

# Dr. Singer asks “Where are all the Women?”

By JaQuise Caldwell



On September 10, 2014 several of the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s faculty and staff met at the Edge of Chaos to honor Dr. Judith D. Singer on receiving the 13th Annual Janet L. Norwood Award and to listen to her lecture. Given by UAB’s School of Public Health in honor of Dr. Janet L. Norwood and all her achievements in statistics and public service, this award is given to a woman who is making great strides for other women in the statistical sciences. UAB’s School of Public Health hopes that “establishing this award will help promote the active involvement of women in the statistical sciences at all levels from high school through senior faculty and scientists.” While women continue to make strides in science related professions, UAB is striving to acknowledge and uplift those women and encourage them to continue to branch out into fields previously dominated by males.

That sort of theme tied in perfectly to Dr. Singer’s lecture, appropriately titled “Where are all the Women?” Dr. Singer focused on the absence of women in the statistical sciences as she referenced a conference where she met Janet L. Norwood and was the only other female on the panel to present. She continued to statistically demonstrate how underrepresented women are in the statistical sciences. Singer spoke with such a fire and passion that it was hard not to be intrigued. When asked what gives her such enthusiasm for her field she said something simple yet profound: “There are opportunities to make a place different and if you’re not passionate about it, go do something else.” This is a straightforward statement that can be applied to the most complex of situations. Love what you do and put your all into it—simple as that. That refreshingly pragmatic statement can definitely be appreciated coming from an extremely educated professional. With the various honors, awards, and accolades that Dr. Singer has, combined with her relatability, she is an ideal recipient of an award as prestigious as the Janet L. Norwood Award. The Edge of Chaos provided the needed atmosphere to have this event which educated and inspired, in addition to honoring an exceptional leader, educator, and scientist.