

Vaughn Lumber Co.

**Names:**

Roberts, Dr.

Vaughns, The

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

note



**Topics:**

Huntsville Times  
reporter

registrar at UAH  
retirement

teacher with Dr.  
Roberts

**Names:**

Adair, Dorothy  
Easterling, Bill

Hall, Nan

Roberts, Frances  
Cabaniss, Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

newspaper article

**Dates:**

Jan 23, 1999

9  
AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS FOR 2.E.1

AB The Huntsville Times, Saturday, January 23, 1999

**■ 'Retirement' hasn't slowed area's chief historian.**

**Historian**

Continued from page A1

library shelf.

■ So she is the most widely recognized and respected history teacher who ever taught in Huntsville or Madison County.

So what.

Personal recognition has never appealed to her. Getting done what needs doing has. Therein lies her magnetism, and her strength.

**Tied history together**

She tied the history of Huntsville together — "I will take credit for that." But as far as being the only one involved, Dr. Roberts doesn't have a selfish bone in her body. "All the things I've done in this town," she said, "other people have helped me."

Without her generalship, though, many of those ideas would never have taken flight.

Born in the west Alabama town of Gainesville, the future Dr. Roberts was encouraged to pursue a career in education by her schoolteacher mother, Mary Watson Roberts, a strong woman and the family's "main influence."

She dominated her husband, Richard, a farmer and storekeeper who inherited his wealth, and their relationship wasn't lost on young Frances, who grew up to be independent and strong-willed like her mother.

Frances learned to drive at 10 by operating a farm truck in her father's fields at harvest time.

She developed a love for history at about the same age when she started making speeches every year at ceremonies commemorating her little town's part in the Civil War. Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest surrendered in Gainesville.

She once began a history of her hometown but never finished "because I got interested in things up here."

Armed with a bachelor's degree from Livingston University (she later got a master's at Alabama, did graduate studies at Vanderbilt and earned a doctorate from Alabama), she came "up here" to Huntsville in 1937 to be with her Aunt Fannie Cabaniss and her Aunt Ellen Roberts.

Aunt Fannie died shortly thereafter, and young Frances moved into the place where she lives now, the Cabaniss home built in 1832 on Randolph Avenue to care for Aunt Ellen, who died in 1969.

**43 years of teaching**

After her arrival she spent the next 43 years teaching at West Clinton School, Huntsville High School and UAH before retiring in 1980.

"Dr. Roberts is as proud of her work in the city schools as at UAH," said Dorothy Adair, who was teaching music at HHS when her soon-to-be friend joined the faculty.

As a matter of fact, Dr. Roberts is still invited to the class reunions of those she taught at Huntsville High for a decade beginning in 1940.

She also taught Adult Continuing Education for city schools and night classes at the Alabama Extension Service during those years before becoming a part-time member of the UAH faculty in 1950.

**Professor emerita**

She became chairman of the UAH history department in 1966, was director of academic advisement and the information center from 1972 until 1980, and is now professor emerita.

Through it all, she remains what she always has been — a history teacher.

"History is very important and should be emphasized more in schools," she said. "They should take out the pictures (in history textbooks) and put in more content." Some modern texts "have removed stories that tie people to history."

She believes Hollywood has changed factual history by presenting "revisionist" versions on the silver screen.

Her "retirement" has been anything but easy, and a sampling of the projects she has been involved in reveals her achievements are almost too numerous to mention.

Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Board, Twickenham Historical Association, Huntsville Historical Commission, Weeden House Museum, Huntsville Historical Society, Alabama Historical Association, Southern Historical Association and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A number of sororities have honored her. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Alabama and was given the Federal Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award.

She edits the *Huntsville Historical Review*, speaks at local civic clubs and remains the bedrock to which all local history is fastened.

**Latest honor**

The latest honor bestowed on Dr. Roberts is an exhibit at the EarlyWorks Museum.

Sponsored by Coca-Cola bottler Big Springs Inc., the Dr. Frances Roberts Rotunda Exhibit, "Early Alabama: Our Land and Our Lives," features artifacts, documents and images of Alabama's three major cultures — Native American, African American and Euro American.

The exhibit moves from territorial days to the cotton boom of the 1850s.

While she's happy about people being offered an opportunity to see more history, she feels uncomfortable about the attention.

"I don't think I should take all the credit," said the icon of Huntsville history.

It was said Roberts style — with a stern look and an emphatic nod of the head.



Bryan Bacon/Huntsville Times

Frances Roberts, seated, with friends Dorothy Adair, left, and Nan Hall.

**Topics:**

Dr. Roberts' father	Huntsville Times	died in 1969
Dr. Roberts' mother	died ca 1937	photographer

**Names:**

Adair, Dorothy	Cabaniss, Fannie,	Roberts, Ellen, Aunt	Roberts, Mary
Bicon, Bryan	Aunt	Roberts, Frances	Watson
	Hall, Nan		Roberts, Richard

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

newspaper article	newspaper
	photograph

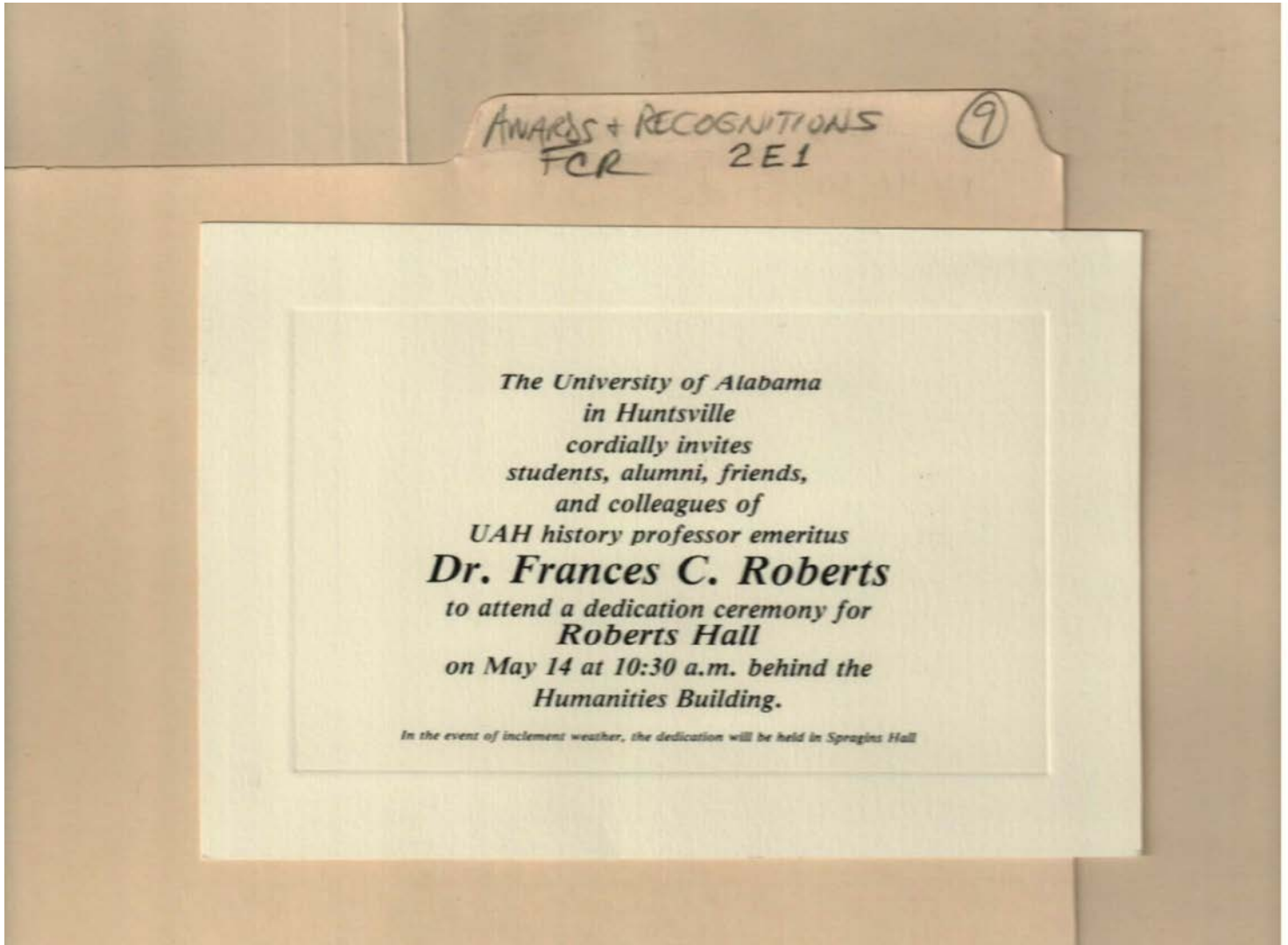
**Dates:**

Jan 23, 1999

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 2, Subseries E, Box 1, Folder 9

Frances C. Roberts Retirement from UAH clippings, 1988 - 1999

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Roberts Hall dedication

**Names:**

Roberts, Frances C.,  
Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

invitation

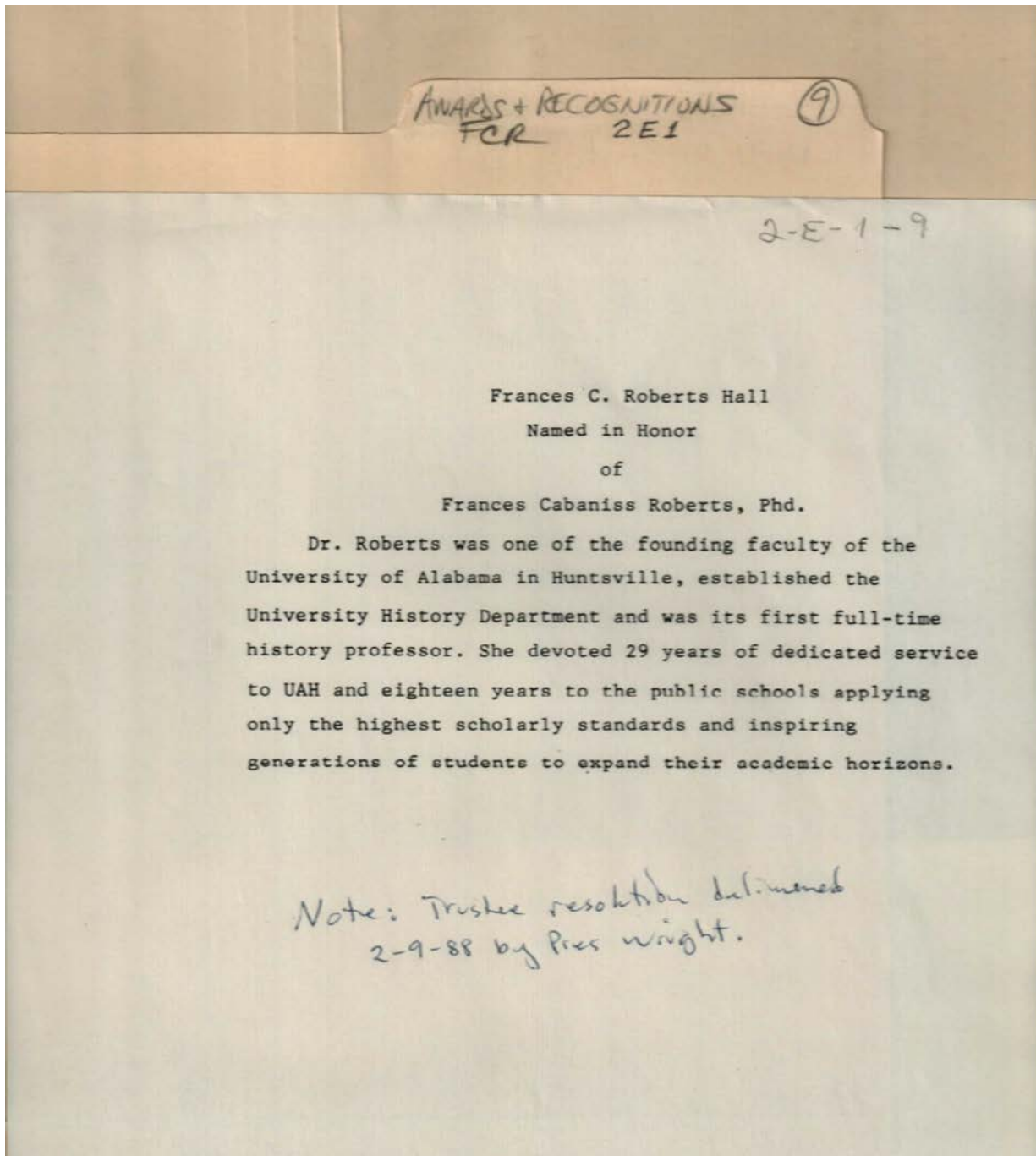
**Dates:**

May 14

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Frances C. Roberts Retirement from UAH clippings, 1988 - 1999

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**Topics:**

Roberts Hall

UAH President

**Names:**

Roberts, Frances C.

Wright, President

**Places:**

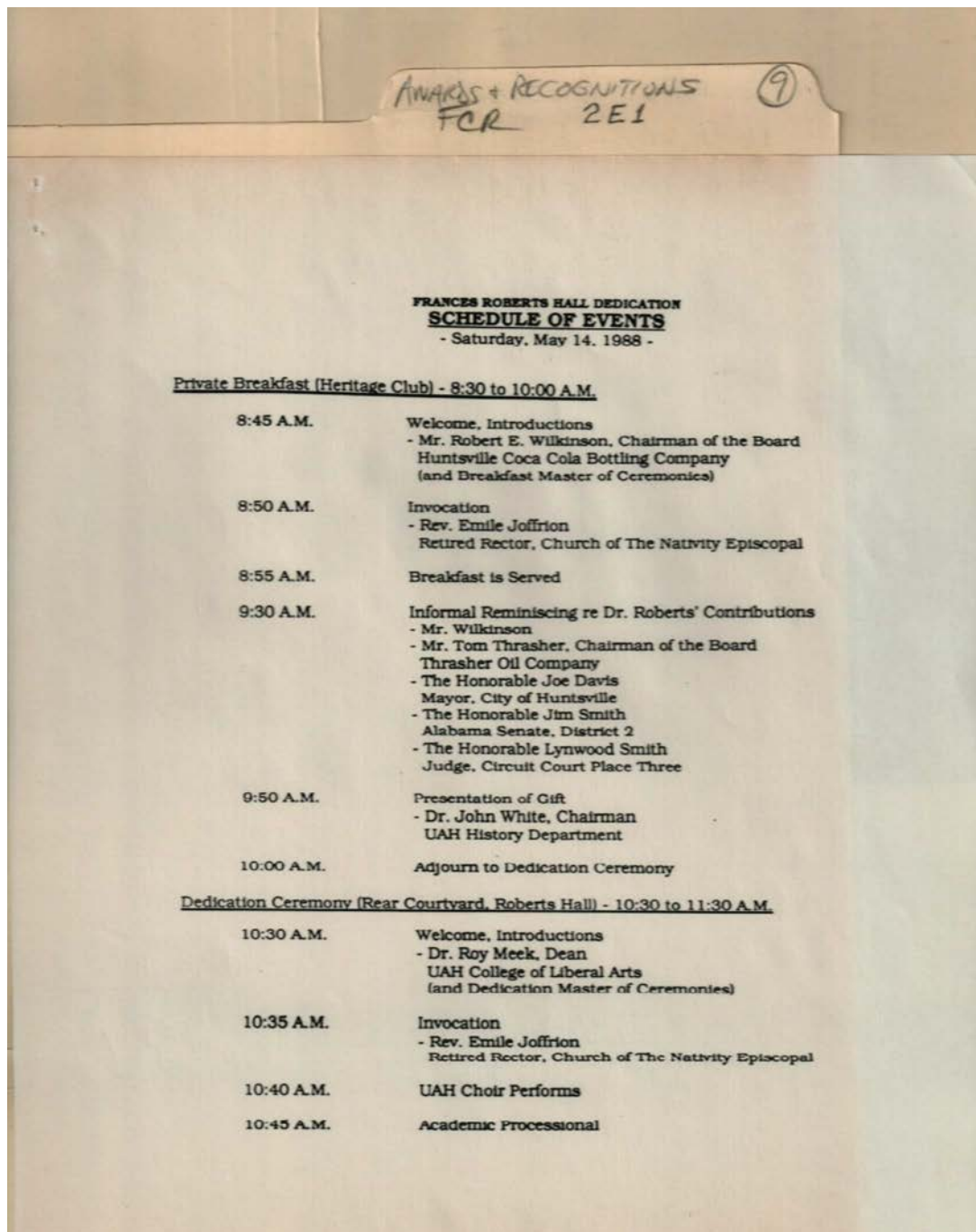
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

resolution

**Dates:**

Feb 9, 1988



**Topics:**

AL Senator, Dist. 2  
Circuit Court Judge  
Coca Cola Board  
Chairman

Dean, Liberal Arts  
dept.  
Huntsville Mayor

Thrasher Oil Co.  
Chairman  
UAH History Dept.  
invocation

schedule of events

**Names:**

Davis, Joe, Honorable  
Joffrion, Emile, Rev.  
Meek, Roy, Dr.

Roberts, Frances  
Smith, Jim,  
Honorable

Smith, Lynwood,  
Honorable  
Thrasher, Tom, Mr.

White, John, Dr.  
Wilkinson, Robert E.,  
Mr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

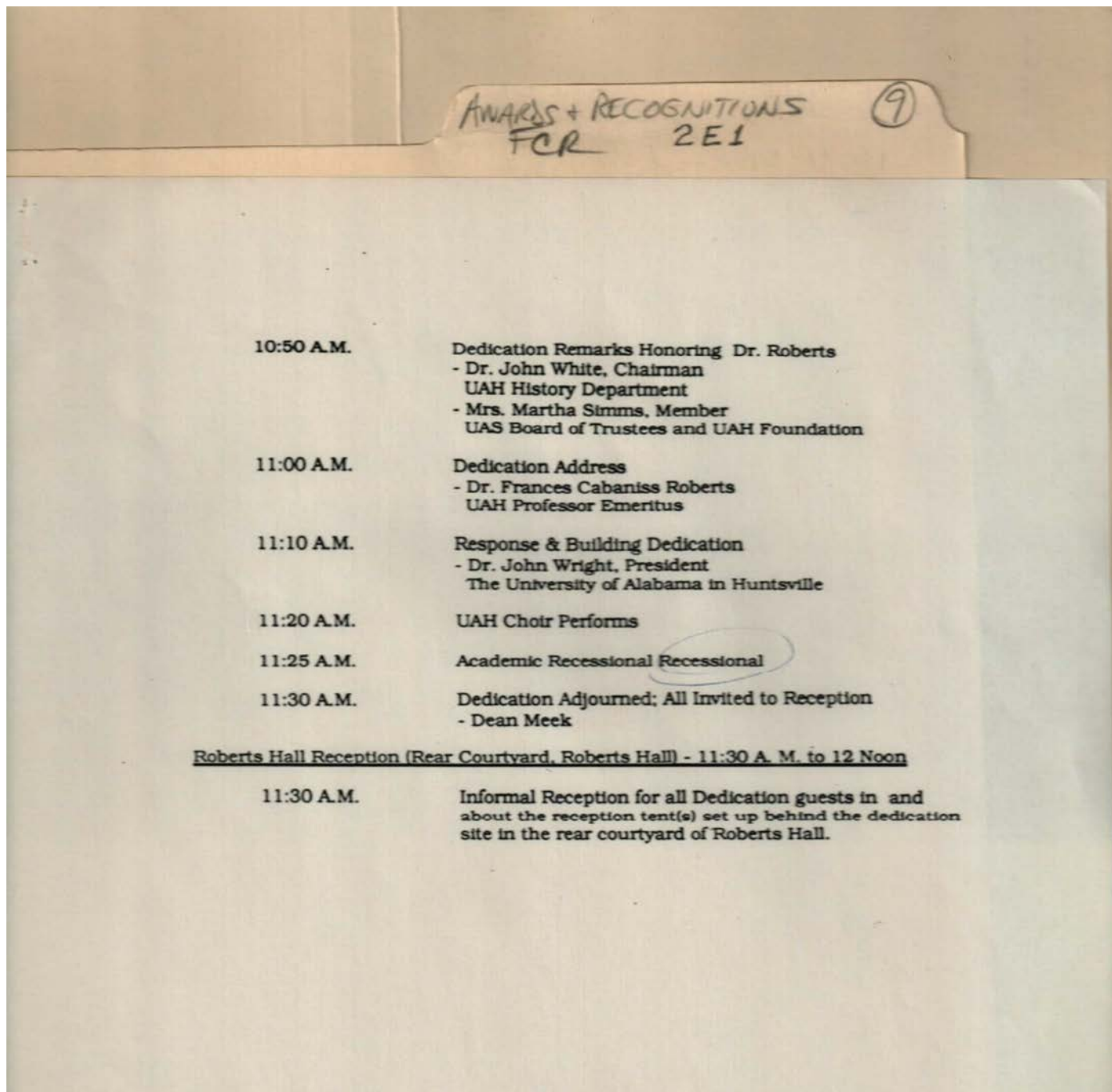
**Types:**

dedication

**Dates:**

May 14, 1988





**Topics:**

UAH Board of Trustees

UAH History Dept.  
UAH President

UAH Professor Emeritus

**Names:**

Meek, Dean

Roberts, Frances  
Cabaniss, Dr.

Simms, Martha, Mrs.  
White, John, Dr.

Wright, John, Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

schedule

**Dates:**

May 14, 1988

AWARDS + RECOGNITIONS  
FCR 2E1 9

# Postscripts

Vol. 7, No. 9 May 16, 1988

## UAH PARTICIPATES IN \$2 MILLION SATELLITE DESIGN EXPERIMENT

UAH has been selected for a program of close to \$2 million to design a detector as part of the International Solar-Terrestrial Physics (ISTP) Program. The program is called CLUSTER and is jointly sponsored by Japan, the European Space Agency and the United States. CLUSTER involves a complex system of four satellites grouped together to study the earth's interaction with the solar wind. The satellites are scheduled for launch in 1995. *(Continued on page 2)*

### FRANCES C. ROBERTS HALL DEDICATION

Professor Emeritus Frances Roberts received a tribute of the highest order Saturday, May 14, when the UAH Humanities Building was renamed in her honor. Dedication ceremonies for the Frances C. Roberts Hall were held in the rear courtyard of the Frances C. Roberts Building. Mrs. Martha Simms and Dr. John White rendered dedication remarks honoring Dr. Roberts. Mrs. Simms is a member of the University of Alabama System Board of Trustees and the UAH Foundation. Dr. White is Chairman of the UAH History Department. Dr. John Wright led the building dedication ceremony before guests adjourned for an informal reception, also in the rear courtyard. Dr. Roberts has earned this special tribute and is viewed as one of the most respected academic leaders in the University's history. In addition to her groundwork as one of UAH's first faculty members, she built foundations in the History Department and the Academic Advisement Center and has participated on more than eighty University committees, many of which she chaired. She did much in these positions to shape present-day UAH.



*Dr. Frances Roberts, one of UAH's founding faculty, and Mr. John Hendricks, founder of The Discovery Channel, reunite at the May 6 Alumni Awards Celebration Dinner! Dance. Hendricks said his former teacher is "remarkable" and taught him skills invaluable to him in setting up the Discovery Channel.*

### SPRINGFEST COMES TO THE UC!

*Details inside . . .*



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

**Topics:**

Postscripts, UAH newspaper

The Discovery Channel

**Names:**

Hendricks, John, Mr.  
Roberts, Dr.

Roberts, Frances,  
Professor Emeritus

Simms, Martha, Mrs.  
White, John, Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

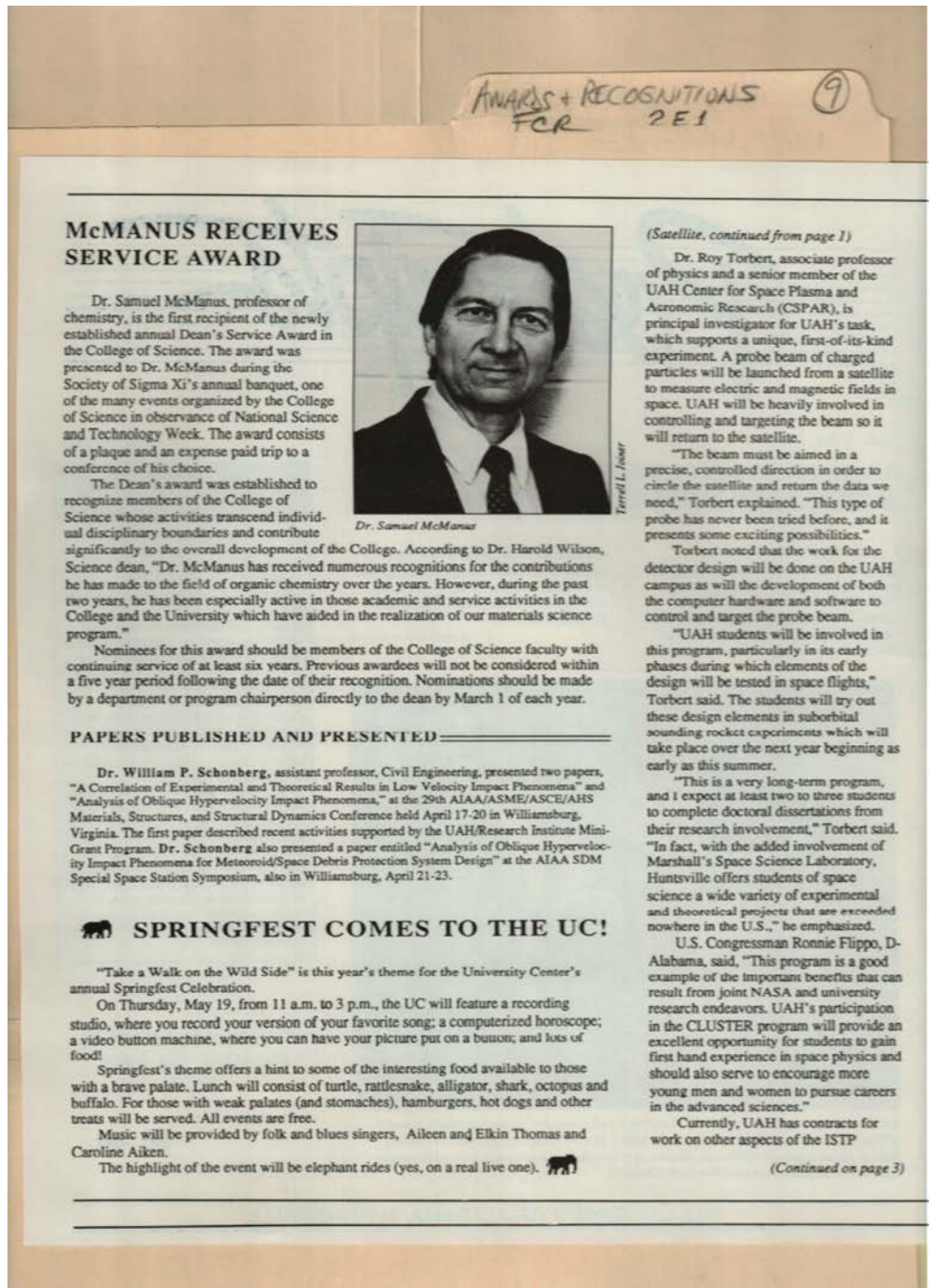
**Types:**

newspaper article

newspaper  
photograph

**Dates:**

May 16, 1988



**Topics:**

AL congressman  
Asst. Professor, UAH

Chemistry Professor,  
UAH

Physics Professor  
musician

photographer

**Names:**

Aiken, Caroline  
Flippo, Ronnie,  
Congressman

Joiner, Terrell L.  
McManus, Samuel,  
Dr.

Schonberg, William  
P., Dr.  
Thomas, Aileen

Thomas, Elkin  
Torbert, Roy, Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

newspaper article

newspaper  
photograph



**Topics:**

Asst. Dean of  
Science, UAH  
Chairman Emeritus  
Director of CSPAR at  
UAH

Finance &  
Administration, UAH  
Physics Dept. at UAH  
Student Affairs Vice  
President

Trustee, University of  
AL  
UAH professor  
committee member  
lecturer

**Names:**

Ashburn, Jim  
Barnett, Carol  
Benson, Brian  
Cantey, Judy, Ms.  
Cook, Dr.  
Cook, F. Lee, Dr.

Crutcher, Terry  
Davis, Carl G., Dr.  
Dollahite, Bert  
Dunn, Missy  
Duthie, J. Graeme,  
Dr.

Fisher, B. Jeanne, Dr.  
Gibson, Dr.  
Gibson, Peter, Dr.  
Harris, Pat  
Jackson, Natalee  
Karr, Dr.

McCain, Lori  
Mitchell, William,  
Mr.  
Peddycoart, Ed  
Rogers, Deborah  
Shirley, George, Mr.

Spillman, Lavinia,  
Ms.

Student Science  
Advisory

Committee  
Thompson, Ken, Mr.

Torbert, Dr.  
Wu, S. T., Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

newspaper article

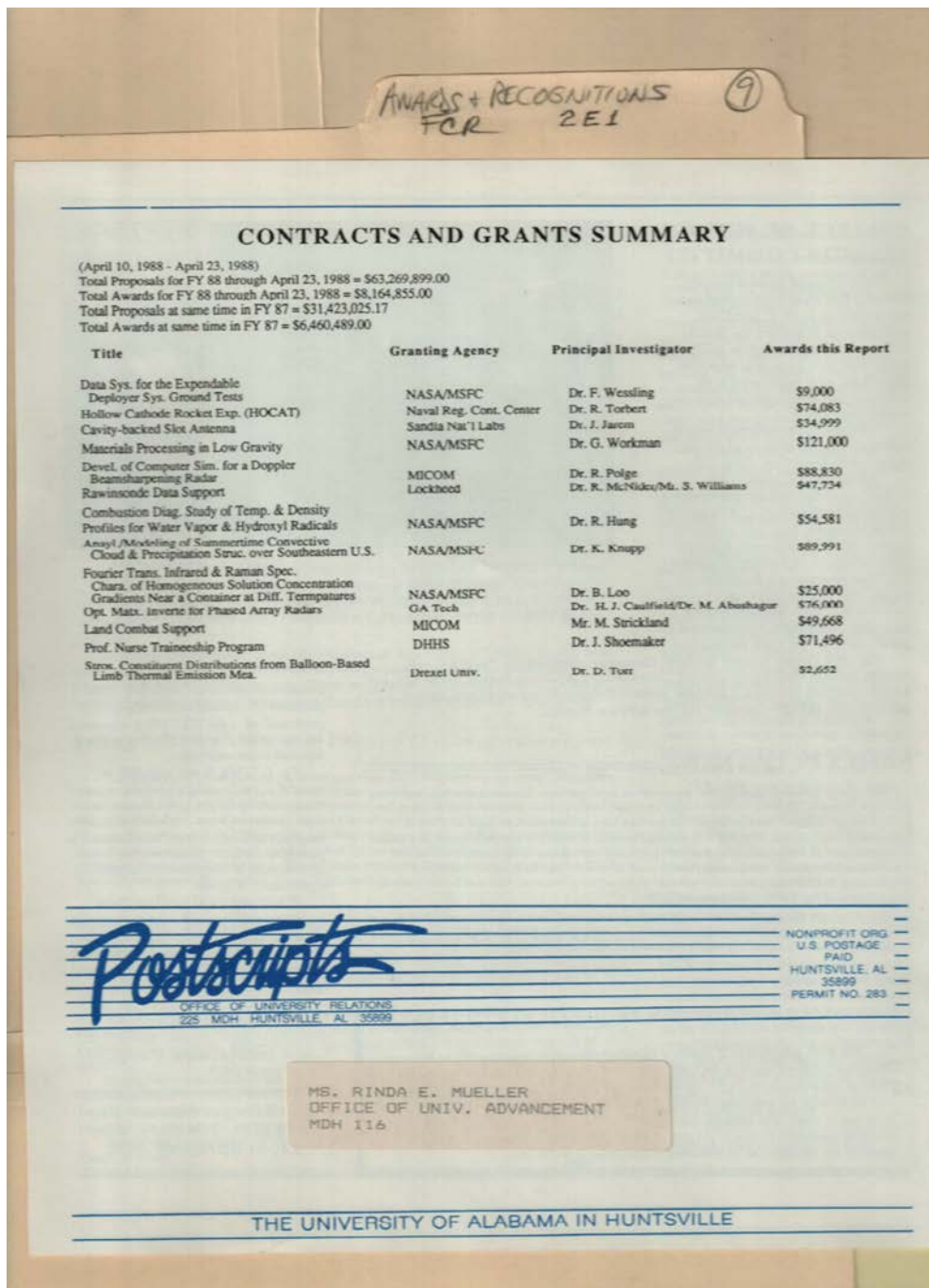
newspaper

photograph

**Dates:**

1988

May 6



**Topics:**

Investigator Postscripts newsletter,  
 UAH

**Names:**

Abushagur, M., Dr.	Jarem, J., Dr.	Mueller, Rinda E., Ms.	Torbert, R., Dr.
Caulfield, H. J., Dr.	Knupp, K., Dr.	Polge, R., Dr.	Torr, D., Dr.
Contracts & Grants Summary	Loo, B., Dr.	Shoemaker, J., Dr.	Wessling, F., Dr.
Hung, R., Dr.	McNider, R., Dr.	Strickland, M., Mr.	Williams, S., Mr.
			Workman, G., Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**



list

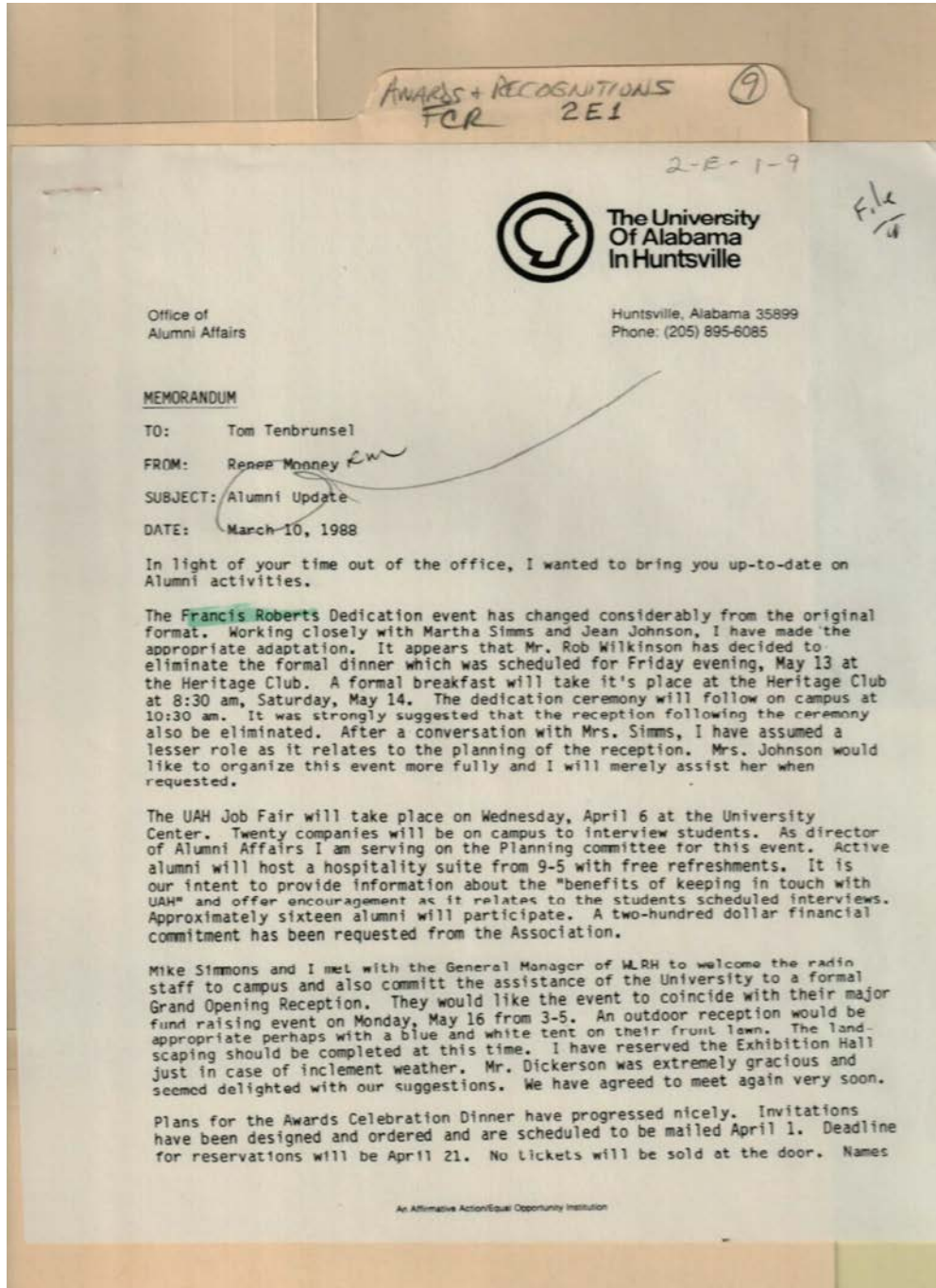
**Dates:**

Apr 10 - 23, 1988

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Frances C. Roberts Retirement from UAH clippings, 1988 - 1999

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Alumni Affairs Office, UAH

**Names:**

Dickerson, Mr.  
Johnson, Jean

Mooney, Renee  
Roberts, Frances

Simmons, Mike  
Sims, Martha

Tenbrunsel, Tom  
Wilkinson, Rob, Mr.

**Places:**

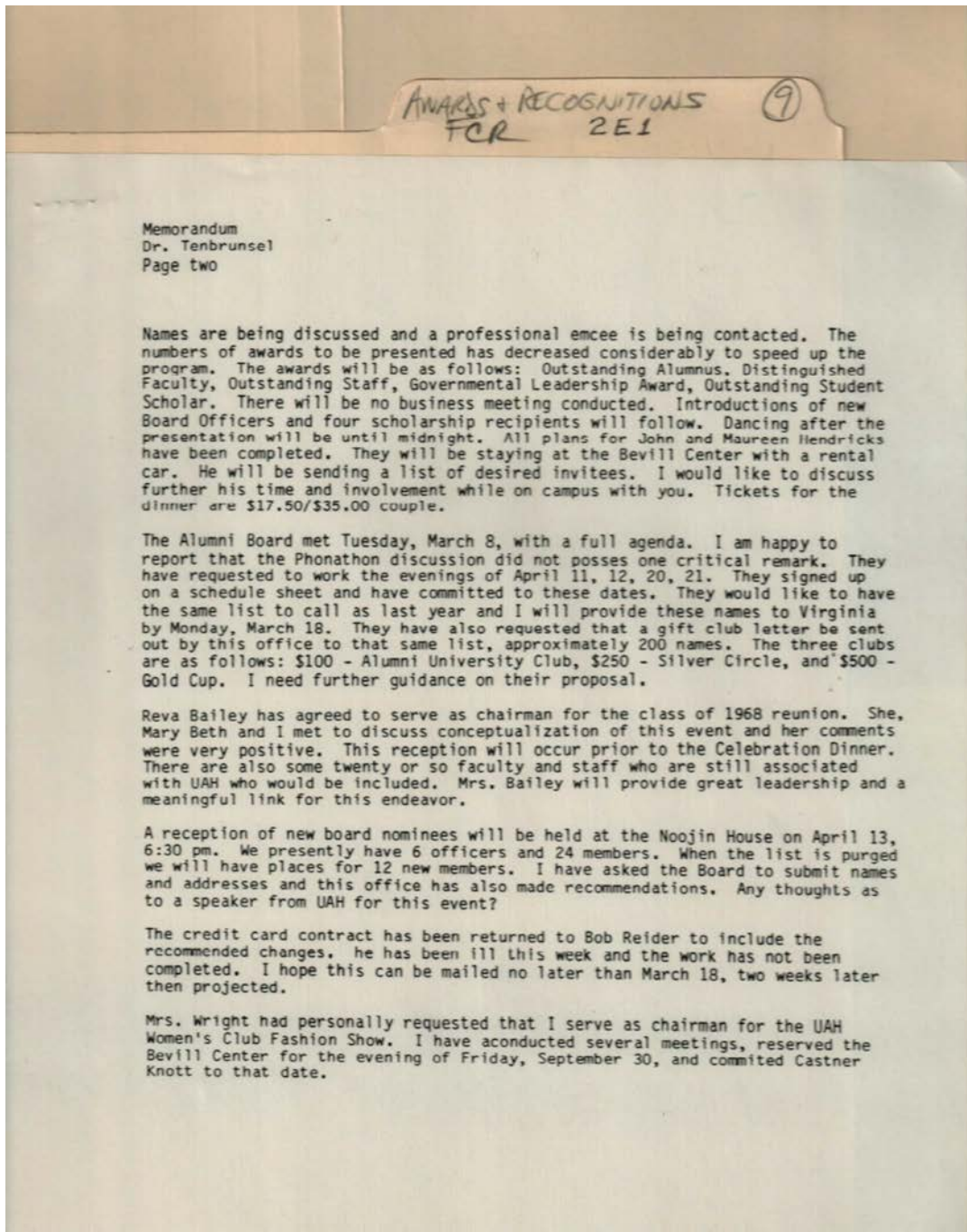
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

memorandum

**Dates:**

March 10, 1988



memorandum, page 2

**Names:**

Bailey, Reva  
Beth, Mary

Hendricks, John and  
Maureen

Reider, Bob  
Wright, Mrs.

**Places:**

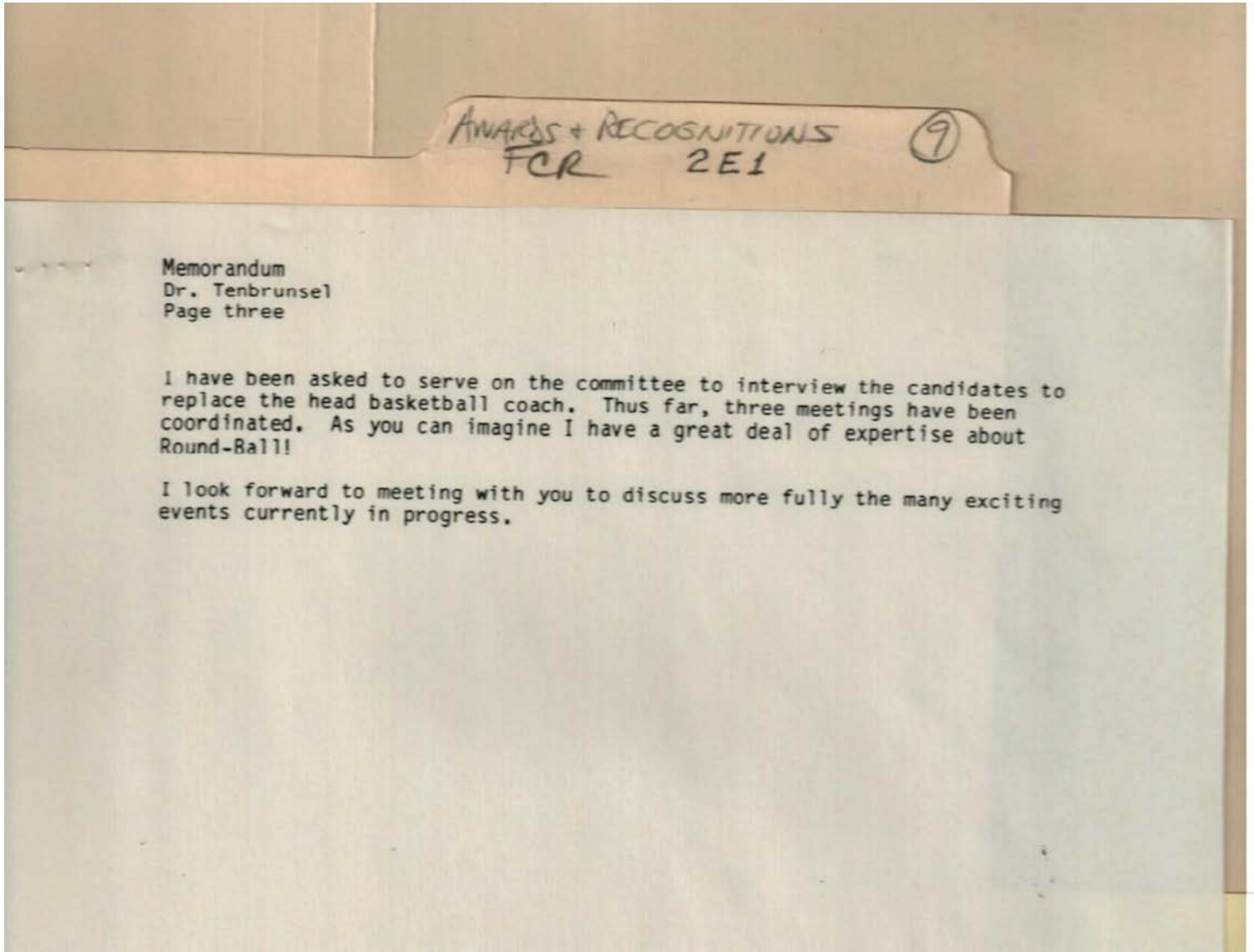
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

memorandum

**Dates:**

March 10, 1988



memorandum, page 3

**Names:**

Tenbrunsel, Dr.

**Places:**

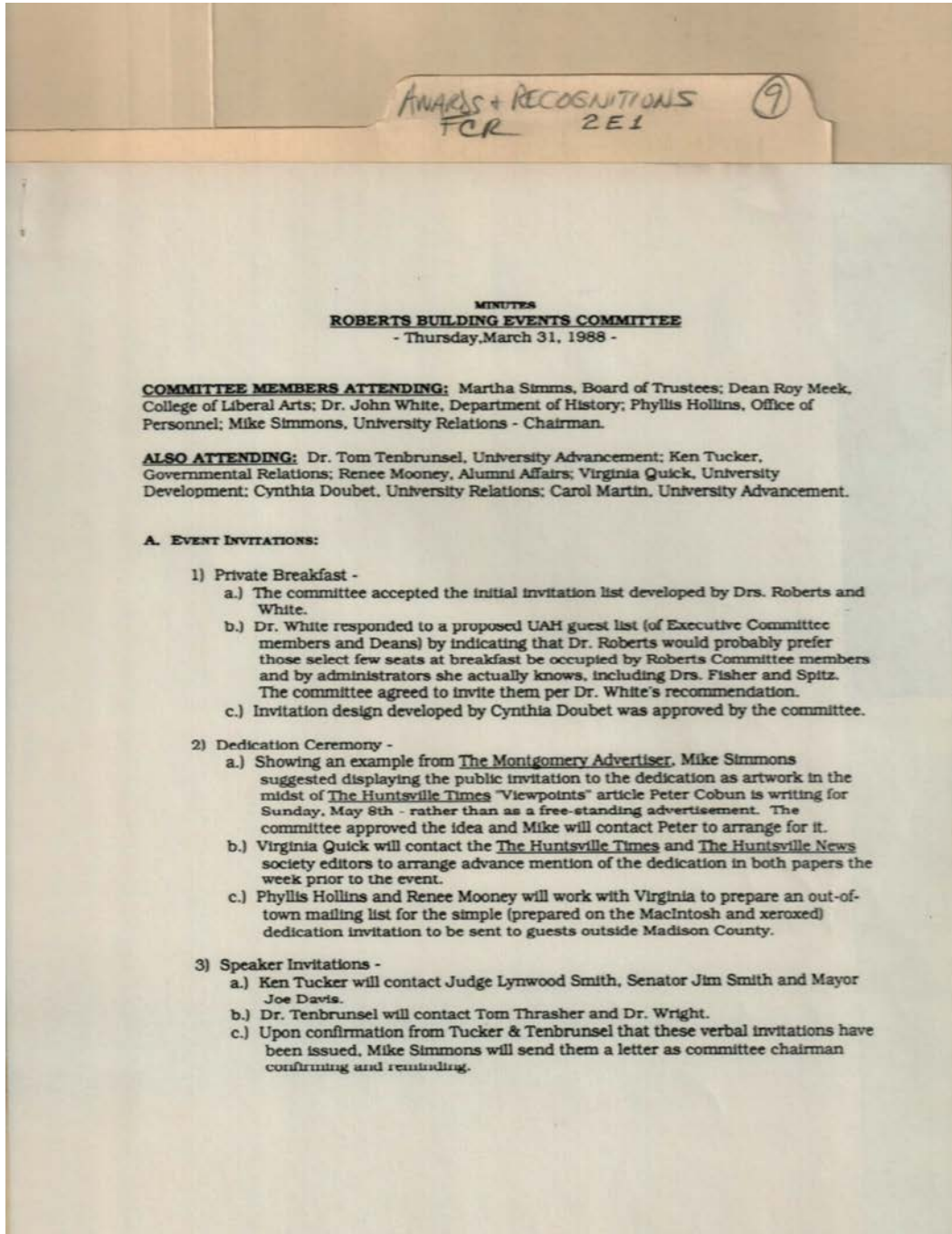
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

memorandum

**Dates:**

March 10, 1988



attendee at meeting

**Names:**

Cobun, Peter  
Davis, Joe, Mayor  
Doubet, Cynthia  
Fisher, Dr.  
Hollins, Phyllis  
Martin, Carol

Meek, Roy, Dean  
Mooney, Renee  
Quick, Virginia  
Roberts Building  
Events Committee  
Roberts, Dr.

Simmons, Mike  
Simms, Martha  
Smith, Jim, Senator  
Smith, Lynwood,  
Judge  
Spitz, Dr.

Tenbrunsel, Tom, Dr.  
Thrasher, Tom, Mr.  
Tucker, Ken  
White, Dr.  
White, John, Dr.  
Wright, Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

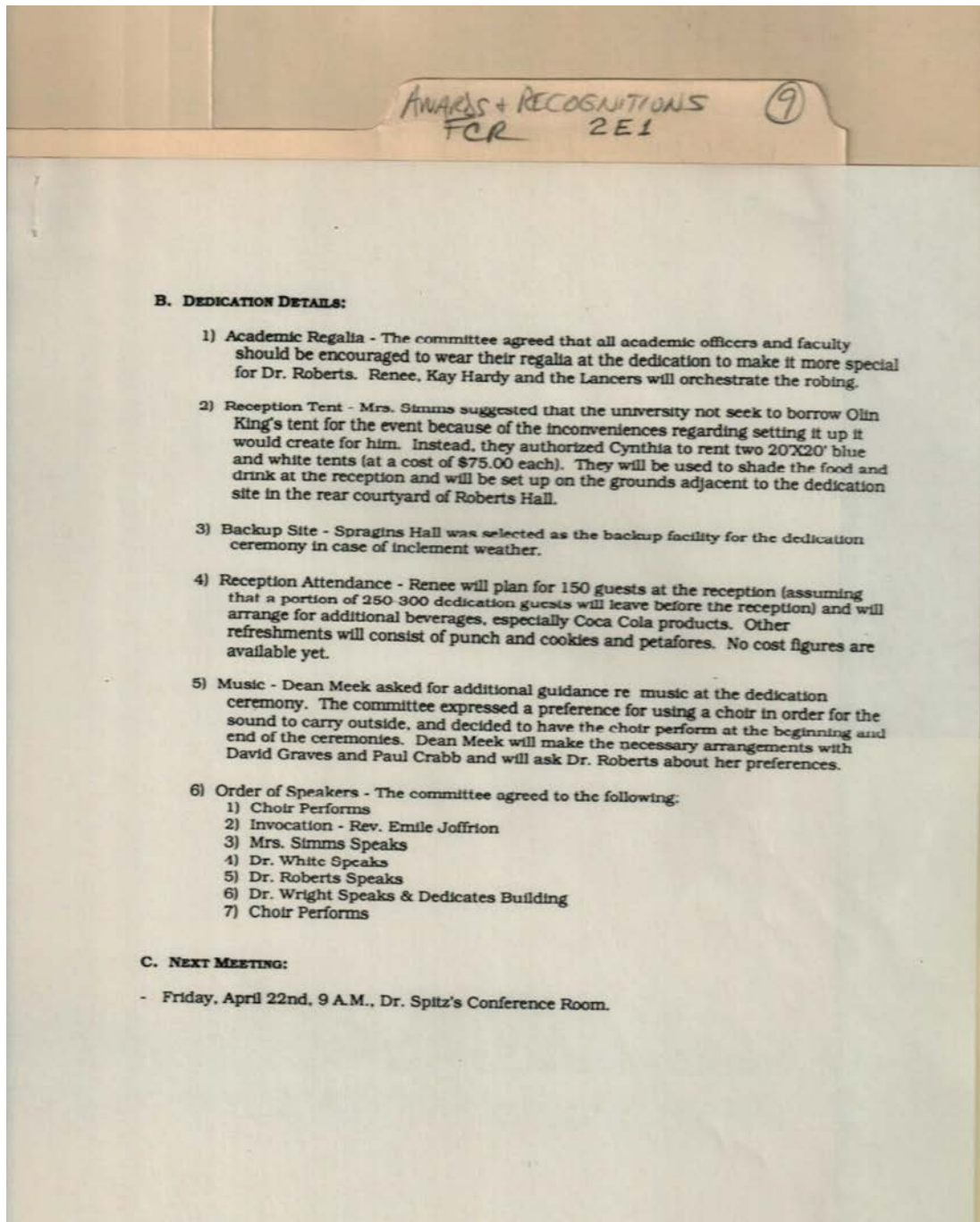
**Types:**

agenda minutes

list

**Dates:**

March 31, 1988



**Names:**

, Cynthia  
, Renee  
Crabb, Paul

Graves, David  
Hardy, Kay  
Joffrion, Emile, Rev.

King, Olin  
Lancers, The  
Meek, Dean

Roberts, Dr.  
Simms, Mrs.  
White, Dr.

**Places:**

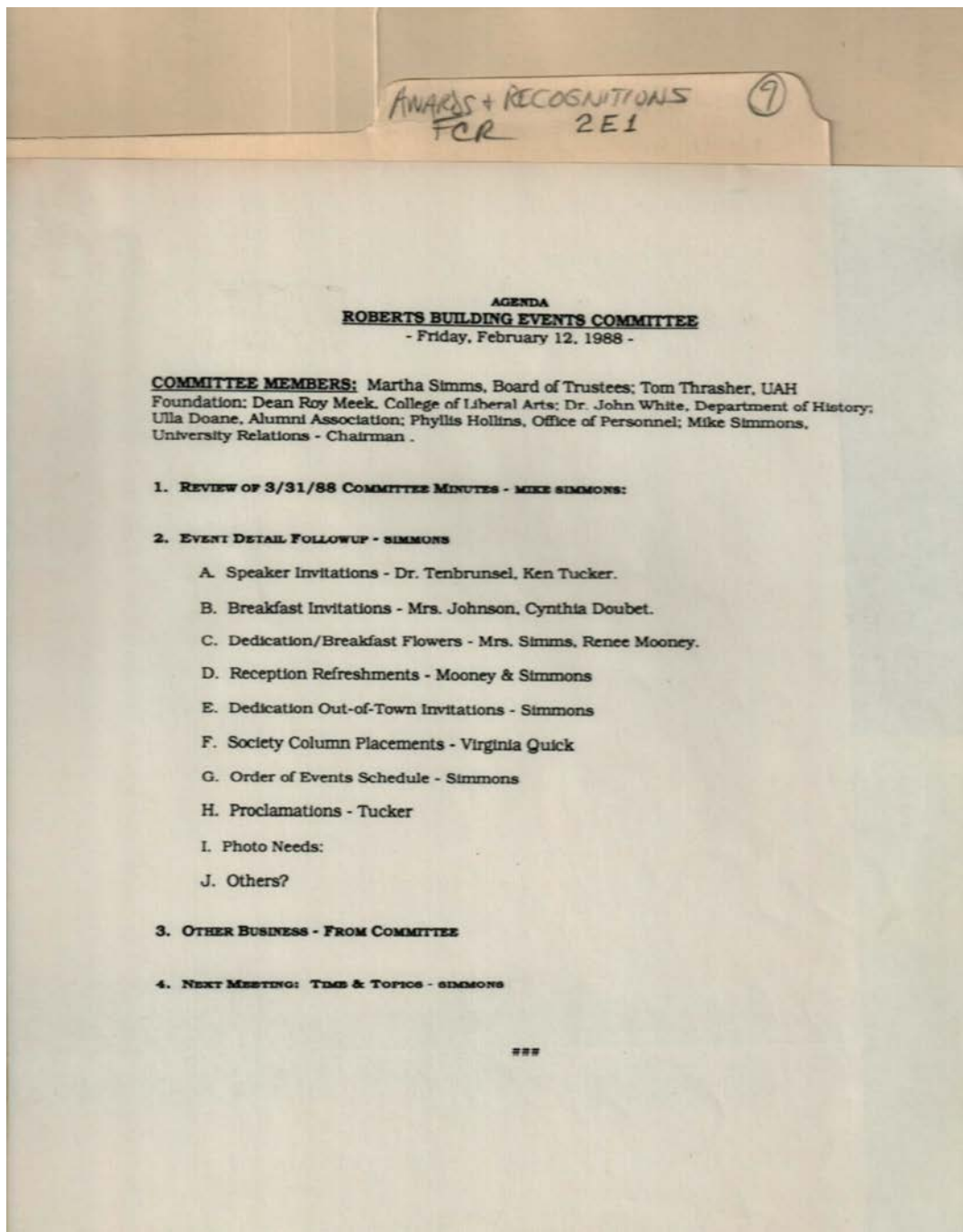
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

**Dates:**

March 31, 1988



Agenda Events Committee

**Names:**

Doane, Ulla	Meek, Roy, Dean	Simms, Martha	Tucker, Ken
Doubet, Cynthia	Mooney, Renee	Simms, Mrs.	White, John, Dr.
Hollins, Phyllis	Quick, Virginia	Tenbrunsel, Dr.	
Johnson, Mrs.	Simmons, Mike	Thrasher, Tom, Mr.	

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

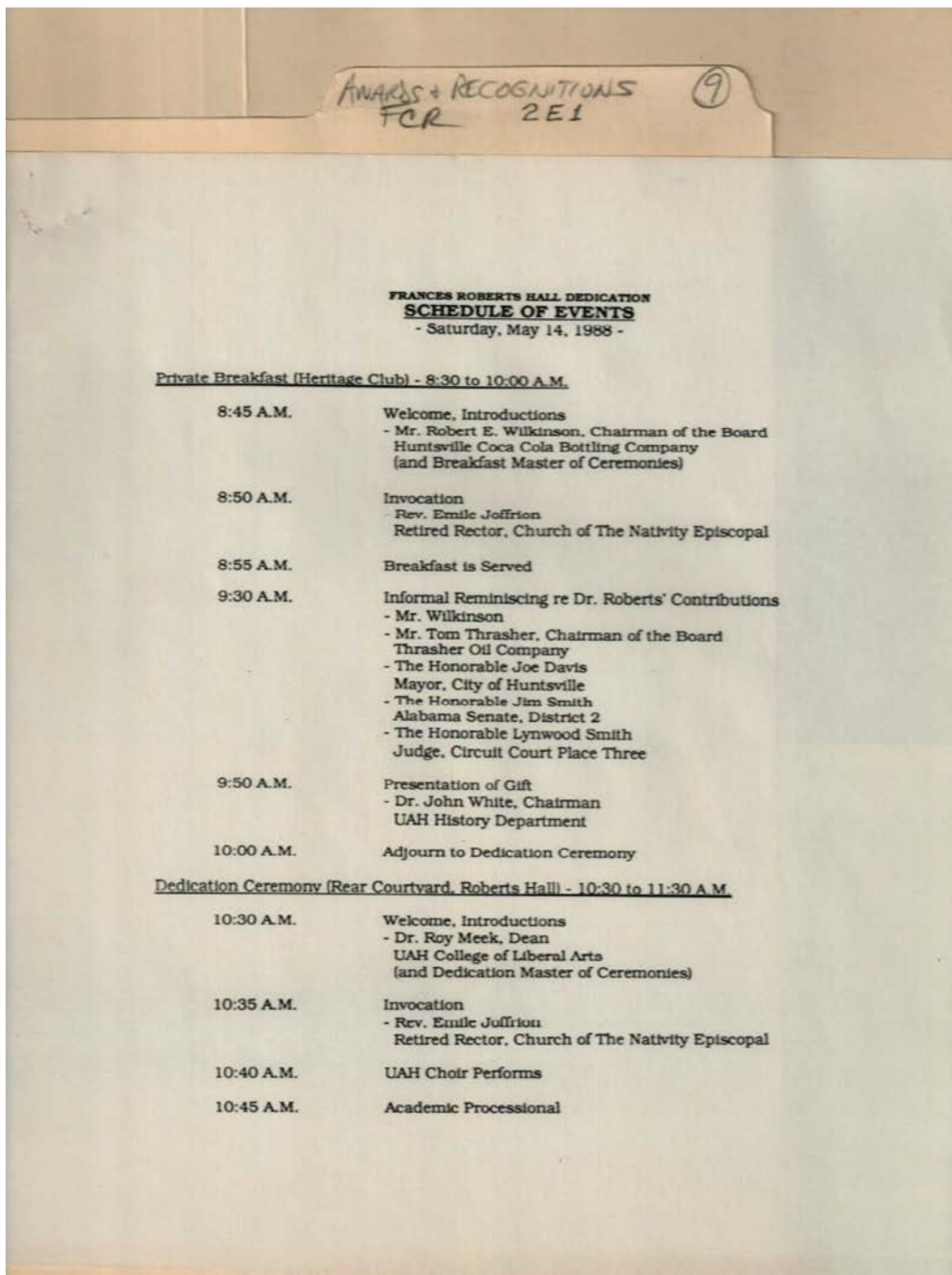
list

**Dates:**

Feb 12, 1988







**Topics:**

AL Senate, Dist. 2  
Circuit Court Judge

Dean of UAH  
invocation

master of ceremonies  
speaker

**Names:**

Davis, Joe, Honorable  
Joffrion, Emile, Rev.  
Meek, Roy, Dr.  
Schedule of Events

Smith, Jim,  
Honorable  
Smith, Lynwood,  
Honorable

Thrasher, Tom, Mr.  
White, John, Dr.  
Wilkinson, Mr.

Wilkinson, Robert E.,  
Mr.

**Places:**

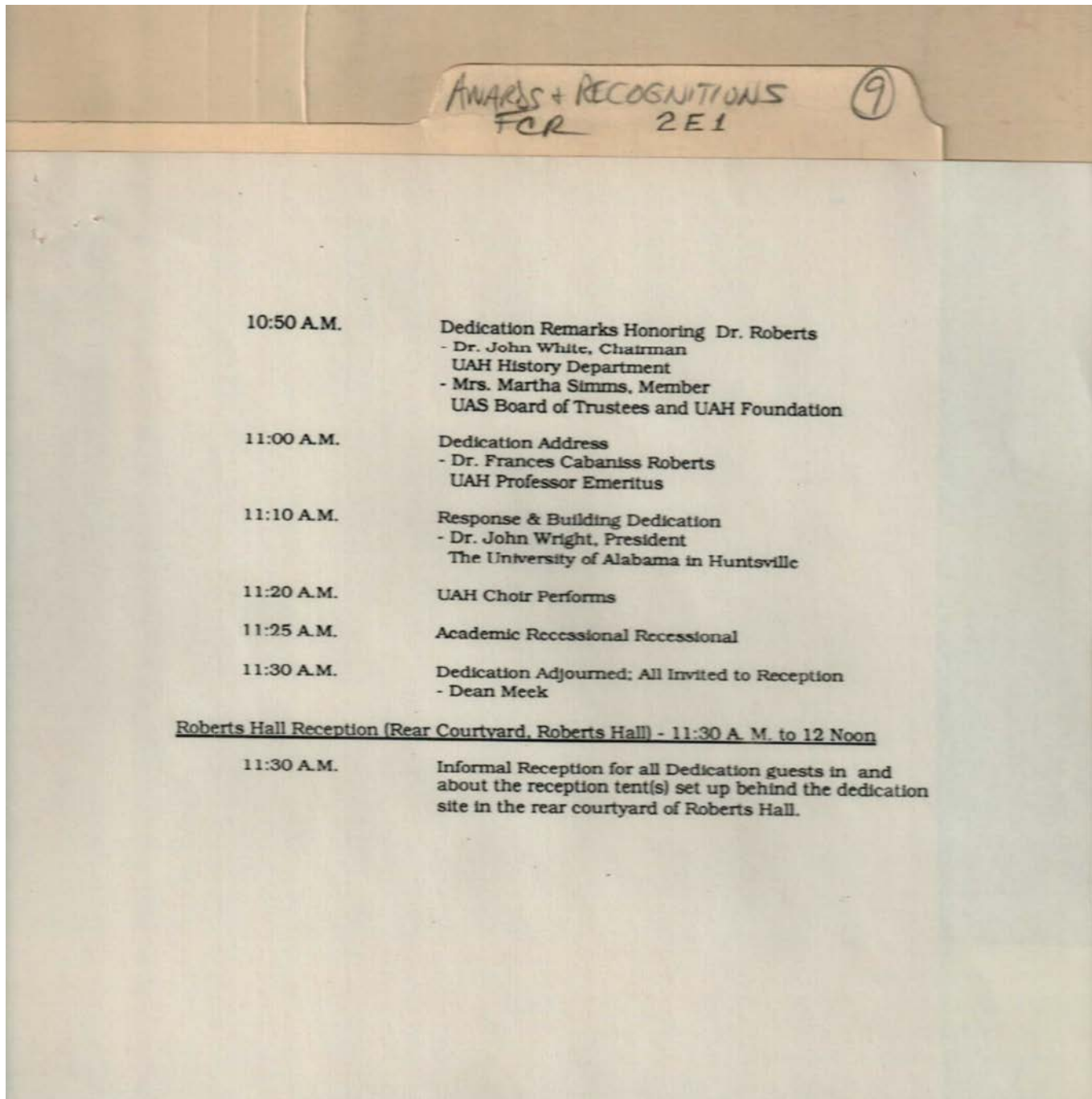
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

**Dates:**

May 14, 1988



President of UAH

**Names:**

Roberts, Dr.

Roberts, Frances  
Cabaniss, Dr.

Simms, Martha, Mrs.  
White, John, Dr.

Wright, John, Dr.

**Places:**

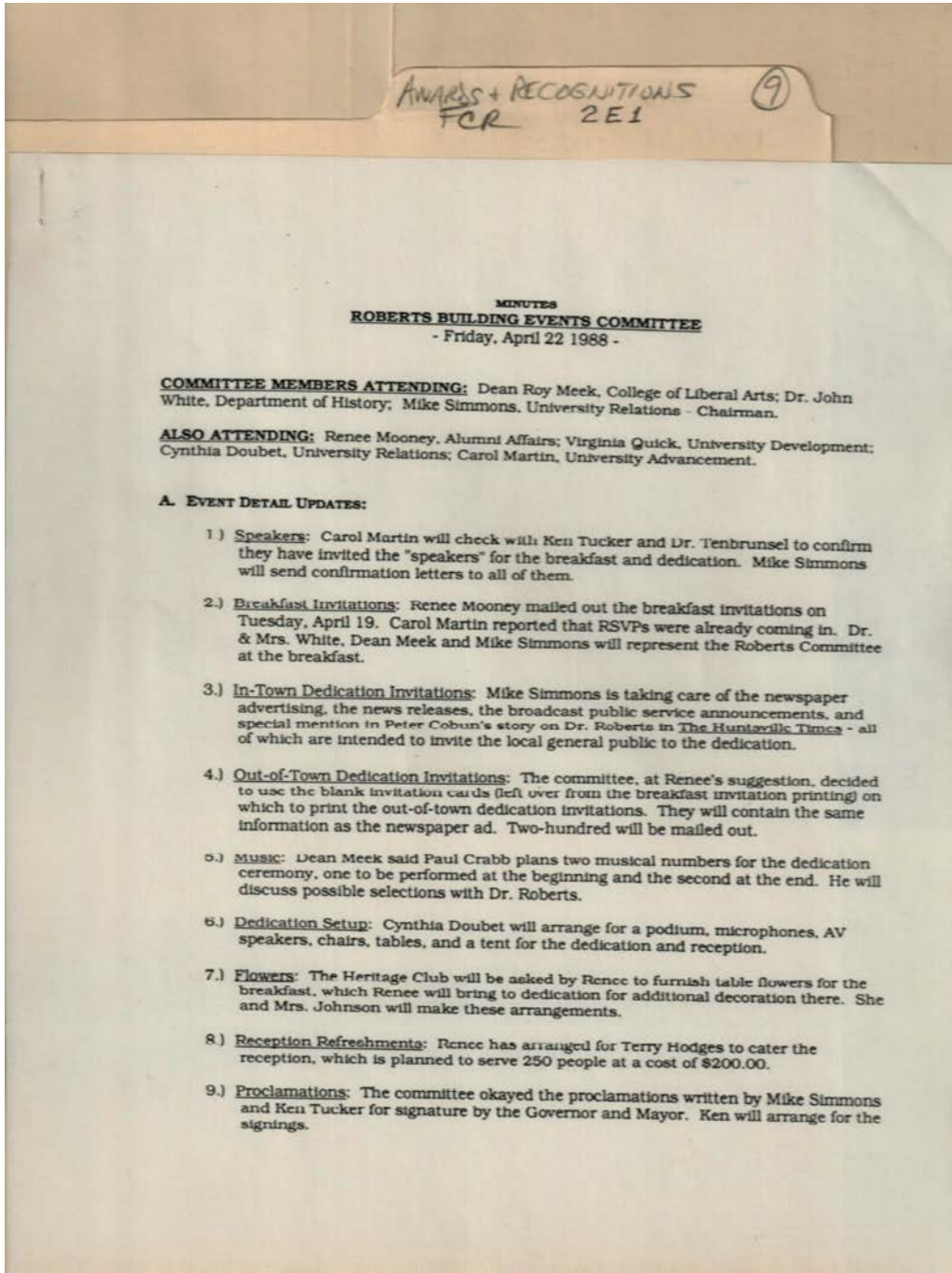
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

**Dates:**

May 14, 1988



**Topics:**

attendee at meeting

committee member

**Names:**

Cobun, Peter  
Crabb, Paul  
Doubet, Cynthia  
Hodges, Terry

Johnson, Mrs.  
Martin, Carol  
Meek, Roy, Dean  
Mooney, Renee

Quick, Virginia  
Roberts, Dr.  
Simmons, Mike  
Tenbrunsel, Dr.

Tucker, Ken  
White, Dr. & Mrs.  
White, John, Dr.

**Places:**

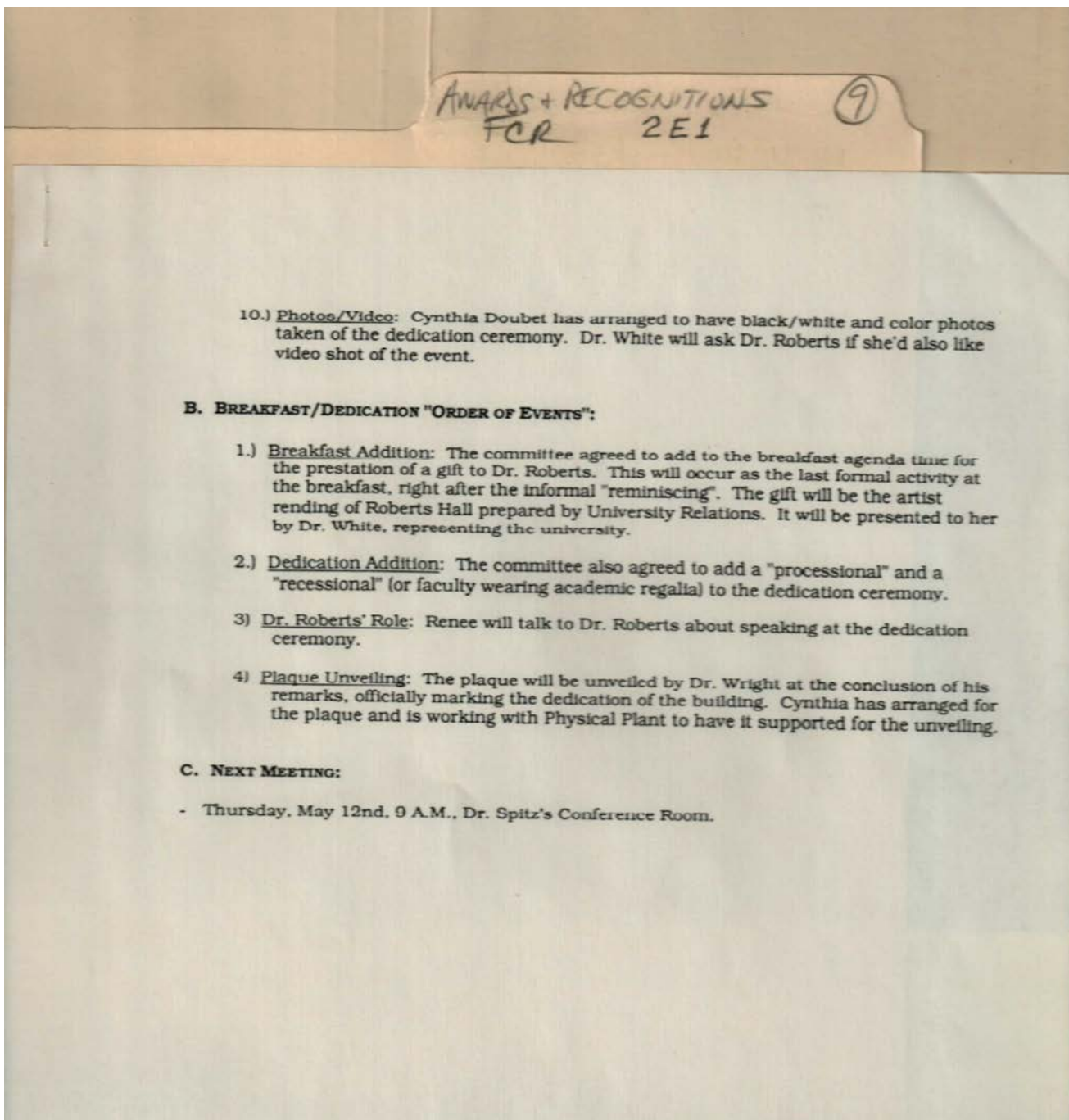
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

**Dates:**

Apr 22, 1988



10.) Photos/Video: Cynthia Doubet has arranged to have black/white and color photos taken of the dedication ceremony. Dr. White will ask Dr. Roberts if she'd also like video shot of the event.

**B. BREAKFAST/DEDICATION "ORDER OF EVENTS":**

- 1.) Breakfast Addition: The committee agreed to add to the breakfast agenda time for the prestation of a gift to Dr. Roberts. This will occur as the last formal activity at the breakfast, right after the informal "reminiscing". The gift will be the artist rendering of Roberts Hall prepared by University Relations. It will be presented to her by Dr. White, representing the university.
- 2.) Dedication Addition: The committee also agreed to add a "proceSSIONal" and a "recessional" (or faculty wearing academic regalia) to the dedication ceremony.
- 3.) Dr. Roberts' Role: Renee will talk to Dr. Roberts about speaking at the dedication ceremony.
- 4.) Plaque Unveiling: The plaque will be unveiled by Dr. Wright at the conclusion of his remarks, officially marking the dedication of the building. Cynthia has arranged for the plaque and is working with Physical Plant to have it supported for the unveiling.

**C. NEXT MEETING:**

- Thursday, May 12nd, 9 A.M., Dr. Spitz's Conference Room.

attendee at meeting

**Names:**

, Renee  
Doubet, Cynthia

Roberts, Dr.  
White, Dr.

Wright, Dr.

**Places:**

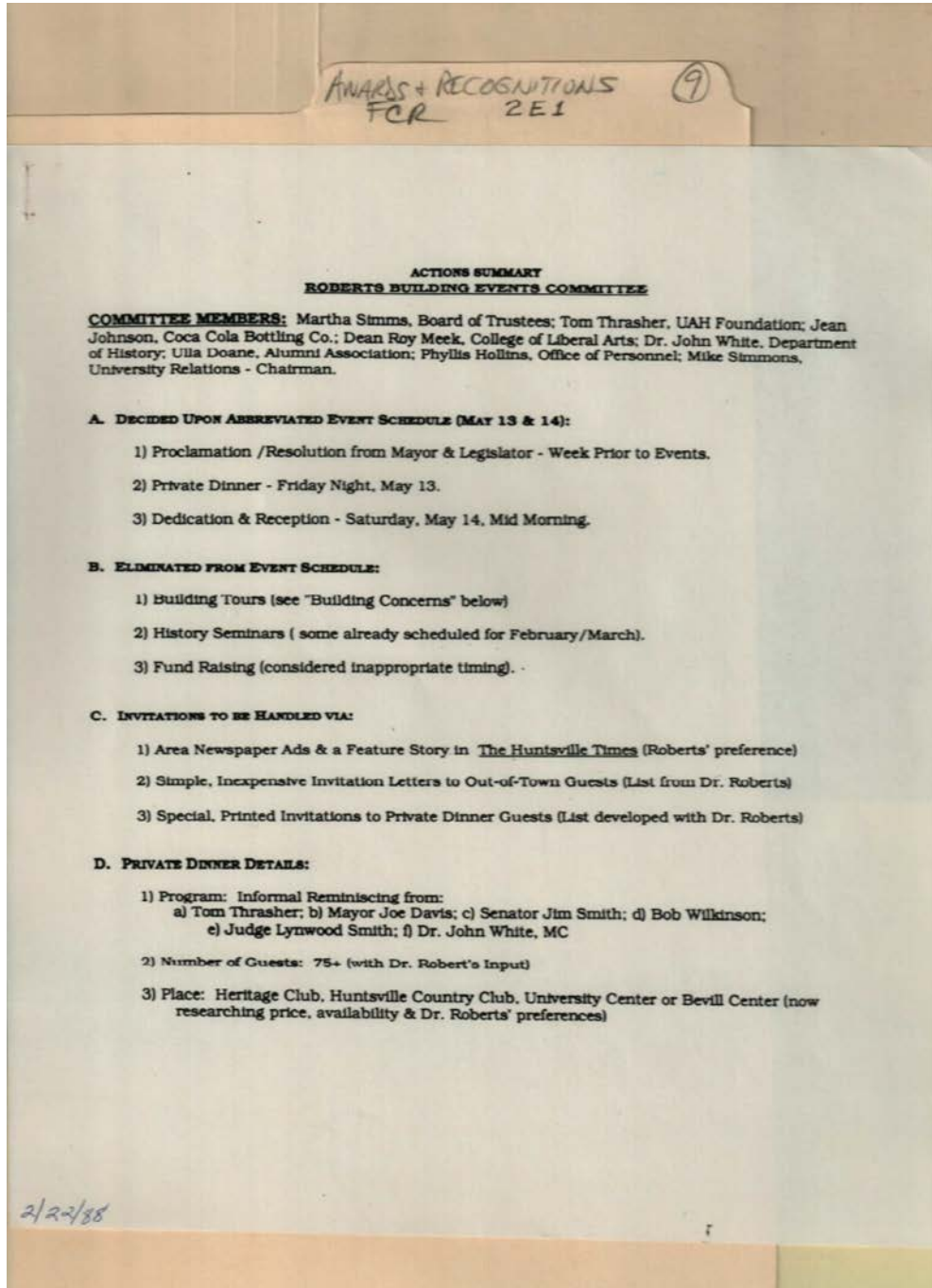
Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

**Dates:**

Apr 22, 1988



committee member

**Names:**

Actions Summary  
Davis, Joe, Mayor  
Doane, Ulla  
Hollins, Phyllis

Johnson, Jean  
Meek, Roy, Dean  
Roberts, Dr.  
Simmons, Mike

Simms, Martha  
Smith, Jim, Senator  
Smith, Lynwood,  
Judge

Thrasher, Tom  
White, John, Dr.  
White, John, Dr., MC  
Wilkinson, Bob

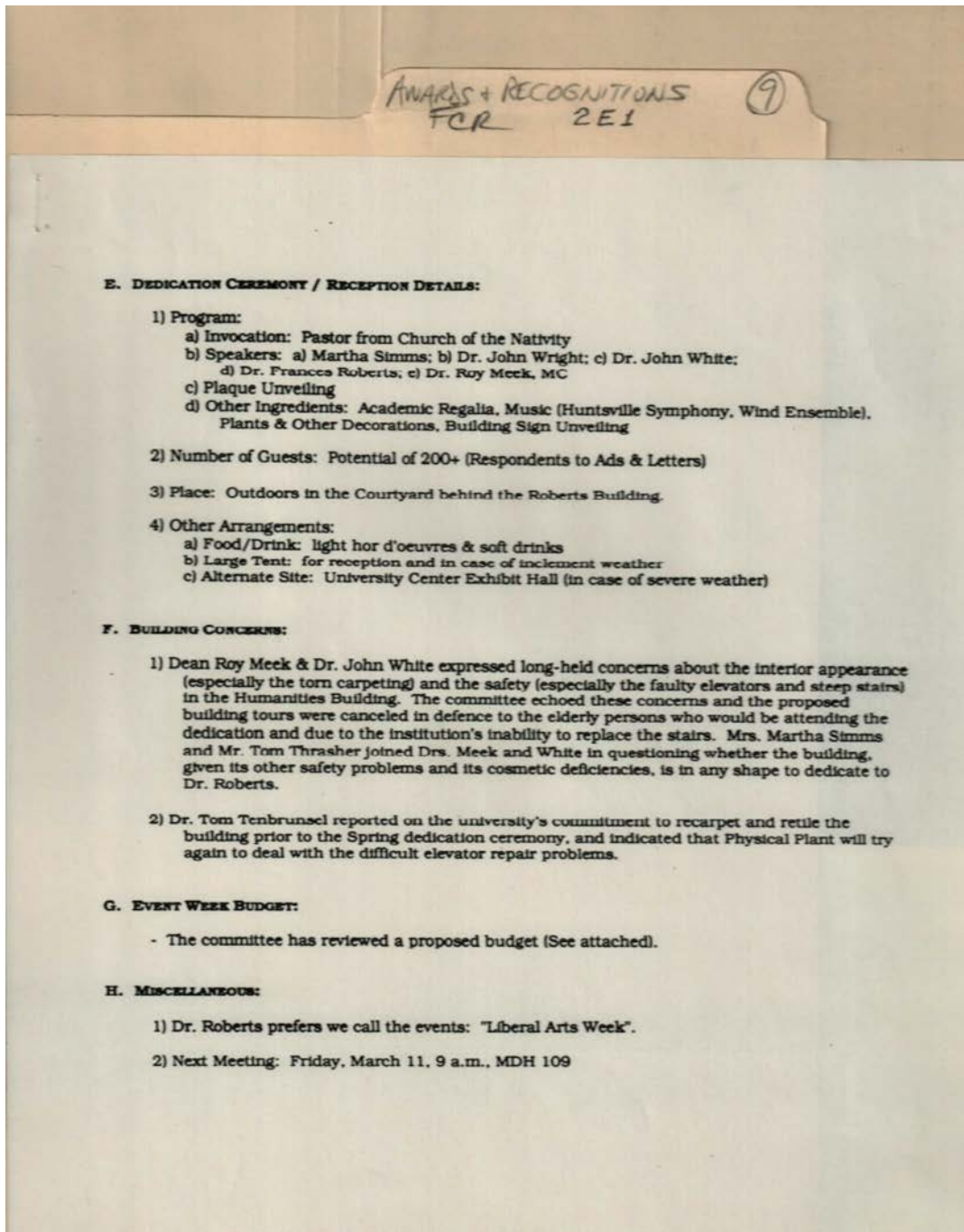
**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list





**Names:**

Ceremony Details  
Meek, Roy, Dr., MC

Roberts, Frances, Dr.  
Simms, Martha, Mrs.

Tenbrunsel, Tom, Dr.  
Thrasher, Tom, Mr.

White, John, Dr.  
Wright, John, Dr.

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

list

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 2, Subseries E, Box 1, Folder 9

Frances C. Roberts Retirement from UAH clippings, 1988 - 1999

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AWARDS + RECOGNITIONS (9)  
FCR 2E1

**PROPOSED BUDGET**  
**ROBERTS BUILDING EVENTS**  
- May 13 & 14, 1988 -

<b>DINNER:</b>	
Meal (for 75+)	\$1,500
Gift for Dr. Roberts	400
Invitations/Mailing	150
-----	
SUBTOTAL	\$2,050
<b>DEDICATION:</b>	
Plaque (brass, 20x24)	\$ 600
Reception Refreshments (300)	1,500
Tent	400
Artwork/Framing	150
Decorations/Plants	250
Advertising	200
Audio Visual, Misc	200
-----	
SUBTOTAL	\$3,300
TOTAL	\$5,350

**Names:**

Budget for Roberts  
event

**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

budget

**Dates:**

May 13 - 14, 1988

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 2, Subseries E, Box 1, Folder 9**  
**Frances C. Roberts Retirement from UAH clippings, 1988 - 1999**

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[Image 5](#) (r02e01-09-000-0112)

[Image 6](#) (r02e01-09-000-0113)

[Image 7](#) (r02e01-09-000-0114)

[Image 8](#) (r02e01-09-000-0115)

[Image 9](#) (r02e01-09-000-0116)

[Image 10](#) (r02e01-09-000-0117)

[Image 11](#) (r02e01-09-000-0118)

[Image 12](#) (r02e01-09-000-0119)

[Image 13](#) (r02e01-09-000-0120)

[Image 14](#) (r02e01-09-000-0121)

[Image 15](#) (r02e01-09-000-0122)

[Image 16](#) (r02e01-09-000-0123)

[Image 17](#) (r02e01-09-000-0124)

[Image 18](#) (r02e01-09-000-0125)

[Image 19](#) (r02e01-09-000-0126)

[Image 20](#) (r02e01-09-000-0127)

[Image 21](#) (r02e01-09-000-0128)

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[Image 23](#) (r02e01-09-000-0130)

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**Frances C. Roberts Retirement from UAH clippings, 1988 - 1999**

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AL Senator, Dist. 2 [6](#)  
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Asst. Professor, UAH [9](#)  
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Bicon, Bryan [3](#)  
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Caulfield, H. J., Dr. [11](#)  
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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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