Celebrity endorsements bring money, not guarantees

W
tford Brimley is an accomplished actor and product pitchman. Barbara Streisand has a good voice and has sold millions of albums. Oprah has such a media powerhouse that no last name is needed. And all three want you to vote for their candidates for president.

When you go to the polls Feb. 5 to vote in Alabama’s presidential primary, will that influence your decision?

Celebrity endorsements are nothing new, says Larry Powell, Ph.D., professor of communications and a former political consultant who will be analyzing Super Tuesday results on Birmingham area television station NBC13. In fact, they have been going on for decades. Powell says there is just one problem with them.

“In the past these endorsements have never worked. That goes for endorsements of any kind – celebrity, political – they rarely have an impact on votes.

“For example, Hollywood endorsements have typically gone to Democrats, and you see how effective those have been through the past few elections,” he says.
Search launched for Health System CEO

UAB President Carol Garrison, Ph.D., and Robert Rich, M.D., senior vice president and dean of the School of Medicine, announced that the search for the next CEO of UAB Health System has begun.

Rich will chair the search committee, which comprises representatives from UAB, the Health Services Foundation and the University of Alabama Board of Trustees.

The committee has selected Quick Leonard Kieffer, one of the country’s leading executive search firms specializing in the health-care industry, to conduct the search. In the coming weeks, Quick Leonard Kieffer partners will hold a series of individual and group meetings across the university and Health System at large to offer an opportunity for broad participation in the selection process.

Individuals interested in being considered for the position should contact Quick Leonard Kieffer at otherub@quickleonard.com or 312-876-9800. Cheryl Locke, UAB chief human resources officer, is serving as staff to the search committee, and may be contacted at either 934-5321 or clocke@uab.edu for inquiries.

Chemical inventory now required by Homeland Security

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has identified a list of “chemicals of interest” and now requires entities that possess these chemicals, including UAB, to identify and inventory them no later than Feb. 29.

The DHS list includes 500 chemicals, and the UAB Department of Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) has identified approximately 150 chemicals that may be in use here. OH&S has developed an online inventory program that includes a printable list of these chemicals that can be used as a worksheet; however, the final inventory must be entered electronically.

Go to the OH&S Web site at www.healthsafe.uab.edu and click on the Chemical Inventory Program link at the top. All departments are encouraged to start the inventory now. For more information, call OH&S at 934-2487.

Task force created to examine expense reimbursement

Provost Eli Capilouto, D.M.D., and Richard Margison, vice president for financial affairs and administration, have commissioned a panel of staff and faculty to assess the university’s expense-reimbursement process and recommend improvements where appropriate.

The panel, chaired by Allen Bolton, associate dean for administration and finance in the School of Medicine, is part of a new initiative to identify and address key areas in which opportunities exist to improve the speed and efficiency of expense reimbursements for UAB employees and students.

The review will focus on areas that include travel, UAB-sponsored events, food and approval workflows. The task force will examine current policies and processes for expense reimbursements, analyze the ability of those processes to best serve customer needs while limiting financial compliance risk, and recommend improvements. The group also will assess processes at similar institutions to identify best practices.

“We are committed to advancing our reputation as an entrepreneurial, service-oriented research institution. To do this well, you have to continually evaluate and upgrade your support systems for faculty, staff and students alike. That is our goal here,” Capilouto said.

Task force members include Patricia Raczyński, associate vice president for financial affairs; Harlan Sands, associate provost, administration and finance; Sabina Hearn, director of internal audit; Brett Scullen, director of administration and fiscal affairs; Immunology/Rheumatology; Doreen Harper, Ph.D., dean, School of Nursing; Carl McFarland, Ph.D., chair of psychology; Terry Allen, business officer, School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Sharon Malone, associate director of purchasing.

The group is set to report its initial findings and recommendations to Capilouto and Margison by March 15.

Faculty Senate calls for nominations

The UAB Faculty Senate is accepting nominations for representatives this month.

Nominations for senator and alternate senator positions and also for Faculty Policies and Procedures Committee (FPFC) representatives for academic units are due Feb. 22.

Nomination forms and duties and responsibilities of each position are posted on the Faculty Senate Web site at www.uab.edu/senate/home.

For more information, contact Jennifer Long, chair of the elections committee, at jlong@uab.edu, or University Senate Office Associate Stephanie Belcher at sbelcher@uab.edu

Workshops examine service learning, engaged scholarship

Jeffrey Howard of the University of Michigan, found- er and editor of the Michigan Journal for Community Service Learning and author of Service Learning Course Design Workbook, will make three presenta- tions at UAB Friday, Feb. 15.

A morning workshop, “Fundamentals of Designing a Successful Service-Learning Course,” will run from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Blazer Student Union.

A lunchtime presentation, “From Service Learning to Engaged Scholarship” will be held in the new Blazer Hall Plaza.

A workshop this afternoon, “Service Learning: Who can do it and how to do it,” will run from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Blazer Student Union.

For details and to register individually for the workshops and/or luncheon program, go to www.uab.edu/traindev and select Faculty Development.

Get questions about menopause answered

UAB employees will have the opportunity to talk about menopause, incontinence and pelvic prolapse with Thomas Wheeler II, M.D. Wednesday, Feb. 13 at noon in The Kirklin Clinic fifth floor conference room during the UAB’s OB/GYN and Women’s and Infants’ Services monthly Let’s Do Lunch series.

Space is limited, so call 996-2229 to make a reserva- tion today. Lunch will be provided.
Faculty Handbook undergoing family-friendly revisions

Revisions to the UAB Faculty Handbook under consideration are expected to create a more family-friendly work environment and help UAB improve its recruitment and retention of faculty, both goals in the university’s strategic plan. In 2007 the Faculty Senate recommended changes to Section 2 of the handbook to extend the tenure-earning period for faculty beset by health or family matters and also to clarify circumstances under which faculty temporarily could reduce their workload to part-time. Provost Eli Capilouto has proposed additional measures to sections 2 and 7; those revisions were presented to the Faculty Senate during its December 2007 meeting.

Jeff Garrison, Ph.D.

“These changes provide the means for UAB to respond to the needs of faculty who are experiencing difficulties related to their personal health or family demands and so demonstrate their importance to the university,” said President Carol Garrison, Ph.D.

“Likewise, we send a clear signal to faculty prospects that UAB is a family-friendly workplace, and we recognize the importance of balancing personal and professional responsibilities.”

The proposed revision to Section 2.6.4 allows tenure-earning faculty to pursue their careers on a part-time basis with departmental approval for a fixed period of one semester to two years for reasons of family care or personal health. Tenured faculty could request either temporary or permanent part-time appointment for a broader set of reasons.

A proposed revision to Section 7 would permit “modified duties” for a semester for faculty facing extraordinary personal or family demands.

A copy of the presentation is online at the Faculty Senate Web site at www.uab.edu/fsenate/home. Select “Dec 07 Family Friendly Policies” from the Faculty Senate Meeting Presentations pull-down menu.

A copy of the UAB Faculty Handbook is online at http://www.uab.edu/provost/facultyresources/facultyhandbook/.
“I liked animal care, and I got some interesting assignments in the Army, including testing assignments in the Army, including looking at the crystals around here at UAB, it looks like we’re still building something.”

“From all the cranes around here at UAB, it looks like we’re still building something.”

If I didn't really like what I was doing this morning, I'd probably like what I'd be doing in the afternoon.”

“I've been here since 1957 and you felt like you were building something great,” he adds. “From all the cranes around here at UAB, it looks like we’re still building something.”

As retirement, Weatherford plans for it to continue to be a part-time affair.

“Since I was young I’ve always had a job of some kind. I don’t think I’d do too well if I didn’t have something to look forward to doing,” he says.

“I’ve never been bored a single day here,” he says. “I always thought we’ve had good faculty here. They’re good at what they do. It’s nice to have that kind of atmosphere."

“Since I was young I’ve always had a job of some kind. I don’t think I’d do too well if I didn’t have something to look forward to doing,” he says.

This year’s other honorees are:
Docs’ data leads FAA to change its no-fly rule

Skip Monaghan, a Georgia business- man and private pilot, recently returned to familiar heights on the wings of data compiled at UAB. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), reversing its previ- ous policy, now will allow private pilots who have had a heart transplant – like Monaghan – to fly airplanes by granting them a class III medical certificate.

“When you get a handle on prolonging life with therapies like heart transplanta- tion, the added bonus of returning a near- normal quality of life to the patient is a huge bonus,” says James K. Kirklin, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

The criteria for issuing the certificate are based on a study authored by David McGiffin, M.D., professor of surgery and internationally recognized expert in heart and lung transplant.

The study used clinical data from the Cardiac Transplant Research Database (CTRDB), a national repository of infor- mation about patients undergoing car- diac transplant, which is based at UAB. The database is under the direction of Kirklin; David Nafcil, Ph.D., professor in Cardiothoracic Surgery; and Robert Burns, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Cardiovascular Disease.

FAA concerns

The FAA had been reluctant to renew medical certificates to pilots after they have had a heart transplant based on a concern that coronary allograft vasculopathy — or chronic rejection — could incapacitate them.

The FAA, partly in response to persis- tent requests for recertification by private pilots who were heart-transplant recipients, approached UAB to establish criteria for special issuance of medical certificates.

Robert Burns, database administrator in Cardiothoracic Surgery, analyzed clinical data from the CTRDB to precisely define a group of recipients who would have a risk of death low enough for the FAA to accept.

The authors suggested criteria for consider- ation after an evaluation at least one year post-transplant. Some of those criteria included:

• No chronic rejection
• No treated rejection in the previous two years
• No infection within the previous six months
• No prev. or post-transplant insulin- dependent diabetes

“Our risk-factor models for sudden death or future rejection found that the risk of any of those events was so low that the probability of sudden death or any of these events was less than 1 in 1,000 per year,” Kirklin says. “That falls within the FAA guidelines for an acceptable risk and was the basis for the recommendation.”

This proposal was only possible because the database enabled researchers to examine risk factors and outcomes for these events.

“It was on the basis of that and the integrity of this research group that the FAA agreed that we now have some evidence-based criteria to allow us to make a decision for somebody to safely fly a plane,” Kirklin says. “There was not sufficient evidence to keep them from flying.”

Quality of life

Kirklin and Robert Burns had numerous discussions about offering in favor of safety.

“We had to remember, if we’re wrong and someone was to crash their private plane and cause the death of another person, it would be catastrophic,” Kirklin says. But the results were favorable, giving people like Monaghan a chance to resume an activity that was a key part of his life prior to his transplant here at UAB.

“I was excited,” Monaghan says when learn- ing he could fly again. “No pun intended, but I was on Cloud Nine. I was floating around the house like a kid at Christmas.”

Kirklin says it’s sometimes easy to forget that people who are afflicted with a chronic condition such as heart failure are like patients with any other medical condition.

“They have a full set of quality indicators, and disease has stolen from them things they want to do.

“I think this is an example where the art of medicine sometimes isn’t enough,” Kirklin says. “If you’re going to restore the quality of life, particularly in a contentious environ- ment like flying, you’ve got to have serious outcomes research.

“Oprah is breaking new ground,” Powell says. “She’s never publicly endorsed a candidate. Truthfully, we don’t know about her. She’s a special case and one we will continue to watch with great inter- est.”

Why endorse?

So if endorsements typically don’t have an impact on voters, why seek them – and why give them?

Perhaps the biggest reason is money. Senator John F. Kerry, D-Mass., the democratic presidential candidate in 2004, recently lent his support to Obama. Kerry raised more than $50 million for his presidential run, and he’ll likely give his donor list to Obama, Powell says.

Oprah hosted a sold-out fundraiser for Obama at her California estate this past summer. DreamWorks studio founders Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen hosted a fundraiser for Obama in February 2007 that netted him $1.3 million, according to the Los Angeles News.

“Money is certainly part of it because these celebrities have fans with mail- ing lists and Kerry has his donor lists,” Powell says. “But Oprah’s endorsement also legitimized him in the African- American community and with women, which he needed to compete with Hillary Clinton.

“Kerry’s endorsement was more about timing. They were trying to say the momentum is coming his direction. There are many factors behind an endorsement other than money, but it is probably one of the biggest.”

There are great risks involved in endors- ing as well, Powell says. Whittler Kerry, for example, if Clinton happens to become president? Could Boxley’s box- office appeal take a hit if he campaigns for Obama?

“Kerry certainly understands the risk he’s taking with his endorsement,” Powell says. “Celebrities have risk, too. By endorsing a certain candidate they often wind up not helping the candidate win, but you did make everybody who supported the other candidate mad at you. That shows up time after time.”

February 4, 2008 UAB Reporter
Special Lectures
Friday, Feb. 8
10 am and 12 noon: Comprehensive Cancer Center. Caucasian cancer as a platform for translational research, Dr. Michael Seiden (President, CEO, Fox Chase Cancer Center); WF-E.
11 am: 10103: Ecology. Potential effects of climate change on Alabama’s plant life, Dr. Larry Davenport (Prof, Biological & Environmental Sciences; Director, Vulcan Materials Center for Environmental Stewardship and Education, Samford University); Campbell Hall 274.
4 pm: Reynolds Historical Library Special Lecture. Real books: What they are and why we still need them, Dr. Stephen Greenberg (History of Medicine division, National Library of Medicine); Lister Hill Library-Ireland Rm. A reception will follow at the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
11:30 am Lister Hill Center for Health Policy Series. Prison health care: Is contracting out healthy? Dr. H.E. (Ted) Flavell III (University of California, Santa Barbara); Rylas Public Health Bldg-407.

Monday, Feb. 11
Noon Foreign Language & Literature
Language Tables. Medical Spanish Conversation Table; HB-3rd fl The Hub, cteno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu for more info.

Tuesday, Feb. 5, Feb. 12
10 am International Women’s Group. Smolian International House. 4-1205/awowens@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.
2 pm: Foreign Language & Literature
Language Tables. Spanish Conversation Table: HB-3rd fl The Hub, cteno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu for more info.

Wednesday, Feb. 6, Feb. 13
9 am New parent support group (birth-2 years); WF-Corf! Cft! Questions?: Call Freda 5-2337/ fcentor@uabmc.edu.
10 am: Congressional English classes, levels 1-4; Smolian International House. 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.
3:30 pm: Foreign Language & Literature
Language Tables. Spanish Conversation Table: HB-3rd fl The Hub, cteno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu for more info.
5:25 pm Power Yoga; UAB Marshall Conference Center. For more info, call 934-0603.
7 pm: Congressional English classes, levels 1-4; Smolian International House. 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.
8 pm: Foreign Language & Literature
Language Tables. Italian conversation table; Rast Hall-3rd Floor Study Lounge. For more info, contact Amador Jimenez, amador@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Thursday, Feb. 7, Feb. 14
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.
2 pm: Foreign Language & Literature
Language Tables. Medical Spanish Conversation Table; HB-3rd fl The Hub, cteno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu for more info.
5 pm: Foreign Language & Literature
Language Tables. Chinese Conversation Table; HB-3rd fl The Hub, maxinxin@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu for more info.
6:30 pm SMART recovery group meetings; not a 12-step or religious program. Any addiction or habit can be helped. Southside Baptist Church. Call WL Fulcher 975-7755 for details.
**Religion**

**Tuesday, Feb. 5, Feb. 12**

Noon Medical Center Christian Fellowship Meeting. WP-B. All welcome. Blair 216-8571.

**Wednesday, Feb. 6, Feb. 13**

Employee-led Bible study: Interfaith Chapel, University Hall. Call 4-7640 for availability.

12:15 pm Latter-day Saints Student Association. Scripture study and discussion; HUC-413. All welcome. For more info, Andrew 822-9338.

**Sunday, Feb. 10, Feb. 17**

10 am Catholic mass: St Stephen Church, 1515 S 12th Ave. 933-2500.

5 pm 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.

5 pm UAB Engineering Complex Room 320. The new group is open to all UAB students and UAB alumni. Sarah Malcom, a senior in forensic accounting and criminal justice from Alabaster, is the group's president. To join the group, or for more information, contact Pang at 934-8893 or e-mail kcpang@uab.edu. Malcom can be contacted at smalcom@uab.edu.

Exhibits

Mervyn H. Stern 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 Museum, Home of promi- nent Birmingham civic leader and poet. Open by appointment only, 4-3259.


Visual Arts Gallery. Karin Rashid, UAB 2008 Pauline Ireland Visiting Artist. This exhibition fea- tures the innovative designs of world-renowned industrial designer Karin Rashid. Known for cli- ents as diverse as Prada and Dirt Devil, Rashid channels his personal design manifesto into every aspect of his practice. 900 13th St. South. Admission is free. Through Feb. 1, 4-0815.

**Special events**

**Tuesday, Feb. 5**

9 am-6 pm Eyes Wide Open, the American Friends Service Committee’s widely acclaimed exhibition on the human cost of the Iraq War, featuring a pair of boots honoring each U.S. mili- tary casualty and a field of shoes to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the conflict. This state exhibit, held at the UAB Mini Park, will display a pair of boots for each of the state’s 66 fallen service members and wounded only, 4:3259 also includes a panel discussion in the Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium at noon with local college & university professors leading the discussion. Admission is free to all. Call 4-2208.

6 pm UAB BookTalk. The Space Between Us by Thirum Nirmal; Sterne Library-Herley Rm. The discussion will be lead by Assy Prof Jacqueline Wood (English).

7 pm Music. UAB Faculty Recital featuring Lisa Weinhold, flute, and Dale Reynolds, piano. Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall. Free admission. Call 5-2787.

**Thursday, Feb. 7**

7:30 pm Music. UAB Guest Recital featuring Brian Ully, saxophone. Mr. Ully is an assistant professor of music at Stephen F. Austin State University. Free admission. Hulsey Recital Hall.

9:34-7376.

**Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 7-9**

Music. UAB Jazz Summit for high school stu- dents, featuring a concert by UAB Jazz students at 2:30 pm Feb. 8 and a final summit concert with all attendees at 1 pm Sunday, Feb. 9. Both are free and open to the public and take place in the Hulsey Recital Hall. Call 934-6154 for more info.

Saturday, Feb. 9

11 am ASC Kids’ Club. M.A.D. Skillz Dance Co. M.A.D. (Music and Dance) Skillz Dance Co., under the direction of Winston Strickland, has brought positive entertainment to all ages in the form of hip-hop, jazz, ballet, praise, African and modern dance. M.A.D. Skillz features young dancers of all ages. Tickets are $7. For more info, call 5-2787 or go to AlysStephens.org. ASC Kids’ Club shows are recommended for kids ages 5-12.

8 pm Alys Stephens Center. Wayne Brady, comedian. Tickets are $52, $42 and $28; student tickets are $10. Call 975-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org. Ermy Award-winner Wayne Brady is perhaps one of the funniest comedic actors on TV. His hilarious improvisational antics, paired with his ability to impersonate just about anyone, have won the laughs of many Americans on ABC’s hit comedy series “Whose Line is it Anyway?”.

**Monday, Feb. 11**

8 pm Alys Stephens Center. Indigo Girls. The sold-out Jan. 27 show was cancelled due to ill- ness and has been rescheduled. The same tick- ets will be used for the rescheduled show. For more info, call 5-2787.

**Tuesday, Feb. 12**

6 pm UAB National Alumni Society. Reception for UAB Alumni in Oneonta at heritage Golf, 1364 Heritage Rd. Guests will have the opportu- nity to meet other alumni living in Oneonta. Complimentary cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be served. RSVP by Feb. 8 by calling 1-800-898- 2586 or avalace@uab.edu.

7:30 pm Music. UAB Faculty Composition Recital featuring works by Michael Angel. Hulsey Recital Hall. Free admission. Call 4-7376.

**Saturday, Feb. 16**

7 pm UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. Gala 2008. Guests can enjoy cocktail dining and a live music event with Ceve Eaton and the Alabama All Stars. Witness “ArtLink” where 11 well-known artists like Nall, Lornie Holley and Amy Pleasant come together in one place to create original works during a 90-minute session. An auction for these works created on site begins at 8:45 p.m. Admission is $150 per person, and reservations are required. For information call the Cancer Center’s special events office at 4-0034.

**Sunday, Feb. 17**


4 pm Alys Stephens Center. Amelie Piano Trio. The Amelie took Grand Prize at the Yellow Springs National Competition, was a recipient of the prestigious ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming and was asked by National Public Radio to be the Young Ensemble in Residence. Be the Young Ensemble. Tickets are $25; student tickets are $10. Call 975-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org.

ASC presents Theater Workshop for ages 8-14

The Alys Stephens Center presents “Acting Out Theatre Workshop,” an eight-week camp on Saturdays led by Make It Happen Theatre Co., for kids ages 8-14.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday mornings beginning Feb. 9. Workshop dates are Feb. 9, 16 and 23 and March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. A final showcase per- formance is planned for noon March 29, in the Alys Stephens Center. The cost of the workshop is $95. For details or to register, contact Kimberly kirkin at 934-0862 or kirklin@uab.edu for more details.

The workshop will focus on the mechanics of acting and performance. Participants will learn theater games, improvisation, warm-up and con- centration exercises, voice and diction, theater terminology and character development through a variety of fun, intense classes.

Children will show off their newly developed skills when the workshop culminates with the showcase performance, which is open to all parents and friends.

New international business group formed at UAB

In today’s global economy it is increasingly important for business students to receive multi- cultural training. UAB’s International Business Association is a new group that will promote international business, foreign cultures and foreign languages to students. The group, who will organize student enrollment programs and student-professional networking opportunities, will kick off with a Chinese New Year’s Party 3-6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 7 in the Business-Engineering Complex Room 320.

The faculty adviser is K.C. Pang, director of China initiatives for the UAB School of Business. The group is open to all UAB students and UAB alumni. Samuel Malcom, a senior in forensic accounting and criminal justice from Alabaster, is the group’s president. To join the group, or for more information, contact Pang at 934-8893 or e-mail kcpang@uab.edu. Malcom can be contacted at smalcom@uab.edu.

Radiation safety training is Feb. 8

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 to 5 p.m. An examination will be given Feb. 15. Both will be held in the School of Nursing Building (NB G023).

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 radiotopes 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.

Registration for the in-class portion of the course is required no later than Thursday, Feb. 7.

For more information, call 934-4751 or 934-2487.
Townsend, Dolive get an insider’s view of the FBI

The Glock pistols Lisa Townsend and Helen Dolive held in their hands were disabled, but their hearts were pounding anyway. Townsend, associate director of International Scholar & Student Services, and Dolive, immigration advisor, were on a fake assignment for the FBI. An armed dealer with a van full of semi-automatic weapons was closing his sale to an undercover FBI agent, and the deal was about to go awry.

Never mind that this was a simulation. Townsend and Dolive were so engaged in the exercise they almost believed it was real. And when it was time for them to jump from their cover and aid the FBI agent, they did their job.

“By golly, Helen and I nailed the bad guy,” Townsend says. “Some of our co-participants weren’t so lucky,” Dolive adds. “They shot the FBI agent.”

Citizen’s Academy

Townsend and Dolive attended the FBI Citizens’ Academy this past fall after an invitation from Paul Daymond, media representative for the Birmingham FBI office. The FBI wanted a closer relationship with UAB, and Townsend and Dolive were excited at the opportunity to learn more about the law-enforcement agency. The 10-week program provides insight on the structure and operations of the FBI and on practical issues involving evidence collection and intelligence gathering. Townsend and Dolive graduated from the program in December.

“They took us through every aspect of the FBI,” Townsend says. “White-collar crime, cyber-crime, Internet porn, computer forensics and hijacking scenarios. This program gave us a great amount of respect for what the FBI does.”

Daymond says the goal of the FBI Citizens’ Academy is to foster relationships and understanding between the agency’s local field office and the community.

“The academy is a chance for us to help the community get to know us,” Daymond says. “We serve the community, and we need their help, too. This helps us to have more eyes and ears in the community. We need all the help we can get. That’s true for us and all law-enforcement communities.”

The FBI began the program in 1993 in Phoenix, Ariz., and has expanded to all 56 FBI field offices across the country. Daymond says Townsend and Dolive were part of the seventh graduating class. Five of those classes were conducted in Birmingham and two in Huntsville. This year there will be a spring class in Huntsville and a class in Birmingham in the fall.

Special agents in charge of the Birmingham field office, their senior managers and senior agent experts all participated in teaching the course. The curriculum included:

- Practical problems involving evidence collection and preservation
- FBI jurisdiction and congressional oversight
- Structure and operation of FBI field offices and satellite agencies
- Firearms training
- Fingerprint, forensic technology, training and other services
- Policies and issues: ethics, discipline, communications, drug enforcement, civil rights, and future criminal trends
- Evidence collection is like you see on TV, but not really as high tech. “So was the scenario that involved a hijacked plane at the Birmingham airport; the class of 31 had to determine the facts.”

Townsend and Dolive came away from the program with a greater knowledge about law enforcement and were trying to catch pedestrians. “Being a parent and having children that get on sites like MySpace – watching that really floored me,” Townsend says. “It makes you wonder how these agents can go home and sleep at night when they know the kinds of things going on in our community.”

Stereotypes dismissed

Everyone has their own stereotypes for law-enforcement officials. Townsend and Dolive had theirs, too. Some of them - clean-cut, always wearing a suit – were confirmed. Others were shattered.

Dolive, a native of England, says she knew of the FBI from television and working with them on cases elsewhere. Her impression wasn’t a positive one. “But I realized from going through this class that these are individuals who have a very tough job to do,” she says. “Their work isn’t easy, and it is vitally important.”

“Townsend agrees. “These are people who have dedicated their lives to protecting and serving,” she says. “I had no idea how much they were involved with, but I have a better understanding and even more respect for their work now.”

Contact the Birmingham FBI office at 279-1457 to find out more about Citizens’ Academy.

David Winwood to lead UAB Research Foundation

David Winwood, Ph.D., will join UAB as the chief executive officer of the UAB Research Foundation March 10.

Winwood, the associate vice chancellor of technology development and innovation at North Carolina State University (NCSU), brings more than 25 years’ experience in academia and the private sector including the licensing and management of university intellectual property, contract negotiation and university-industry sponsored research coordination.

“David Winwood clearly understands the complexities involved with moving the discoveries made in a university’s research laboratories to the marketplace where they can impact people’s lives and health,” said Richard Marchase, Ph.D., vice president for research and economic development. “His expertise will help UAB as we continue to move discoveries from bench to bedside to enhance the lives of people in Alabama and beyond, as well as impact our economy.”

At NCSU, Winwood has been responsible for the commercialization and management of the university’s intellectual property portfolio including startup company formation and traditional licensing to industry. Also, he was part of the leadership team responsible for the development and growth of Centennial Campus at NCSU, a mixed-use campus that is home to academic, corporate and government entities. In 2007, the campus was named the Outstanding Research and Science Park of the Year by the Association of University Research Parks.

Winwood spent two years at The Ohio State University as associate vice president for knowledge transfer and commercialization. He also worked at the UNC at Chapel Hill as associate director of the office of technology development. Additionally, he has worked for several emerging companies and organizations responsible for assisting such companies.

The UABRF was formed in 1987 as a non-profit corporation with a mission to identify, assess, and market commercially viable technology developed at UAB. The UABRF is the assignee of all intellectual property developed at the university.

Learn more online at www.uab.edu/uabrf.
Healthy African-American, Caucasian, and Hispanic children ages 7-12 needed for diabetes research. The research investigates treatments for diabetes and diabetic complications. Compensation $250 ($50 deposit plus $200 reimbursement). Call 996-5749 to enroll.

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EVERY WOMAN
has a chance to beat heart disease.
Because UAB takes women’s health to heart.

THESE SURVIVORS fought the number-one killer of women by relying on their inner strength—and UAB’s strengths. As good as they look on the outside, they know that heart disease strikes from the inside. They opted for expert, innovative heart care from a leader in prevention, treatment and research. Because UAB is at the heart of women’s health.

Read their stories at uabhealth.org/womensheart.
For appointments call 205.934.9999.