Bej seeks partners in extremophile research

The wind was howling — reaching a blistering 80 miles per hour — and the temperature was cold. How cold? Try minus-55 degrees Fahrenheit.

But Asim Bej, Ph.D., couldn’t resist. He bundled up — covering every inch of flesh except for the tip of his nose — and stepped out to see what it felt like.

“Well, it was freezing cold,” he says as a smile creeps across his face. “It wasn’t very pleasant, but it was well worth it in the end.”

Bej, professor of biology, got a taste of the Antarctic weather recently when he visited the continent to study extremophiles inhabiting the Schirmacher Oasis lakes, glacial ice and rocks. He was studying the biodiversity of these microorganisms to better understand how these organisms survive in such extreme environments and to see if

Outstanding Women to be honored in March 5 ceremony

UAB will honor six Outstanding Women for 2009 during a ceremony at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5 in the Bartow Arena Green and Gold Room.

The 2009 employee winners are Outstanding Woman UAB Faculty Member Donna Arnett, Ph.D., Outstanding Woman UAB Staff Member Peggy Striplin and the Susan D. Marchase Outstanding Woman Administrator Nancy Bell.

The student winners are graduate student Kiya Hamilton and undergraduate student Sonja Brooks. Theresa Harper Bruno will be honored as the Outstanding Woman in the Community.

The UAB W omen’s Center and the UAB Women’s Studies Program present the awards annually during W omen’s History Month. The awards are designed to honor female members of the UAB community and the Birmingham community at large who have mentored or served other women, taken a courageous stance or overcome adversity. Candidates for the award are nominated by Birmingham residents and selected by a committee of university women.

Arnett, chair of the Department of Epidemiology, also chairs UAB’s Commission on the Status of Women and oversees solicitation of concerns of women on campus through various subcommittees. In his nomination letter, Professor David Allison, Ph.D., praised Arnett for mentoring and advising other women scientists and for fostering collaborations between scientists of various disciplines, which he said has resulted in “fruitful collaborations and successful grant applications.”

Striplin is the senior director of development for the UAB School of Optometry. In his nomination letter, Dean John F. Amos, O.D., praised Striplin for mentoring and advising other women scientists and for fostering collaborations between scientists of various disciplines, which he said has resulted in “fruitful collaborations and successful grant applications.”

Bej seeks collaborators in extremophile research

Biology Professor Asim Bej visited Antarctica this past fall to study extremophiles inhabiting the lakes, glacial ice and rocks to see if they possess the key to the treatment and prevention of skin cancer. He’s seeking other UAB scientists to help in his research.

Three to be lead honorees at UAB’s annual service awards

Jesse Milby, Ph.D., has many memories of meeting with colleagues at Ted’s Steakhouse when it was located on 18th Street.

“That was a long time ago,” says the professor of psychology. “Many an experiment we designed on Ted’s napkins.”

Milby has seen every change on and around UAB’s campus during the past 40 years. Milby, along with Maggie Hawkins in the nurse anesthesia program and the recently retired J. Daniel Lynn from the Department of Medicine, will be honored for 40 years of service to UAB at this year’s service awards program to be held Friday, Feb. 27.

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A luncheon honoring more than 260 employees with 20 or more years of service will be held Friday, Feb. 27. All employees with five or more years of service will be invited to a reception in their honor the same day.

Milby had offers through the years to go to different universities, but says nothing ever compared to UAB.
Faculty development grant program now accepting proposals

The UAB Faculty Development Grant Program (FDGP) is accepting proposal submissions from all UAB full-time faculty for research, teaching and service-related projects designed to enhance the effectiveness of individual faculty members by providing funds for them to undertake new efforts for which time or money is not generally available. Priority will be given to junior faculty, and all faculty must secure matching funds from their department and/or school.

Applications are available from the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Faculty Affairs; e-mail peelic@uab.edu, call 934-0513 or pick one up in the Administration Building Room 374. The deadline for applications is Monday, April 20.

A maximum of $5,000 may be requested per individual application and $10,000 for multidisciplinary collaborative proposals. Awards are made for one year. Funds will be available on Aug. 15 and must be expended by Aug. 14, 2010.

Safe Zone training scheduled for March 4

UAB HRM Training & Development is offering a workshop to train volunteers for the UAB Safe Zone program from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 4 in Medical Towers 419A.

The Safe Zone program is an established, visible network of trained faculty, staff and students who provide confidential support and reliable information to other faculty, staff and students regarding issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

After the training, participants who agree to be volunteers are identified by a decal with the Safe Zone symbol placed on their office doors. There is no time commitment other than the training.

For additional information on the Safe Zone program, contact e-mail Debbie Mogette at mogetted@uab.edu or visit the Safe Zone Web site, students.uab.edu/student-life/show.asp?druk=16139

Register online for the workshop at www.uab.edu/traineve. Click on “Professional Development Program Information,” click on “Professional Development Courses,” click on “Safe Zone Program,” under the list of courses.

Higher Education Day is scheduled March 5

Higher Education Day in Montgomery, which is set for Thursday, March 5, will be a highly effective forum for students, faculty, staff and alumni to ask lawmakers to make spending cuts in education that are equitable.

At UAB, buses will transport participants to and from Montgomery, leaving the Hill University Center at 6:30 a.m. and returning about 3:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat on the bus to Montgomery for Higher Education Day, call 934-8225 or sign up in HUC rooms 440 or 136. Breakfast, lunch and a free T-shirt will be provided.

Blazer Café to close March 6 for remodel

Blazer Café will close at 2 p.m. Friday, March 6 for remodeling and will reopen in the fall with new concepts — including a Taco Bell Express — plus expanded serving areas and updated seating areas. Equipment removal and construction preparations will begin Monday, March 9, and construction is set to start within a few weeks of closing.

Chick-Fil-A will be the centerpiece in the remodeled Blazer Café, and the grill will be expanded to include a steam table. More Grab-and-go coolers and offerings will increase speed of service for those customers on the go.

To minimize the inconvenience of closing Blazer Café, other campus restaurants will help accommodate customers throughout the spring and summer semesters:

• Jazzman’s Café will expand their menu to offer hot breakfast sandwiches and a rotating schedule of hot oatmeal and grits, and a wider selection of pre-made sandwiches, wraps, sandwiches and snacks will be available. Daily hot options will include a rotating Panini and soup menu.

• The Diner will be open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Friday through the remainder of the spring semester to offer another lunch venue.

• The Commons on the Green will extend its breakfast offerings to include all the hot sandwich items that now are available at Blazer Café.

Watch the renovation progress on weekly 360° videos of the space on www.uabdining.com under the dining news menu. Menus and other specifics of the renovation will be posted as they become available.

UAB IT to launch new spam blocker service

In March, UAB IT will implement a new, improved spam-blocking service. All Central Exchange users are, by default, enrolled in the program, and SpamAssassin will be discontinued.

A digest e-mail will be sent each morning that displays all messages placed in quarantine during the past day, and the sender will be spamblockers@uab.edu. Spam that was forwarded to junk mail folders now will be in this folder, if not automatically filtered.

For information on the new spam-blocking service, go to www.uab.edu/IT. Direct questions to the help desk at AskIT@uab.edu or call 996-5555.

TIAA-CREF sessions set for employees

A consultant from TIAA-CREF will be on site at UAB for individual employee counseling sessions March 24-26, April 21-23, May 12-14 and June 9-11.

Schedule your appointment today with a TIAA-CREF consultant who will be available to answer questions about your financial matters and help you:

• Understand the importance of protecting your assets from inflation.

• Select your TIAA-CREF options.

• Understand the basic types of investment choices available.

• Learn about TIAA-CREF retirement income flexibility.

To schedule an appointment, visit the TIAA-CREF Web site at www.tiaa-cref.org or call Tonya Damon-Holland toll-free at 1-800-842-2003 ext. 3532. The sessions will be held in the UAB Human Resources Benefits office in Administration Building Suite 264; employees should check in at the HR second floor reception desk.

TIAA-CREF is a tax-sheltered annuity program which offers the individual a choice as to the distribution of the total deposit to be placed in TIAA (fixed annuity), CREF (variable annuity), or TIAA-CREF (mutual funds). UAB matches the individual employee’s contributions up to 5 percent of gross monthly pay (not to exceed $2,290/annual UAB salary). Eligibility for matching is limited to full-time regular monthly-paid employees.
Focus on the brain a smart move for growing center

Being the new kid in town isn’t always easy, but just a little more than two years into its existence, the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center (CNC) is making a name for itself.

More than 100 UAB faculty are part of the CNC. Grant funding in the neurosciences is up 16 percent for the past two years, a significant feat in this economy. A graduate program in neuroscience is growing. And a new undergraduate major in neuroscience recently was added — one of the few such programs in the country.

CNC Director David Standaert, M.D., Ph.D. is pleased with the progress that has been made. Now he’s focusing on bringing together the various departments and individuals interested in neuroscience and understanding brain function and disease.

“The overall mission of the CNC is to promote and support interdisciplinary neuroscience research, clinical care and education at UAB by uniting neurosciences across the campus,” Standaert says. “We want to provide campuswide leadership in establishing and implementing neuroscience-related strategic objectives.

“Essentially, we want this to be a virtual center where we enhance communication and cooperation through seminars, symposiums, shared-grant applications, coordination of activities, sharing students across departments and encouraging joint mentorship of students among departments,” he explains.

Cancer Center is the model

Diseases of the nervous system represent some of the most physically and emotionally devastating illnesses afflicting mankind. Brain and spinal-cord injury, dementia, Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, depression, and other neurological, psychiatric and neuropsychiatric diseases are critical problems that many researchers are working to understand.

“Cancer is one of the large issues we have,” Standaert says. “But the CNC is the model for the center after the UAB’s Comprehensive Cancer Center. “We want to bring our departments together to build teaching programs and clinical care programs.”

Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D. was its director until the past year when he was promoted to chair of pathology. Standaert took the CNC director reins shortly thereafter. This past fall the CNC applied for full recognized center status, and the board approved. Standaert hopes the CNC will grow like the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center has during the past 20 years.

“They are our model,” Standaert says. “We want to bring our departments together to build things like teaching programs and clinical care programs. The cancer center takes everything — from diagnosis to treatment to providing support and help people understand cancer — and they do it all under one roof. The long-term goal of the CNC is to create an organization that brings all of these elements of neuroscience — neurology, psychiatry, neurobiology, behavior — under one virtual umbrella.”

Standaert says that kind of progress is built through years of hard work and good communication, and the latter has been a key point of focus for the still-developing CNC. Multi-departmental neuroscience faculty groups focused on neurodevelopment, neuroimaging, Parkinson’s Disease and schizophrenia all have received organizational and/or financial support from the CNC. And, the CNC was one of three groups across the country selected for a Neuroscience Blueprint Core Center grant. More than 80 applications were submitted for the grant, which provides $8.6 million for five years to the Center from the National Institutes of Health to develop new ways of studying the brain.

“That’s a starting point. We’d like to do some more around that,” Standaert says. “We’d like to do some more training grants in the neurosciences. All of this is a big effort in communication building and leveraging what’s there.”

Top-flight faculty

Neurosciences are a priority of the university and a strategic priority in the School of Medicine’s long-term plan.

Many new faculty, in addition to Standaert and Roth, have been added in the past five years to form the leadership of the neuroscience team, including Ray Watts, M.D., chair of neurology; David Swelt, Ph.D., chair of neurobiology; and James Meador-Woodruff, M.D., chair of psychiatry.

“We’ve been fortunate that we’ve been able to land some top-flight people,” Standaert says.

And in return, those newcomers have helped UAB generate $34 million in NIH funding. “That’s a pretty big number,” Standaert says.

Any faculty member can be a member of the CNC. Contact Molly Moran at mmoran@uab.edu for more information. Members will be listed on the CNC Web site at www.cn.uab.edu/nc/index.html and will receive information on all seminars and symposiums.

“We’re open to helping people build communication if they have ideas or needs,” Standaert says. “If they want to talk to us, we’d be happy to talk with them.”

Learn more about how your brain works

Want to know more about how your brain works? Then join UAB and the McWane Science Center for Brain Awareness Week, March 16-18.

Graduate students at the UAB Comprehensive Neuroscience Center and the Center for Community Outreach and Development (CORD) will join with Mc-Wane staff to present activities to educate children and adults about the brain.

Demonstrations on how the senses work will help children understand the concepts of taste, smell, touch and hearing. Brains of different animals will be dissected to show the brain’s function and dysfunction and ultimately to develop disease-prevention and treatment strategies, especially now that it has full center status.

The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees approved the CNC as a pilot center in September 2006.

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“They are our model,” Standaert says. “We want to bring our departments together to build things like teaching programs and clinical care programs. The cancer center takes everything — from diagnosing patients and treating them, to conducting studies, to teaching people about cancer — and they do it all under one roof. The long-term goal of the CNC is to create an organization that brings all of these elements of neuroscience — neurology, psychiatry, neurobiology, behavior — under one virtual umbrella.”

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Brain Awareness Week activities will take place Monday through Wednesday March 16-18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McWane Science Center, located at 200 19th St. North.
The message on the dry erase board is somewhat ominous: Every Ethics Bowl student should be able to present or attack each case.

“Do you know why I wrote that on there?” Greg Pence, Ph.D., asks his Ethics Bowl students. “In case someone has to leave or gets sick.” Jennifer Ghandi answers to the laughter of her teammates.

“No,” Pence responds. “It’s in case some- one gets stage fright.” The students laugh at that, too. Neither answer is right. The message is there to correct a mistake that occurred in the Southeast regional championship in St. Petersburg. He doesn’t want the same thing to happen March 5 in Cincinnati when his team competes for the first time in the national Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

“One of the team members left the table right before the last round started, and if the other team had started presenting their case before she came back, she wouldn’t have been able to sit back down,” Pence says. “Once a team is seated, no changes can be made. So every student needs to be able to present every case.”

The mistake in St. Petersburg was understandable. It was the first time UAB’s Ethics Bowl team competed in a tournament of any kind. To say their performance was a success would be an understatement. The seven-member team shocked the field, finishing second. It outscored 18 teams in the competition, including Emory, the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point, to advance to the national competition.

“I think they thought we were a bunch of rubes from Alabama with no indoor plumbing,” Pence says jokingly. “Seriously, we got a very good seed at the regional. Now that we’re going to the nationals it’s a whole different story. They know who we are. Many of the other coaches know UAB now, and they’re going to be ready this time.”

Tough topics to study
Thirty-two teams from 10 regions will compete for the national title in Cincinnati. UAB’s team includes senior Riley Carpenter, junior Ghandi, Daniel Sandlin and Michael Lester and freshmen Chris Graves and Kushboo Jalil. Carpenter is Miss (All-Round) UAB. Jhala debated at Vestavia High School on a team that also included handicapped teenager, whether a newspaper should disclose important information to the public even though a source has requested an embargo, the military’s desire to design automated killer robots and polygamy.

Some of the topics cover medical issues, which interest the team’s members. However, they say the topics facilitate a more important procedure that they are learning. “It’s not the topics that are going to help me, but the process that you have to go through in thinking about these things,” says Ghandi. “They’re hard cases. You don’t necessarily know what the right or wrong answer is.”

“IT’S more about looking at both sides and making a judgment on what you think is right based on the information you have,” Pence says. The Ethics Bowl team is part of an independent study course. The students say one of the things they enjoy the most about the course is the competition.

“For me, I like the challenge of thinking fast, especially in terms of rebuttals and comments,” says Carpenter. “It stimulates you to organize your thoughts in a logical, coherent, consistent manner and to do it very rapidly. And you address people in a structured and direct way. I enjoy the challenge of thinking on your toes like that.”

“There’s so many different ways to look at every case,” adds Graves. “It’s not like pro or con. There are hundreds of ways to approach these cases. There’s no set limit to what you can say or how you think they should be resolved. You can go in there with an entire presentation prepared and they can present something that you’ve never thought of before or even considered. Then you have to think of how to adapt to what they said and change to fit this case.”

Help from home
The team has had plenty of help from within UAB to help make this endeavor possible. The Department of Philosophy’s Ethics Bowl course. “I think real cases are the way you really learn to think and do ethics,” he says. “They don’t always end the way you think they do. You have to master many details and facts.”

That’s what helped the team earn its second-place finish in the regional competition. Central Florida made a mistake in thinking about an issue the opposite way. And the team members worked very hard. I’m sure a lot of research that goes into this, and

“We killed them on it,” Pence says. “If you say something factually wrong, you’re in trouble. Once they get their cases, there’s a lot of research that goes into this, and our team worked very hard. I’m sure nationals will be a fun experience.”

To watch a two-minute video sample from a 30-minute Ethics Bowl debate, visit main.uab.edu/ethics/upic4k

Brendit, Ph.D., and English Professor William Hutchings, Ph.D., gave the team their experience and judged practice rounds. Several others will do so in the next two weeks.

“Their input has been really valuable because they bring their expertise and skills and a great understanding of some of the technical knowledge we may need,” Ghandi says. “They can point us in directions that we haven’t thought of before.”

Pence studies ethics cases in his own scholarship, which he says led him to start an Ethics Bowl course. “I think real cases are the way you really learn to think and do ethics,” he says. “They don’t always end the way you think they do. You have to master many details and facts.”

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OUSTING WOMEN

CONTINUED from page 1

manages the CNRC’s financial accounts, writes the budget sections for its members’ grant applications and provides administrative support. She also oversees the weekly seminar series that has featured world leaders in nutrition and metabolic disease research. Colleagues have cited Bell with having a strong work ethic, an eye for detail and a willingness to be a role model to her staff and a counselor to junior CNRC faculty members.

Hamilton, who is pursuing a doctorate in biostatistics, is being honored for her scholarship and her work as a representative to the School of Public Health’s student association. In their nomination letters, faculty members praised Hamilton for mentoring new stu- dents in the department and her efforts to recruit other female and minority students to the program. She also has worked as a math tutor and as a peer mentor for the UAB McNair Scholars Mentor Program.

Brooks is a senior chemistry major and a student in the University Honors Program. She is president of the UAB Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society, and she is a peer student leader.

In 2006, Brooks received a UAB Department of Chemistry Undergraduate Scholarship to carry out original research. In 2007 she was named as a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar.

Braun, a film producer, has produced several documentaries for the YWCA about the organization’s work in other countries around the world. She also created a public service announcement for the YWCA highlighting new legislation related to domestic violence.

For her efforts, she has been designated as a World YWCA Ambassador. She also produced a film that chronicled UAB’s AIDS initiatives in Zambia. Braun is a member of the Oasis Women’s Counseling Center’s Advocacy Board and also has chaired fundraising events for the YWCA and for the UAB Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center.
Prize winner Mirov enjoys the route to discovery

The path to discovery is as important and exciting as the breakthrough itself, according to Sergey Mirov, Ph.D.

“When you’re moving forward and you suddenly realize how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together, it’s the best feeling,” says Mirov, professor of physics and co-director of the Center for Optical Sensors and Spectroscopies. “At the end of the day when you are trying to analyze what has been accomplished, sometimes you see no apparent forward progress. It’s because you chose the wrong path. But what is important is that you’re trying to move forward. Finally, when the efforts reach critical mass and technological leaps are made, it’s very satisfying.”

Mirov and his team of researchers find success more often than not. He has gained worldwide recognition for his groundbreaking research and invention in the fields of laser physics, laser spectroscopy and solid-state physics. Now he is being honored with the 2009 Carolyn P. and Charles W. Ireland Prize for Scholarly Distinction.

UAB presents the award annually to a full-time faculty member in the schools of Arts & Humanities, Natural Sciences & Mathematics or Social & Behavioral Sciences for their professional and academic achievements and contributions to the university and local community. The prize, made possible by the Caroline P. and Charles W. Ireland Endowment for Scholarly Distinction, comes with a $5,000 cash award.

“It’s truly a great honor,” Mirov says. “But this award is not only my award. These achievements are the result of real hard work by my associates with great support from the Department of Physics and School of Natural Sciences & Mathematics.”

A dinner and lecture, preceded by cocktails, will be held Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m. at The Club. Tickets are $20 each. E-mail the UAB Events Office at uabevents@uab.edu for details or to purchase tickets.

Research centerpieces

Mirov has secured numerous patents for his laser technologies with the support of the UAB Research Foundation, and he founded his start-up company Photonics Innovations in 2007. The company is commercializing several revolutionary tunable, middle-infrared laser technologies, including the Optical Nose, which was first chronicled in the UAB Reporter in 2007.

Scientists from the U.S. Air Force visited Mirov’s lab for 10 days this past summer.

“They brought with them powerful pump lasers and calibrated power meters and other instruments, and with our novel laser materials we were able to set up a world record output power for middle-infrared, tunable lasers,” Mirov says.

“These results opened up a lot of very interesting opportunities, and they basically verified that our progress with the optical nose is in the right direction.”

The Optical Nose has the ability to distinguish particular molecular compounds, which could detect low-level explosives, drugs or biological weapons or catch the early stages of a disease such as diabetes or cancer just by smelling the breath of a human. The recent results on power scaling of middle-infrared lasers have opened up more possibilities, he says.

“These middle-infrared lasers could be used for many different and interesting applications, like a laser scalpel,” Mirov says.

“Imagine a hand-held instrument that can be tuned in resonance with water absorption and used for neurosurgery and then de-tuned from the resonance and used as an ordinary surgical knife. That’s one of the possible applications.”

Classroom excellence

David Niclasc, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Physics, says Mirov’s accomplishments aren’t limited to the lab. Niclasc says Mirov has demonstrated excellence in teaching and mentoring students.

Mirov has directed 21 undergraduate research projects and a dozen more graduate and post-doctoral research associates during his 15-plus year UAB career.

Mirov is quick to give praise to those who work with him in the lab.

“I have five graduate fellows now, and they are doing great work,” Mirov says. “It is very interesting because they stimulate me, and I’m trying to stimulate them. It leads to mutual improvement, I would say. I think that’s the reason why our group is moving forward and trying to put in front of us important scientific physics questions.

“And I think that’s the reason why we are resolving them. We’re finding group solutions.”

Continued from page 1

they possess the key to the treatment and prevention of skin cancer.

“We have found excellent results in our research so far,” Bej says. “Now I’m looking for more collaboration. I would really like more involvement from UAB scientists, especially when it comes to designing drugs for testing the effectiveness of the compounds.”

Colorful pigments show promise

Bej, who is in his 15th year at UAB, discovered that many of these extremophiles produce colorful pink, yellow, red and purple pigments. His doctoral graduate students Nazia Mojib and Jonathan Huang and UAB chemists Donald Muccio, Ph.D., and Reddy Atigadda, Ph.D., analyzed the chemical structure and concluded the pigments play a key role in helping them survive.

“They live in an environment with high solar radiation, where humans can get sunburned wearing SPF 30 sunscreen,” Bej says. “We’ve discovered that these pigments play very important roles in their survival and help protect their DNA — even in the high solar UV during the summer, when there’s 24 hours of daylight.

“We’ve also found these pigments have strong murine anti-melanoma and anti-fibrocarcoma components; in other words, we think they potentially can be used to design chemotherapeutic drugs in the future.”

In fact, preliminary testing has shown that one of the purified pigments is particularly strong in protecting from UV damage. It also has caused cell death of murine skin melanoma cell lines while not harming healthy cells.

“Our tests show no toxic effect at all,” Bej says. “And in our ongoing research, we’ve even found similar results with pigments from many of the other organisms against similar cancer cell lines. It’s a very good agent, it seems. I’m hoping it will be in a drug.”

Research Center for Meteorites and Polar Studies

Funded expedition

Bej was part of a 15-person international team visiting Antarctica this past fall as part of the 2008 Taiwan International Antarctic Expedition.

The interdisciplinary team included representatives from the fields of limnology [the study of inland waters], microbiology, paleontology, geology, biochemistry, astro-geophysics, biophysics, molecular biology, astrobiology and medicine. Many of the researchers had worked in Antarctica before, but this was Bej’s first trip to the continent. He spent more than two weeks in the Shirrmacher Oasis region.

“Our team is meeting in April in Chicago, and we will show all of our findings to this point,” Bej says. “A new wing at The Field Museum in Chicago called the Center for Meteorites and Polar Studies highlighting this and previous Tawani-sponsored expeditions is scheduled to open during the April meeting. Another expedition is scheduled for 2010, and I am excited about the opportunity to go back. We’re getting fabulous results so far, but now we need more collaborators.”

Researchers interested in learning more about Bej’s research can contact him at 934-9857 or abej@uab.edu. For more on the Taiwan Expedition, visit expedition.tawaniemission.org.

Physics Professor Sergey Mirov is this year’s recipient of the Carolyn P. and Charles W. Ireland Prize for Scholarly Distinction for his professional and academic achievements and contributions to the university and local community.
Special Lectures

Wednesday, Feb. 25
Noon UAB Public Health/David McClin-McDowd Lectureship in Family and Child Health. The future of mater-

Monday, March 2
9 am Chinese Conversation Table: Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Jungsun Chen, jchener88@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

10 am International Women’s Group, open to the public. Registration is requested, seating is limited to first 100 people. Call 5-9694 or 5-8997 or e-mail ivan@uab.edu. Garvaneli Civic Center, 867 Main St., Garvaneli.

6:30 pm 2009 UAB Belmont Y Cooper Lecture. The Berlin Affair (1946-1949): A chilly, dark winter, Wolfgang Kiel, author, U.S. Air Force veteran. The lecture will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Affair. The event is free and open to the public. For more info, call 5-9644 or e-mail mivan@uab.edu.

Friday, Feb. 27
4 pm 30th annual Reynolds Lecture. William Osler leaves Ireland Room. William Osler leaves Ireland Room. William Osler leaves Ireland Room.

Monday, Feb. 23
Special events

Monday, March 2
9 am Chinese Conversation Table: Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Jungsun Chen, jchener88@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

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Monday, Feb. 23
Keep your ♥ healthy with a diet rich in information.
Log on to UABHEARTANSWERS.ORG

♥ Be part of an online community dedicated to your heart health
♥ Sign up for e-newsletters and breaking news
♥ Get information direct from UAB heart & vascular experts
♥ Learn prevention and lifestyle tips
♥ Find heart healthy recipes
♥ Discover leading-edge research & treatments
♥ Hear heart patients tell their stories
♥ Download heart health podcasts
♥ Watch information videos
“Every time I had an offer to leave I thought UAB was the place where I am. I love my school and co-workers.”

“I remember coming into this program when they needed...”

“...I had to start from scratch in helping...”

“...move to nephrology soon after and became a part of...”

“...have been collaborating with Birmingham Health Care since...”

“...one of the few evidence-based effective treatments...”

“...a typewriter. I had to start from scratch in helping...”

“...just like where I am. I love my school and co-workers.”

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“...just like where I am. I love my school and co-workers.”
Eligible study participants will receive study medication, lab tests and ECG at no cost. Compensation: 4-9031.

Are you an African-American male under-graduate or graduate student age 19-30? You may be eligible to participate in a walking study. Compensated: 993-5277.

Women with multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injury age 19-45 have already participated in a study to evaluate a new self-management strategy and study participants received a toy. Compensated: 4-4068/ uabsafetylab@yahoo.com.

Are you a woman 60 or older? You may be eligible to participate in a breast cancer prevention study. Elisa Maddox 5-1980.

Children

Healthy girls 10-17 years old needed for a research study of an investigational herpes vaccine. If you have never had herpes (fever blisters or genital herpes), you may qualify. Compensated: 993-5279/93 5277.

Teenagers 13-17 years old. If you have experienced acetaminophen toxicity (e.g. newborns, infants, and those who are dependent on pain medication for another condition). Compensated: 5-7967/933-8803.

Are you presently experiencing vaginal leakage associated with a strong urge to urinate? You may have overactive bladder - a condition that occurs in up to 29.7% of women age 40 and above. A new study is being conducted that uses a short 3-question test to identify women. Medication is provided at no cost. Compensation: 4-1774/1-777-8778-467-0707.

Are you a female 19 or older with chronic chest discomfort, cardiovascular disease? If so, you could be eligible to join a UAB research study that will provide a medication for angina (chest discomfort). To enroll in this study, you need to have chest discomfort two or more times a week. 5-8085-6055/ mfinger@uab.edu.

Are you a female 19 or older with chronic intense itching and burning? Participants age 19-50? If you are a woman age 19 or older with chronic intense itching and burning and have no history of cancer, heart disease, alcohol or drug abuse, and are a non-smoker for 5 or more years. You may qualify to participate in this trial. Compensated: $105-$250 ext 3.

Are you currently seeking treatment for an investigational herpes vaccine? If you have never had herpes (fever blisters or genital herpes), you may qualify. Compensated: 5-8085-6055/ mfinger@uab.edu.

Are you an African-American male under-graduate or graduate student age 19-30? You may be eligible to participate in a walking study. Compensated: 993-5277.

Are you a postmenopausal woman at increased risk for breast cancer who may be eligible for a breast cancer prevention study. Jera Faust 5-1980.

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### Classifieds

#### For Sale

**Appliances & Electronics**


**Automobiles**

Ford Taurus X: 4dr. auto, 11,000, $3,000. 1 master jetted tub w/separate shower, big deep tissue round water, deck overlooking main channel of Bayside, warranty transferable. 1220 1st St. S, 502-184-5234. $2,500.00. 251-781-9299.

**Miscellaneous**

Washer & dryer $200/0. Jay 301-746-2141.

**For Sale**

**Appliances & Electronics**


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Sitter services: retired RN with over 25 years experience of tending to your baby needs? Contact us, please. Hazen Robinson 328-8603.

Want private, one-on-one, interactive drum lessons? 40+ years experience. I can tutor each lesson to your specific needs? Call Laura. Price: $40-50 per half hour. 350-402-2028.

Roofing & repairs: specializing in leaky roofs, no job too large or small, 20 years experience. Free estimate, references available. Hazel Robinson 328-8603.

Baby/house/ pet sitting nights and/or weekend. Good references. Spliff-Spliffin@maxplans.com. UAB edu 5-0877.


Want extra cash? Host an international post- graduate student or a homestay with you. Bring in extra cash for your family. Price is dependent upon the type of accommodation you offer. Continuous free-in-home estimates.

Looking for a reliable contractor to work on your house? We are specializing in frame repair, closets, roofing and roofing. Contact us immediately. 835-4665.


Want to improve your family’s health? We offer you can't refuse! 821-7641. 

Professional photographer: Cowan, 11 yrs experience in photography, and graphic design. 369-3621/ chrischung4@gmail.com.

Carpool from Trussville needs 1 or 2 more Riders. Work hours are 7:30 to 3:20, Mon-Fri. Mbnu 996-4667.

Two professionals seek housing for late June: 2009. Doctor at UAB and PhD student. Min of 2BR/2BA. Lisa.t.blomquist@rice.edu

Computer/Board Game Photography. David Whirrnet offers high quality wedding and portrait photographic services. See his portfolio. 4-6797.

Businessman seeks housekeeper. David Whirrnet offers high quality wedding and portrait photographic services. See his portfolio. 4-6797.

Looking for a reliable contractor to work on your house? We are specializing in framing, closets, roofing and roofing. Contact us immediately. 835-4665.

Concrete work, paving and asphalt. Specializing in driveways, parking areas, and landscaping borders. Decorative concrete stamping and staining. Bobcat service available. 655-7418.


Taping: Need reports, letters, menus, scanning documents, mass mailings. #376/ 038-3192-681.

Translation services. MD, Ph.D with industry and academic experience, Chinese/English translation both ways, all topics. Ask for a free demo. 2-4690/404-433/7305/ dw@302@uab.edu.

Computer service for your home and office: great service, low price, more than 10 years experience. #247-8331.

Book the musical group “Goodfellas II” featuring Ken Taylor for your holiday party now! Call Ken at 254-3550-3300 - Jazz-a musical offer Big Band, wedding photography


Latin American cab driver, cleaning, general cleanup, pruning, mowing, etc. free estimates. 516-6024.

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Music & Film Superstar Headlines This Season’s Gala Event!

The Viva Health Starlight Gala starring Queen Latifah benefits the programming and educational initiatives of the Alys Stephens Center. Ticket packages are now available:

- **The Queen’s Table for Eight**
  and sponsorship packages are also available.

- **The Royalty Package**
  Includes an elegant pre-show cocktail reception, premium performance seating, and post-performance dinner & dancing.

- **The Superstar Package**
  Includes an elegant pre-show cocktail reception, premium performance seating, and post-performance party featuring live music, champagne, and dessert.

- **The Hollywood Package**
  Includes an elegant pre-show cocktail reception and performance seating.

*Call for more information and reserve your seats today. Seating is limited.*

Season
Sponsored by: The Birmingham News UAB The University of Alabama at Birmingham Viva Health

(205) 975-ARTS www.AlysStephens.org 1200 10th Avenue South