UAB Roofing Specialist Roger Brown is accustomed to working on roofs that can reach temperatures of 160 degrees in the summer. If UAB installed green roofs like this vegetative one that would reduce temperatures dramatically for Brown and downtown Birmingham.

**Heat island reduction**

Heat island is a term describing the phenomenon in which urban and suburban temperatures are 2 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit (1 to 6 degrees Celsius) hotter than nearby rural areas. Elevated temperatures alter communities by increasing peak energy demand, air-conditioning costs, air-pollution levels and heat-related illness and mortality.

Part of what elevates those temperatures is the surface temperature of roofs, which can reach between 140 and 160 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, says Roger Brown, UAB’s roofing specialist.

**Centers examine new gene tied to Parkinson’s disease**

A $200,000 grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) will enable UAB researchers to examine the function of a new gene connected to Parkinson’s disease (PD). Investigators will delve into the role of kinase activity in the LRRK2 gene, which may play a major role in the progression of the disease.

“The foundation recently identified LRRK2 as a gene of great interest in PD. It is known to cause some cases of PD and may be involved in many cases of the disease,” said David Standaert, M.D., Ph.D., professor of neurology and director of the UAB Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics. “They challenged the scientific community to propose protocols to study the gene’s role in Parkinson’s and report findings within one year.”

The UAB protocol is one of only four worldwide to be accepted for the foundation’s LRRK2 Critical Challenges in Parkinson’s Disease Research Program, and researchers say the university is uniquely positioned to meet this challenge.

“UAB has the people, the expertise and the facilities to move quickly on this initiative,” said Curiel.

“The LRRK2 gene offers tremendous potential as a target for Parkinson’s research. Our job now is to more fully understand the gene’s role in PD and unlock that potential.”

**Whirlwind year earns Mays spot on ASC stage and more**

The score of the return of Andrew Mays, M.D., to the world of competitive music playing needs to be marked fortissimo.

When the UAB ophthalmologist returned to piano competition in fall 2006 after a 20-year hiatus, he finished second in the Amateur International Piano Competition in Colorado Springs.

In the 16 months since then, he has gone on to earn first prize in the 2007 Van Cliburn International Competition for Outstanding Amateurs and an invitation from professor of Music Yakov Kahn to perform his own concert in the Alys Stephens Center Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall Jan. 27.

“Things,” says Mays, “have just gotten wild.”

Mays is performing in the UAB Department of Music Piano Series, which brings to campus the world’s preeminent pianists – a group in which he clearly has established he belongs.
BlazerNET home to new Report Viewer

BlazerNET now offers a new functionality—the UAB Report Viewer channel, found on the portal’s Employee Resources tab. The Report Viewer has been developed as a repository for reports created by administrative systems at UAB. To date, all Banner System reports and Oracle reports are being posted to the Report Viewer. When reports are posted, e-mail notification is sent alerting that they are available for review.

Additional Oracle reports will be added on an ongoing basis to the UAB Report Viewer so that even more reports have been posted. You can conveniently and directly access the Report Viewer from its channel on the BlazerNET Employee Resources page or use the following link on the AdminSystems home page: http://www.auburn.edu/adminsystems/reportviewer.

You will find the Report Viewer at: http://www.aurora.uab.edu/psa/tcr/reportviewer.html

EAP has series of employee wellness classes scheduled

UAB’s Employee Assistance Program is offering lunchtime workshops focusing on addiction and the mind/body as part of its commitment to helping employees live healthier and happier lives.

The Addiction Series, featuring Steve Moore (program coordinator with the UAB Center for Psychiatric Medicine), includes three lunchtime lectures beginning Thursday, Jan. 24  with “Denial and Craving – The Underlying Mechanism of Addiction.” The workshop is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in West Pavilion Room E at UAB Hospital. “Addiction Treatment: What It Is and How It Works” is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 21 in the UAB Resource Center Classroom in Suite 330 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. “Sexual Addiction” is scheduled Thursday, March 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in West Pavilion Room E at UAB Hospital. “Stress and How It Affects the Body” begins the series Wednesday, Jan. 30 in the West Pavilion Board Room from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The second lecture, “Dealing with Depression,” is Wednesday, Feb. 27 from noon until 1 p.m. in the UAB Resource Center Classroom, Suite 330. Call 934-2281 to register or visit www.uab.edu/eap.

The Indigo Girls to perform at ASC Jan. 27

The Grammy Award-winning Indigo Girls and open-act band Carile will perform Sunday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Alys Stephens Center. A longtime favorite of Birmingham audiences, Georgia’s Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, known as the Indigo Girls, are celebrating a milestone of 20 years together.

Tickets are $25, $42 and $22; student tickets are $10. Call 975-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org.

Campus Rec health fair set for Feb. 1

The UAB Campus Recreation Center is hosting its fourth annual Health and Wellness Fair, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This year’s theme, “Lighten Up,” encourages individuals to make their health a top priority by adopting healthier behaviors. Personal health assessments, informational booths and give-aways such as gym bags, T-shirts, highlighters and stadium cups will be provided.

Admission to the fair is free.

More than 30 organizations from UAB and the surrounding Birmingham area are scheduled to participate in the Health and Wellness Fair. The UAB School of Optometry will conduct free eye screenings, and New Balance representatives will be on hand to assess the way you walk and provide recommendations on the best style and size shoe for you. Campus Rec staff will conduct body-fat testing, and the staff of Physical & Health Leaders in Athletics, Management and Education will conduct fitness testing.

As an added bonus, faculty, staff and alumni will be allowed access to the Campus Rec Center free of charge from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that day. Faculty and staff will be required to show a current UAB ID upon entering and active members of the National Alumni Society must present their NAS card upon entering.

Visit www.uab.edu/campusreccenter or contact Wendie Stanley at 934-8234 or wstanley@uab.edu for information.
Mestecky still seeks ‘excitement’ after 41 years at UAB

For the past 41 years, Jiri Mestecky, M.D., Ph.D., has worked at UAB, investigating the structure, biosynthesis and function of human and animal immunoglobulin A and immune responses.

Mestecky was among the first scientists to develop reliable assays for the measurement of HIV immune responses, to investigate correlates of HIV transmission and to participate in the effort to develop vaccines to prevent the infection.

Recently Mestecky was awarded the Czech Mind award, which is the highest public recognition for outstanding scientific research given annually by the Czech Republic to native scientists for outstanding scientific achievements abroad.

Here Mestecky shared his thoughts on the award and other subjects with the UAB Reporter.

Q. Describe what it means to be honored by your native country.

A. The Czech Mind award was established six years ago to recognize seminal contributions made by Czech scientists working in the Czech Republic, as well as scientists of Czech origin who were successful in their work outside of the Czech Republic. Naturally, I was very pleased that this year the honor went to our work here at UAB.

Q. You have never broken ties with your former colleagues in the Czech Republic. How have their contributions helped your scientific research?

A. This question requires a brief explanation. I left then-Czechoslovakia in 1967 and returned for the first time 11 years later in April 1978, on strictly a private visit. Because of the political situation in Czechoslovakia after the occupation by the Russians in 1968, I could not work directly with investigators from the Czech science institutions; nevertheless, a few of them were allowed to come to the United States for one- or two-year visits. Thanks to then-chair of microbiology, Claude Bennett, I had the opportunity to work with a few of them, particularly Dr. Jiri Zikan, on the structure of mucosal antibodies.

The collaboration with Dr. Zikan was particularly fruitful and resulted in the publication of a number of research articles in excellent scientific journals. The situation changed substantially in 1989 during the so-called “Velvet Revolution,” when scientific contacts among Eastern and Western investigators were promoted by the Czech government.

Consequently, from that time on, I have participated in a number of national and international symposiums organized by Czech scientists and have developed closer research ties, particularly with members of the department of immunology and gnotobiology at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Q. Of what findings or discoveries are you most proud or excited to have been a part?

A. Although I have published more than 500 papers with my colleagues, those that really advanced our understanding of mucosal immunology can be counted on the fingers of two hands. In the early 1970’s, our work on the discovery, characterization and identification of a novel component in mucosal antibodies and the structure of the entire molecule, which changed our view of the structure and function of secretory antibodies, was exciting.

With respect to our work on HIV, we are puzzled by the lack of vigorous immune responses to HIV, particularly in the mucosal compartment, as manifested by the absence of low levels of specific antibodies to HIV in secretions of mucosal tissues, which are the major portals of entry of HIV in the entire world.

Q. When you discover something never seen or found before, what range of emotions do you have?

A. Excitement. I fondly recall a few interesting days and evenings when a sudden finding paved the research way for many subsequent years. For example, the demonstration for the presence of antibodies in tears, saliva and milk of a lactating mother to an ingested oral bacterium with subsequent demonstration of antibody-secreting cells in the peripheral blood of such individuals provided an impetus for current studies performed in many laboratories attempting to transform vaccines from injections to pills.

PARKINSON’S

CONTINUED from page 1

Research suggests that the protein product of the LRRK2 gene appears to have kinase activity, which regulates the function of other proteins and is typically involved in cell-signaling pathways. Certain PD-associated gene mutations cause an increase in LRRK2 kinase activity, suggesting that this activity may play a central role in Parkinson’s pathogenesis.

Among the first steps at UAB will be the genetic engineering of normal and mutant forms of the LRRK2 gene into viral vectors developed at the UAB Gene Therapy Center, a project that will be directed by Joel N. Glasgow, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine. The vectors are used to introduce the gene into a mouse, producing a model of the disease. The model will help investigators determine if the kinase activity does play a significant role in the progression of PD.

“We hope to know within the year if, in fact, kinase activity is implicated in cell death,” said Standeart.

“If so, this opens a new doorway into the development of drugs that can regulate that activity.”

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Mays had his moment with the cameras, too, before he played in the finals. For the first time the competition was behind schedule. Mays had been summoned to the warm-up room and then told he was going to have to wait longer than anticipated. That's when he began to get nervous. I stepped out the back door of the building, and I started jogging in the courtyard in a tux, Mays says. I had to do something besides sit and wait. Then I turned around and saw the camera crew filming. They'd probably been there the whole time. It added to the pressure. I had no private time to collect my thoughts. It mattered not. Mays won the competition and top ranking in the world for amateur pianists, and his life really began to change.

Honors, opportunities

Honors and opportunities continue to arise for Mays. His playing schedule for this year already includes Gehrans Bluff in February, a benefit recital in Tuscaloosa in March, a concert in Laguna Beach, Calif., in April and a chance to perform with the Montgomery Symphony during the 2008-09 season. All of these opportunities are exciting, but Mays says there are two aspects of this he takes particularly seriously. One is that he and his fellow competitors must carry the torch of bringing classical music to life for new audiences – something Cliburn told them they have to do.

"He said we have the perfect opportunity to get people into the concert hall that wouldn't normally go. That's me, or our mission," Mays says.

The other important thing is Mays' heritage. He's a Southerner, and he received most of his training in Alabama. He was one of just a few competitors who could play the Van Cliburn competition. The amateur competition is for those ages 35 and older who do not earn their livelihood playing or providing instruction on the piano. The event featured 75 pianists invited from an applicant pool of 121. Mays' goal was to make it to the semi-final round of 25. He got there. Then he made the finals.

A little intrigue

After the six finalists were announced late Saturday, June 2, Mays slept a few hours and prepared to play in the finals the next day. The whole week the competition ran smoothly and very punctually even with a Hollywood producer, director and film crew shooting the feature-length documentary "They Came to Play," which now is in the editing phase. Cameras were everywhere, following performers and their families.

Field study

The two-week field study also is a key component of the course, says Ehiri. It adds uniqueness to the program and enables the students to be linked directly to people in the field, allowing them to gain real-life experiences.

UAB is partnering with Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT) of Lusiville for the field study component. SIFAT has traveled from 80 different countries around the globe. It has a 175-acre campus where it trains people to meet basic human needs such as food, clean water, basic shelter and sustainable agriculture. The focus is on development and learning to teach people to help themselves. Students will learn to build latrines, purify water and gain other skills essential in helping to make a difference in their overseas work.

"To link some of the best academic minds in the country with community-based work in the field is phenomenal," says Kathy Bryson, international training director with SIFAT and alumnus of the UAB Department of Maternal and Child Health. "We're very excited about our partnership with UAB and the Sparkman Center and look forward to being a part of this innovative approach.

Requirements

To qualify for award of the certificate, participants are required to complete six modules and the two-week field study. Course participants have up to 18 months to complete the program.

For more information or to apply, visit www.soph.uab.edu/sparkman/default.aspx?id=34 to learn more.

Group to employ alternative solutions to global health challenges

Contact Regina Windsor (right) at beinveni@uab.edu to apply for the course or visit www.soph.uab.edu/sparkman/default.aspx?id=34 to learn more.

To compete, or not

Mays earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of Alabama studying with Amanda Penick, then pursued advanced music studies as a graduate student in Hannover, Germany. He began working toward his degree in medicine in 1987 – the same year he earned a master of music degree from the University of Alabama. Mays set a number of goals for himself as a music student. The Van Cliburn competition was one of those goals and he decided to go for it. Mays is after, his music idol...

Online course to enhance global health skills, knowledge

MADHAV BHATTA (left) and John Ehiri (center) are conducting an online certificate course in global health this spring to better prepare people to employ alternative solutions to global health challenges. Contact Regina Windsor (right) at beinveni@uab.edu to apply for the course or visit www.soph.uab.edu/sparkman/default.aspx?id=34 to learn more.
Online course to enhance global health skills, knowledge and the university.

said the true winner of the debate was the States and a few abroad, says the debate debates at national meetings in the United "Sometimes you go to an educational event and you learn a lot but it’s painful,” Bailey says. “That wasn’t the case with this event. Both debaters used every possible tactic they could and did a great job with it. I think they got all of the facts out on the table and sometimes emphasized a little beyond the facts for the purpose of rhetoric, but that’s part of debate.

Pavilion Jan. 10. The judging panel of Bailey says. “That wasn’t the case with this event. Both debaters used every possible tactic they could and did a great job with it. I think they got all of the facts out on the table and sometimes emphasized a little beyond the facts for the purpose of rhetoric, but that’s part of debate.

Mark Dransfield's debate on lung cancer screening was ruled a draw by the judges. Debate organizers say the real winners of the debate were those in attendance.

Mark Dransfield, M.D., made the inaugural event. And because of that success, more debates could be on the horizon.

Mark Dransfield and Robert Cerfolio’s debate on lung cancer screening was ruled a draw by the judges. Debate organizers say the real winners of the debate were those in attendance.

Bailey says he says. "When you present in a scholarly lecture format like standard grand rounds, if you are very aggressive in pointing out the deficiencies in one side or the other a lot of times people will get offended, particularly people who believe that side. If you do it in this format, that’s what you’re expected to do. You really can point out deficiencies, and people can learn about it. I’d rather to do that in a standard lecture."

Dransfield agrees. He wishes the debate format had been used more when he was a resident. He believes it’s a format that will work well at UAB. "The format leads to a more honest and complete discussion of the issues than typical lectures,” he says. “It’s also more fun and keeps the listeners engaged.

There are many controversial issues that would work well as debates, and UAB has many outstanding clinicians and speakers who could participate. I certainly will attend the next one.”

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To combat the heat island effect, theist. To combat the heat island effect, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends installing cool or vegetative green roofs, planting trees and vegetation and switching to cool paving materials to reduce the negative effects of heat islands. Planted rooftops remain significantly cooler than those constructed from traditional heat-absorbing materials, and green roofs reduce summertime air-conditioning demand by lowering heat gain to the building.

"The green roofs and the white reflective roofs certainly look real neat,” he says. "They would look nice on any building we have.”

Test roofs UAB Facilities recently installed 15 miniature test roofs with different types of green or sustainable roof systems atop the Chemistry Building, and researchers and students in Civil Engineering monitor them. Each test-roof box measures 4 feet by 8 feet, is constructed of plywood and is insulated similar to most UAB buildings. Inside each plywood box is a wireless temperature sensor that is recorded and trending by a remote computer.

"Data is recorded every 10 minutes for all 15 mini-roofs,” says Robert Peters, Ph.D., professor of environmental engineering. "We have five extra mini-sensors we can move from roof to roof to look at the interface between the insulation and building materials. We’re getting temperatures during the course of the day and during seasons.”

Many different types of existing green roof systems, including vegetative and white reflective roofs, are being evaluated in comparison to traditional roofs for effectiveness in conserving energy and sustainability. The results will be used to determine the type of roofs to be used in the future.

"This research is very important in UAB’s efforts to reduce energy consumption,” Pruitt says.

Real-world problems Peters and Pruitt say the students working on this project have been enthused and energized. "Their energy is infectious,” Pruitt says. "They feel they are working on real-world issues and their work can be beneficial immediately.”

Civil Engineering students examined roofing types in their senior design course this past fall. The course culminates four years of study as a civil engineering student, tying together all of their sub-disciplines.

This past fall, Facilities picked the Hulsey Building as a potential test case to retrofit a green roof. Two student teams studied design codes of the building, determined the load it could support and designed a vegetative or white reflective roof to retrofit the building, factoring the impact of runoff from rain on the surroundings.

Both groups advocated green roofs to help save energy. One selected a conventional green roof, and the other used soil that had broken bricks or brick chips. They also had to incorporate architectural design and consider plant species that might be involved.

Peters has a doctoral and master’s student working on the project, trying to make sense of the temperature and runoff data and using the Department of Energy computer code to assess the energy-efficiency of the green-roof materials. "We want to identify which roof is the best candidate for retrofitting the models we have,” Peters says. "We’re trying different soil materials and plant materials. We’re also capturing samples of the runoff and looking to see if metals and other substances may be in the roofing materials. We’ll be looking at the performance during the course of at least a year.”

Do it yourself In Chicago and parts of Arizona and Wisconsin, green roofs have been incorporated into certain structures. Pruitt and Peters say not much academic research is incorporated into certain structures. Pruitt and Peters say not much academic research is incorporated into certain structures. Pruitt and Peters say not much academic research is incorporated into certain structures. Pruitt and Peters say not much academic research is incorporated into certain structures. Pruitt and Peters say not much academic research is incorporated into certain structures.

"There’s not any real scientific data for this climate,” Pruitt says. “We finally decided the only way for us to get this information was to do it ourselves. Fortunately we are at an institution with the kind of resources at our disposal to make this happen and to do it the right way.

So is it possible that there could be roofs on campus. You can be sure the models we have,” Peters says. "We’re trying different soil materials and plant materials. We’re also capturing samples of the runoff and looking to see if metals and other substances may be in the roofing materials. We’ll be looking at the performance during the course of at least a year.”

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Special lectures
Tuesday, Jan. 22
Noon Sigma Xi Luncheon Seminar, Cool life along the Antarctic Peninsula, Research Assoc Maggie Amster (Biology); HUC-Nunin Audi. Free pizza lunch at 11:30 a.m.
2 pm The BERI Center, Microengineering the cellular environment for tissue engineering and drug discovery, Dr Ali Khademhosseini (Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology; Dept of Medicine, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School); Shelby Bldg-105.
5 pm Neuroengineering, Imaging and computational analysis of electrical waves in the heart: Are there applications in neuroscience? Assoc Prof Jack Rogers (Biomedical Engineering); West Pavilion-Bld Rm.

Wednesday, Jan. 23
1 pm UAB Scholarly Community of Inquiry Series. Preparing on-line/blended learning courses: Enhancing interaction thru visuals and media; Education Bldg-238 T3.
3:30 pm Psychology Colloquium. Diversity research in psychology across the lifespan, moderated by Assoc Prof David Schwebel (Psychology); Campbell Hall-327. This mini symposium will provide the opportunity to learn about diversity in the various academic programs. Additional scheduled speakers are guest Profs Olivo Clay, Michael Crowe and Stylve Mrug (Psychology).

Thursday, Jan. 24
3 pm UAB Center for Nursing Research. Designing interventions for poor, rural women in the United States, Prof Linda Mneyham (Rachel Z. Booth Endowed Chair, Nursing); SON-G020. Reception to follow. All are welcome. RSVP to Lauren Antia at 4-21455@uab.edu. 2.4 nurses CEUs will be offered; please be sure to bring your Alabama nursing license.

Friday, Jan. 25
11 am Biology. Thirty years in the lives of sea turtles: A molecular ecological perspective, Dr Stephen Karl (Assoc Research Prof, Hawaiian institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa); Campbell Hall-274.
11:30 am Office of Postdoctoral Education. Effective presentations, Director Victor Darley-Uyar (Center for Free Radical Biology); BBRB-170. Lunch will be provided. For more info, call 5-7020.

Mon.-Tues., Jan. 28-29
9 am Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Development & Faculty Affairs. IDEA Student ratings of instruction: Interpreting the results workshop, Faculty, department chairs and anyone assisting with the IDEA survey results are invited to attend this workshop on interpreting the results of the survey. To register, go to www.uab.edu/facultydevelopment. For more information, call 4-3359.

Wednesday, Jan. 30
Noon Public Health, Chance and design: How to have a career using biostatistics, Dr Steven Plantado (Phase One Foundation Endowed Chair; Director, Samuelson Oschi Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles); Ryals Public Health Bldg-407.

Friday, Feb. 1
2 pm UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center/Cancer Cell Biology Program. Influences of the tumor microenvironment on prostate cancer cellular behavior, Dr Clayton Yates (Asst Prof, Tuskegee University); West Pavilion-Bld Rm.

Defenses
For a complete list of defenses and other Graduate School events, visit the Calendar of Events located in the Students section of the Graduate School Web site at www.uab.edu/graduate.

Meetings
Monday, Jan. 21, Jan. 28
Noon Foreign Language & Literatures Language Tables. Arabic conversation table; HB-3rd fl The Hub. For more info, lazafroz@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
5:25 pm Power Yoga: UAB Marshall Conference Center. For more info, call 967-0303.

Tuesday, Jan. 22, Jan. 29
10 am International Women’s Group. Smolian International House. 4-1205/awowers@uab.edu.
12:10 pm Stress Management through Meditation: The UAB Resource Center. Call 934-2281 or visit www.uab.edu/eap for more info.
3 pm Foreign Language & Literatures Language Tables. Arabic Conversation Table; HB-3rd fl The Hub. center@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
5:25 pm Power Yoga: UAB Marshall Conference Center. For more info, call 967-0303.
7 pm Conversational English classes, levels 1-4; Smolian International House. 4-1205/awowers@uab.edu.
8 pm Foreign Language & Literatures Language Tables. Italian conversation table; Commons on the Green cafeteria (look for the French flag). For more info, danie@uab.edu or danie@uab.edu.

Thursday, Jan. 24, Jan. 31
12:10 pm Tai Chi – Stress Management through Movement: The UAB Resource Center. Call 934-2281 or visit www.uab.edu/eap for more info.
3 pm Foreign Language & Literatures Language Tables. Medical Spanish Conversation Table; HB-3rd fl The Hub; cteno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Graduate Student Research Days issues call for abstracts
UAB Graduate Student Research Days is a competition in which graduate students present their research in an open forum for cash awards. The deadline for submission of abstracts is noon Friday, Feb. 1. Interested graduate students should read the competition rules before submitting an abstract. Abstracts must be submitted electronically via the abstract form located at www.uab.edu/graduate/researchday.

For more information, contact Kellie Carter at GradResearchDay@uab.edu.
Religion
Tuesday, Jan. 22, Jan. 29
Noon Employee-led Bible study
Interfaith Chapel-West Pavilion.
12:15 pm Latter-day Saints Student Association.
Scripture study and discussion; HUC-413. All welcome. For more info, Andrew 822-9338.

Wednesday, Jan. 23, Jan. 30
10 am Catholic mass; St Stephen Church, 1515 S 12th Ave. 933-2500.
5 pm UAB Hindu Student Council. We will have a session on singing and feasting the Hare Krishna way where everyone is welcome to join. For more info, Varadraj Prabhu 383-9805. 1501 Krishna way where everyone is welcome to join.

Exhibits
Mervyn H. Sterne Library.
African-American Life Achievement. The exhibit ends Feb. 28. Library hours: 7:30 am-11 pm Mon-Thurs; 7:30 am-7 pm Fri; 9 am-5 pm Sat; 1-11 pm Sun.
The Samuel Ullman Home. Promote outstanding Birmingham civic leader and poet. Open by appointment only, 4-3328.
Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences.
Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians. LHL-3rd fl. For Info, call 4-4475.
Visual Arts Gallery.
The Morton Collection: Selected Works. This exhibit explores the interests of a collector committed to innovation in contemporary photography and digital media. It includes pieces by Demetrius Oliver, David Hilliard, Viggio Mortensen, Angela West, Anderson and Low, Jen DeNike and others.
The show will be accompanied by a Pocket Art Edition featuring an interview with the collector. 900 13th St. S. Admission is free. Through Feb. 1. 4-0815.

Films
Sunday, Jan. 27
6 pm Interculture Committee. The Namesake. Screening followed by a catered discussion on fitting in with the American way of life without falling out of step with one’s own. HUC-Alumni Auditorium. For more info, call 4-8225.

Special events
Wednesday, Jan. 23
7 pm Theatre UAB/Safe Zone/ Alliance for GLBT Equality. Moisés Kaufman, a Tony- and Emmy-nominated director and award-winning playwright, will speak on the upcoming Theatre UAB production of his play, “The Laramie Project.” A reception will follow the lecture at the UAB Visual Arts Gallery. Both the lecture and the reception are free and open to the public. For details, call 934-3236. Sirote Theatre. Theatre UAB presents “The Laramie Project” Feb. 20-24 at the Sirote Theatre. Call 975-2787 for ticket information.

Saturday, Jan. 26
9 am-4 pm UAB Communication Studies Advisory Committee. Media Now: Making it in the Real World. The conference keynote speaker will be Don Logan, retired chairman of Time Warner Inc. Media and Communications Group. Sessions will cover various aspects of media, including broadcast, Internet, print and public relations through several top media executives and journalists. Tickets are $25 for the public and are free for all UAB students, faculty and staff. For a full conference schedule, list of speakers, parking or other information, contact Jessi Grizzard at 4-1256 or jgrizzard@uab.edu. Hulsey Recital Hall.
8 pm Alys Stephens Center. Irvin Mayfield and the New Orleans Orchestra. This rousing 16-piece big band, along with Grammy-nominated trumpeter and Cultural Ambassador to New Orleans Irvin Mayfield, is dedicated to showcasing music by jazz legends Jello Rolly Morton, Professor Longhair, Louis Armstrong and others. This majestic ensemble will lead ASC audiences on a Mardi Gras celebration. An ASC Social Club event; party with the club after the show. Tickets are $45, $35 and $25; student tickets are $10. Call 5-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org.

Sunday, Jan. 27
4 pm UAB Piano Series. 2007 Van Cliburn Award winner Drew Mays. Mays began working toward his Ph.D. in medicine in 1987, the same year he earned a master’s in music from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Mays is an associate professor and the Residency Program Director in the UAB Ophthalmology department. Tickets are $15 for the general public and $5 for UAB students, faculty and staff with valid ID. Call 5-2787. Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall.
7 pm Alys Stephens Center. Indigo Girls. Amy Ray and Emily Saliers are celebrating a milestone 20 years of music-making together. Known for songs that are plainspoken yet rich with literary detail, the duo long ago erased the lines between music and poetry. Tickets are $52, $42 and $22; student tickets are $10, 5-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 29
8 pm UAB Foreign Film Series. Volver, a Pedro Almodovar film with Spanish and English subtitles. Plot: After her death, a mother returns to her hometown to fix the situations she wasn’t able to resolve during her life. The film is free and open to the public. Call 4-4652. Hulsey Recital Hall.

Thursday, Jan. 31
7:30 pm Music. UAB Faculty Recital featuring Laura Noah, percussion. Free admission. Call 4-7371. The concert is free.

UAB Sports
Jan. 23: Men’s Basketball vs East Carolina, Barton Arena. 7 pm

Cancer Center Gala
The UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center Gala 2008 will be held Saturday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in The Kirklin Clinic. Live music will be provided by Cleve Eaton and the Alabama All-Stars.
One particularly exciting addition to the Gala is “ArbArt,” which will feature 10 local artists who will have an hour and a half to create a piece of art during the event while guests watch.
The art will then be auctioned at 8:45 p.m. Some of the artists scheduled to appear include Naïl, Darius Hill, Amy Pleasant, Karen Graffio, Frank Nagy, Ricky Trione, Randy Gachet, Carolyn Goldsmith and Paul Ware. All of the artists have strong Alabama connections and represent a variety of artistic media.
This year’s fundraising goal is $800,000, which will support UAB’s research in cancer and nutrition. Half of the funds raised will be used to recruit a faculty member to lead the Cancer Nutrition Program. 25 percent will be used for patient and family assistance, and 25 percent will benefit the cancer center director’s discretionary fund, which will be used to fund high-priority areas.
Alabama’s population is the second most obese in the nation. The epidemic is taking a toll on the health of Alabamians, resulting in loss of productivity and even life. Nearly 36 percent of Alabamians are overweight, a condition that may increase the risk of developing and dying from cancer.
The UAB Cancer Center, online at www3.ccc.uab.edu, is the only such center in the immediate Southeast that meets the stringent criteria for “comprehensive” designation by the National Cancer Institute. For more information, call 934-0054.

Radiation Safety Training offered
The UAB Radiation Safety Program of Occupational Health and Safety is offering a Radiation Safety Training Course in two sections — an online portion that can be taken any time and a two-day, in-class portion.
The in-class portion of the course will be held Friday, Feb. 8 from 1-5 p.m. An examination will be given Feb. 15. Both will be held in the School of Nursing Building (NB 082).
Both the online and in-class portions of the course must be completed before the written examination for the course can be taken.
The course is intended for laboratory technicians who have never attended a formal training course or those utilizing radionuclides for the first time. Go to www.healthsafe.uab.edu and click on Education & Training, then click on Radiation Safety Training to complete the online portion.
The in-class portion of the Radiation Safety Training Course is offered quarterly over two non-consecutive days to meet both in-class days of the course as scheduled.
Registration for the in-class portion of the course is required no later than Thursday, Feb. 7.
A certificate of training will be awarded to those individuals who complete both the on-line and in-class portions of the Radiation Safety Training Course, who successfully complete the written examination with a grade of 70 percent or above, and who submit a baseline biosample. Successful completion of this basic course will not meet the necessary training requirements to obtain radioactive material licensure at UAB.
For more information, call 934-4751 or 934-2487.

January 21, 2008 UAB Reporter 7
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When Lydia Cowser began her job as an administrative associate in the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures almost four years ago, she immediately set out to learn as much about foreign languages as she could.

She began by taking Spanish classes.

“I made it my goal when I first started working in the department to learn a few foreign expressions in each language so that I could say simple things to the faculty like good morning, goodbye or thanks,” she says. “I believe learning a foreign language and possession of good cross-cultural communication skills is very important in a foreign-language office. It helps me to communicate with international faculty, students and visiting scholars with confidence.”

This past summer, she applied for a professional development grant that partially supported 10 days of language and cultural immersion in Mexico and returned from the trip with confidence.”

“I made it my goal when I first started working in the department to learn a few foreign expressions in each language so that I could say simple things to the faculty like good morning, goodbye or thanks,” she says. “I believe learning a foreign language and possession of good cross-cultural communication skills is very important in a foreign-language office. It helps me to communicate with international faculty, students and visiting scholars with confidence.”

The tone that she establishes in our workplace is key to the positive climate in our department,” says Sheri Spaine Long, Ph.D., Cowser’s department chair. “She cheerfully practices Spanish in the workplace. This helps facilitate communication with visiting dignitaries, professors and exchange students and lightens the workload of the faculty who would normally have to step in and provide translations services to complete tasks.”

Helping hand

The Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures is a steadily growing department that operates at a fast pace. Cowser loves that each day is different, and says she has a unique role.

“It requires that I have positive energy, patience, cultural sensitivity, be able to multi-task and, in all honesty, desire to learn new skills,” she says. “Things are constantly changing, and you have to be adaptable.”

Lanita Zayadoun, Ph.D., says Cowser is the backbone of the department.

“I have seen her plan departmental weekly meetings and back-to-school workshops, handle student inquiries, and answer in a timely manner our individual faculty needs and meetings and back-to-school workshops, handle student inquiries, and answer in a timely manner our individual faculty needs such as ordering books, inviting guest speakers, assisting in grant applications and travel reimbursements,” Zayadoun says. “I have seen Lydia stay in her office beyond working hours to finish an urgent job or help a distressed faculty member beat a grant deadline.”

Problem-solving has proven to be another strength of Cowser’s.

“Although she made the process look easy, developing this project took much time, talent and effort. Thanks to her expertise and ongoing efforts, maintaining the learning outcomes now truly is easy.”

More to come

Cowser says she wants to be an asset to her department. One of the ways she says she can do that is to continue to provide as much support as she can in as many areas as she can.

“I believe the driving force in providing good support to a department is being an honest employee at all times, having a cheerful, positive attitude regardless of the task at hand and finding joy in serving others,” she says. Giving is important to Cowser, too. Becoming fluent in Spanish has enhanced her spiritual volunteer community service with Spanish-speaking people in the local area. And she’s not content to stop with learning one new language.

“I would like to learn Chinese or Japanese after I become fluent in Spanish,” she says. “There are so many cultures, languages and wonderful, talented people here in our department. It is such a delight to work for one of the best department chairs and faculty on the campus.”

Learning a new language is just part of Cowser’s values

New personal guide to aid cancer patients at UAB

The UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center is providing a support and educational service that pairs cancer patients and their caregivers with a trained navigator who guide them through varying challenges during and after treatment. Patients may receive assistance handling the psychological, emotional and financial toll that accompanies a cancer diagnosis. Navigator services are free and confidential, and emphasis is placed on assisting the medically under-served.

Drug-maker AstraZeneca has pledged $10 million to the American Cancer Society to expand the development of at least 50 new Patient Navigator Program sites during a five-year period in communities throughout the United States.

UAB was among the first sites picked for the expansion and is the first Patient Navigator Program in the ACS six-state Mid-South region. The program is expected to help more than 800 cancer patients at UAB overcome barriers to care each year.

“Having an American Cancer Society patient navigator at UAB will enable us to assist under-served and under-resourced patients and their families,” said UAB Cancer Center Director Edward Partridge, M.D.
Women

Are you a postmenopausal woman at increased risk for breast cancer? You may be eligible for a breast cancer prevention study.

Self-identified Lesbians 19 and older who have lived in the South are invited to participate in a university-sponsored research study to educate women about their role in the lesbian community. Lesbian women living in the South are more likely to participate in the study than their non-lesbian counterparts. Compensated. Lema 4-2484.

Men & women age 56-80 are needed for a memory-loss study. If you are in good physical health and have been living in your home for at least 5 years, you may have mild Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s Disease with memory loss you may qualify. One visit involving pencil and paper memory testing and a short interview. Compensated. Lema 4-3847.

Care Teams for HIV: If you are HIV+ and are currently participating in a Care Team you are eligible to participate. The study looks at the effects of being in a Care Team for the participant and volunteers. Compensated $80 for 4 sessions. Dr. Burrow-4-8360.

Do you have gout? You may be eligible for an 18-month study on the reduc- tion of back pain. FDA approved drugs with no related to a fracture and have osteoporosis related to a fracture and have osteoporosis. Required to be 18-80 years old. You must be willing to discontinue suppressive medication. 35-7182 or Dana 996-4015. 

Do you have high blood pressure? Are you on three or more medications? You may be eligible for a study examining the effects of exercise on blood pressure. Exercise 2-3 days/week for 37 weeks and undergo assessments for strength, balance, muscle function and mobility. Subjects will be compensated up to $200. 996-1020 Ext. 122/wbooth@uab.edu.

Do you have diabetes? Are you age 60 and older? You may be eligible to participate in a study examining the long-term effects of diet and exercise. You may be asked to attend day hospital stay. Physical exam, lab results and dieting, alcohol or marijuana use. You may be eligible to participate in a study examining the effects of being in a Care Team for the participant and volunteers. Compensated $80 for 4 sessions. Dr. Burrow-4-8360.

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Chemistry, Info Physics, Math from basic algebra to pre-calculator. I also type papers and reports. Ms 240-1441.

Specializing in all your catering needs: weddings, functions, banquets, reunions, parties, showers, all types and all occasions. We offer free consultations and can create menus to fit your budget. Call 240-1334.

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Total tree service: tree trimming, stump grinding, removing branches, trimming for safety, removing large trees, tree planting, etc. Call 780-2245.


Home windows: 30 years experience. 10-15/hr. Sharon 979-765-4145. 979-452-1245. 979-452-1245.

Cloth diaper service:allas metro, bap, ruffino. 61-360-112. Potty training: allows experience, $15/hr. References available. 61-360-112.

Bridal shop: can find the wedding dress of your dreams. 284-398-450.

All about carpet cleaning: residential remodel: 35 yrs experience; references upon request. Reliable, house cleaning by susie: veterans, video bios, weddings, portraits, models, sporting events, special events and all occasions (Classic, Irish and Modern repertoire). Solo vocalist/guitarist will perform songs from the 70s thru today. E-mail d.evans@mind身体. 608-0344.

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 iPhones don’t 50% longer than your “honey done” list? Do you need quality work done for a reasonable price? Specializing in iPhone/Android repair, quality, 61-360-112.

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Find a reliable contractor that will perform the work you need done for a reasonable price? Specializing in home siding: call and schedule your roof repair, chimney repair, drywall, painting, roofing, plumbing, additions, concrete work, paving and asphalt removal.


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UAB COMMUNITY WEEK
January 23 - February 3, 2008

CELEBRATING OUR UNIQUENESS
SPONSORED BY: THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS & THE OFFICE OF EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23
Special Psychology Mini Symposium: Diversity Research in Psychology Across the Lifespan
3:30 PM - Campbell Hall Room 327
Sponsored by the UAB Department of Psychology

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25
Hadad Humanities Forum presents "Superman, Elvis, and the Marquis De Sade: The Influence of Popular Culture on Contemporary Art Music"
11:45 AM - Bannow Library Fenley Room
Sponsored by the UAB Department of English

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26
Ivan Mayfield & the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra
8 PM - ASC Jamison Concert Hall
Sponsored by the Alyx Stephens Center

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
Piano Series II - Drew Mays
4 PM - Alyx Stephens Center
Reynolds-Almquist Recital Hall
Sponsored by the UAB Department of Music

MOVIES: The Nameless
6 PM - Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium
Sponsored by InterCulture

Indigo Girls
7 PM - Jamison Concert Hall
Sponsored by the Alyx Stephens Center

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
Volunteer Fair
11 AM - The Commons
Sponsored by the UAB Volunteer Program

World Cafe: Community Leadership
"Defining what leadership in the community should look like through casual conversation, creativity in a café-style setting"
7 PM - Hill University Center Great Hall
Sponsored by Leadership Foundations

Foreign Film Series: Volver
8 PM - Holloway Music Building (Free Admission)
Sponsored by the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31
UAB President’s Diversity Awards Banquet
7 PM - Hill University Center Great Hall (Invitation Only)
Sponsored by the UAB Division of Student Affairs and The Office of Equity and Diversity

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Movie: American Gangster
6 PM & 9 PM - Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium
(Free Admission)
Sponsored by the UAB Office of Student Involvement

Black History Month Opening Ceremony
7 PM - Hill University Center Great Hall
Sponsored by the UAB Black Student Awareness Committee

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3
Visions Choir Boys
3 PM - Alyx Stephens Center
Sponsored by the Alyx Stephens Center

UAB: creating COMMUNITY

For more information: www.uab.edu/communityweek
205-975-9509