

2026 Capstone Scholars Day Schedule

Welcome to The University of Alabama!

- 8:00 – 8:50 AM** **CHECK-IN** | The University of Alabama Student Center, 2nd Floor
Upon arrival, you will be greeted by staff and receive your University Day Materials.
- 9:00 – 9:30 AM** **WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Ballroom, 3rd Floor
We will provide an overview of the day and an introduction to the Capstone!
- 9:40 – 10:30 AM** **PROGRAMMING ROTATION #1** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Various Locations - Refer to your assigned group.

Group 1: Research Tide Talks | The University of Alabama Student Center, Ballroom, 3rd Floor

Group 2: Mock Lectures | The University of Alabama Student Center, Various Locations

Lecture 1 - 3108	"Are You Ready to Fly? - Let's Test Our Wings!"	Lecture 3 - 3104	"Public Goods vs. Private Goods"
Lecture 2 - 3107	"Well, Anyway, I Heard That This Professor Is..."	Lecture 4 - 3700	"Mindfulness, Artistry, and Improvisation in Life"

- 10:40 – 11:30 AM** **PROGRAMMING ROTATION #2** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Various Locations - Refer to your assigned group.

Group 2: Mock Lectures | The University of Alabama Student Center, Various Locations

Lecture 1 - 3108	"Are You Ready to Fly? - Let's Test Our Wings!"	Lecture 3 - 3104	"Public Goods vs. Private Goods"
Lecture 2 - 3107	"Well, Anyway, I Heard That This Professor Is..."	Lecture 4 - 3700	"Mindfulness, Artistry, and Improvisation in Life"

Group 1: Research Tide Talks | The University of Alabama Student Center, Ballroom, 3rd Floor

- 11:30 – 11:45 AM** **LUNCH DISMISSAL** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Ballroom, 3rd Floor

- 11:45 – 12:45 PM** **LUNCH** | Various Locations - Follow your assigned group to have lunch on us!

Group 1: Fresh Food Company

Group 2: Lakeside Dining Hall

- 12:45 – 1:00 PM** **COLLEGE DISMISSAL** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Ballroom, 3rd Floor

- 1:00 – 2:30 PM** **EXPERIENCE YOUR COLLEGE** | Various Locations
Experience the heart of UA academics! Discover unique programs and connect with the people who make them thrive.

Barefield College of Arts and Sciences	Student Center Ballroom
Culverhouse College of Business	Hewson Hall 0002
College of Communications and Information Sciences	Digital Media Center Studio A
College of Education	Carmichael Hall 311
College of Human Environmental Sciences	Drummond Lyon Lecture Hall
Capstone College of Nursing	Nursing 1012
School of Social Work	Little Hall
Styslinger College of Engineering	North Engineering Research Center 1012

- 2:45 – 4:30 PM** **AFTERNOON ADVENTURE** - Make yourself at home here at the Capstone!
Honors College and Admissions will be available at the Information Desk for drop-in questions.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS | The University of Alabama Student Center, Various Locations
Meet with different campus resources and learn more about the University.

- Housing and Residential Communities (Room 3108)** - Learn about living on campus! Housing timelines, move in dates, and more!
- UA First (Room 3107)** - Hear from our team dedicated to make your first year at the Capstone legendary!
- Fraternity and Sorority Life (Room 3104)** - Hear from the largest Greek system in the country! Recruitment timelines, cost, and life on campus!
- Education Abroad (Room 3111)** - Meet with our dedicated team for all things cost of attendance, scholarships, and FAFSA!
- Honors Year One (Room 3700)** - Connect with Honors mentors and staff ready to support you at the Capstone!

2:45 - 3:05 PM	Housing and Residential Communities - 3108	UA First - 3107	Fraternity and Sorority Life - 3104	Education Abroad - 3111	Honors Year One - 3700
3:10 - 3:30 PM	Housing and Residential Communities - 3108	UA First - 3107	Fraternity and Sorority Life - 3104	Education Abroad - 3111	Honors Year One - 3700
3:35 - 3:55 PM	Housing and Residential Communities - 3108	UA First - 3107	Fraternity and Sorority Life - 3104	Education Abroad - 3111	Honors Year One - 3700
4:00 - 4:20 PM	Housing and Residential Communities - 3108	UA First - 3107	Fraternity and Sorority Life - 3104	Education Abroad - 3111	Honors Year One - 3700

- 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 PM** **Walking Campus Tour** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Seal Doors
Capstone Men and Women, the University's official ambassadors will be available for a walking tour of campus.

- 3:00, 3:30, 4:00 PM** **Housing Tour** | The University of Alabama Student Center, Theater Loop
Join Housing and Residence Communities for a tour of Ridgecrest South, UA's dedicated housing for members of the Honors College.

Mock Lectures Biographies and Overview

Thomas Herwig, Ph.D.

Thomas Herwig is Assistant Professor in the Honors College, teaching in the fields of History, Religious Studies, Ethics, and Cultural Identity. A German theologian with a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the University of Bochum, Thomas is currently completing his third book, the English translation of an early lecture series of Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth in liaison with the Center for Barth Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary. In addition to his seminars in the Honors College, Thomas has organized and led study abroad trips to Germany and other European countries. In 2024, he was invited to teach in universities and seminaries in Madagascar; 2025 he took 22 students to Vietnam; for 2026, another trip to Germany is in preparation. His study abroad projects grant participants the opportunity to explore the challenges and benefits of intercultural communication and cooperation. About his teaching philosophy, Thomas says, "When I teach on campus, we pull the world into the classroom. If I teach abroad, the world is our classroom."

In his lecture, **"Are You Ready to Fly? – Let's Test Our Wings!"** Thomas presents his vision for academic learning and responsible leadership, also based on his seventeen years of teaching experience in the Honors College. To be a teacher means for Thomas to empower young people to shed the training wheels in celebration of their lives and in service towards a better world.

John Latta, Ph.D.

Henry John Latta is originally from New Zealand, with a B.A. from Auckland University and his postgraduate degrees are from The University of Alabama. He spent a number of years as a journalist in New Zealand, Australia, England, and the United States. He is chair of UA's International Education Committee, in this case trying to send more of our students abroad to learn and to bring international educators into our own classrooms. His primary teaching and research focus is Thomas Paine. He is also editing an academic journal focused on honors pedagogy.

"Well, anyway, I heard that this professor is ... Gossip and Rumor as Social Software"

Gossip and rumor are essential forms of language and social communication. They are commonly trivialized, dismissed, attacked or misused, but they are significantly influential in our everyday social, cultural and political lives, both negatively and positively. Both can be malicious, vicious and destructive, but it is a far more complex story than that. Gossip is a primary basis of social groups and is a key factor in creating, maintaining, managing, reorganizing and policing them. It helps us define ourselves, know where we stand in relation to other people, change our positions on issues, make choices and decisions related to other people in our group, and gossip is also largely responsible for our reputation and credibility. Rumor, we use to try and make sense and meaning from uncertain or threatening situations, to manipulate, confront or undermine authority and to challenge power when we are powerless (something gossip also does). Rumor can be an alternative explanation to the dominant narrative of events or people.

W. Ross Bryan, Ph.D.

Dr. W. Ross Bryan has been the Associate Dean (2022) and an Associate Professor in the Honors College since the Spring of 2015. Dr. Bryan holds degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill (Ph.D.), The Florida State University (M.S.), and UNC-Asheville (B.A.). His research interests include Construction of Social Identities, Experiential Education, Outdoor Leadership, and Sociology of Education. He is an affiliated faculty member in the departments of Higher Education and Social-Cultural Studies at UA. He teaches courses that include Power, Societies and Dissent, and Rocketry...something he likes to be asked about! In his role as Associate Dean, Dr. Bryan works with Student Development and Student Engagement in the Honors College. He is originally from Wrightsville Beach, N.C.; he is married to Mary Bryan, and they have two delightful daughters.

"Public Goods vs. Private Goods"

This lecture will explore the philosophical structure of "public goods" and "private goods" (e.g., education, health care, military, housing, etc.) and how they relate to specific needs in public spaces which are used for the betterment of communities. We will explore the possible causes of political, educational, social, and economic inequalities as well as the benefits, responsibilities, and limits of the service response to public problems. Dr. Bryan's lecture will try to create a space for public discourse as the participants focus on how they view the purpose of education. Specifically, the "why" and the "how" of education and the expectations we have for institutions in society as foundations for communities.

Rob Alley

Mr. Alley is a lover of art and the artistic mindset. For Rob, "Art is not a genre, it is an attitude toward activity." As a result, he enjoys learning rules. But he also really enjoys breaking them. Therefore, as a musician and an educator, he lives in and outside of convention, depending on his collaborators. Rob maintains a robust performing career, having had the good fortune to have made music with some amazing people, including Jason Isbell, Paul Shaffer, Dave Douglas, Taylor Hicks, The Temptations, The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, The Alabama and Arkansas Symphonies, Frankie Valli, Chad Fisher, Matthew Devine, Jay Frederick, Eric Essix, Rick Carter, and The Tuscaloosa Horns. He is also honored to have been awarded recognition for his efforts, including The Arkansas Arts Council Individual Artist award (2008), The Alabama Council on The Arts Individual Artist award (2013), and Druid Arts Musician of The Year (2015). Rob is a member of The Mindful Athlete community, under the guidance of George Mumford, who most famously taught meditation to Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant and other elite athletes on Phil Jackson's Chicago Bulls and LA Lakers teams. All of these experiences have led Rob to the current step in his journey through life, as an instructor in The University of Alabama's Honors College, where he teaches "Art for Life's Sake", "Leadership Lessons from Jazz", and "Improvisation in Life Through Music", courses which he created at the request of the College. Each of these focus on, and express, his philosophy on the arts and life in their own unique way.

"Mindfulness, Artistry, and Improvisation in Life: How these three principles and practices can bring you greater balance and sustained joy in your daily life."

What is art? What is creativity? How is each of us artistic and creative in our own way? When does art* happen? Where does it happen? Most importantly, why does it happen? Asking these types of questions brings us closer to understanding how applying a simple, disciplined practice of artistic principles can enhance any activity we engage in, and can bring us an increasing sense of agency in every aspect of our lives. *Notice that "art" is a verb here, not a noun. When it comes to well-being and human flourishing, we're primarily concerned with the process of artmaking more than the product that gets made. (There's a Saban analogy there, of course. We are The University of Alabama, after all.)