

College of Arts & Sciences

Jason Guynes Defies the Stereotyping of Artists on Multiple Levels.

By: Alice Jackson, Public Relations



“I’m the happiest when I have three mediums going at once,” explained Guynes.

First, as chair of the department of visual arts at the University of South Alabama, Guynes’ administrative duties demand the use of management and analytical skills.

Second, the campus studio where Guynes draws, paints and sculpts is as neat and ordered as a surgeon’s operating room.

Based on the artistic concept popularized in the best-selling “Thinking on the Right Side of the Brain,” accomplished artists should dislike numbers and organization while relishing messy environments where their eccentricity supposedly flourishes.

But such “outside the box” way of creating and working with his art has served Guynes well. Mobile’s Wave Transit System recently picked him to paint a 16 feet by 40 feet mural inside the historic GM&O depot. Guynes’ vision for the public artwork depicts the city’s changing skyline, the diversity of its citizens and the varied modes of public travel across the decades.

“This mural will be the most public artwork I have done, and I’m especially excited about it because a depot is the classic location for public art,” said Guynes, who is

nationally recognized for painting murals in some of America’s most lavish private residences. The November 2006 issue of “Southern Accents” magazine highlighted his depiction of an Old World map on the ceiling of a residence.

Guynes won the GM&O commission competing against two other artists. “There’s a relatively small group of artists who do artwork of this scale. You have to be able to show that you can comfortably visualize and paint something this large, and not all artists like to do that. That’s why the painting of public murals is a very small, yet highly competitive market.”

“Jason was heads above all the others with his application for this mural,” said Gerald Alfred, senior planner for Mobile’s Wave Transit System. “We were very excited with his ideas because he truly captured everything we wanted to articulate about where we have been and where we are going with public transportation in the City of Mobile. We wanted the mural to complement the building without overwhelming, and he totally understood that vision.”

Guynes, whose buttoned-down oxford cloth shirt and khaki slacks make him look more like a corporate executive than an artist, laughs at questions about how a neat artist without a creative mess can be so successful.

“Believe it or not, I hear that all the time,” said Guynes. “I didn’t plan to be an administrator, but

one of my former professors saw something in me that made him think I might be good at it. I was asked to apply for chairmanship of the art department, and I discovered I enjoyed it.”

He says the administrative work soon led to the neater studio. “When you are being an administrator and an artist, it slows down your artistic work if your studio is cluttered. I have very little time in the studio, so when I am in here, I try to maximize my time. It’s much easier when everything is where it is supposed to be.”

As chair, Guynes manages 12 full-time faculty members, eight part-time faculty members and 225 visual art majors.

Besides time in the classroom and administrative time in his office, Guynes and his wife, Melissa, have two young children, Britt and Bella. Because his time is so structured, he likes to keep three projects going at the same time—a drawing, a painting and a sculpture.

“Most artists don’t like to work that way, but that’s what works the best for me, and I’m the happiest when I have three mediums going at once,” explained Guynes.

His love of family is evident in his portfolio where the realism of matching graphite drawings of Britt and Bella, halted in the inquisitive stares special to toddlers, yank a visitor’s eyes away from Guynes’ more colorful

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continued

work. In his studio, the work-in-progress is graphite on embossed paper. The subject is a bespectacled man, middle-aged, in a baseball cap. Like the drawings of Guynes' children, the deft strokes transmit a single moment of life, a special mannerism caught in mid-stride. It is Guynes' father-in-law.

A fourth-grade teacher discovered Guynes' talent, but the discovery led to some unpleasant childhood memories. "There were several of us in the class whom the teacher thought had talent. She called our parents and suggested we have special art training in addition to our other classwork," recalled Guynes. "What we didn't know was that we were going to give up our recess for art class, so while everyone else went outside and played, we stayed indoors to learn how to draw and paint."

As the Brandon, Miss., native grew and studied, he stretched his artistic interests in a variety of mediums, including ceramics. While an undergraduate student at Belhaven College in Jackson, Miss., he worked for respected Mississippi ceramist Emmett Collier, owner of Brandon Stoneware. His six years at the production pottery is visible in the ceramics that dot his USA office and studio.

Guynes received his MFA from Tulane University in New Orleans. That led to a guest lecturer job at Chattanooga State Technical

Community College. At the same time, he also taught painting at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. After a stint at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., Guynes settled at the University of West Alabama for 10 years. During that time, he discovered the administrative side of his career and also began to paint murals in private residences.

"That's artistic work that's found by word-of-mouth. You don't advertise. You do one mural, then friends and family see it, and they call you to do one at their house," said Guynes.

He is reluctant to quote a price for his murals, but he is quick to point out that it's not something the average middle-class homeowner would order.

"You can turn on the news and realize there is a lot of money in America right now," said Guynes. "When the economy is good, the arts flourish. When the economy is rough, art is usually the first thing that goes. The cost of every mural I paint is different, depending on what the client wants, but most of the homes where I paint murals are multi-million dollar homes. And, for an artist, this is a good way to make a living, but many artists don't like to do it because you have to give the clients what they want."

That usually means the owner has a whimsical

suggestion or two. For instance, in a wine cellar he painted a monkey holding a wine bottle. Some clients like their children or neighbors depicted in the mural.

"For some strange reason, people will do some of the most unusual things in foyers or powder rooms, the really small spaces," said Guynes. "Still, these are not paintings you want to be painting over anytime in the near future. These clients expect for them to last for a long time."

For Guynes, the mural painting isn't about the money, it is more of a duty in the same way that other educational colleagues write books or research papers.

"It's part of my duty to produce work the way they do research. Creative activity and research equate in academia," explained Guynes.

Besides his murals, Guynes found time in February for an exhibition of his art, entitled "Something for Everyone," at the Mobile Townhouse Gallery on the USA campus.

"I like what I do. There is no doubt about that," said Guynes. "But, I feel that this mural for the GM&O definitely opens another door for me, and only time will tell where that will lead."

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Art Students Complete Life Sciences Building Mural

A group of twelve art students: Lisa Buckner, Brian Crusse, Adrienne Falls, Emily Foster, Josh Holland, Candice Manning, Eileen Morrison, Kim Olensky, Brandon Phillips, Cindy Phillips, Kim Shumski and Bradley Washichek, recently completed a mural at the entrance to the Life Sciences Building. This example of a public art project, the brainchild of Dr. Bob Shipp of Marine Sciences, is the first on campus public art project completed as part of a course requirement. Many have remarked upon the seamless blending of the work of the art students into a cohesive representation of the marine sciences. Jason Guynes, Chair of the Visual Art department, supervised this effort. We congratulate the students and highly recommend a walk by to view the work in its entirety.



AHEPA Gives \$100,000 to USA's Endowment in Hellenic Studies in the College of Arts & Sciences

By: Jen Ekman, Public Relations

The Mobile Chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the Greek-American fraternal organization, recently donated \$100,000 to the University of South Alabama's Endowment in Hellenic Studies.

The gift created a \$200,000 boost for the Hellenic Studies Endowment because the University matched the recent gift dollar-for-dollar. When fully funded, the Hellenic Studies Endowment will provide partial support for a full-time faculty position in philosophy and classical Greek, as well as fund undergraduate study in Greece. The group's goal is to grow the endowment to \$1 million by spring 2008. The University has agreed to match all gifts up to \$450,000 until the goal is reached. To date, the endowment has raised \$550,000 through gifts and the University match.

The gifts raised also will be used to enhance the academic resources required for the study of philosophy and classical Greek, including guest lectureships and the purchase of library materials.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, known as AHEPA, promotes Greek-Americans, Greek culture, U.S. and Canadian relations with Greece, and the rights of minority Americans. It is the largest association of U.S. and Canadian citizens of Greek heritage. The goals of AHEPA, which was founded in 1922, are to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy and civic responsibility. Some of the group's philanthropic efforts include \$600 million in senior housing projects and extensive local and national scholarship programs.

Nick Stratas, a prominent member of Mobile's Greek-American community, president of the AHEPA National Housing Corporation and a member of the USA Arts and Sciences Dean's Leadership Council, said the gift and endowment would make a difference to USA students. "We need to ensure that future generations of students, Greek-Americans among them, come away from their undergraduate experience fully aware of the crucial role Greece played in the development of western civilization," he said. "A successful endowment drive will mean that the voices of classical Greece will be heard in perpetuity at the University of South Alabama."

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USA College of Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. G. David Johnson said the gift would highlight an important aspect of a liberal arts education for USA students.

"We recognize the achievements of the classical world and its influence on the thought, academic disciplines, and institutions of the world today," Johnson said. "The College of Arts and Sciences is committed to strengthening its offerings in this important area of study." AHEPA's recent gift is part of Campaign USA, the University's first comprehensive fund-raising campaign that seeks to raise \$75 million for USA programs, faculty, students and construction over the next three years. Campaign USA was launched in March, and, to date, has raised \$46 million.

"AHEPA and the Mobile Bay area Greek community are great University partners and important resources to successfully complete the Hellenic Studies Endowment effort," said Dr. Joseph F. Busta Jr., vice president of development and alumni relations. "This effort demonstrates community groups and the University can create programs of excellence for the benefit of all citizens."

Campaign USA will enrich all aspects of USA, from its academic colleges and schools to its hospitals, athletic programs, libraries and campuses. The money raised will be used to fund such items as undergraduate and graduate scholarships, professorships, classroom and laboratory equipment, and health care innovations. Funds will also be used for capital enhancements to USA's track and soccer programs, a University archives building and campus bell tower. The campaign is led by some 50 outstanding local and national business leaders.

For information on Campaign USA, go to www.campaignusaleadershp.com or call (251) 460-7032.



USA Social Psychologist Discovers Gen Y Traits in National Research

By: Alice Jackson, Public Relations

Social psychologist Dr. Joshua Foster of the University of South Alabama was somewhat surprised by the response of Generation Y to his work on a national research project that determined their age group to be the most narcissistic—self-absorbed, vain and prone to self-entitlement—of any recent American generation.

The national news media began writing about the study, the largest ever done on changes in narcissism between generations, in late February. Reports on the study are so widespread it has caught the attention of even late night television hosts Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien as well as HBO host Bill Maher.

The news reports focus on how college students have been getting progressively more narcissistic during the past 25 years. In fact, today's college students are about 30 percent more narcissistic than those of the mid-1980s. Overall, results show that 2006 college students report levels of narcissism almost equal to a recent sample of Hollywood celebrities.

"I occasionally get lots of e-mail from college students angry about what these results say about their age group," said the 33-year-old Foster, who teaches social psychology in the USA psychology department. "Some senders caution me that every generation has had issues with those that follow behind. They often raise valid concerns with the study. Occasionally, however, they serve to confirm some of the things we are saying. For example, a couple of e-mails have taken an 'I'm right, and you are wrong, and that's all there is to it' tone. Most of the students I have talked to about this, however, have been genuinely interested in what this means about their generation and society as a whole."

The study, directed by Dr. Jean Twenge of San Diego State University, analyzed data from more than 80 studies and 16,000 students conducted between 1982 and 2006. In all of these studies, students completed an identical measure of narcissistic personality. Because the studies took place in different years, but always used college-age students, it was possible to observe how narcissism

scores have changed in this age group over the years. Colleagues at the University of Michigan and the University of Georgia also participated in the research.

According to Foster, the increase in narcissism may stem from the "Self-Esteem Movement" that began in the 1970s. Back then, researchers noticed a relationship between high self-esteem and positive outcomes. They concluded that one way to improve society was therefore to increase self-esteem and positive outcomes. This idea permeated society in the form of programs designed to increase self-esteem.

"In the long run, these programs have a negative side, creating a culture of praise where, for example, every child who shows up for the sports team gets a trophy rather than reserving the trophies for those who earn them," explained Foster. "We are beginning to see these issues reflected in the workplace where it used to be that a person accepted that you begin at the bottom and slowly work your way up. Now, prospective employers are noticing that recent college grads are demanding higher starting positions and faster promotions. This can cause friction in the workplace, particularly if the employer gives in to the demands."

Foster added that older workers shouldn't worry too much about the younger generations disrupting the workplace.

"Not everyone will have the same level of narcissism. There are plenty of very humble young people. I might also add that there are plenty of narcissist older people. It's important not to categorize all young people as narcissistic and obnoxious because most of them certainly aren't like that," said Foster.

The Gen Y study is complete and is currently undergoing peer review by a scholarly research journal, but Foster's future studies will continue to focus on narcissism as well as studies of how people view themselves and how people think and behave in their relationships.



G. David Johnson,
Dean College of Arts and Sciences

Dean's Letter

I am delighted to share several outstanding stories in this issue of the Newsletter for the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Alabama. We are particularly proud to publish the biographies of the newest members of the Dean's Leadership Council. This group of outstanding supporters of the College includes distinguished alumni, successful business leaders, skilled managers, published authors, a prominent artist, an award winning scientist and inventor, and a political kingmaker. Every one of them has an outstanding record of distinguished service to their communities. We are very pleased to welcome each of these accomplished leaders to the Council.

One article in this issue announces a very generous gift the College recently received from the Mobile Chapter of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA). This gift was made to an endowment to support the study of classic Greek culture at USA. We are extremely grateful for the support from this important fraternal organization.

This issue also includes a story about Jason Guynes, who has served as Chair of Visual Arts at USA for the past two years. We were very fortunate to recruit Jason from a rival institution of higher learning in the state,

and he has brought many new ideas to our College. He is a gifted artist who works in many media, most recently earning a very nice reputation as a muralist. As you can see from the photo of the mural that adorns a wall just outside the Life Sciences Building, Jason is helping train a new generation of artists who enrolled as students in his course in public art. We are also very gratified by Jason's leadership in integrating the Visual Arts Department with the surrounding community. Our ties to the local, state, and regional art scene have never been stronger.

You will also enjoy the story about a very interesting study conducted by Assistant Professor of Psychology at USA, Dr. Joshua Foster. Josh and his colleagues documented an increase in narcissism among young people in the U.S. over the last 25 years. This study has received quite a bit of national attention since its findings were released this past February. It raises lots of important issues which are particularly relevant to youth oriented institutions like universities.

As always, the purpose of our Newsletter is to inform the reader of the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, students, alumni and supporters. We are happy to share their stories with you.

Faculty and Student News

A two part lecture series on Islam at the Mobile Public Library recently featured USA professors **Rebecca Williams**, History Department, and **Dr. Nader Entessar**, Chair of the Political Science/Criminal Justice Department.

Alex Forte, senior music education major, trombone – auditioned for and was selected to perform in the 2007 National Wind Ensemble. They will perform in New York at Carnegie Hall under the direction of renowned conductor, **H. Robert Reynolds**. This is quite an honor as college age students from across the U.S. audition for acceptance into this program. He is the student of **Dr. Greg Gruner**.

Courtney Pair, senior music education major and Laidlaw Scholar, horn – auditioned for and was selected to perform in the 2007 International Youth Wind Orchestra at the 13th International Conference of the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles this July in Killarney, Ireland. World renowned conductors **Glenn Price** and **Gerhard Markson** have been engaged along with soloist **Evelyn Glennie**, a world class marimbist. This is quite an honor as college age students from all over the world audition for acceptance into this ensemble. She is the student of **Ms. Jodi Wood**.

Andre Chiang, a senior vocal performance major and Laidlaw Scholar, won 1st place in the 11th Annual LaGrange Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Competition (LaGrange, GA). The competition was open to vocal and wind students nationwide. Andre appeared with the other two finalists in a recital in LaGrange on March 20th, and will perform as the only soloist with the LaGrange Symphony during their 2007-2008 subscription season. Andre has also been selected as a semi-finalist in the Orpheus Vocal Competition (student category). The finals will be held at Middle Tennessee State University. He will compete with vocalists chosen from a nationwide pool of applicants. He is the student of **Dr. Thomas Rowell**.

Jeannette Fresne, Department of Music, was recently awarded a major grant for her proposal "Professional Development Training in Comprehensive Arts Education."

Dr. Sue Walker, Chair of the Department of English and Poet Laureate of Alabama recently received a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. The grant helped to support the recent Eugene Walter Writers Festival. Dr. Walker was also honored to be named Mobile's First Lady by the Mobile chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

English Department alum and part time faculty member **Mary Murphy** has been selected to read her poetry at the Library of Congress in Washington DC in May. The program, "Innocence and Experience" received hundreds of entries. Congratulations to Ms. Murphy.

Spencer Oswald, student in criminal justice had a book review published in- Probation Journal (12/06). **Stephanie Jett**, student in

criminal justice, had a book review published in Corrections Today (12/06). Congratulations to Spencer and Stephanie and their mentor, **Dr. Curtis Blakely** of the Political Science and Criminal Justice Department.

Dr. Curtis Blakely, Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, has recently published his second book: *Prisons, Penology and Penal Reform: An Introduction to Institutional Specialization*. Blakely advocates stronger relationships between public and private prisons. He also advocates the specialization of the contemporary prison, with each facility housing a particular kind of inmate. Some prisons would house inmates who refuse therapeutic intervention, whereas others would provide treatment to those desiring personal reform. By ensuring that these two groups never mix, the malleable inmate would be protected from the corrupting influence of those inmates who may inhibit the treatment process.

Benjamin Shamback, Department of Visual Art, was featured in an exhibit of his oil paintings at the prestigious LeMieux Galleries in New Orleans in March.

Jason Guynes, Chair of the Department of Visual Art, had his work displayed in the USA Townhouse Gallery in a show entitled "Something for Everyone."

"Cradle of Freedom" by **Frye Galliard**, Writer in Residence in the History and English departments, was recently named the Adult Nonfiction Book of the Year by the Alabama Public Library Association. Congratulations to Mr. Galliard.

Dr. John Coker, Chair of the Philosophy Department, recently presented a talk entitled "The Legacy of Classical Greece" at a joint meeting of AHEPA and the Daughters of Penelope. He was joined by USA graduate **Amanda Murdick**, recipient of the Paideia award for study in Greece. Dr. Coker also lent his creative talent to the production of a ten year anniversary program for AHEPA.

The National Communication Honor Society Lambda Pi Eta recently held its 10th Annual Induction Ceremony. New members of Lambda Pi Eta honored are: **Marisa Berra, Heather Blair, Amanda Boswell, Stephanie Busby, Chasity Byrd, Jeremiah Carter, Crystal Chapman, tabitha Chestang, Pascale DeGruy, Joseph Doan, Rebecca Fiarcloth, Jennifer Leigh Foster, Sara Frye, Charlotte Gadilhe, Hillary Hall, Brian Jensen, Jeremiah Chad Kyle, Jennifer Liddell, Hayley Newberry, Meg Peresich, Summer Pilgrim, Crystal Porter, Mark Purvis, Edward robinson, Clarissa Roussos, Megan Russell, Bradley Sanders, Heater Stanley, Sean Sutton, Katherine Wayne, Carissa Williams, Maria Wojciechowski.** Keynote speaker was **Jean Tucker**, Senior University Attorney.

Please submit story ideas, news and suggestions to
lwims@usouthal.edu

Dean's Leadership Council New Members Named

By: Jen Ekman, Public Relations

G. David Johnson, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is pleased to announce the formation of the inaugural Dean's Leadership Council. The Dean's Leadership Council had their first official meeting in January and toured the Alfred and Lucile Delchamps Center for Archaeological Studies after a presentation from Dr. Greg Waselkov, Professor and Director of the Center. The Dean's Leadership Council elected their first Chair, Dr. Linda Busby-Parker, and formed a Nomination Committee to recommend additional members.



Ms. Angelia Stokes

Ms. Stokes holds the Bachelor's Degree in Management with a Minor in Economics from USA. She is a certified grant writer from Troy University and has volunteered at PTO President of Dothan High School, the Educational Foundation for the Future of Dothan City Schools on both the Allocation Committee and has served as secretary. She is a docent at Wiregrass Art Museum and a member of Covenant United Methodist Church in Dothan. Ms.

Stokes and her husband Dr. Steven H. Stokes have funded creative writing scholarships in the English Department at the University of South Alabama.



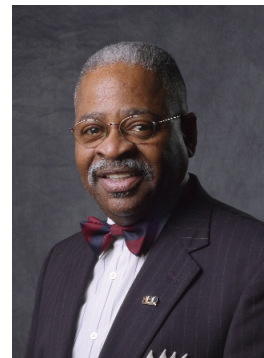
Mr. Danny K. Patterson

Danny Patterson is the Senior Location Executive for IBM's Mobile and Pensacola locations and is a native of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He has a BA degree in Economics from Carleton College. He has been with IBM for 26 years and was recognized with the IBM Chairman's Award for his leadership with the Mercedes-Benz first US based assembly plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He established the Lighthouse Community Development Corporation in 2002 to

assist the underserved residents of Southwest Mobile County and has served as Chairman of this non profit organization. He is active with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the Women's Business Center, United Way, Leadership Mobile, and Mobile Rotary.

Mr. Stillman Knight

Stillman Knight is Executive Vice President for the NHP Foundation in Washington, DC. He is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing Programs in the Office of Housing/Federal Housing Administration (FHA) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Stillman has been recognized as Builder Developer of the Year by the National Home Builders' Council and founded the Knight Companies in 1991. He was recognized nationally with the Robert Corletta Award for Achievement in Affordable Housing and the Pillars of the Industry Award among others. Stillman is an alum from USA's Political Science Department and the University of Alabama School of Law. He is a native of Mobile and he and his wife Dr. Mary A. Knight currently reside in Alexandria, VA.



Mr. Al Stokes

City Government's resident academician, Al (as he is commonly referred to), has been visiting scholar, guest lecturer, instructor, assistant professor at University of Illinois, University of South Alabama and Xavier University in L.A. Twelve years ago, this native Mobilian descended from the Ivory Tower to become the executive assistant to the Mayor of New Orleans where he was known as "the glue" that kept the

administration and council together, on key issues. After receiving an associate degree at Mobile's Bishop State Community College, Al earned a B.S. from a Dallas College and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Illinois where he was a doctoral candidate. As Mayor Jones' "Chief of Staff", Al is in charge of "anything the Mayor says he's in charge of". The executive directors report to him and he is responsible for inter-as well as intra-governmental relations.



Dr. Richard Rogers

Dr. Richard Rogers worked in design and synthesis for the Dow Chemical Company for 31 years including roles as Global Director and Development Manager. He has been actively involved in mentoring young scientists and achieved the rank of Fellow which is the highest scientific level in Dow AgroSciences and his research resulted in the publication of several patents. Dr. Rogers brought his enthusiasm and

energy to the University of South Alabama Chemistry Department first in 2001 and has been a popular professor since then. Dr. Rogers holds the Ph.D. from the University of Alabama, the Master's from University of Wisconsin and a Bachelor's Degree from Tulane. He did post doctoral work at Indiana University. He and his wife reside in Mobile in a restored 150 year old home.



Mr. Christopher Lee

Chris Lee is presently the Director of the J. L. Bedsole Foundation. He was born in Los Angeles, California, received an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from George Washington University. In 1974 he was commissioned in the Navy and completed Navy Flight Training. Chris had a 22 year career with the Navy and Coast Guard where he flew both rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft and he also served as Director of Aviation

Plans and Programs in Washington DC. Following retirement from the Coast Guard in 1994, Chris served in the Dow administration as Executive Director of Administrative Services for the City of Mobile for over 11 years. During this time he was also on the adjunct faculty for the University of South Alabama in the Department of Criminal Justice and Public Administration. Chris holds a Masters in Management and Human Relations from Webster University and a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University. Chris's hobbies include cycling, sailing, reading and gardening. He is married to Sandra and he has two step daughters and four grandchildren, all living here in Mobile.



Ms. Patsy Busby Dow

Patsy Dow is a former Assistant US Attorney and Former Assistant District Attorney. She is the co author of "Winning the Day Trading Game" published in 2005 by John Wiley and Sons, and the co author of the upcoming "The Markets Never Sleep" to be published by John Wiley and Sons in February 2007. Patsy is active as a staff writer and in Volunteers of America. She holds three degrees from the University of South Alabama: a B.A. in History, an

M.A. in History, and a M.Ed. Early Childhood. She graduated with honors from Tulane School of Law and enjoys traveling and real estate. She has been married for 36 years to Mike Dow.



Mr. Scott Speck

Scott Speck is the Director of the Mobile Symphony. With recent performances in London, Paris, Moscow, Beijing, San Francisco and Washington, Scott Speck has inspired international acclaim as a conductor of passion, intelligence and winning personality. He has led numerous performances with the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Houston, Paris, Moscow, Shanghai, Beijing, Buffalo, Columbus (OH), Honolulu, Louisville, New Orleans, Oregon, Rochester, Florida, and

Photo by: Lisa Kohler

Virginia, among many others. Previously he held positions as Conductor of the San Francisco Ballet (1998 to 2002); Music Advisor and Conductor of the Honolulu Symphony; and Associate Conductor of the Los Angeles Opera. During a recent tour of Asia he was named Principal Guest Conductor of the China Film Philharmonic in Beijing. In addition, Scott Speck is the co-author of two of the world's best-selling books on classical music for a popular audience, *Classical Music for Dummies* and *Opera for Dummies*. His third book in the series, *Ballet for Dummies*, was released in September 2003. Born in Boston, Scott Speck graduated summa cum laude from Yale University. He received his Master's Degree with highest honors from the University of Southern California, served as a Conducting Fellow at the Aspen School of Music, and studied at the Tanglewood Music Center.

College of Arts & Sciences

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