

Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family

The

Linly Heflin

Newsletter

Focus on our
Scholars

Birmingham
Southern
students

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Jennifer
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Gus Mayer sponsors the 54th
Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship
Luncheon and Fashion Show
featuring

*Lourdes
Chavez*

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Assistant
Principal
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Dr. Amy Fineburg, Ph.D.

Assistant Principal
Oak Mountain High School

Amy Fineburg is positively affecting the lives of thousands of students and teachers not only in Alabama, but also across the country.



If school teachers were evaluated and graded for their performance each year, Dr. Amy Cheek Fineburg would undoubtedly receive straight A-pluses. Since her graduation (Magna cum Laude) from Samford University in 1994, she has held teaching positions at three area high schools: Homewood (1995-2003), Spain Park (2003-2009), and Oak Mountain (2009-present). Amy's fellow teachers and associates concur that she has an exemplary record at each school. In addition to her teaching, Amy has been a leader in promoting the study of psychology in high schools all over the nation. She has participated in and led numerous conferences and workshops and has written extensively in the field. Clearly, Amy has made significant contributions in her chosen profession.

Although most of Amy's life has been spent in Alabama, she was born in Buffalo, New York. Her father, Richard Cheek, who played offense on the Auburn football team, was drafted by the NFL in 1970, and spent two years playing for the Buffalo Bills. Happily, it was during this time that he met and married Amy's attractive mother, Carolyn. Amy was the first born of their four children: Amy has twin sisters, Samantha and Susanna, and a brother, Joshua. Following a stay in Texas, where Amy's father played for the World Football League, the family moved to Trussville, which has been their home ever since. Amy has always loved reading, and was a top student throughout elementary and high school years.



Amy with Alex Trebek

Amy competed on Jeopardy during her sophomore year.

She participated in many extracurricular activities, and took particular pride in serving as captain of the award-winning Scholar's Bowl Team for Trussville High School.

Having been raised in a devout Baptist family, Amy had long cherished the idea of going to Samford University. Her parents wholeheartedly supported her ambitions, but were unable to provide all of the necessary funds for her tuition. Fortunately, Amy was able to find other resources, including a Linly Heflin Scholarship, and entered Samford in the fall of 1990. Amy decided to major in psychology and English. She took an active part in such campus activities as the Choir,

"The Word Players", and the Samford College Bowl Team. During her sophomore year, she had the exciting experience of successfully competing on nationwide TV on the Jeopardy College Tournament. Perhaps the most important event of Amy's Samford years was meeting her future husband, Ben Fineburg. Ben and Amy were married shortly after their graduation in 1994. Having majored in religion, Ben spent the next twelve years as the minister of a Chinese Christian Church, while Amy began her work as a professional educator. Her first job was at Homewood High school, where she

Amy has established standards for teaching high school psychology that are used all over the country.

taught psychology and English. She also taught Introductory Forensics, and was a debate team coach. With her excellent teaching methods, and sincere regard for her students, Amy became one of the best loved teachers in the school.

In 2003, Amy accepted a position at Spain Park High School. Here, she limited her teaching to AP and regular psychology courses, and served as Chair of the Social Studies



L-R: sister Susanna Crenshaw, father Richard Cheek, Amy, sister Samantha Long, brother Joshua Cheek and mother Carolyn

Department. Mrs. Helena Young, Director of Guidance and Clinical Social Worker at Spain Park, calls Amy a "phenomenal teacher", one who has a deep compassion for her students, and tries to identify and help those who are struggling, or have special needs.

Amy moved to Oak Mountain High School in 2009, to fill the position of Assistant Principal. Her duties there include discipline, attendance and curriculum for the 10th grade. In addition, she serves as AP program coordinator. Amy is proud of the fact that

99% of Oak Mountain High School students graduate, and 92% go to college. In 2011, the school was given the Blue Ribbon Schools Award by the U.S. Department of Education.

In 2000, at the same time that Amy was working full time as a teacher, she managed to earn a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from Samford University. As she became more interested in the field of psychology, she enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Alabama, and in 2010 she received a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Through the years, Amy has researched widely in the fields

Amy teaches her students to focus on things they are proud of instead of their weaknesses

of psychology and education, and has authored numerous articles and resources for teachers. Among these are the "Instructors' Manual" for the first textbook written specifically for high school AP psychology, and the 2003 edition of the College Board's Teacher's Guide for AP Psychology. In addition, she is a managing editor for the Encyclopedia of Positive Psychology. Much of Amy's research, writing, and teaching centers about the relatively new field of positive psychology,



Ben and Amy

which is the study of positive emotions and character traits. In the past, clinical psychology has mainly been concerned with getting people out of their worst moments, focusing on such negative emotions as depression, anger, fear, and resentment. Positive psychology seeks to nurture human strengths and virtues, affirming such emotions as empathy, forgiveness, happiness, and gratitude. Following the tenets of positive psychology, Amy teaches

her students to focus on things that they are proud of: their strengths and positive traits, instead of their weaknesses. Amy and her impressive career receive words of highest praise from her associates and former professors. Ron Dodson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum for Hoover City Schools calls Amy "one of the most outstanding teach-

Instead of being preoccupied with the worst things in life, positive psychology emphasizes optimism and hope.

ers in our school system." Randy Ernst, Social Studies Supervisor of Lincoln Public School, Nebraska, says Amy is "an amazing person, who has accomplished more during her relatively short career than any other teacher I have known." Dr. Stephen Chew, Chair of the Department of Psychology at Samford University, says that Amy is "a terrific person, and a delight to know." He tells us that through her research, writing, and workshops, Amy has established standards for teaching high school psychology that are used all over the country. Dr. Cecil Robinson, Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Alabama, served as Amy's advisor during the time she was working on her dissertation. He refers to Amy as a "shining star among his students; one who excelled in the classroom and was also a leader among her peers".

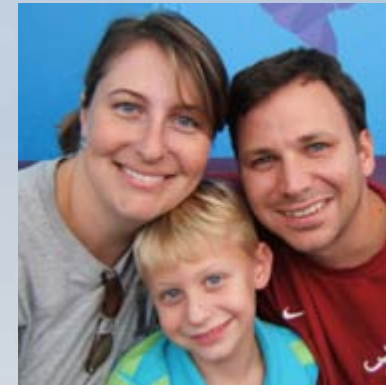


Ben, Amy and Micah

Life is good for Ben and Amy. Ben enjoys his work as creative director at Flex Digital, Inc. Their two children, 11 year old Micah, and 18 month old Simon, are the joy of their lives. Along with their successful careers, family, home, and church are central in Ben and Amy's lives. Amy remains grateful for the

help that the Linly Heflin scholarship provided in making her dreams of a happy, fruitful life come true. In her words: "The Linly Heflin scholarship meant the world to me. I wouldn't have been able to complete my education without it! To me, the process of applying, interviewing, and receiving the scholarship helped me to grow as a person and prepared me for college. I have always been grateful and proud to be a Linly Heflin Scholar."

By Katy Terry



Amy, Ben and Micah



Micah and Simon



Amy at Oak Mountain High School

"The Linly Heflin scholarship meant the world to me. I wouldn't have been able to complete my education without it!"

Awards Given to Amy Fineburg

- 2002 TOPSS Excellence in Teaching Award
- 2004 Hoover City Schools Secondary Teacher of the Year
- 2005 APA Presidential Citation
- 2006 Moffett Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (Given annually to one outstanding high school psychology teacher in the nation)
- 2007 Outstanding Alumni Award (Presented by the Department of Psychology, Samford University)
- 2007 Golden Apple Award (Outstanding Alumni Award) (Presented by the Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education, Samford University)
- 2009 Excellence in Teaching Social Studies (P-12) (Presented by the University of Alabama)
- 2009 Outstanding Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year (Presented by the Social Studies Council of Alabama)

Please turn to Page 10 to read a letter from Amy's Advisor

Dr. Bhumi Rawal, M.D.

Radiologist

Dr. Bhumi Rawal, a well respected radiologist on the staff of Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida, did not grow up in a home with an abundance of material advantages. However, she did have the priceless advantage of loving, supportive parents who inspired her to develop her talents, and to strive after worthwhile goals. Bhumi was born in Ahmedabad, India. With a population of six million, Ahmedabad is India's sixth largest city, and is the capital of the state of Gujarat. Located on the west coast of India, it is about 300 miles north of Mumbai. Gujarati is the local language; however most of the citizens also speak English, for the city is an international trading hub. Early in her childhood, Bhumi's parents, Balmukund and Meena Rawal, decided to move to the U.S., seeking greater economic opportunities for their family. Bhumi was almost five years old at the time, and her sister, Dhiral, was three. After living in Illinois for a year, the family settled in Sylacauga, Alabama. Here, Bhumi's father supported his family through operating a local motel. Bhumi's mother, Meena, found employment at near-by Russell Mills. When Bhumi was ten years old, she was pleased to welcome a new member into the family: her younger brother, Shiv.

Bhumi's parents instilled in their children a firm belief in the importance of a good education. In his youth, Bhumi's father had longed to become a doctor, for medicine was a highly regarded profession in India. Sadly, a lack of funds for medical school



Bhumi, who was born in Ahmedabad, India, did not have abundant material advantages, but was blessed with loving, supportive parents



Bhumi at 9 months

"Bhumi has the potential for making a considerable contribution to humankind through practicing medicine."
Dr. Kotani

tuition had prevented his dream from becoming a reality. When she was still a young child, Bhumi also decided that she wanted a career in medicine. Realizing that earning good grades was necessary toward attaining her goal, she achieved nearly perfect academic records throughout elementary, middle, and high school years.

Bhumi was an outstanding student during her four years at Sylacauga High School. She received an academic letter each year, with special recognition for all-A's, and was Valedictorian of her graduating class. She served as treasurer of the National Honor Society, and gave many hours as a tutor in both the athletic and school-wide study halls. Other extra-curricular activities included Mu Alpha Theta, the Red Cross Club, FBLA, Medical Explorers, and the school's tennis team. In keeping with her interest in medicine, she took part in the month-long Rural Health Scholars Program, and served as a volunteer at two Sylacauga medical clinics. In addition to these activities, she also worked regularly as a desk clerk at her father's motel.

There was never any question in Bhumi's mind about going to college. Her parents fully agreed with her ambitions, and promised to assist her as much as possible with their limited resources. Realizing that she would need other funds, Bhumi applied for, and won, a Linly Heflin Scholarship, which she says was a tremendous help in a time of great need. She spent the next four years at The University of South Alabama in Mobile, majoring in Biomedical Sciences, with a minor in Chemistry. Once again, she earned a perfect record of straight "A"s, and graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2000.

Bhumi's outstanding academic performance won her immediate acceptance into the University of Alabama School of Medicine at Birmingham. Once again, the Linly Heflin assisted her with a special scholarship, which is reserved for medical students. When she entered med school, Bhumi had thought that she would go into pediatrics. However, she



Bhumi (left) in front of the Taj Mahal with her parents, Meena and Rawal, sister Dhiral and brother Shiv



Bhumi with her father, Balmukund, at her high school graduation

Bhumi's father had longed to be a doctor but lacked the funds for tuition

as were Bhumi's. He graduated from Vanderbilt University and Meharry Medical Center, and when they met, he was serving a residency in radiology at Indiana University. The two found that they shared many interests, and for a while carried on a long-distance courtship: Bhumi was in Houston, Manish was in Indianapolis. In 2009 they had a lovely wedding celebration in the presence of their many family members and friends.

In 2010 Manish and Bhumi established their home in Gainesville, Florida. They appreciate the friendly, laid-back atmosphere of the town, as compared to such busy metropolises as Atlanta and Houston. Manish is a Neuroradiologist at the North Florida Regional Medical Center, while Bhumi is Staff Radiologist at Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center. As a specialist in abdominal imaging, her work involves reading x-rays, ultrasounds, CTs, and MRIs of patients at the hospital. She also does biopsies and other light radiology procedures, and teaches students from the University of Florida Medical School. Bhumi says: "I enjoy my job tremendously, and find it very fulfilling. I love getting to help veterans and teach budding radiologists." Bhumi and Manish are proud of their precious daughter, Sonam, who recently celebrated her first birthday. After years of living far from her family, Bhumi is happy that her parents have moved closer to her: they now live in Ormond Beach, Florida. Her brother, Shiv, a graduate of the University of Central Florida, is currently applying to medical school. Although Bhumi's sister, Dhiral lives in Atlanta with her husband and three children, she and Bhumi manage to get together fairly often. From time to time, Bhumi and her family have enjoyed travelling back to India, in order to visit relatives there.

When Bhumi first applied for a Linly Heflin scholarship, she was recommended by Dr. K.P.Jotani, Professor of Chemistry at Talladega College. In his letter, Dr. Kotani described (then) seventeen year old Bhumi as "a truly gifted student who is highly motivated and relentless in pursuing her goals." He also stated that "She has the potential for making a considerable contribution to humankind through practicing medicine." Because of the wise upbringing of Bhumi's parents, and her own skill, determination, and hard work, Dr. Jotani's prophetic words have been beautifully fulfilled in Bhumi's life and successful career.

In a recent conversation, Bhumi expressed her appreciation for the Linly Heflin's help: "The Linly Heflin provided much financial assistance at a time when I most needed it. I am extremely honored to have been a recipient of two Linly Heflin scholarships, and to be associated with the Linly Heflin in general." In turn, the Linly Heflin is indeed proud to claim Bhumi as an outstanding "former scholarship recipient."

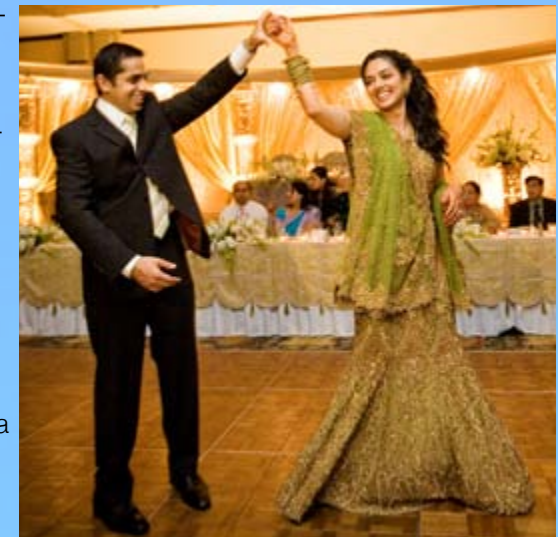
By Katy Terry

"The Linly Heflin provided much financial assistance at a time when I most needed it. I am extremely honored to have been a recipient of two Linly Heflin scholarships, and to be associated with the Linly Heflin in general."

found that the study of radiology was utterly fascinating, and in her third year of medical school, she decided to go into that field instead. With her well-trained mind and disciplined work ethic, she excelled in all of her classes, and received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 2004.

After graduation, Bhumi spent the next year as an intern with the Baptist Health System Inc. in Birmingham. In July of 2005, she moved to Houston, Texas to serve a four-year residency in Diagnostic Radiology with the University of Texas Health Science Center. In 2009, she went to Atlanta, Georgia, for a one-year Fellowship in Abdominal Imaging with the Emory University School of Medicine.

During her years of residency, Bhumi was introduced (through family members) to her future husband, Dr. Manish Jani. Although Manish was born in Tennessee, his parents were from India,



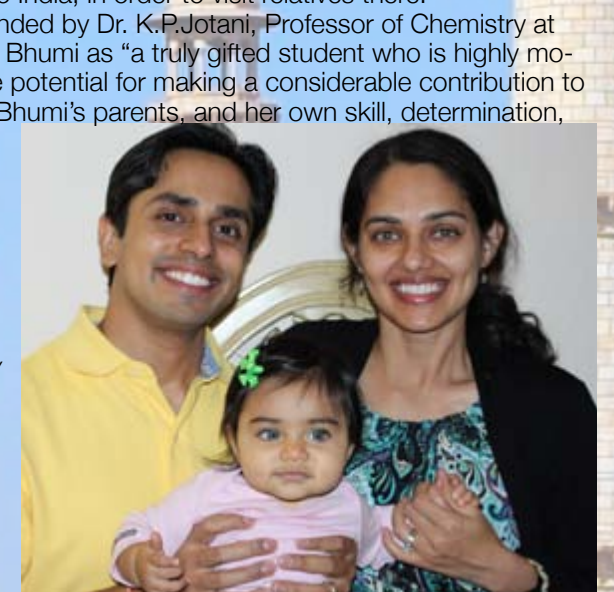
Manish and Bhumi at their wedding reception

During her residency, Bhumi was introduced to her future husband, Dr. Manish Jani, who was also serving a residency in radiology.



Bhumi and Dhiral in Jaiselmer, India

Bhumi is happy that her parents have moved closer to her: they now live in Ormond Beach, Florida. Her brother, Shiv, a graduate of the University of Central Florida, is currently applying to medical school. Although Bhumi's sister, Dhiral lives in Atlanta with her husband and three children, she and Bhumi manage to get together fairly often. From time to time, Bhumi and her family have enjoyed travelling back to India, in order to visit relatives there.



Manish and Bhumi with their daughter Sonam

photo courtesy of Matt Mullenweg

Kortni Hadley

NYU Law Student

Kortni is the first National Merit Scholarship Finalist from Cullman County

Last April, Kortni Hadley, a Birmingham Southern College senior, was sitting in an English class when her cell phone beeped. Rushing out of class, and dropping her books in her excitement, she was elated to learn that she had been awarded the prestigious AnBryce Scholarship to the New York University School of Law. Months earlier, Kortni had applied for this scholarship, and had been selected for interviews in New York and San Francisco. The AnBryce Scholarship provides full tuition to ten outstanding students



L-R Sisters Kynadi Hadley, Kortni, Candice Gilley and MiKayla Hadley

each year from colleges all over the United States. Recipients must be individuals who are the first in their family to apply to graduate school. Another requirement is that "recipients must be individuals who have overcome significant economic hardships, yet are committed to giving back and making a positive impact on the world." Having grown up in a rural area of North Alabama, Kortni felt that living in New York City would be a broadening and exciting experience. Realizing that there were over 700 other applicants, she had been anxiously waiting for news. Receiving the scholarship was truly a banner day in Kortni's life, and the culmination of four years of hard work as a student at Birmingham Southern.

Kortni grew up in the small town of Baileyton, (popu-



As Senate Sergeant at Arms, Amy helped Birmingham Southern win the Best Delegation Award at the 2012 YMCA Alabama Collegiate Legislature.

lation: 680). She has always been an outstanding student, beginning in grade school. An avid reader, she attributes her academic success to parents who read to her frequently, and taught her the alphabet at a very young age. Her mother, Audra Gilley, tells us that Kortni was quite precocious as a child. She started talking at six months, and was able to read some of her favorite Dr. Seuss books by the time she was four. In the second and third grades, Kortni astonished her teachers by begging to be excused from recess, so she could spend the time reading, instead of playing outside.

Kortni attended Fairview High School, where she consistently made straight "A"s. She was a member of the Math Team, and was president of the Key Club. She gave many hours to such causes as the Red Cross, Special Olympics, UNICEF, and Relay for Life. She was the first person in Cullman County to be named a National Merit Scholar Finalist, and was voted "Cullman County Student of the Year".

Unsurprisingly, she was also class Valedictorian. Throughout high school years, Kortni somehow found time to work twenty to thirty hours a week at such places as Walmart, McDonald's, and Warehouse Groceries.

One of Kortni's early goals was to earn a college degree. No one in

her immediate family had been to college, but her parents fully supported Kortni's ambitions. With four children in the family (Kortni has three younger sisters), finances were rather strained, and Kortni was grateful to be offered a full tuition scholarship by Birmingham Southern College. She also applied for, and won, a Linly Heflin scholarship, which she says was a great help in paying for housing, books, fees, and summer sessions. Kortni covered her personal expenses by working part time at Walmart. Kortni compiled an impressive record at Birmingham Southern. As a Harrison Honors scholar, she consistently made the Dean's list. Since the tragic loss of a childhood friend to cancer



Kortni with General Charles Krulak, President of Birmingham Southern



had kindled in her a desire to be a doctor, her first year's curriculum included such pre-med requirements as chemistry and biology. However, although she had enjoyed science classes in high school, she found that she "absolutely detested them in college". A course in English literature under Dr. Fred Ashe convinced her to change her major. Dr. Ashe tells us that when he first gave Kortni a writing assignment, he was "blown away" by her excellent analytical and organizational skills. Dr. Ashe became her academic advisor, and under his direction and that of other professors, Kortni developed her writing skills to a high degree. Dr. Ashe calls Kortni "the best analytical writer I have ever known."

Aside from her studies, Kortni became heavily involved in campus activities and volunteer work. She served as President of the Residence Hall Association and as Treasurer of the law fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta. As Senate Sergeant at Arms, she helped Birmingham Southern win the Best Delegation Award at the 2012 YMCA Alabama Collegiate Legislature. She also spent many hours tutoring underprivileged students, and working as a Teen Link Volunteer for the Crisis Center of Birmingham.

As a part of the Harrison Honors Program, Kortni was able to spend a summer of independent study in England. With the help of Dr. John Tatter, her project sponsor, she chose the subject of landscape gardening. Her project called for researching English gardens between the years of 1650 to 1820. During her stay there, she enjoyed being housed in St. John's College in Oxford. Using public transportation, and the occasional car ride from Dr. Tatter, she was able to visit many of the famous palaces, homes, and gardens of England, including Hampton Court, Blenheim Palace, Chatsworth, and Stourhead. The paper that resulted from her research earned her a well-deserved "A". When asked if she enjoyed gardening herself, Kortni replied that as a child she had spent a lot of time in her family's vegetable garden hoeing, planting, and weeding, none of which were particularly appealing to her. Furthermore, she was always apprehensive about encountering such hazards as bees, grasshoppers, and snakes. She thoroughly enjoyed



Out of over 700 applicants, only 10 are awarded the AnBryce full tuition scholarship each year.

doing research on gardens, but actually engaging in gardening was another matter!

In her junior year, Kortni began to seriously consider law as a career. After spending a month interning at Balch and Bingham LLP, she was convinced that she had found her life work. Her dreams and ambitions came to reality when she received the Anbryce Scholarship. After graduating with honors in May, Kortni spent the summer getting ready for law school. Kortni's father and sister drove her to New York in August, and she is now embarked upon a new and wonderful phase of her life. She tells us that she loves being in New York,



Kortni, her dad, Scott Hadley, and her sister, Kynadi, in NYC



Kortni with her mother, Audrey Gilley and step-father, Tim Gilley

although it took a little time to adjust to the faster pace of the city and the subway system. NYU is quite different from Birmingham Southern, with its beautiful green campus. Situated in the middle of Manhattan, NYU actually has no campus at all. There are guards at the doors of every building checking IDs. Once you step outside onto the sidewalk, you are officially "off-campus". Kortni's apartment is right across from the Law School, in Greenwich Village, which she describes as "really cool". She is enjoying her courses, but doesn't yet know what

type of law she will end up practicing. In her words: "Even though I don't know yet exactly how I will use my degree in helping others, I plan to use these three years at NYU to begin figuring out the job that will be the best for me personally, and for my goal of bettering my community." Kortni is still grateful for the Linly Heflin's assistance. She writes: "The Linly Heflin scholarship not only helped me to pay for textbooks and housing, but because of this I was able to afford things like participating in the Collegiate Legislature, and going to England to do hands-on research for my Honors project. I do not believe that I would have been as appealing to the AnBryce selection committee or to NYU in general if I had not had those experiences. Not only did Linly Heflin allow me to have the best possible experience at BSC, but it also helped pave the way for me to move on to law school."

By Katy Terry

Dr. Ashe calls Kortni "the best analytical writer I have ever known"

Kortni at Apollo's Temple, Stourhead garden in Wiltshire, England.

(It's the place where Darcy first proposed to Lizzy in the 2005 film version of Pride and Prejudice.)



Jamie and Jennifer Sullivan

Birmingham Southern students & volunteers

Twin sisters, Jamie and Jennifer Sullivan, are entering their junior year as Linly Heflin scholars at Birmingham-Southern College. The girls are on a mission to make a difference in the world, to help others and to honor the values they have received from their parents.

Ann and Jimmy Sullivan recognized early on that the best way to teach their young daughters the importance of family was through the gift of family time. When the girls were 3 years old, Jimmy left a career that required frequent travel, to join the team at Little Hardware in Mountain Brook Village, so that he could be more closely involved with his family. Ann was home with the girls full time until she returned to her banking career as they entered middle school, yet she never gave up the role of "soccer mom" for the girls! This gift of time fostered a close-knit family – and just as a team needs many hours together on the practice field to develop a team spirit, so the Sullivans developed a team-like family spirit that would



help them through the difficult challenge that lay ahead. Jamie and Jennifer enjoyed playing soccer and were excellent student athletes at Homewood High School. As with many sets of twins, they were close and shared many of the same friends and activities. They definitely shared a close relationship with their parents and had expectations of going to college after high school.

Jimmy became a valuable employee for Little Hardware; customers and his coworkers adored him and appreciated his attention to detail and the quality service he provided. Tragically, Jimmy was diagnosed with cancer in 2009. He fought the disease bravely, with the love and strong support of Ann, Jamie & Jennifer, along with all of his Little Hardware

family. Jimmy lost his battle with cancer later that year, the twins' senior year in high school.

The loss of a beloved husband and father was devastating; the additional challenge of sending two daughters to college was daunting for a single parent. With the love and team spirit that had helped them face Jimmy's cancer, Jennifer and Jamie began to work as a team with Ann to help with the

financial burden of college expenses. They applied for scholarships and work study, and due to their hard work in high school, they were each awarded a Linly Heflin scholarship.

Now, Jamie and Jennifer are both consistently on the Dean's List, and both girls have been named to the NCAA Academic Honor Roll. Jamie works part-time in the Financial Aid office, while playing varsity soccer for BSC. Jennifer works in the Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs, and serves as a Marketing Intern for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Through the soccer team, Jamie has visited children at Children's Hospital where she was inspired by the courage of children who were so very sick. Both girls have worked with the TOPSoccer program

which pairs mentally or physically challenged youth with a soccer buddy for team play. Their response to these volunteer experiences continues to be one of gratitude for the blessings in their lives.

With the help of a Linly Heflin scholarship, these two outstanding young women are making a difference – as they were inspired by their dad, and as they promised him they would strive to accomplish. Jamie and Jennifer are grateful to their parents for the perfect childhood they were given, and this attitude motivates everything they do. The Linly Heflin Unit is proud of Jamie and Jennifer Sullivan and we are eager to see how these girls will change the world for the better!

By Shirley Elliott



Jamie, Ann and Jennifer



Jamie and Jennifer have both worked with the TOPSoccer program that pairs mentally or physically challenged youth with a soccer buddy.



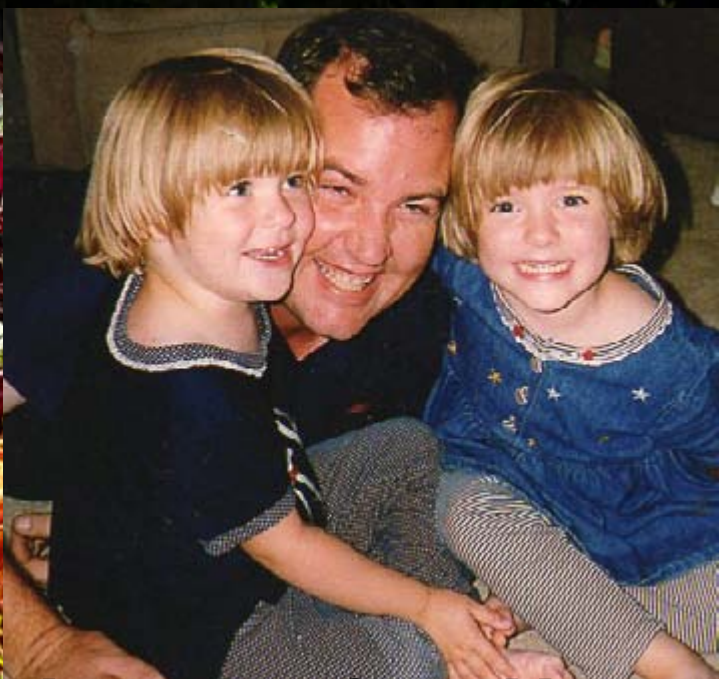
Jamie with the BSC women's soccer team



General Charles Krulak, President of Birmingham Southern with Jamie and Jennifer



Jimmy, Jennifer, Jamie and Ann



Jimmy, Jennifer and Jamie

A Letter from Dr. Cecil Robinson, Amy Fineburg's Advisor (continued from page 3)

Many people may think that scholarships are awards that are given to deserving individuals. Scholarships are monetary awards, but are so much more. A scholarship is an investment in a person, and an opportunity for the scholarship recipient. With that said, I think the Linly Heflin Scholarship committee should be proud that their investment in Amy Fineburg is positively affecting the lives of thousands of students and teachers not only in Alabama but across the country.

I was Amy's major advisor and chairperson of her dissertation at The University of Alabama. During her time at the capstone, she excelled in the classroom and was a leader among her peers. Her greatest strengths, however, are her belief that schooling needs to capitalize on the positive that each person brings to the school rather than focus on weakness, and her ability to translate positive psychology research into classroom practice. This translation occurs each day when she helps develop teachers under her watch. This translation occurs as she participates in nationwide professional development for teachers. This translation occurs when she posts practical thoughts on her blog. This translation was also evident in her classrooms. Her teaching excellence has been recognized by numerous individuals and is marked by numerous teaching awards.

Although I was Amy's advisor, she greatly affected my own personal research and teaching. She introduced me to positive psychology, and now my main line of research is aligned with positive psychology. I work to develop hope and strength among struggling students, and to offer teachers practical ways that they can do the same. That the advisor is following the student is perhaps the greatest testament to ways that your investment in Amy has positively affected the lives of so many others.

Sincerely,

Cecil Robinson
Associate Professor, Educational Psychology
Dept. of Educational Studies, College of Education, University of Alabama

A Letter from the President of Linly Heflin

Welcome to the annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Fashion Show and Luncheon. We appreciate your attendance and support of our mission, "Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family". The Linly Heflin Unit is a volunteer organization dedicated to awarding four year academic scholarships to Alabama women attending Alabama colleges and universities. We have awarded over 3000 scholarships during our existence.

We believe that an education changes lives and opens doors to fulfilling dreams and ambitions. Without your support we could not make these dreams come true for our scholarship recipients.

Thank you for your support,

Daphne Blankenship
President of the Linly Heflin Unit



Linly Heflin Officers 2012-2013

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
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Kate Cotten
Corporate Funding

Check out our website:
www.linlyheflin.org
Learn more about the Linly Heflin scholarship, print reply cards for the Scholarship Fashion Show and Luncheon and much more! Many thanks to our wonderful webmaster
Eve London

Newsletter Co-editors: Katy Terry and Anne Hicks
Writer and Assistant Editor: Shirley Elliott

amazing facts:

All operating expenses for the Linly Heflin Unit are covered by membership dues. This allows all monies raised from the community to go into the Scholarship Trust Fund. There are no administrative salaries. All work is done by volunteers. Over 3,000 four-year scholarship have been awarded. This year Linly Heflin has 89 scholarship recipients at 15 different Alabama schools

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:

- Cherry and Leon Billings Scholarship**
- Catherine Caldwell Cabaniss Scholarship**
- Ann Adams Pritchard Scholarship**

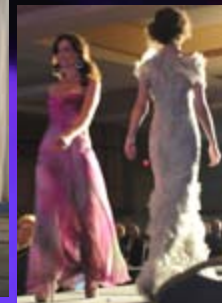
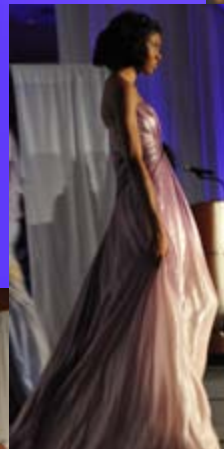


Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show 2011

The 53rd Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show was held on September 28th, 2011. Miami-based designer Rene Ruiz presented his Spring 2012 Collection at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel Ballroom. Co-chairs Patti Badham and Kay Grisham and their committee members worked with Gus Mayer to present another memorable show.

Cuban-born Ruiz opened his first atelier in Coral Gables in the 90's, quickly becoming the go-to designer for celebrities and socialites. Ruiz now sells his dresses at 85 high-end specialty boutiques in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait. His personalized attention to the creation and tailoring of each garment has created an international following for his luxurious, original and sophisticated designs. Ruiz is also known for creating his own fabrics to accentuate the meticulous detailing which inspires sensuality for the modern woman. His collection is romantic, but also modern at the same time, with a little bit of Miami flair. "I like to work with luxurious fabrics," including chiffons, silk tulles, embroidered tulles and silk charmeuse," Ruiz said.

Approximately 1000 attended the event, which was sponsored by long-time supporter, Gus Mayer. The show, which also showcased lovely fall fashions from Gus Mayer, was produced by Megan LaRussa and narrated by Amie Beth Shaver, Miss Alabama 1994.



photos by Anne Hicks

Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show 2012 Preview



At the September 6 Linly Heflin meeting, Gus Mayer presented a sneak preview of some of the fashions from the 54th Scholarship Luncheon. Left to right: Ann Simmons, Nichole Cummins, Jeff Pizitz, Herman Heinle, Libba Williams and Fran Goodrich



Modeling for Gus Mayer at the September Linly Heflin meeting are (L-R) Lee Holbrook, Betty Knight, Katherine Cox, Helen Drennen, Holly Goodbody and Elizabeth Hubbard

Photos by Anne Hicks

54th Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon

We wish to thank **Gus Mayer,**
Lourdes Chavez,
the many individuals who contributed generously,
and especially...
our 2012
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Libba Williams, Ann Simmons, Herman Heinle, Nichole Cummins and Fran Goodrich

Los Angeles-based designer **Lourdes Chavez** will present her Fall/Winter 2012 Collection at the 54th Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel Ballroom on Thursday, September 27, 2012. Co-chairs **Fran Goodrich** and **Libba Williams** and their hard-working committee members are coordinating with **Gus Mayer** to present an exciting show. For door prizes **Gus Mayer** is donating a \$500 Spa Facial Package and **Lourdes Chavez** is donating a \$4000 custom suit or gown.

Lourdes began designing beautiful clothing after her graduation from The Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising specializing in couture design. She was born a designer but is equally a talented pattern maker and sewer. **Lourdes** hand sketches each item with her clients' comfort and appearance in mind. She has a clear focus on future trends while keeping her styling and taste current but ultimately classic and timeless. Her tailoring, patterns and fit are intricate and elaborate works of art.

Her career began with two prestigious houses in Los Angeles but her true creativity blossomed when she opened her own house in 1998. **Lourdes** has been creating amazing designs with each collection and developing into a world class designer who has been honored and received numerous awards by the State of California, City of Hope, Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and the Fashion Group International to name a few. "I think of clothes as an investment," Chavez said. "I create classic designs so that you can go through your closet five years from now and it will still be in fashion." She designs dresses, suits and cocktail dresses and specializes in mother-of-the-bride and special-occasion dresses.

"I work with my clients to create something just for them," she said. "I can take a design and make a different neckline, skirt or sleeve length." Fabrics include silks, wools, linens, mohair and cashmere from England, France, Austria, Italy, Spain and Belgium.

Fashion Show producer **Megan LaRussa** is planning a new and exciting show and **Amie Beth Shaver**, Miss Alabama 1994, will serve as emcee for the event. **Linly Heflin** wishes to express our deep appreciation to **Jeff Pizitz** and the **Gus Mayer** staff for once again making it all possible.



Pictured left to right: Libba Williams, Model Danielle Yancey wearing a Lourdes Chavez suit and Fran Goodrich. Other Lourdes Chavez designs on left and right.