

## TCPS Celebrates Preservation at Annual Awards Banquet

On **Thursday, November 11th** the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society honored those individuals, groups and organizations who have contributed to the ongoing task of preservation in the past year. The **2010 Awards Banquet** was held at **Wintzell's Oyster House** in Northport. **President-elect Drew Kyle** welcomed the large crowd and thanked them for their support of the organization. **Donald Brown** delivered a lovely invocation and **Jim Harrison, III** served as Master of Ceremonies.

**Brick and Mortar** awards went to:

- **Ken and Leigh Ann Smelser** for the careful restoration of their home, the Moody-Smelser House built in 1825;
- **Phil and Dana Hemstreet** for renovating their home on University Boulevard making it suitable for a large and active family without compromising the integrity of the old house;
- **Friends of Historic Northport** for their work restoring the 1882 King Bowstring Bridge.

The **Preservation Advocacy Award** went to the **Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation Committee** for their countless hours and efforts to preserve the Bryce Hospital.

**Special Recognition Awards** were received by the **University of Alabama** for their commitment thus far to preserve the central building of Bryce Hospital and to the **Tuscaloosa Genealogical Society** for their efforts to catalogue and store the historic records of the Tuscaloosa County Court House.

**Educator of the Year** went to **Betty Slowe** of the *Tuscaloosa News* for her continuing efforts to promote the history of Tuscaloosa in her weekly "Looking Back" column. Betty also submits historic photos every week with requests to help identify the persons shown. She is also involved with a project to digitize historic photos onto a website and make them available for public viewing.

**Evans Fitts** received the first **Professional of the Year** award for his tireless efforts to aid the Society by sharing what he does as one of Tuscaloosa's best known architects. Maintaining historic buildings is an ongoing job and Evans is always available with his invaluable architectural knowledge.

The **Volunteer of the Year** award went to **Suzanne Wolfe** for her continuing willingness to do unsung volunteer work including research, event planning and assisting with the quarterly publication of *The Preservationist*.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the **Lifetime Achievement** award which was presented to **Joyce Lamont** for her many years with the University of Alabama Library Systems, Hoole Special Collections and the Preservation Society. Now retired, Joyce still works with organizations around the state, instructing them on proper preservation methods..



*Brick and Mortar winner Chuck Gerdau (representing Friends of Historic Northport) with his daughter, Carly*

The **Preservationist of the Year** award deservedly went to **Hannah Brown** for her efforts as interim manager of the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion. Hannah meticulously and methodically worked through the entire house organizing records and cleaning each room and its contents. She also wrote a detailed manual for the Mansion, which will be invaluable to future board presidents as well as for present and future staff members.



*Preservationist of the Year,  
Hannah Brown*



*Lifetime Achievement,  
Joyce Lamont*



*Steve Davis, representing the Bryce  
Committee, happily shows off his  
Special Recognition award*



*L - R  
Camille Elebash shows off  
her centerpiece with  
Educator of the Year,  
Betty Slowe*

Awards Committee  
Drew Kyle, Chair  
Hannah Brown  
Marty Hamner  
Katherine Mauter  
Lamanda Mauter  
Sandra Ray  
  
*Special Thanks to*  
Molly Donlon,  
Wintzell's Oyster House  
Evans Fitts  
Jean Gordon  
Susan Haynes  
Cal Wilson