University Writing Center can handle it all

Effective communication skills are fundamental to competent functioning across the undergraduate curriculum and in life beyond graduation. Improving writing skills contributes directly to the development of other communication competencies, including reading and public speaking.

The newly opened University Writing Center (UWC), located on the reno-vated first floor of Sterne Library, is a key resource faculty may use to help their students become more proficient writers and effective communicators.

“Writing is crucial to critical thinking, effective problem-solving and communicating knowledge,” says Marilyn Kurata, Ph.D., director of Core Curriculum Enhancement. “The ability to write effectively is a key component that contributes to professional advancement, successful personal relationships and responsible civic involvement.”

Nichole Griffith, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and interim director of the UWC, says the ability to write clearly, concisely and convincingly is a key component of a team of doctors that wanted to provide parents of children diagnosed with an ASD a roadmap to navigate their medical problems.

The Medical Autism Clinic hopes to give parents of children diagnosed with an ASD a roadmap to navigate their medical problems.

The clinic has specialists in genetics, nutrition, occupational therapy, speech therapy, rehabilitation, sleep disorders and audiology in one location to expedite the evaluation of some of the medical problems seen in children with ASDs.

“In particular, we’re interested in addressing the feeding, sensory, motor, sleep, gastrointestinal and nutritional problems,” says Myriam Peralta-Carcelen, M.D., professor of pediatrics and director of the clinic.

“The ability to write effectively is a key skill that contributes to professional advancement, successful personal relationships and responsible civic involvement.”

Nichole Griffith, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and interim director of the UWC, says the ability to write clearly, concisely and convincingly is a key component.
Reaffirmation of UAB Equal Opportunity Policy

(1/01/07; Reissued January 2010)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is fully committed to the policies and practices of equal opportunity and nondiscrimination in our treatment of all persons, including current and prospective faculty, staff, and students. We freely and enthusiastically endorse diversity and equal opportunity as core values that contribute to our effort to create a positive, supportive, and diverse environment in which faculty, staff and students can excel. These values only strengthen our vision of being an internationally renowned research university – a first choice for education and health care.

UAB pursues a vigorous program of affirmative action and equal opportunity and, in support of our Affirmative Action Program, we reaffirm our commitment to, and pledge our full support of, the foundations of UAB’s Equal Opportunity Policy and should be the guideposts for other management and personnel decisions as well.

In an effort to assure that all actions involving faculty, staff and students are instituted and administered to comply with our commitment to fairness and nondiscrimination, all UAB administrative and supervisory personnel are required to ensure that this policy is fully implemented by enforcing only valid, position-related requirement decisions for employment, promotions, and work assignments. Our commitment to fairness and nondiscrimination are the foundations of UAB’s Equal Opportunity Policy and should be the guideposts for other management decisions as well.

The Equal Opportunity Policy may be accessed at www.uab.edu/Pol/EeoEtab.pdf.

Nominations needed for Faculty Senate, FPPC elections

The Faculty Senate is seeking nominations for the 2010 election of senators and alternate senators from all academic units and representatives to the Faculty Policies and Procedures Committee from Nursing, Medicine, Natural Sciences & Mathematics, Engineering, Lister Hill Library and Sizemore Library.

Also nominations are requested for the chair-elect position — from Health Affairs units — and for Secretary of Faculty. All nominations are due to Pat Greenup by Jan. 29.

All nominees must complete a Nominations Acceptance Form, which is available from Greenup or www.uab.edu/ senate/elections.htm. Please direct submissions and questions to Greenup at greenup@uab.edu or 934-5995.

Graduate Student Medical Assistance Fund launched

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) is establishing the Graduate Student Medical Assistance Fund (GSMAF) to provide financial assistance to students who have extraordinary medical costs not covered by insurance. The GSA will oversee fund-raising. Student Health Services will review applications for medical necessity, and The Graduate School will review applications and disburse funds to qualified applicants.

Learn more on the GSA Web site or download a PDF at www.uab.sharing/gradlife/gsmaf/pdf.pdf to submit a contribution.

Future events? Check online calendar

The UAB Campus Calendar at www.uab.edu/calendar is updated daily with campus events, activities and deadlines, and the “Calendars” link on the UAB home page takes you straight there. Postings can include detailed information, photos and links to sites or related events.

Check out the FAQs for more information.
UAB BookTalk series makes impact on Young, readers

Jennifer Young had only held her position as an English teacher for one semester when the opportunity to coordinate the UAB BookTalk series arose.

To understand her excitement about the possibility of leading the long-standing English department program, you need to understand a little of Young’s background; she had a small but significant history with BookTalk despite never attending a program.

A Hurricane Katrina evacuee, Young saw an advertisement for the BookTalk series in a local newspaper shortly after relocating to Birmingham with husband Ed Higginbotham in 2005. Young, an avid literature reader, immediately felt a connection with the idea of the BookTalk series and what it could provide for her.

“When I was trying to find a place in Birmingham, trying to find home when home was ripped away from me, BookTalk was one of the things I contemplated participating in,” she says. “I thought that might be a way of beginning to find my place. I wasn’t able to do it, but knowledge that it was there as an option was valuable.”

Young spent a year at the University of Montevallo before being hired at UAB. When the BookTalk offer came soon after, she was more than happy to embrace it.

“I absolutely jumped at the chance when the previous coordinators were ready to pass the torch,” Young says. “I feel really strongly about BookTalk. It’s a fabulous outreach by the English department to the larger Birmingham community.”

Faculty participation key

BookTalk has enjoyed a long, successful run because of the participation of the English department faculty and a loyal group of readers, says Jennifer Young, the series’ coordinator. The spring session will begin Feb. 2.

Robert Hutchings specializes in contemporary American authors, and is always a good thing.”

For example, Hutchings says, “They have interested me because of their unusual narrative perspectives or because the characters are somehow problematic,” Hutchings says. “For an English professor, of course, there is no greater joy than unusual narrative perspectives or because the characters are somehow problematic,” Hutchings says. “For an English professor, of course, there is no greater joy than

“Because Hutchings has been a part of BookTalk almost since its inception, he has a unique perspective on its evolution. He says the series has been fortunate to have talented coordinators who have helped the program grow, and Young is very much in that tradition. “She brings a tremendous amount of enthusiasm to any and every opportunity to share the joy of reading and the fun of literary conversation — especially when there’s much about which readers can disagree,” Hutchings says. “She’s especially adept at steering conversation, at eliciting reactions and at provoking insights and discussion. And she’s especially generous and welcoming to anyone who wishes to attend. She knows each person brings a perspective worth contributing and has a voice worth being heard.”

In fact, after her first year of coordinating BookTalk, Young considered “cleaning up” the mailing list. She said some of the people on the list did not attend an event during her first year, and she wondered if they wanted to be taken off the list.

One person on the mailing list who had not attended a session the previous year came to a special 10-year BookTalk reception this past September. While talking to her, Young recognized her name and asked if she didn’t want to be included on the list any longer.

“She told me she had read every book on the list, but never had the opportunity to get here,” Young says. “She used it as a start to her own personal reading list and wanted me to know she enjoyed getting the book lineup. That suggested to me the same thing I felt when I saw that advertisement for the class the first time. The fact that the opportunity was there was in and of itself important. That had been profound for me — and to hear it echoed from an Internet follower was really gratifying.”

UAB BookTalk is in the middle of its 11th year. The spring semester sessions begin Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Sylvee Library Henley Room. For more information on the series, or to sign up to be on the BookTalk mailing list, contact Young at jlyoung@uab.edu.

Spring UAB BookTalk schedule

- Feb. 2, Grass Widow: Making My Way in Depression Alabama, hosted by Instructor Becky Duncan
- March 2, The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family, hosted by Assistant Professor Cassandra Ellis
- April 6, The Rake’s Progress, hosted by Instructor Rabia Hekima
- May 4, Unaccustomed Earth, hosted by Professor William Hutchings

UAB BookTalk meets from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Sylvee Library Henley Room.

CONTINUED from page 1

10-week contest and lose 10 pounds or more will be put in a drawing for 50 individual prizes of $100 each, even if the other team members do not reach the 10-pound goal.

UAB employee weigh-in sites, dates and times are:

- UAB Hospital: West Pavilion Atrium, Monday, Jan. 25, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 29, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- UAB Highlands: third floor conference room, Monday, Jan. 25, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 26, 12 to 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Webb Building: second floor, Monday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Friday, Jan. 29, 7:30 to 9 a.m.
- Health Services Foundation: JWB Suite 116, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 28: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital: third floor education center, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Campus Recreation Center: Monday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 26, 4 to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 28, 4 to 6 p.m.
- The Kirklin Clinic: first floor employee health office, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2 to 4 p.m.
- Medical Towers: first floor break room, Monday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; VIVA Health: main conference room, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 28, 9 to 11 a.m.

Remember to consult your health-care provider before beginning a weight-loss or exercise program. Contact uabwellness@ uab.edu for more information or visit www.uab.edu/wellness for details.
New hi-def, low-dose CT scanner a breakthrough for all

Chief of CT Lincoln Berland, M.D., has been actively involved with CT scanning for more than 30 of the 40 years it has been in existence. Berland has noted major technological breakthroughs in the art of CT scanning have been few since its discovery. That’s why the new GE Healthcare CT 750 HD computed tomography scanner recently installed in The Kirklin Clinic is a momentous advancement for patients, physicians and researchers, he says. “This really is one of the most exciting breakthroughs in CT technology in the past 20 years,” Berland says. “This is a scanner that can do what’s known as iterative reconstruction and dual-energy scanning, and it can do those while reducing radiation exposure to patients and still delivering high-definition images. This technology puts us on the cutting edge of this breakthrough.”

The high-definition, low-dose CT scanner was installed in The Kirklin Clinic in October and is the first of its type in the Southeast. It offers considerable benefits to patients concerned about radiation exposure, particularly those with conditions requiring multiple scans. The scanner uses a conventional computer reconstruction method to create an image before repeating the reconstruction process — a process known as iterative reconstruction. This enables the scanner to produce a higher-quality image from a much lower radiation dose.

“What this does is create an image that has very similar characteristics in diagnostic quality to the conventional image, but it can be done with 50 to 60 percent of the radiation exposure you would ordinarily use,” Berland says. “We’re not really improving the quality of image, but we’re markedly reducing the dose, which is a big advantage to the patient.”

Dual-energy scanning

The CT scanner also contains a dual-energy scanning component, which makes UAB one of only a few sites in the country with the production version of this technology. The difference between dual-energy scanning and conventional CT is significant.

A conventional CT scan has an X-ray tube that generates a beam that goes through the patient as the tube rotates around the patient. The amount of the X-rays that are not absorbed by the patient is recorded when it hits the detector on the opposite side. With dual-energy scanning, an X-ray tube rapidly moves back and forth between two energies in milliseconds. The information is part of two different images but almost the exact same time.

“That enables you to calculate the composition of tissues in the body based on the type of material in the body,” Berland says. “In other words, you can create images that highlight the iodine in the image, because all of the dye agents are iodine based for CT.

Physicians have used the scanner to discover the differing composition of kidney stones, which can affect how they are managed. Berland says physicians also are looking at the extent to which the technology can improve the ability to identify subtle tumors in the liver and pancreas that may not always have been visible before.

“Now that we can focus on the iodine, we can create an image that’s weighted for iodine, so we can tumors that pick up small amounts of iodine that we could not see with the older technique,” Berland says. “A physician might be able to catch something sooner and be able to affect management that way.”

Physicians also may be able to diagnose special conditions — like a deposition of iron or excessive scar tissue within organs — that normally wouldn’t be able to identify. The dual-energy scan also can subtract metal when scanning patients with prostheses or other metal in their body from an orthopedic surgical procedure. Previous scanners could not do that, leaving many images with star-like streaks that obscured the tissue and complicated diagnoses.

“That’s very important in patients who have had prior surgery,” Berland says. “They might have had orthopedic surgery and they’re trying to figure out if the prosthesis has loosened. Or they might have large surgical clips, and the place that a tumor is most likely to recur is where you operated on it. You can’t see it with a conventional test, and now potentially you can see that area.”

The scanner has been used on patients with pancreatic cancer and those who are at a higher risk for developing cancer, including patients with cirrhosis of the liver. Other patients who have a metastatic disease also are scanned on the machine, as are those with uncommon tumor types.

The scanner also can accommodate cardiac patients.

Lower dose aids patients

There is a disagreement among many experts on the level of radiation to be considered harmful. Advanced technology enabling faster, better CT exams, improved health care facilitated by data from CT exams, self-referrals and repeated examinations are some of the reasons Americans’ radiation exposure has risen six-fold in the past 25 years, according to a recent National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement report. Radiology endorses the “As Low As Reasonably Achievable” concept and an “Image Gently” campaign has been organized for pediatric imaging to help apply this concept. It encourages providers to use only the amount of radiation necessary to obtain optimal images.

Two or three CT scans probably do not increase your risk of cancer, but we have lots of patients with certain kinds of conditions who get numerous CT scans,” Berland says. “Patients with cancer, those who have experienced trauma, or patients who have certain inflammatory conditions like Crohn’s disease or kidney stones may receive numerous scans. For patients who get many scans it’s good to be an advantage to use a scanner that gives a lower dose.”

Contact Berland for more information at lberland@uabmc.edu or 934-7978.

Chief of CT Lincoln Berland stands with the new GE Healthcare CT 750 HD computed tomography scanner recently installed in The Kirklin Clinic.

MEDICAL AUTISM CLINIC

Continued from page 1

The Medical Autism Clinic, funded by a Patient Clinical Care Initiative Grant from Protective Life and UAB, is a separate entity from the Civitan-Sparks Clinics, which provide evaluation and diagnostic services for developmental and behavioral disorders. “Sparks Autism Clinic concentrates mostly on the aca-

demic and psychological testing and administering diag-

nosis,” says Pertha, who began the Sparks Autism Clinic in 2801 with the help of a Health Services Foundation grant. “The goal of this new Medical Autism Clinic is to provide evaluations beyond the diagnosis and help par-
tients with the associated medical co-morbidity in ASD.”

Farley and Pertha say it’s often the health problems that frustrate parents more than the behavioral problems.

“The kids don’t complain much, and it may be that they have a gastrointestinal problem or a sleep problem that is contributing to their behavioral issues,” Pertha says. “You can’t really address the behavior problems unless you fix the underlying medical problem. Sometimes par-
tents just say, ‘Oh, they’re acting bad,’ but it really could be a stomach ache that’s fuelling the behavior. We hope to answer some of those questions for parents.”

Two separate visits may be required to complete the assessment. Visit www.chsys.org/MAC for more infor-
mation or call 939-5275 for questions regarding eligibility or to schedule an appointment.

The UAB Autism Initiative is a joint venture with UAB and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

For more information visit www.chsys.org/MAC.
UAB to host weeklong celebration of Alys Stephens Center

Since opening in 1996, UAB’s Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center has established itself as the center for arts and education in Birmingham and the premier performing arts center of the South, presenting fun, fabulous shows by the world’s best artists and offering arts education for all ages.

The university will celebrate “UAB Loves ASC Week” Feb. 8-13, with ticket giveaways, discounts for the UAB family and fun, diverse events and performances. The celebration weekend includes performances by Three Dog Night on Friday, Feb. 12, the ASC Kids’ Club Black History Month presentation “Extraordinary Americans Who Happen to be...” and the Soweto Gospel Choir, both on Saturday, Feb. 13.

On Monday, Feb. 8, to kick off the celebration, UAB faculty, staff and students who write about their ASC experiences at blogs.uab.edu/asc presents will be entered in a contest to win a free pair of tickets to all three shows presented that weekend.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, register to win tickets to ASC events, meet the ASC staff and find out about upcoming performances at four locations on campus:

• Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the North and West pavilions.
• Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the UAB Administration Building
• Wednesday, Feb. 10 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the UAB Recreation Center

Everyone who enters at one of these locations will be eligible to win prizes, including pairs of tickets to every show presented by the ASC this winter and spring.

Spotlight performances

The legendary Three Dog Night will perform at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 12. This beloved group has sold more records and concert tickets and achieved more Top-40 hits – 21 – than almost any other act. Their hits include songs like “Mama Told Me (Not to Come)” “Joy to the World,” “Shamballa,” and “One.” Ticketholders can enjoy a free “Baby Boomers” themed bash at 7 p.m. before the show.

UAB faculty and staff will receive a 10 percent discount for the ASC Kids’ Club celebration of Black History Month, “Extraordinary Americans Who Happen to be...” with shows at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. In this original ASC production, the ASC Youth Ensemble will present historical events through song, dance and original monologues. Tickets are $8.

UAB to celebrate annual Community Week Jan. 23-30

UAB will recognize its diverse campus culture during its annual Community Week celebration Jan. 23-30. Community Week is designed to challenge ideas related to diversity and to spotlight various campus cultures through lectures, films, musical performances and an international bazaar.

On Monday, Jan. 25 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. the UAB English Language and Cultural Institute will present a Languages Exchange in the UAB School of Education Room 150. Students representing several nations will teach participants to pronounce various foreign words and phrases. This free event also will feature ethnic music. Call 975-6638 for more information.

The ninth annual UAB International Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 in the Hill University Center Great Hall and will feature exhibits showcasing arts and crafts and information about specific countries.

The week’s events also will include presentation of the annual UAB President’s Awards for Diversity on Thursday, Jan. 28. The award, named in honor of the first recipient of the Diversity Awards, UAB President Carol Garrison, recognizes the importance of institutional diversity and honors those who nurture diversity of thought, culture, gender and ethnicity on the UAB campus and elsewhere.

Immediately following the awards presentation, best-selling author, sociologist and entertainer Bertice Berry, Ph.D., will present a free, public lecture, “Finding Your Purpose,” at 9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 28 in the Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium. Call the UAB Office of Student Involvement at 205-975-9509 for details.

Berry is the former host of the syndicated talk show “The Bertice Berry Show.” Her best-selling books include I’m on My Way, Be Your Best Is On My Head, How to Lovell’s Homemade Heart-fx Remedy, The Tie That Bind and You Might Be Ghetto If... Berry, a sociologist, specializes in issues of gender, equity and race. To learn more, visit her website at www.berticeberry.com.

Check the UAB Campus Calendar for a list of all Community Week events.

Republication of UAB’s Sexual Harassment Policy

Periodically, UAB republishes existing policies so that new employees or new administrators will be kept informed of the policies and guidelines governing UAB. The version of the Sexual Harassment Policy printed here has been in effect since the most recent re-circulation – as required by the policy – is being re-circulated to the UAB community in full as a reminder of its existence.

Sexual Harassment Policy Introduction

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is firmly committed to providing an environment that is free of discrimination, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual’s employment or academic evaluation, (2) submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work performance or of creating an intimidating or hostile working or educational environment. Such behavior may violate federal law and/or give rise to personal liability for the results of such behavior.

Consequently, UAB prohibits all forms of sexual harassment and will investigate complaints thoroughly and with the utmost seriousness.

A violation of this policy may result in the taking of disciplinary action up to, and including, discharge.

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace:

It is a violation of UAB policy for any employee, including faculty, to engage in sexual harassment in the workplace or in work-related situations. Employees who believe that they have been sexually harassed by a supervisor, co-worker, or other employee of UAB should report the incident promptly to the Human Resource Management Relations Office. Only Human Resource Management has the responsibility for coordinating and conducting an investigation of sexual harassment claims in the workplace and also for recommending corrective action to the UAB administration.

Sexual Harassment in the Instructional Setting:

UAB prohibits sexual harassment of students by the teaching staff or other employees of UAB. For purposes of this policy, the term “teaching staff” means all those who teach at UAB and includes, but is not limited to, full-time faculty, part-time faculty, students functioning in teaching roles (such as graduate assistants), and academic administrators.

A student who believes that he or she has been sexually harassed should report the incident promptly to the vice president for Student Affairs.

Sexual harassment by a student is considered nonacademic misconduct, and the alleged student offender will be subject to the disciplinary process contained in the Direction: Student Handbook.

Sexual Harassment – General:

Full and prompt reporting is necessary for effective implementation of this policy, and UAB encourages such reporting. However, UAB’s duty to protect employees and students exists when UAB’s supervisory personnel know, or have reason to know, of unreported sexual harassment. Supervisors therefore are directed to take all appropriate steps to prevent sexual harassment in their areas of responsibility and to take corrective action, including disciplinary action, in response to inappropriate behavior which may constitute sexual harassment even in the absence of a complaint.

This policy seeks to encourage students, staff, and faculty to express freely and responsibly, through established procedures, complaints of sexual harassment. All such complaints shall be treated as confidential information and shall be disclosed only to those with a need to know as part of the investigatory and resolution process. Any act of interference, retaliation, or coerce by a UAB employee against a student or employee for using this policy interferes with such free expression and is itself a violation of this policy.

Implementation:

This policy will be published regularly in the UAB Reporter and in the Class Schedule. The policy will be included in revisions of handbooks relating to staff, faculty and students.

The vice president for Financial Affairs and Administration is responsible for implementation of this policy as it relates to sexual harassment in the workplace.

The vice president for Student Affairs is responsible for implementation of this policy as it relates to sexual harassment in the instructional setting.
Vines brings positive, cheerful outlook to Engineering

For Belinda Vines to accomplish every-
thing she needs to do in a single day, she has to have discipline.

Whether it’s tending to her horses Cash and Star or completing her tasks, the human resources representative for the School of Engineering, every day is filled with many unknowns — and even more challenges.

Co-workers say she handles each test with warm greetings, friendly words and dedica-
tion, characteristics that make her a true asset to UAB and a worthy selection as January’s Employee of the Month.

“In the five years I’ve had a professional relationship with Belinda, she has proven to be resourceful, courteous and efficient in the completion of her duties,” says Jason Kirby, Ph.D., assistant professor of engineering. “She routinely takes on tasks outside of her official responsibilities to ensure faculty, staff and students overcome the numerous problems that routinely occur in academia.

“She truly is dedicated to UAB and making those around her welcome.”

In addition to her human resource respon-
sibilities, Vines is in charge of processing all of the new-late documents for the school. She also documents funding-source changes, processes retirements and manages tenure information for faculty.

“I can truly say I enjoy what I do and the people I get to work with on a daily basis,” Vines says. “One of the best things about this job is there are so many people from different backgrounds with whom I have the opportunity to work. We have a large international contingent here in Engineering. And I learn a lot about places I’ll never visit. I love hearing about the dif-
frent cultures and their lives, where they’ve come from. I love working with such a diverse group of people. They’re unique.”

Clay Custred, program director for materi-
als science and engineering, says Vines was one of his first contacts when he began his employment at UAB. The help she provided him then — and continues to provide him now — always is appreciated.

“When really helped me navigate through the first few months, and she has remained a resource that I am fortunate to have,” Custred says. “She has a great ability to express her ideas, her UAB knowledge and considerable experience in a manner that is easy to listen to. Belinda has a way of draw-
ing her audience in and providing them with knowledge and experience without being arrogant.”

“When I really helped you with a company or university gives you a set perspective,” he says. “Belinda has always impressed me in expressing insight with the understanding that things change and the best employees are the ones who change with them.”

It’s that unselfish optimism that Hasan

Moore, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, often sees in Vines.

Whether he has interacted with Vines for work or in casual conversation, he says she is a shining light to others.

“The feeling that he just wants everyone to do well is something you don’t see everyday.”

Vines says her family — especially 16-month-old grandson Aiden — and her horses enable her to maintain a joyful out-
look.

“My husband Curtis and I love to ride our horses,” she says. “Cash is a black Tennessee Walker, and Star is our Palomino quarter horse. We’re planning on breeding her this year for my grandson, so they can grow up together. I really hope to get him involved with horses. His mom and dad work on the weekends, and I get to keep him every other weekend. From the time he could up, I took him out there to be with those horses. I’m planning on turning him into a cowboy.

She’s also planning to add many more years to the 17 she has been working at UAB, including the past five in the School of

Engineering.

“I think I’ll remain friends with many of these folks forever,” she says. “There are so many people here at UAB that I’ve seen their children get married and their grand-
children born. It’s like they’re a part of my

family. I feel the same about the folks here.”

To nominate someone for Employee of the Month, visit www.uab.edu/deotm or e-mail letters of recommendation to Christina

Peoples at cwp@uab.edu.

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

CONTINUED from page 1

to the future success of students — both in academia and as professionals. Griffith believes this so much she often challenges her freshman and sophomore English stu-
dents to find a career in which they don’t have to be competent writers.

“Nobody really has come up with a profes-

sion where I couldn’t tell them why they

needed to be able to control their presenta-
tion on the page,” Griffith says.

Griffith aims to develop instructional work-
shops for faculty and students that best meet their needs. In addition, tutors will be available in the UWC for 20 hours per week this semester to help students or faculty in one-on-one or group settings.

This semester, the UWC will be open:

• Monday 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
• Tuesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
• Wednesday 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
• Thursday 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

When completed, the UWC will have more than 12 work stations with desktop com-
puters for individual tutoring. Three small conference rooms with large-screen televi-
sion monitors that can accommodate up to six people and a classroom that seats more than 40 people that can be used for faculty development or writing workshops.

Examples of workshops for students are citation or writing-process workshops that examine introductions, conclusions, coher-
ence and using sources.

Griffith says the possibilities for faculty workshops are endless. Belinda wants to learn from faculty the areas in which they desire help or any interests they want to explore.

“I’m going to go talk to different writ-
ing instructors in the disciplines and ask them what they need.”

Griffith says: “We’re soliciting ideas for what we can do with the combination of small conference rooms, private tutoring and classroom space, in-
cluding faculty and student development.

My job is to find out what faculty want, not tell them what to do. They know where they need support.”

Part of QEP

The UWC was established as part of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which sets goals for student learning and outlines steps the university will take to reach them. A Writing Committee comprising mostly faculty has taken a leadership role in iden-
tifying effective means to integrate writ-
ing into the classroom. Sixty-five courses have been approved as writing-designed courses.

Griffith hopes faculty will view the UWC as a resource as they develop their course changes to reflect the new writing compo-
nent.

“There might be a biology course, just for example, that is now a writing-designed course, and they’ve been asked to put in a day on working on introductions or a day writing on paragraph coherence,” Griffith says. “We can do some of those things for faculty if they’re unsure how to do it or want to improve their teaching of any part of the writing process.

“The task of this center is to highlight the importance of good writing and to improve writing across the disciplines,” she adds.

The UWC will not replace the English-

Resource Center (ERC), located in Room 224 of the Humanities Building. The ERC will continue to focus on helping develop-
mental English students and students in sophomores English courses.

“We’re going to complement each other,” Griffith says.

No task too large or small

Griffith hopes all professors will inform their students the UWC is available to help with any writing task, including application documents for nursing, business and medi-
cal schools, working plans for semester-long projects or help with generating ideas.

“People might not think to come to the writing center for help on their school application documents or a project they will need to complete during the course of a semester,” Griffith says. “No writing task is too small or too large for us. And, hope-
fully, with this great location on the first floor of Sterne Library there will be plenty of organic moments when students look up and see the writing center and say, ‘Wow, I’m in the middle of this and don’t know what to do with it. Let me walk over and ask for help.’ That’s why we put the UWC in the library.”

To discuss your ideas or needs with Griffith, contact her at nichole@uab.edu or 996-
7179.
Demographics, property location influence consumer foreclosure rates

A homeowner’s station in life and personal spending beliefs and habits are important indicators of the borrower’s potential for home-mortgage default, say researchers in the UAB School of Business.

“The research revealed that affluent, well-educated and older borrowers 55 years and up were significantly less likely to experience a mortgage default,” says Stephanie Rauterkus, Ph.D., UAB assistant professor of finance. “Further, those borrowers who are less likely to default live in newer, well-developed suburbs or in city-high rise dwellings or town homes.”

New international degree programs to bridge gap in global public health

The UAB School of Public Health is collaborating with universities in South Asia and the Caribbean to offer master’s-level training programs that meet a growing demand for global-health professionals to lead research, prevention, care and policy initiatives.

The new master’s programs in public health were developed through UAB’s Sparkman Center for Global Health and UAB’s International Training and Research in Environmental and Occupational Health (ITREOH) program along with input from international scholars, accrediting agencies and public-health educators from each university’s home country.

Prof’s book reveals first-person look at homelessness

More than four years ago, UAB Associate Professor of Sociology Jeffrey Michael Clair, Ph.D., and UAB alumnus Jason Wasserman, Ph.D., ventured into the streets of Birmingham to interview homeless people, learning in the process that many programs and policies designed to help the homeless succeed only in alienating them.

In their new book *At Home on the Street: People, Poverty and a Hidden Culture of Homelessness*, Clair and Wasserman give readers an in-depth look at long-term homelessness and show the true meaning of life on the street.

/Public policy should be oriented more toward enabling people to work and to secure a dwelling,* Clair says. “But current policy in our American culture tends to approach homelessness with rigidity fueled by fear of difference and uncertainty.”

Graduate student named to research society board

Fellow student Craig F. Aumack, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Biology, has been elected the student member of the executive committee of the Physiological Society of America.

Phylogeography is the biological study of algal. Aumack now can influence society policies and procedures in his role as a voting member of the group’s executive committee. He plans to focus much of his attention on the society’s student-oriented programs.

**Inquiro** launched third issue Jan. 22

**Inquiro**, UAB’s undergraduate research journal, launched its third edition Jan. 22. Copies of this edition of **Inquiro** can be obtained by reaching the journal’s editorial staff at sciencejournal.Inquiro@gmail.com.

Vision science seminar is Jan. 29

Christine Wildsoet, O.D., Ph.D., of the University of California, Berkeley, will discuss “Applying Optical and Bioengineering Tools to Myopia Control” during the UAB Vision Science Research Center Visiting Scholar lecture at noon Friday, Jan. 29 in the Worell Conference Center, 924 18th St. South. Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend.

Join the national volunteer registry for clinical research

UAB is one of 52 institutions participating in ResearchMatch.org, the first national online, disease-neutral, volunteer-recruitment registry developed to improve the way biomedical research is conducted across the country.

This easy-to-use tool can help match researchers and people who want or need to volunteer for clinical trials while protecting privacy, said Lisa Guay-Woodford, M.D., director of the UAB Center for Clinical & Translational Science.

Volunteers are notified electronically that they are a possible match, and then they may decide whether or not to release their contact information to member researchers.

A complete list of participating institutions may be viewed at www.researchmatch.org/partners.

Protect your intellectual property

Many discoveries that result from funded research can be commercialized for the financial benefit of UAB and its faculty. The UAB Research Foundation can help you protect your interests before you publish your results to the public domain. For more information, visit www.uab.edu/uabrf.

Learn more about these topics and other UAB research at www.uab.edu/news.
VIVA HEALTH Starlight Gala starring
SMOKEY ROBINSON

Saturday
April 24 • 7 p.m.

Spend an evening with the smooth, soulful voice of “The King of Motown,” the legendary R&B artist SMOKEY ROBINSON. Smokey is one of the most recognizable voices of the Motown era. His hit songs include “You’ve Really Got a Hold on Me,” “Ooo Baby Baby,” “The Tracks of My Tears,” “I Second That Emotion,” and “The Tears of a Clown,” to name a few. This spectacular evening combines a live performance from Smokey and a plethora of festivities including a pre-performance cocktail party with delicious hors d’oeuvres & live entertainment.

McCOY TYNER TRIO
with special guest
SAVION GLOVER

January 29
This Friday, 8 p.m.

THREE DOG NIGHT

February 12
Friday, 8 p.m.

ASC Kids’ Club presents
“Extraordinary Americans Who Happen to be...”

February 13
Saturday, 10 & 11:30 a.m.

Soweto Gospel Choir

February 13
Saturday, 8 p.m.

20% off* UAB Faculty & Staff!
Online purchase code: ASCRocks

Spend an evening with the smooth, soulful voice of “The King of Motown,” the legendary R&B artist SMOKEY ROBINSON. Smokey is one of the most recognizable voices of the Motown era. His hit songs include “You’ve Really Got a Hold on Me,” “Ooo Baby Baby,” “The Tracks of My Tears,” “I Second That Emotion,” and “The Tears of a Clown,” to name a few. This spectacular evening combines a live performance from Smokey and a plethora of festivities including a pre-performance cocktail party with delicious hors d’oeuvres & live entertainment.

Special Thanks to These Sponsors:
Jane Stephens Comer and Davis Architects.

Tickets $8!