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David Jones, Treasurer
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Patrick McKane, 2018
Orman Wilson, 2018
Garrett Powe, 2019
Josh Taylor, 2019
Wally Burge, 2020
Whit Whitfield, 2020

THE UNITOR

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ljackson@ua.edu

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- George Wright
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*deceased



The Unitor

Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa

Chartered February 9, 1923 • Affiliated with the National Exchange Club

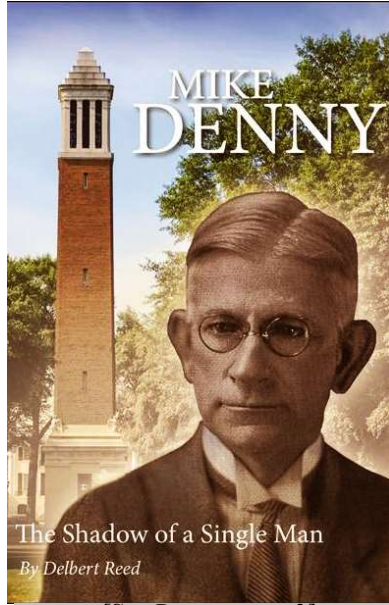
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Thursdays at Noon • Indian Hills Country Club • In service to community, state, and nation

Today: Delbert Reed, author of

Mike Denny: The Shadow of a Single Man

July 6, 2017



[See Denny, page 2]

Delbert Reed, award-winning journalist and author, has a master's in journalism from UA and is a former writer-in-residence at the Bryant Museum. Reed's previous books include *All of Us Fought the War: The University of Alabama and Its Men and Women in World War II*; *When Winning Was Everything: Alabama Football Players in World War II*; *Paul 'Bear' Bryant: What Made Him a Winner*; and *Delbert Reed & Friends*, a collection of his newspaper columns.



Delbert Reed

He was a contributing author to *Twelve and Counting* and has written articles for *American Journalism*, *Alabama School Journal*, *Inside Kentucky Sports*, *Army Reserve Magazine*, *First Army Voice*, *Arkansas Biographies*, *Business Alabama Monthly*, and the **Sugar Bowl** football program. A journalist for more than thirty years, Reed worked for *Nashville Banner*, *Tuscaloosa News*, *Columbus (MS) Commercial Dispatch*, and *Northport Gazette* -- as sports writer and editor, city editor, managing editor, and columnist. He has won writing awards at both state and national levels. A Tuscaloosa County native, Reed lives in Northport and has taught at Shelton and Stillman.

Club Selects Glen Smith as Exchangite of the Year



Glen Smith (left) is congratulated by club president Jim Zeanah last week after being named **Exchangite of the Year** by club members.

Officers for 2017-18 were installed on June 29. **Below:** Whit Whitfield, new board member; Orman Wilson, president; Wally Burge, new board member; Bev Leigh, vice pres. Not present for picture: Ardis Hancock, secretary; and David Jones, treasurer. (over)





July birthdays

Gary L. Jackson	July 11
James Zeanah	July 18
Joshua Taylor	July 20
Chris Kyle, Jr.	July 22
Candice Burge	July 23
Larry O'Neal	July 28

Sam Gambrell provides birthday list

Denny (con'd from page 1)

George Hutcheson 'Mike' Denny is best known for his 25-year tenure as UA's president, the longest serving president of the university. Having only nine major buildings, 400 students, and no paved streets or sidewalks on campus when Denny assumed the helm in 1912, the university expanded, through his leadership, to 23 major buildings, 35 fraternity and sorority houses, and nearly 5,000 students by the time of his retirement in 1936. Most significant in gaining national attention, however, was the expanded football program he fostered.

Denny--born in Hanover County, Va.--earned a B.A. and M.A. in classics from Hampden-Sydney College and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia in 1896. He taught Latin and coached the football team at Hampden-Sydney and at Washington and Lee University (W&L) in Lexington, later serving as president of W&L for a decade. In 1912, Denny became president. at UA., where he found the institution to be poorly financed by the state legislature, Denny restricted operational expenses, faculty salaries, library development, and graduate research. Upper classmen were recruited to teach to make up for faculty shortages. Despite vows that athletics would never overshadow academics and he would never inflate enrollments, Denny did both to address budgetary shortfalls.

By 1917, one-third of the university's income was derived from student fees, with out-of-state tuition being especially lucrative. A \$40,000 gift from the Peabody Education Fund, leasing university-owned lands, and donations increased the endowment and expansions. Denny was

Exchange Club of Tuscaloosa
105 Covey Chase, Tuscaloosa 35406

Exchange Club Welcomes New Members



(L-R) Club President Jim Zeanah (left), with new members inducted into the club on June 29: Whit Whitfield, George O'Rear, Nick Britto, and Rob Robertson. Robert Nicol is a new member, but was not present. Next week: new member profiles.

named the most distinguished professional leader in Alabama by popular vote in 1925.

Denny set UA football on a route to success in 1919 with his controversial hire of Xen Scott, best known as a reporter on horse racing. In October 1920, UA's football field, simply known as University Field, was renamed Denny Field in honor of his efforts to improve the football program. Under Coach Wallace Wade, the team to three national championship titles and three Rose Bowl titles, including an epic win over the Washington Huskies in the 1926 Rose Bowl. The Tide earned another national championship by defeating Stanford University in the 1934 Rose Bowl. During Denny's tenure, UA established Big Al the elephant as mascot and inaugurated fight song "Yea Alabama."

In addition to his support for football, Denny maintained warm personal relationships with students, alumni and faculty. So pleased with Denny's stewardship

were students, alumni, and friends of the university that they donated \$100,000 for the construction of a bell tower in the quad in honor of his service. Named Denny Chimes, it was completed in 1929, the same year the university completed a new football stadium, named Denny Stadium.

Denny once referred to the university as the "capstone" of Alabama's education system in a speech, creating the well-known UA nickname.

Denny was urged to run for governor but poor health forced his resignation as UA president in 1936. He returned to Lexington after retiring but frequently returned for Homecoming and Alabama football games. He even briefly resumed the presidency upon the death of his successor and thereafter remained closely attached to the university and its football program. He died April 2, 1955, in a hospital in Lexington and was buried in the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery there.

-Program host Brock Jones