

THE SHELBY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



Richard C. Shelby

As we mark the end of the inaugural year of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership, I want to express my deepest appreciation for the initial success and to all of those who made that possible.

The founding of this Institute has long been a vision rooted in Annette's and my steadfast belief in the power of principled leadership, thoughtful scholarship, and dedicated public service. Seeing that vision come to life this year has been profoundly meaningful to us and to all who believe in the transformative potential of public policy education.

I am thankful for the energy and care that so many have poured into launching the Institute. From its first courses and lectures to the impactful programming and student engagement, a foundation has been laid that reflects the very best of The University of Alabama and the future of American leadership.

I am especially proud of the selected Shelby Scholars who have chosen to be a part of this journey. Their curiosity, discipline, and desire to learn give me hope for the generations of leaders to come. It is for them that this Institute exists—to inspire, to challenge, and to prepare the minds and hearts that will shape our nation's future.

As we look ahead, I remain confident that the Shelby Institute will continue to grow into a nationally recognized establishment for policy, thought and civic leadership. Annette and I look forward to the continued success for the Institute.

Richard C. Shelby U.S. Senator, Alabama

SHELBY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND LEADERSHIP

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Academic Director

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Thank you for your interest in the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership at The University of Alabama.

As we conclude the Institute's first year, we are deeply grateful to Senator and Dr. Shelby for their vision which inspired the creation of this unique program. I hope you will enjoy reading about the first class of Shelby Scholars.

We look forward to future years as we strive to fulfill our mission to identify and prepare leaders of our state and nation.



Finis E. St. John IV

Executive Director

Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership

Rooted in Purpose

The Founding Timeline
of the Shelby Institute
for Policy and Leadership

From its inception, the Shelby
Institute embraced a bold vision
for The University of Alabama.
This timeline traces the Institute's
purposeful beginnings and the
milestones shaping its mission.



NOVEMBER 5, 2021

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby announces he will donate his official Senate papers, records and materials to The University of Alabama at the conclusion of his sixth U.S. Senate term.

FEBRUARY 3, 2023

The UA System Board of Trustees announces the creation of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership, focused on providing premier educational programs for students interested in policy and destined for leadership roles.

APRIL 26, 2024

Senator and Dr. Shelby **cut the ribbon** on the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership, housed in newly renovated Tuomey Hall. *Page 5*

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

The Shelby Institute selects 39 undergraduate students comprising the inaugural class of Shelby Scholars—a student program within the Institute. *Page 6*

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

The Shelby Institute begins offering courses in policy, leadership and public service. Page 12

□ APRIL 16, 2025

Selected from a pool of 400 applicants, the Shelby Institute welcomes 23 undergraduate students into the 2025–2026 Shelby Scholars class. *Page 11*

MAY 2, 2025

Shelby Scholar graduates pioneer the Shelby Scholars Alumni Society, offering former Shelby Scholars a meaningful way to stay connected with the Shelby Institute. Page 22



The University of Alabama Cuts the Ribbon for the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Located in the newly renovated Tuomey Hall and guided by the vision of Senator and Dr. Shelby, the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership utilizes experiential learning, undergraduate research and civic engagement to teach students about policy, leadership and public service.

Sen. Shelby and his wife, former UA professor Dr. Annette Shelby, have long shared a dedication to the growth of Alabama's capstone of higher education, as exhibited in their lifetimes of respective service in the U.S. Senate and in higher education.

"Education is key to unlocking opportunity, which is why I believe one of the most important investments we can make is in our classrooms." —Senator Shelby

"My wife Annette and I are also honored by the University's establishment of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership, which will train generations of future leaders with a shared passion for policy and public service." The Shelby Institute is an interdisciplinary, nonpartisan and student-focused establishment dedicated to educating and training future leaders of the state and nation. The Shelby Scholars program is a credit-bearing leadership program for undergraduate students who are passionate about public service. The cohort of 40 students receives exclusive programming, which includes Institute-developed curriculum, experiential learning and personal interactions with prominent state and national guest lecturers.

"The Shelby Institute will be a premier program for students interested in pursuing policy and public service and will be a valuable addition to our academic programs," said Dr. Jim Dalton, UA executive vice president and provost. "Our state and nation will benefit greatly from the experience and knowledge these students gain through this unique opportunity."

Learn more about the leadership team at the Shelby Institute on page 26.



39 students were selected to comprise the inaugural class of Shelby Scholars—an undergraduate program within the Institute.

The Shelby Scholars program offers a credit-bearing curriculum designed to provide students from any academic field with a deep understanding of policy and public service. Students engage with an exclusive, Institute-developed curriculum and benefit from personal interactions with prominent state and national guest lecturers. Shelby Scholars are also provided individual professional mentoring and support to participate in selective experiential learning opportunities, such as internships and undergraduate research.



ELLA KATE BROOKS
Sylacauga, AL
CLASS OF 2025
political science,
criminal justice
and accounting



OLIVIA BROWN
Homewood, AL
CLASS OF 2026
political science,
foreign languages
and literature



TAYLOR CARNLEY
Opp, AL
CLASS OF 2025
political science
and English



HANNAH ADAMS
Birmingham, AL
CLASS OF 2025
political science
and public relations



MARIA DERISAVI
Great Mills, MD

CLASS OF 2025
international studies
and Chinese



KALLEIGH AHERN
Brentwood, TN

CLASS OF 2025
political science
and public relations



ALEXANDRA
DUNN-CORDOVA
Bellevue, WA
CLASS OF 2025
marketing and
business management



JACK ALLISON
Birmingham, AL
CLASS OF 2026
management



OLIVIA FRAZIER
Birmingham, AL
CLASS OF 2025
political science
and criminal justice



SAMAD GILLANI
Hoover, AL

CLASS OF 2025
finance and
economics



KATHERINE GRAY
Tuscaloosa, AL
CLASS OF 2026
political science
and philosophy



AUBREI GRISAFFE
Tulsa, OK
CLASS OF 2026
political science
and Spanish



ANDREW HALL
Birmingham, AL
CLASS OF 2025
political science
and management
information systems



HUDSON HANNER
Gardendale, AL
CLASS OF 2026
political science
and public policy



RAEGAN HARRIS

Duncanville, AL

CLASS OF 2026

interdisciplinary studies
and public policy



JACK HARRIS
Guntersville, AL
CLASS OF 2025
finance and real estate



EMMA HOU
St. Louis, MO
CLASS OF 2026
political science and global and cultural perspectives



ALTON HUDSON
Huntsville, AL
CLASS OF 2026
political science
and music



MARAH INMAN
Hattiesburg, MS
CLASS OF 2026
English and
general business



SOPHIA LOTZOW
Bainbridge, IN
CLASS OF 2025
civil, environmental
and water resources
engineering



TEEGAN MATHEY
Aurora, IL
CLASS OF 2025
environmental science





CAMERON MORGAN
Butler, AL
CLASS OF 2026
management
information systems



HANNAH KATE
NEWMAN
Ooltewah, TN
CLASS OF 2026
Spanish and
real estate



BENNETT OGLE
Farragut, TN

CLASS OF 2025
economics, mathematics,
English and Spanish



ALLY-ANNA OUTLAW
Brundidge, AL
CLASS OF 2025
public relations
and management



MORGAN PATRICK
Hoover, AL

CLASS OF 2025
communication
studies and political science



AUTUMN PERNELL
Tuscaloosa, AL
CLASS OF 2025
psychology, political
science and Spanish



JULIENNE PHARRAMS

Deatsville, AL

CLASS OF 2026

political science and

communication studies



CHLOE PICKLE
Hamilton, AL
CLASS OF 2026
economics and
political science



MICHAEL REGNIER
Wake Forest, NC
CLASS OF 2025
political science
and economics



FINLEY RICHARDSON
Saraland, AL
CLASS OF 2027
communication, economics,
philosophy, political science
and public policy



CLAIRE ROBERTS
Tuscaloosa, AL
CLASS OF 2025
psychology, Spanish
and criminal justice



MATTHEW SAVAS
Crystal Lake, IL

CLASS OF 2025
political science,
philosophy and English



COUNTS SHANKS
Springdale, AR
CLASS OF 2026
public relations,
international studies
and public policy



WILLIAM SHELBY
Tuscaloosa, AL
CLASS OF 2025
criminology,
criminal justice
and political science



SAMANTHA SIMMONS
Hartselle, AL
CLASS OF 2027
political science
and Spanish



Cullman, AL

CLASS OF 2026

management,

political science

and entrepreneurship

TAYLOR SIMMONS



ANDREW STOVALL
Winfield, AL
CLASS OF 2025
management,
advertising and
public relations



REAGAN WELLS
DeFuniak Springs, FL
CLASS OF 2026
communication studies
and political science



400 SHELBY SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS

The spring 2025 application period for the 2025-2026 class was from January 13-31, 2025. Students having completed 15+ hours at UA were eligible to apply.



57% FEMALE 43% MALE



184 RISING SOPHOMORES

133 RISING JUNIORS

83 RISING SENIORS



176 4.0 GPA 304 ≥3.75 GPA



56% OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS
44% IN-STATE APPLICANTS



184 ARTS & SCIENCES

106 BUSINESS

- 39 COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SCIENCES
- 24 ENGINEERING
- 26 HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
- 8 SOCIAL WORK
- 7 EDUCATION
- 6 NURSING

OUT OF 400 APPLICANTS,

23 NEW SCHOLARS

- WERE SELECTED

5.75% acceptance rate

57%

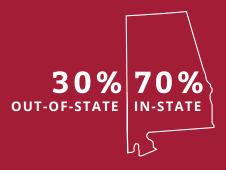


43%

5 RISING SOPHOM<u>ORES</u>

f 14RISING JUNIORS

4
RISING SENIORS



2 ENGINEERING

12 ARTS & SCIENCES

7 BUSINESS

2 COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SCIENCES



3.9



Hailey Adams
Javen Bies-Dupree
Landon Bruski
John Michael Chandash
Rylen Dempsey
Anna Dickey
Lana Grace Fields
Jack Hastings

Woods Hobbs
Kennedy Jones
Camila Lopez
Madeleine Luther
Samuel McKinney
Sam Miller
Luke Mintz
Gracie Moody

Elizabeth Owens
Charlie Beth Pruett
Addison Ratliff
Robin Reid
Jonas Scofield
Mary Sullivan
Eleanor Vest

Scholar Experience

As part of their curriculum, Shelby
Scholars participated in two exclusive
classes during this past academic year:
a guest lecture series featuring local,
state and national leaders as well as
a course on the Constitution's role
in modern society led by former dean
of The University of Alabama School
of Law and Shelby Institute academic
director Dr. Mark E. Brandon.











Profiles in LeadershipFall Visiting Lecture Series

Scholars and visiting lecturers participate in off-the-record interactions, which are designed to provide scholars with critical insights and experiences that will prepare them for careers in policy and government. The format is tailored to the lecturer's preference, whether that be a fireside chat (a relaxed, moderated conversation on agreed-upon topics with student interaction), a structured presentation without a moderator or a question-and-answer session where students engage directly with the lecturer on topics of their choosing.

A comprehensive list of all visiting lecturers can be found on page 15.

Constitution and American Life *Spring Seminar*

The Constitution in American Life, a seminar led by the Institute's academic director, former dean of the UA School of Law and current Thomas E. McMillan Professor of Law, Dr. Mark E. Brandon, invites Shelby Scholars to examine the sources, functions and interpretation of constitutional authority, including the role of citizens in shaping its meaning. Through critical analysis and discussion, scholars explore the Constitution's evolving significance and assess its impact on American history.





















2024-2025 Visiting Lecturers

Will Ainsworth

Alabama Lieutenant Governor

Ed Bridges

Former Director, Alabama Dept. of Archives and History

Katie Britt

U.S. Senator, Alabama

Greg Byrne

Director of Athletics, The University of Alabama

Josh Carpenter

President and CEO, Southern Research

Lynn Cole

Vice Chancellor for System Communications, The University of Alabama System

Steve Daines

U.S. Senator, Montana

John England

Former Alabama Supreme Court Justice

Joe Espy

Practicing Attorney and Former Trustee, The University of Alabama System

Mike Gremillion

Director, Global Water Security Center

Stewart Hall

CEO, Public Policy Holding Company

Mary and Marnix Heersink

Philanthropists and Founder, Eye Center South

Marillyn Hewson

Former Chairman, President and CEO, Lockheed Martin

Doug Jones

U.S. Senator, Alabama

Charles McClelland

Commissioner, Southwestern Athletic Conference

William Pryor

Chief Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit

Jimmy Rane

CEO, Great Southern Wood Holdings, Inc.

Richard Shelby

U.S. Senator, Alabama

Anat Sultan-Dadon

Consul General of Israel to the Southeastern U.S.

Matthew Womble

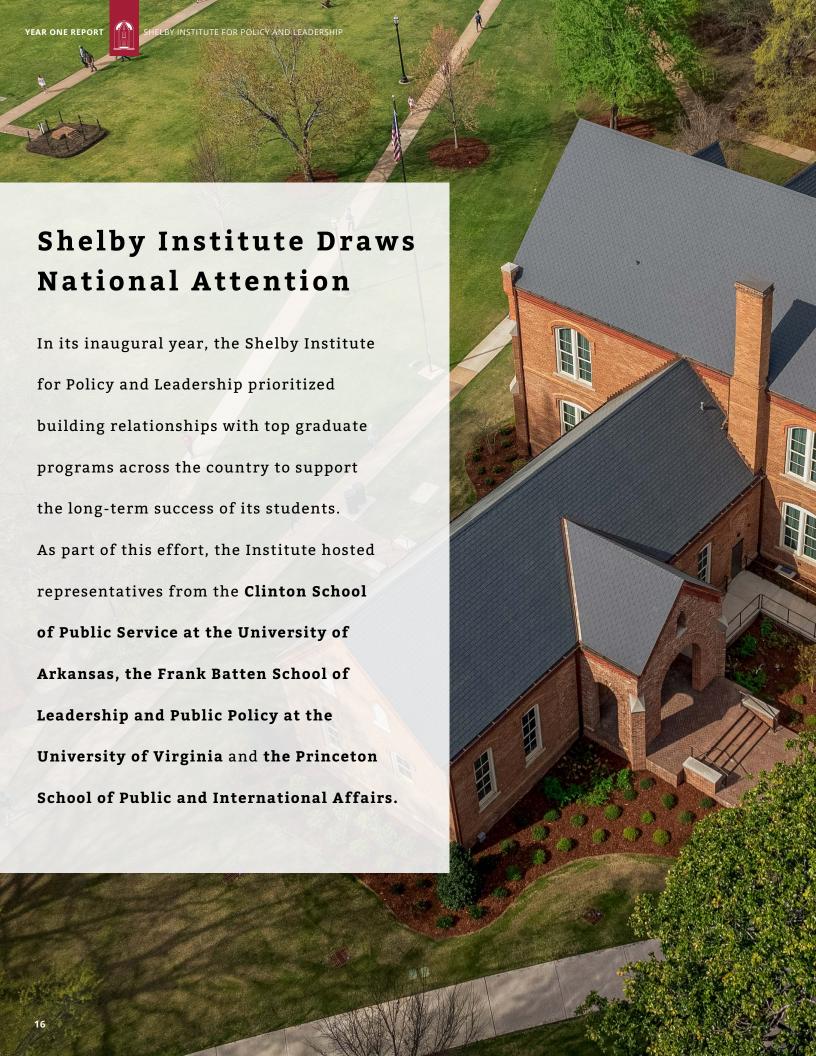
Executive Director, Alabama Water Institute

Bob Witt

Former Chancellor, The University of Alabama System Former President, The University of Alabama

Chris Womack

Chairman, President and CEO, Southern Company





During their visits, guests from nationally prominent graduate programs engaged directly with Shelby Scholars through small group sessions and classroom discussions, providing tailored information on admissions processes, academic offerings and the wide variety of career paths supported by each institution.

These visits introduced Scholars to competitive opportunities in graduate public policy programs, dual degree options and law school pathways that align with the Institute's mission to cultivate civic-minded leaders. Most notably, the Shelby Institute finalized a formal partnership with the University of Virginia's Batten School, enabling admitted Shelby Scholars to receive priority consideration for merit-based scholarships that significantly offset tuition costs. This agreement reflects a shared commitment to leadership development, public service

UVA'S BATTEN EADERSHIP 8 PUBLIC POLICY ALUMS OF THE SHELBY SCHOLARS PROGRAM Do you want to be a catalyst for real and RECEIVE: lasting change? An application fee waiver If admitted, a minimum Our two-year, full-time Master of guaranteed annual fellows Public Policy program offers students the chance to focus on the result of \$12,500 policy — solving society's most pressing problems.

and expanding access to world-class graduate education.

Such academic partnerships represent the first step in a broader strategy to connect Shelby Scholars with graduate and professional programs that reinforce their leadership potential and prepare them to make meaningful contributions at the local, national and global levels.

FEATURE

Vodcast Explores Life and Legacy of Richard Shelby

The Shelby Institute has launched a new vodcast series offering a fresh, student-driven lens on the political, economic and cultural legacy of one of Alabama's most influential public servants: U.S. Senator Richard Shelby. In each episode, two Shelby Scholars sit down with a guest to reflect on the senator's decades-long impact on Alabama and the nation.

Supported by the Alabama Humanities Alliance, the vodcast is more than just a tribute — it's an intergenerational dialogue that weaves together historical insight and personal stories. With each interview, viewers gain a deeper understanding of how Senator Shelby helped shape everything from infrastructure to education in Alabama.

Among the vodcast guests is historian **Ed Bridges**, who provides critical context on the political and social environment that shaped Shelby's early career. Dr. Bridges offers a vivid account of how

Senator Shelby spent decades building Alabama's research and educational infrastructure.

Business titan Jimmy Rane, widely known as the "Yella Fella," shares candid insights into Shelby's influence on economic development across the state—from tourism expansion to strategic investments that fueled small business growth. Similarly, attorney Joe Espy discusses Shelby's legacy in judicial appointments and legal reform, noting the senator's steadfast commitment to the people he represented and the bipartisan respect he earned in Washington.

Senator Doug Jones reflects on his longstanding friendship with Senator Shelby and their time working together, expressing admiration for Shelby's view of elected office as a true public service. He also praises Shelby's collaborative spirit, which consistently led to meaningful results for the people of Alabama.





I think he was a quiet leader...he didn't have to scream, and he didn't have to holler...he quietly worked the system and made friends.

-Joe Espy

Judge John England highlights Senator Shelby's sharp foresight and the pivotal role he played in shaping Alabama's judicial landscape. Through his influence on key federal judicial appointments, Shelby helped ensure that the state's courts were guided by individuals committed to fairness, integrity and public service. His impact on the judiciary reflects a long-term vision for promoting justice across Alabama.

Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth and Senator Steve Daines offer a look at Shelby's national influence and his mentorship of younger political leaders, underscoring his role in shaping conservative policymaking at the federal level while maintaining an Alabama-focused agenda.

From the Alabama Water Institute, Mike

Gremillion and Matt Womble discuss how

Shelby's advocacy for research and innovation
positioned Alabama as a hub for water science

and environmental policy. Their episode delves into Shelby's critical role in securing federal funding for scientific institutions across the state.

The series also features **Stewart Hall**, Shelby's former legislative director, who provides a behind-the-scenes view—from Shelby's campaign strategy in Alabama to his leadership style in Washington, D.C.

The vodcast serves as both a record of Alabama's political history and an inspiring call to civic engagement. With each episode, it becomes clear that Shelby's legacy is not just etched in policy but lives on in the voices of those he inspired.

To view the vodcast series, visit youtube.com/@ShelbyInstitute

Supported by

ALABAMA HUMANITIES ALLIANCE





Events and Awards

Throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, the Shelby Institute welcomed a dynamic slate of guests and collaborated across campus to host a variety of workshops and events.

The Shelby Institute welcomed Jeff Speck of the urban design firm Speck/Dempsey to Tuomey Hall where he spoke with Shelby Scholars about career development. Leadership of the Shelby Institute was honored with the Jack Warner Award by the UA Student Government Association (SGA) in recognition of its dedication to the University's mission, valuable insights, innovative ideas and unwavering support of SGA's initiatives.











igating Washington

inal Development Workshop for Undergraduate Interns

ited by The Shelby Institute and UA System Capitol Scholars







During Homecoming week, the Institute reconnected with former Student Government Association alumni, fostering valuable dialogue between past and present student leaders, and hosted a tailgate event at the historic Tuomey Hall.

In collaboration with the UA System Office's
Capitol Scholars program, the Institute hosted
"Navigating Washington," a workshop to
prepare students from across campus for
internships in the nation's capital. During UA's
annual Honors Week, fifteen Shelby Scholars
were inducted into prestigious honor societies.

Stay connected with the Shelby Institute!

Follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram or Facebook to stay in the loop with the Shelby Institute.

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Alumni Society

Pioneered by the Class of 2025, the Shelby Scholars Alumni Society offers former Shelby Scholars a meaningful way to stay connected with the Shelby Institute. The Society provides opportunities for continued professional development and enables alumni to support current and future Scholars.

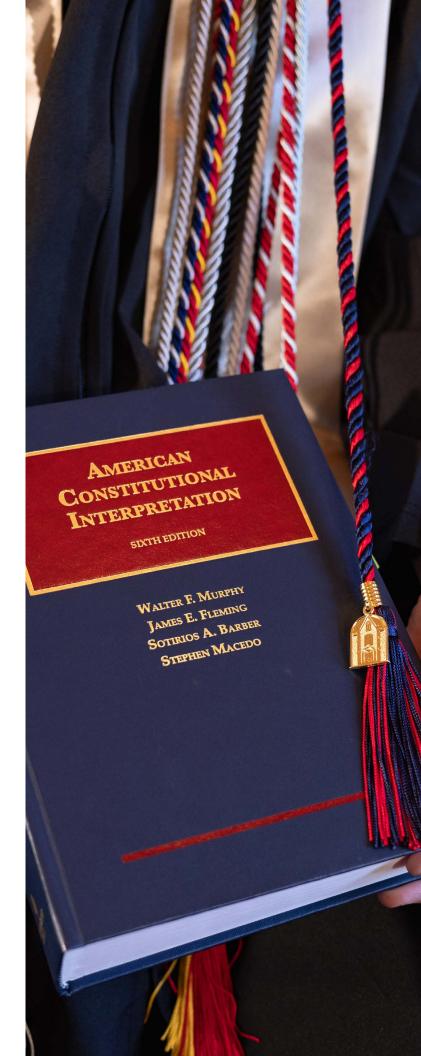
Hannah Adams
Ella Kate Brooks
Taylor Carnley
Maria Derisavi
Alexandra
Dunn-Cordova
Olivia Frazier
Samad Gillani
Andrew Hall
Jack Harris
Sophia Lotzow

Teegan Mathey
Bennett Ogle
Ally-Anna Outlaw
Morgan Patrick
Autumn Pernell
Michael Regnier
Claire Roberts
Matt Savas
William Shelby
Andrew Stovall

Shelby Scholar Graduates Begin Charting Their Impact

Shelby Scholar graduates launch into exciting careers throughout Alabama and beyond. Here are just a few of the roles they've taken on.

Communication Specialist, Global Water Security Center Staff Assistant, Congressman Dale Strong Associate, Venture Government Strategies Litigation Paralegal, Paul, Weiss Law Firm Research Fellow, National Science Foundation Research Traineeship: Water Research to Operations





Shelby Scholar Graduates Earn Admission to Top Law Schools

For the Shelby Scholars attending law school, students have their choice of prestigious institutions reflecting their academic excellence and strong preparation.

Cornell Law School

Cumberland School of Law (Samford University)

George Washington University Law School

Georgetown University Law Center

Harvard Law School

Mercer University School of Law

New York University School of Law

Northwestern Pritzker School of Law (Northwestern University)

Texas A&M University School of Law

The University of Alabama School of Law

The University of Chicago Law School

The University of Michigan Law School

University of Mississippi School of Law

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

University of Virginia School of Law

Vanderbilt Law School

Washington University School of Law (Washington University in St. Louis)





Summer Snapshots

Shelby Scholar Summer Experiences

This summer, Shelby Scholars are engaging in diverse, high-impact experiences that are extending their learning far beyond the classroom. From prestigious fellowships to public service and global study, these opportunities reflect their dedication to leadership, public policy and civic engagement. The following snapshots highlight just a few of the meaningful ways our scholars are spending their summer.



Olivia Brown will spend June in Cotonou, Benin studying economic development in Francophone Africa. She will return to the states in July and finish her summer

as an intern with Representative Terri Sewell's office in Washington, D.C.



Samantha Simmons will intern with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where she will support the Government Relations team and gain valuable experience at

the intersection of business, policy, advocacy and national economic strategy.



Reagan Harris will intern with the Economic and Community Development Team at Alabama Power.
She will identify growing companies around the world

in Alabama's key industries and match them with suitable sites.



Bennett Ogle was selected for a Fulbright Scholarship in Latvia, where he will support English language and American studies instruction in Latvian schools

while also strengthening educational and cultural ties between the United States and Latvia.





Katherine Gray, Hudson Hanner and Alton Hudson were selected for the University of Alabama System Office Capitol Scholars Program—an imersive summer internship experience in Washington, D.C., designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of government.



Jack Allison has secured a prestigious internship with the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, where he will contribute to policy

research and legislative efforts focused on national security and government oversight.



Hannah Kate Newman will be joining Goldman Sachs as a summer analyst in Asset & Wealth Management in Atlanta, GA, where she will work alongside industry professionals to support

client portfolios, develop financial strategies and gain insight into global markets.



Emma Hou has accepted an internship with Senator Eric Schmitt of Missouri, where she will assist with legislative research, constituent communications and policy

development while gaining firsthand experience in the day-to-day operations of a U.S. Senate office.



Chloe Pickle secured an internship in the Office of the Majority Whip, Representative Tom Emmer, in the U.S. House of Representatives. She will support legislative staff and

deepen her understanding of congressional leadership and national governance.









Shelby Institute Leadership

Finis E. St. John IV serves as the Executive Director of the Shelby Institute for Policy and Leadership. Prior to this role, he served as chancellor of the University of Alabama System from 2018–2024. Before being named chancellor, St. John served on the UA System Board of Trustees for 17 years, including three consecutive terms as president pro tempore. He is a graduate of The University of Alabama and University of Virginia School of Law and practiced law in Cullman prior to being named chancellor.

Dr. Mark E. Brandon brings a wealth of expertise to the Institute, having previously served as the dean of the UA School of Law from 2014 to 2023. As the Thomas E. McMillan Professor of Law, Brandon has garnered renown in constitutional law and political science, making him uniquely positioned to serve as academic director. He holds degrees from the University of Montevallo, The University of Alabama, University of Michigan, and Princeton University.

Dr. Daniela M. Susnara assumes the role of program director, bringing with her a wealth of experience from UA's Division of Community Affairs. Her leadership in community engagement initiatives underscores the Institute's commitment to fostering meaningful connections and impactful outreach efforts.

Susnara is a proud alumna of The University of Alabama, holding multiple degrees from the institution.

Caroline Carpenter, with
her extensive administrative
background at The University
of Alabama System Office,
steps into the role of director of
operations. Her proficiency in
overseeing diverse portfolios
and student-centric initiatives
positions her as an asset in the
Institute's operational endeavors.
Carpenter is a graduate of The
University of Alabama.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tailgates at Tuomey Hall

UA vs. Louisiana-Monroe September 6, 2025

> UA vs. Oklahoma (Homecoming) November 15, 2025



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