

Education

www.choctawsun.com
choctawsun@millry.net



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Jasmine Gaines earns doctorate degree from UAB

BIRMINGHAM - Dr. Jasmine P. Gaines, 29, of Butler, Alabama, graduated on December 16, 2006 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) earning a Ph.D. concentrating in Cellular and Molecular Biology. She is a 1995 graduate of Choctaw County High School. She received a B.S. in Biology from UAB in June 2000.

During her graduate career, Jasmine participated in several educational workshops, scientific seminars, and presented her doctoral research in oral and poster presentations. She was the recipient of two Minority Scholar Awards that allowed her to present her research at the 2003 and 2005 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meetings. In Spring 2006, her graduate research efforts were commended as an honorable mention for the UAB Department of Medicine's Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Research Trainee Symposium. Jasmine also served as a mentor, student leader, and participated on many committees. She was the 2004-2005 Vice-President and 2005-2006 President of the UAB Graduate Student Association (GSA). Her leadership skills earned her the 2006 UAB University Leadership and Service Award.

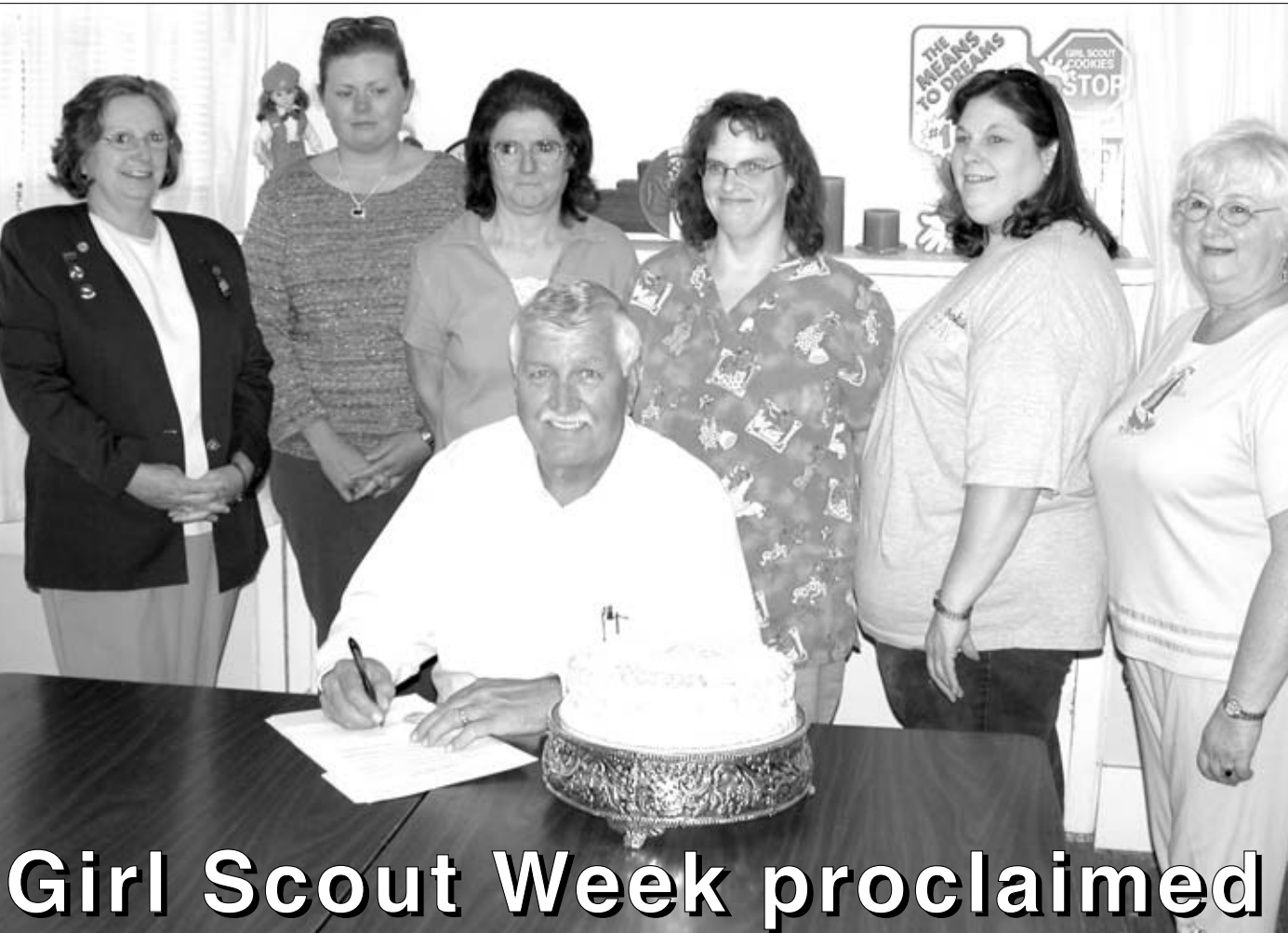
Jasmine is currently a Postdoctoral Scholar at UAB participating in the Morehouse School of Medicine/Tuskegee University/UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center Partnership Research Training Program. During her Postdoctoral training, she



Dr. Jasmine P. Gaines

will focus on using genetic admixture as a method to identify genes that lead to racial differences in breast cancer in Alabama African-American women. Jasmine is interested in working closely with cancer physicians and cancer prevention researchers. Her research interests include susceptibility gene identification, cancer genetics, minority health disparities and cancer prevention. Jasmine plans to begin working on a Masters in Public Health (MPH) in Epidemiology in UAB's School of Public Health in Fall 2007.

Jasmine Gaines is the daughter of the late Victoria Gaines (Mt. Sterling, AL) and Mr. James T. Portis (Yantley, AL). She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Lucille May (Mt. Sterling, AL) and Mrs. Marie Portis and the late Mr. T.J. Portis (Yantley, AL). Dr. Gaines and her husband of five years currently reside in Birmingham, AL.



Girl Scout Week proclaimed

Choctaw Sun photo by Dan Melvin

BUTLER -- Mayor Ben Smith proclaimed the week of March 12 through 18 as 'Girl Scout Week' in honor of the national observance of the occasion. This year marks the 95th anniversary for the Girl Scout organization which was organized on March 12, 1912. Pictured with Mayor Smith are Pat Hall, SuMgr 23, Anna Rogers, Council Rep., Deborah Kwasiak, Troop 46, April Wilson, Troop 250, Stephanie Bonner, Troop 416, and Carol Mason, Troop 272. Green ribbons are available for area businesses and individuals who choose to make financial contributions to the local Girl Scouts. Cookies are also still available by contacting your local Scout. Think Green ... support your local Girl Scout

Keahey pledges to support Promise Campaign for ETF

MONTGOMERY -- At the legislative reception in Montgomery on Tuesday Night, March 6, Superintendent Sue Moore pinned an "I promise" apple on the lapel of Representative Marc Keahey as part of the School Superintendents' campaign to ask legislators to "promise to protect our children's future by always voting to protect the Education Trust Fund." As a strong supporter of education, Representative Keahey accepted the apple and made the solemn promise to protect the Education Trust Fund.

During the month of March, Superintendent Moore will be contacting Senator Pat Lindsey, Senator Bobby Singleton, and Representative Thomas Jackson to ask for their promise to protect the ETF.



Submitted photo
Pictured is Representative Marc Keahey receiving his Promise Campaign pin from Supt. Sue Moore

CCHS to hold PTO meeting

BUTLER -- A PTO meeting will be held at Choctaw County High School on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Report cards will be issued after the meeting.

All parents are urged to attend this and all PTO meetings in order to be more aware of what's going on in your child's education.

**Attention schools:
Send us your announcements for upcoming PTO meetings!**

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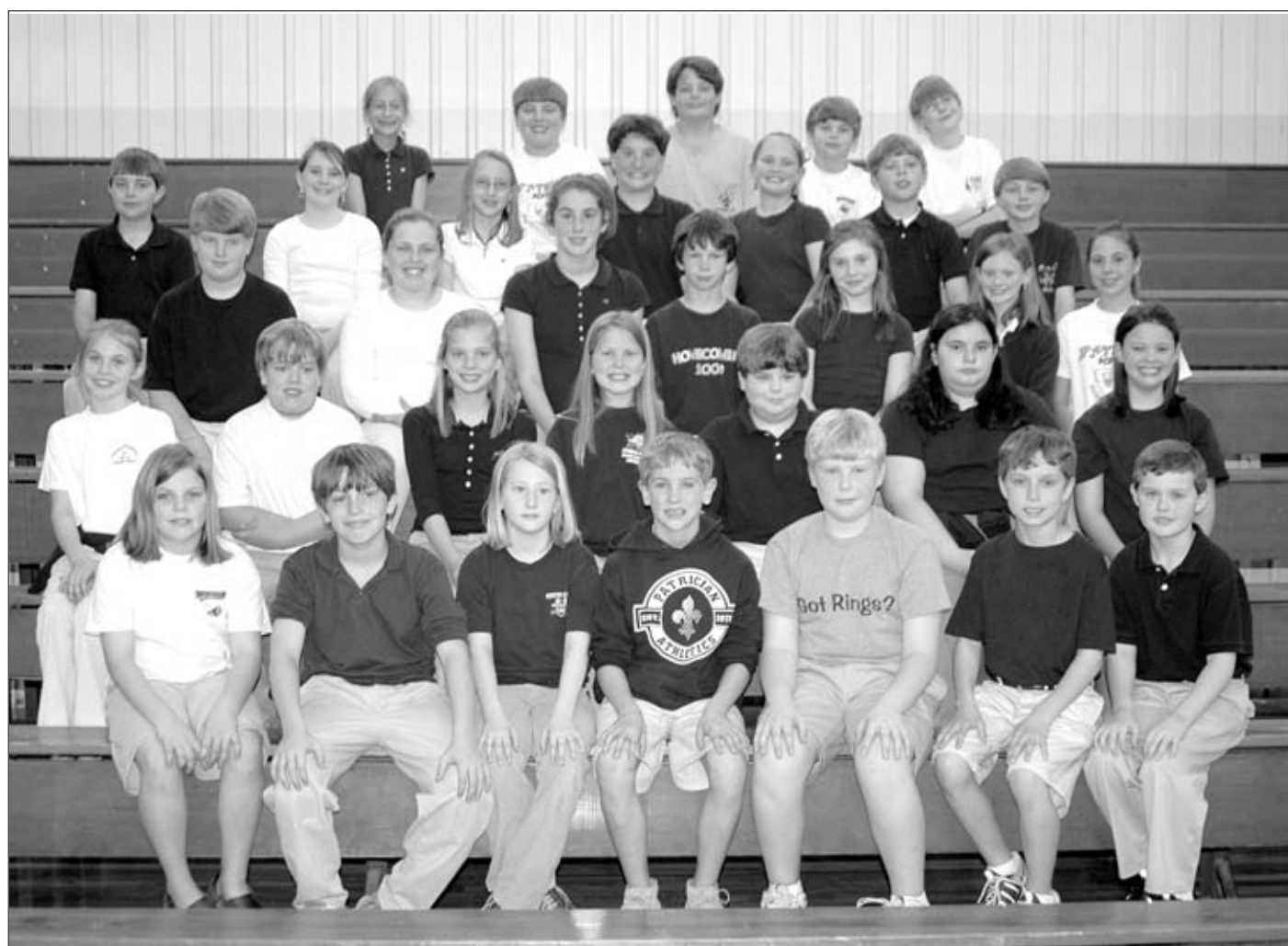
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Choctaw Sun photo by Mickey Bryant

Patrician students chosen for MAP

BUTLER -- Thirty-five students in grades 4 and 5 at Patrician Academy were recently selected for the Duke University Motivation for Academic Performance (MAP) program. The program honors students who achieve in the 90th percentile on the national norms of a standardized achievement, aptitude, or mental ability test. A huge 70% of the 4th grade at Patrician scored in the 90th percentile or above on the SAT 10, along with 95% of 5th graders. Pictured are MAP students for 4th grade (in no particular order) Rachel Aldridge, Jacob Boykin, Morgan Clarke, McCaleb Conner, John Green, Ivey Lewis, Gray Lewis, Harley Manley, Cass McIntyre, Margaret Moody, Madison Neely, Even Retherford, Kaylee Scarborough, Skylar Tyson; 5th grade: Parker Allen, Hayley Anderson, Madison Beck, Caleb Bonner, Ashleigh Christopher, Emily Clark, Chynna Ernest, Dalton Guinn, Erin Hendley, Ashton Horton, Ely Johnson, Chelsea Lewis, Tanner Moore, Flint Mosley, Kelsey Norwood, Robbie Norwood, Trevor Sheffield, John Weekley, T.J. Stafford. Not pictured are Rachel Moss and Gage Taylor, who attended Patrician this year as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Their scores are a tribute to their former schools.