Linly Heflin Scholarship has helped make it possible for her to obtain the kind of education she always dreamed of.



Onna with her new best friends in Peru



Dr. Bradley, her husband and three children. (left-right) Alexander Perry, Teal Perry Cueller, Susan Ferguson Bradley, Stan Bradley and John Perry.

*Did you know
Linly Heflin now has a website?*

www.linlyheflin.org

Learn more about the Linly Heflin, find out how to apply for a Linly Heflin scholarship, print reply cards for the Fashion Show and Luncheon, and much more! Many thanks to Eve London, our wonderful webmaster.