Six local women will be honored as the UAB Outstanding Women during a ceremony Thursday, March 10 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the UAB Great Hall. RSVPs are due March 6 (acceptances only).

The UAB Women Center and Women’s Studies Program present the awards annually during Women’s History Month to honor female members of the UAB and Birmingham communities 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.

The 2011 winners are: The Becky Trigg Outstanding Woman Faculty Member Marisa B. Marques, M.D.; Outstanding Woman Administrator Award Claire Peel, Ph.D.; Outstanding Woman Student; Marisa B. Marques, M.D.; Outstanding Woman Faculty Member Sherry Pigford; and Outstanding Woman Student Paul Gamlin.

David Shealy, Ph.D., is a scientist. And he’s a scientist who loves his research — whether it involves laser beam shaping, geometrical optics, grid computing or optical design.

In 2009, Shealy, chair of the Department of Physics, began looking at the number of licenses of Mathworks® software purchased by UAB investigators. Mathworks is a high-level language, interactive environment that enables researchers to perform computationally intensive tasks faster than with traditional programming languages such as C, C++ and Fortran.

He realized a university-wide site license would cost less than individual licenses combined and provide all the toolkits the software offers to every faculty and staff member.

So the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development, the schools of Medicine, Optometry, Public Health and Engineering and the College of Arts & Sciences pooled their resources to buy the large, generally usable software tool in January. The purchase, which totaled a little more than $50,000, makes UAB the first university in Alabama to implement a Mathworks Total Academic Headcount (TAH) license, which enables every employee affiliated with UAB to use MATLAB and Simulink software.

“Makes it easier to do science when you have the tools you need,” Shealy says. “It’s important that UAB students, researchers, faculty and staff have access to the leading computational simulation tools in a wide collection of disciplines that other research universities have. We need to be competitive. We need to have the same tools. Some of us had them before, all of us have them now.”

The license allows unlimited use of MATLAB in both teaching and research activities. Only full-time faculty and staff can install the full collection of MATLAB and any of the 48 toolboxes and block-sets on their computers for UAB work. Students can use Mathworks software on UAB computers on campus.

MATLAB, short for Matrix Laboratory, is the world’s leading developer of technical computing software for engineers and scientists.

MATLAB allows matrix manipulations, plotting of functions and data, implementation of algorithms, creation of user interfaces and interfacing with programs written in a variety of programming languages such as C, C++ and Fortran.

David Shealy, left, and Paul Gamlin were among several faculty members to lead the charge in UAB acquiring a campuswide Mathworks® software license. UAB is the first university in Alabama to implement the total license, which enables every employee affiliated with UAB to use MATLAB and Simulink software.

David Shealy, left, and Paul Gamlin were among several faculty members to lead the charge in UAB acquiring a campuswide Mathworks® software license. UAB is the first university in Alabama to implement the total license, which enables every employee affiliated with UAB to use MATLAB and Simulink software.

MATLAB site license to boost UAB’s research power

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UAB Medicine forums to examine health-care reform

Nearly one in four Americans thinks the health-reform bill has been repealed. However, the changes in the bill are coming, and many already are under way.

UAB Medicine has to respond to changes in nine areas. Learn how it compares with its peers in preparedness and hear about the initiatives and programs being implemented to improve efficiency and access, increase patient satisfaction and raise quality of care during forums scheduled March 8-10.

UAB Health System CEO Will Ferniany, UAB Medicine employees and senior management will discuss these in three forums:

- Tuesday, March 8, 5 p.m., West Pavilion Conference Center Room E
- Wednesday, March 9, 7 a.m., West Pavilion Conference Center Room E
- Thursday, March 10, 10 a.m., Spain Auditorium

TRC to host faith conversation

What is the difference between religion and spirituality? What are common misunderstandings we make in talking about religion or spiritual matters with others? How can we learn from one another? How can we talk and listen to another without offending them? Learn to talk about faith issues — with a patient in the hospital, friends, co-workers or family members — during the lunch program, “Faith Conversation 101: How to Talk With Someone Who Has a Different Faith Background Than Your Own.”

Rev. Malcolm Marler, D.Min, UAB’s director of Pastoral Care, will be the guest speaker for the event, Wednesday, March 23, from noon until 1 p.m. in the West Pavilion Conference Center Board Room. Marler was the Chaplain at The 1917 (HIV) Clinic from 1994-2009 and has served on the church staffs of congregations in three different denominations.

This class is open to all UAB and UAB Health System employees.

Participants may bring a brown bag lunch to this program. Space is limited; call 934-2281 to register.

The UAB Resource Center Employee Assistance Program provides counseling, supervisor consultation, and a variety of educational programs designed to support your quest for health in all areas of life. For more information about these programs or other Resource Center services, be sure to visit The Resource Center online at www.uab.edu/ecoop.

Whitt hired as HR Wellness Coordinator

The UAB Human Resources Department has hired Wellness Coordinator Lauren Whitt, Ph.D. to develop and implement a health program that will meet the needs of faculty and staff at UAB and UAB Medicine.

The new UAB Employee Wellness program will incorporate lifestyle components around nutrition, exercise, tobacco-cessation, stress management and address the challenges of managing chronic conditions.

“We are excited to have Dr. Whitt in place to lead our strategic efforts to promote a healthy environment for our employees,” says Alecia Jones, chief human resources officer. “She will be collaborating with experts throughout the academic and medical parts of campus to provide our UAB faculty and staff with the resources they need to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. Whitt also is attending our student population as an adjunct professor in the Department of Human Studies.”

Look for the new employee wellness program to roll out later this spring.

For additional information on the UAB Employee Wellness Program, visit www.uab.edu/wellness or e-mail uabwellness@uab.edu.

Nominations for Ireland Prize due March 11

Candidates must be a full-time, regular UAB faculty member who has notable achievements in their field of the arts and sciences, gained national and/or international recognition of peers and demonstrated talents that contribute to the elevation of the arts and sciences at UAB and in the Birmingham community.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Tuesday, March 11. Direct questions or requests for additional information to Linda Pinos at 934-6113 or lmpinos@uab.edu.
TKC doormen welcome all

Enter The Kirklin Clinic (TKC) through the first-floor lobby or second-floor crosswalk entrances and you will receive a warm greeting from one of its two doormen, Anthony Orum or Finus “Buster” Lilly.

Anthony Orum, right, and Finus “Buster” Lilly always are ready to lend a helping hand to visitors at The Kirklin Clinic.

Orum, posted at the second-floor entrance, was the first doorman at TKC. He began his duties in June 1992, when the clinic first opened for business. He recently returned to TKC to reprise his role after being away several years.

“When the clinic first opened, there was so much enthusiasm and pride among the employees,” says Orum. “We were trying to be on the level of the Mayo or Cleveland Clinic.”

Orum notes his good attitude and observation skills are put to good use in his position.

“Because of my love for people, it is natural for me to enjoy being a doorman,” he says. “I can look at a person and determine if they need a pat on the back or a word of encouragement. I get great joy making sure people are happy. My job and responsibility is to be positive at all times, present a good first impression for the clinic and ensure we successfully meet our visitors’ needs from the beginning to the end of their visits.”

Lilly, who began serving as a TKC doorman in 1996, enjoys meeting and talking to people.

“I have gotten to know many patients and their families because they have been coming to The Kirklin Clinic the entire time I have worked here,” he says.

Lilly, who greets patients at the first-floor main entrance, receives numerous requests for directions.

“Because of the circular driveway in the front of the clinic, many people drive in with all sorts of requests,” he says. “Not only have I given directions to other buildings on campus, but also to the mall, buildings on the north side of town or the movie theaters. Patients’ family members often are looking for interesting things to do instead of waiting at the clinic during treatment. Once, I even provided assistance to some people from out of town who mistakenly believed The Kirklin Clinic was the civic center.”

Orum and Lilly greet and open doors, give directions, hail taxis or wheelchairs — anything needed to facilitate the arrival and departure of the more than 8,000 visitors weekly.

TKC Guest Services Manager Sharon M. Real-Fowler says the two are a tremendous asset to the department.

“Buster and Anthony are able to create a welcoming environment and assess patients as they leave to ensure they had a positive experience at The Kirklin Clinic,” she says. “Should an opportunity to improve care present itself, they are very comfortable providing appropriate resolutions. They are team players, show initiative and are a priceless resource to Guest Relations.”

UAB would be helping local businesses cut or minimize the costs associated with diseases, including diabetes and obesity, the state’s leading chronic diseases, including diabetes and obesity. Alabama ranks No. 6 in the nation in the number for diabetes deaths each year (32 per 100,000 deaths) and is No. 1 in the nation with the highest rate of people with diabetes within total population statistics (8.9 people out of every 100). Alabama also ranks No. 6 nationally for obesity; 31 percent of the state’s population is considered obese.

The new program also will enable faculty and students to conduct research and design a range of programs from occupational therapy to nutrition for groups the department previously has worked with professionally to apprise them of the expanded services.

“The type of health-care providers we have within our school, it makes sense to pull those folks together to look at particular program along the lines of safety in the workplace for example,” Ard says. “Yes, that’s an occupational therapy issue primarily. But there is benefit from physical therapy — by helping people return to work after injury — or injury prevention from strength and flexibility programs. You can fold in nutrition and better weight management to decrease risk of injury. There are any number of ways you can pull these disciplines together to solve practical problems.”

Preparing students

Ard says UAB students’ preparation for life after school.

“For a student, the ultimate goal for a graduate or undergraduate program is to prepare them for the next level or entry into the workforce,” Ard says. “With the economy as it is and things being so competitive, just having a degree won’t necessarily get you in the door. Having real-world, practical experience as part of your training will make a difference. We’re talking about increasing the variety and depth of opportunities our students will have for real-world experiences.

“If you are a dietitian interested in workplace wellness and you have an opportunity to spend a portion of your training creating workplace wellness programs in a corporate setting, that’s a huge advantage over other dietitians without that experience,” Ard says.

The program also will expose these students to research and provide new research opportunities for faculty.

“It will be a boost for faculty working to research and develop new services. Our faculty who have new ideas and projects can come to us and say, ‘I’ve got something. Here’s the business plan. I need some time, or money or infrastructure to get this up and going,’” Ard says. “And we invest in those things in a strategic way.”

Ard will notify alliances, partnerships and groups the department previously has worked with professionally to apprise them of the expanded services.

“That may be continuing to work with Viva, for example,” he says. “EatRight does a program for Viva. Now I can offer them opportunities to include physical therapy, occupational therapy and other services to the contract we have.”

And hopes the program will be fully engaged this spring.
President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching goes to 11

Elevator faculty were honored with the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching during the annual Faculty Awards Convocation, Wednesday, Feb. 23.

Other faculty honored during the ceremonies included Charles Watkins, Ph.D., professor of chemistry; The Ellen Gregg Ingalls/UAB National Alumni Society Award for Lifetime Achievement in Teaching; Andrew Keitt, Ph.D., associate professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2010 Alabama Professor of the Year Award; and Tamilane Blundea, Ph.D., research assistant professor in Human Studies, the Odessa Woolfolk Community Service Award.

The 2010 honorees for the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching represent each school, the College of Arts & Sciences and the Joint Health Sciences departments.

Colin J. Davis

Arts & Sciences

Davis, Ph.D., a professor of social and behavioral science, was an Ingalls Teaching Award recipient in 1997 and Ireland Prez winner in 2010. He regularly offers his time outside the classroom to students, graduates, parents, colleagues and the community. As part of his outreach, Davis has been the content professor in American History for Birmingham public schools, and he hosts parents of incoming UAB students in parent orientation. Davis often assists students in research, and he is the co-chair of Graduate Student Research Days. Davis also holds the attention of his students in the classroom. One student says, “He presents information that I have never learned before and makes it interesting.” A colleague adds, “Colin holds his students to a high academic standard and knows how to help them meet these standards with innovative methods. In short, Colin is a remarkable teacher.” Davis routinely has the highest student-evaluation numbers on the IDEA surveys, often averaging five on a five-point scale. Davis teaches extensively on some of the most demanding areas of dentistry: medical emergencies, infection control, OSHA and Dental IV sedation and anesthesia. His presentations are informative, interesting and interactive. Filler prepares students to excel technically and as ethical leaders in the profession. “He genuinely cares and wants to see students succeed on all levels,” one student says.

“He goes out of his way to reach out to students who are remotely interested in dentistry and helps them to or from the profession,” another student adds. “I think this last point is important because he’s more than a recruiter for the profession — he’s a friend and advisor, who has the potential dental student’s best interest at heart. The bottom line: he’s going to be honest with you whether he thinks you’d make a good dental student or not.”

Steve Grice

Business

Grice, Ph.D., a professor of accounting in the School of Business, also is the Scholar-in-Residence for Carrig, Riggs & Ingram LLC. He has broad accounting experience and his true-to-life experiences are an asset in the classroom. Grice also is an accomplished researcher, active in professional associations and serves the community and his profession. Colleagues say Grice has an “open-door policy for both students and colleagues,” and that he has great patience with students struggling to understand complex accounting concepts and procedures. His student teaching evaluations are among the highest in the department, and he consistently ranks in the top 10 percent in the excellent teacher category. Students speak glowingly of his effective and varied teaching methods, often integrating traditional and online technologies. They also laud his professional and inspirational mentorship, high ethical standards, passion for his profession and his availability. “He showed us common mistakes made by accountants and how to counteract them,” one former student says. “He also enhanced our critical-thinking skills during group presentations. He always stressed the importance of maintaining strong ethics and professional behaviors.

Patricia Jennings

Health Professions

Jennings, Dr. Ph., a professor in the Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Sciences, is a nationally recognized authority on infectious disease. From 2006 to 2011, Jennings’ role as either project director or investigator for the Alabama/North Carolina STD Prevention and Training Center has been to educate practitioners and public health directors in seven states on the latest treatment and prevention guidelines. Because of her involvement in the CDC, Jennings has been able to extend her teaching, precepting and mentoring activities within and beyond UAB. She is regularly invited to lecture on dermatology and sexually transmitted diseases to first-year students at other physician assistant programs and precepts clinical-year students for their infectious disease rotations at the Birmingham Veterans Administration HIV/AIDS clinic. Jennings is committed to ensuring that each student learns vital information and believes that she has made a real difference with the CDC when she sometimes enables her to bring information to her students before it is published nationally. Jennings is recognized by faculty and students at UAB and throughout the Southeast for her enthusiasm, knowledge and commitment to education. “My attending doctors were impressed with how proficient and comfortable I was with STD-focused exams and treatment,” says one former student of her training under Jennings.

Nir Menachemi

Public Health

Menachemi, Ph.D., associate professor in Health Behavior and Health Education in the School of Public Health. He has a long and successful history of fostering educational outreach programs involving K-12, undergraduate and graduate students. He makes more than 20 presentations at mid-level and high schools and colleges throughout the state each year. DeLucas has served on 17 dissertation committees and has been invited to serve as thesis advisor for three master’s and seven doctoral students. DeLucas, who flew on the space shuttle Columbia in 1992, uses his unique personal experiences and enthusiasm to keep students engaged in the classroom. He is well known among students for his interesting, informative and memorable lectures in biochemistry. “He engages students while delivering presenting complex information,” one student says. A colleague adds, “The combination of his experiences in space, and adapting it to the given scope of the lecture, have always had a marvelous impact on students, and more than once, I have literally seen jaws dropping — including my own.”

Steven J. Filler

Dentistry

Filler, D.D.S., is a mentor and teacher for dental students, from pre-application to Continuing Dental Education, and associate dean for Students, Alumni and External Affairs. He has made 65 Continuing Dental Education presentations in the past five years and lectures extensively on some of the most demanding areas of dentistry: medical emergencies, infection control, OSHA and Dental IV sedation and anesthesia. His presentations are informative, interesting and interactive. Filler prepares students to excel technically and as ethical leaders in the profession. “He genuinely cares and wants to see students succeed on all levels,” one student says. 

“He goes out of his way to reach out to students who are remotely interested in dentistry and helps them to or from the profession,” another student adds. “I think this last point is important because he’s more than a recruiter for the profession — he’s a friend and advisor, who has the potential dental student’s best interest at heart. The bottom line: he’s going to be honest with you whether he thinks you’d make a good dental student or not.”

Lawrence Delucas

Optometry

Delucas, O.D., Ph.D. embodies the essence of the UAB Presidential Teaching Award, colleagues say. The director of the Center for Bio-Physical Science and Engineering has been a significant contributor to training graduate and professional students. Delucas also has a long and successful history of fostering educational outreach programs involving K-12, undergraduate and graduate students. He makes more than 20 presentations at mid-level and high schools and colleges throughout the state each year. Delucas has served on 17 dissertation committees and has been invited to serve as thesis advisor for three master’s and seven doctoral students. Delucas, who flew on the space shuttle Columbia in 1992, uses his unique personal experiences and enthusiasm to keep students engaged in the classroom. He is well known among students for his interesting, informative and memorable lectures in biochemistry. “He engages students while delivering presenting complex information,” one student says. A colleague adds, “The combination of his experiences in space, and adapting it to the given scope of the lecture, have always had a

Marti Rice

Nursing

Rice, Ph.D., a professor of Family/Child Health and Caregiving, teaches graduate courses and mentors Ph.D. candidates. “She demonstrates exceptional standards for learning, scholarship, professionalism, mentorship and service,” says one colleague. Rice is considered an expert nurse educator and scientist by her contemporaries; they say she kindles student and faculty passion and advancement. Rice has been instrumental in developing the Leadership Education for Child Health Nursing Program, drawing from her professional experiences as a pediatric nurse. Many of the students in the program — bachelor’s of science in nursing to doctoral — have achieved a high level of functioning relatively early in their careers thanks to her time and mentorship. “She is an exemplary role model as a
Nathaniel Robin Joint Health Sciences
Robin, M.D., a professor of genetics, has a comprehensive knowledge of genetics, and colleagues say he effectively communicates this to students, patients, fellow attending physicians and genetic counselors. He was nominated for an Argus award in 2006 and 2007 and won the award in 2008 and 2009. He lectures across schools and departments. “He never, and I truly mean never, misses an opportunity to teach about genetics to anyone and all,” says a colleague. Colleagues say Robin has made a significant impact in the Department of Pediatrics since joining UAB in 2003. “He is constantly teaching and educating,” a colleague says. “He truly changed the face of genetics at this university and profoundly changed it in Pediatrics in the area of teaching and awareness of genetics.” Students appreciate his approach to teaching and his impact is noticeable, they say. “In areas of clinical practice around UAB I’ve noticed both medical students and residents using phrases such as ‘this one deserves a Dr. Robin approach,’” one student says. “This is code for: This is a scientifically difficult case requiring in-depth reading, a plainspoken discussion of the clinical reality with the family and patience that the conversation may be lengthy to satisfy the family’s needs.”

Jane Roy Education
Roy, Ph.D., an associate professor in Human Studies, through her professional service activities with the Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and the National Strength and Conditioning Association, has supported student learning and professional development. She has published more than 30 peer-reviewed research manuscripts and presented at numerous conferences. Roy has earned the respect and admiration of students and colleagues alike. They recognize her as a highly committed educator who is committed to teaching with enthusiasm, integrity and strong scholarship. Roy has successfully incorporated technology in the classroom by using Blackboard and Web-based assessments into her courses. Her syllabi and lectures are well prepared and organized, and she effectively communicates, listens and connects with her students so they feel open to ask questions and speak. “Her class syllabi were among the most detailed, organized, and explanatory of all classes I have taken,” one student says. “She displays genuine excitement for what she teaches and is able to grab and keep the attention of her students.” She also is an inspirational role model in the field of exercise physiology, in which women traditionally have been under-represented. “Jane teaches her students to be critical thinkers who are accountable and responsible for their high-quality competence in the practice and delivery of exercise physiology concepts, ideas, and services,” says a colleague.

Peter Walsh Engineering
Walsh, Ph.D., a research professor in mechanical engineering, is consistently rated one of the best teachers in the school. Colleagues say he excels in the classroom and the laboratory. In fact, he brings the latest results from his research into the classroom, making the subject more relevant to the students. Walsh conducts research in the area of carbon sequestration in collaboration with Southern Company and the Department of Energy. The goal of the research is to sequester CO2 generated from fossil-fuel plants by forcing the CO2 below ground. This research is addressing a critical environmental problem in the United States and especially in Alabama, where much of our energy is generated from fossil fuels. Walsh’s research is very interesting to the students. After they are exposed to the research in the classroom, both undergraduate and graduate students work in Walsh’s laboratory creating one-on- one teaching opportunities. “He has been a revitalizing breath of fresh air for my academic career, and he is a person who has made me excited about learning,” one student says. “One can tell that he is a man of extreme high character and knowledge that some can only hope to achieve someday,” added another.

Canon tapped to lead Radiology, elevate imaging R&D

Cheri L. Canon, M.D., is the chair of the Department of Radiology, a position she assumed in February after serving as its interim leader during the previous year.

A professor of medicine, Canon has been on faculty at UAB since 1998, when she completed her post-doctoral training in diagnostic radiology here. She also directs the Division of Diagnostic Radiology and is senior vice chair of the Department of Radiology. She is the director of the UAB Heart and Vascular Center.

“Dr. Canon’s international recognition for imaging and medical education makes her an excellent choice to lead the department of radiology and provide the leadership to maintain and expand our strong clinical and teaching programs in radiology and elevate imaging research and development at UAB to the next level,” said Ray L. Watts, M.D., senior vice president for medicine and dean of the UAB School of Medicine.

That future of imaging at UAB includes development of the recently approved Advanced Imaging Facility, state-of-the-science equipment will enable UAB scientists to develop novel imaging molecules for early disease detection and better monitor the treatment of diseases such as cancer and some debilitating neurologic conditions.

“The Advanced Imaging Facility will house one of the largest cyclotrons in North America with immediately adjacent PET-CT and PET-MRI in the newly renovated faculty member, scientist and nursing leader,” says a group of former students. “Her promotion of ethical and professional values through her own actions serves as important role modeling behaviors for us a future nursing faculty. She possesses expertise and knowledge of research in nursing, but also compassion and dedication to her students.”

Wallace Tumor Institute,” Watts said. “Dr. Canon’s vision for this program includes the recruitment of outstanding new faculty and the attraction of new research grants to support these discoveries in disease detection and treatment.”
OUTSTANDING WOMEN

CONTINUED from page 1

Graduate Student Michelle Cardell; Outstanding Woman Undergraduate Student Sherkeeca Peterson; and Outstanding Woman in the Community Meg McGlamery.

Marques, medical director of the UAB Hospital Transfusion Service, is being honored for her excellence as a mentor of numerous women medical students, residents and faculty and her willingness to take a courageous stance on blood use in the UAB Health System.

Marques has helped foreign medical graduate women get accepted into the Pathology Residency Program, some of which have gone on to successful pathology careers in the United States and abroad. Marques also is a faculty sponsor of the UAB American Medical Women's Association, which enhances the professional lives of and provides role models for women medical students.

Marques stepped up four years ago with a bold plan to better serve patients in UAB Hospital and use university resources better. She recommended that the UAB Health System get its blood supply from one supplier instead of four, which enables the university to negotiate price reductions because of inventory-management efficiencies. She also realized that further price reductions might be possible if more UAB employees and the Birmingham community could donate to the blood supplier. This led to optimizing blood purchases and donations. She also enlisted the help of blood-safety and use-review consultants to demonstrate that transfusing less blood to patients improved patient safety by reducing side-effects, complications and other morbidities.

“IT IS an honor to receive the first Becky Trigg award for outstanding woman faculty member,” Marques says. “She was an outstanding teacher and colleague, both of which I strive to be. It is also humbling to receive this award because I know of many other women who deserve it more than me but do not have kind people to nominate them. I hope to help call attention to other women at UAB who do amazing things for others and are not recognized for their efforts. As a wife and a mother, I want to show other women that anyone can have a successful career and a fulfilling personal life.”

Marques considers the opportunity to mentor and help others a privilege.

“As a teacher and a physician at UAB, I interact with many people every day,” she says. “Every encounter is an opportunity to help each person to have a better day or a better future. I take these chances very seriously and try to make the best of each of them.”

Peel, interim chair in the Department of Communication Studies, was the principal investigator for the UAB ADVANCE program during her tenure as associate provost for Faculty Development and Affairs. In these dual roles, Peel led efforts that culminated in the creation of a mentoring program for junior faculty and mid-career faculty and the development and implementation of family-friendly policies affecting promotion and tenure.

She also developed a Dual Career assistance program for faculty families and the provision of training for search committees, composition and tenure review committees and department chairs in regard to gender biases that may disproportionately affect women faculty and staff.

“What makes Dr. Peel's contributions so significant is that she did the heavy lifting on these projects with a shuttle diplomacy that involved the Office of the Provost, the Faculty Senate, deans, Human Resources and General Counsel,” says Linney. “The policies and programs that ultimately were adopted represent the state of the art in university programs and forward-thinking policies.”

Peel says receiving an award with Susan D. Marchase's name on it is an honor.

“Sue was a trailblazer for women in administration, and she demonstrated traits that I aspire to,” Peel says. “She was highly respected, understood policies for multiple organizations and knew how to work with faculty and others to achieve success. Sue has been described as highly competent, honorable and trustworthy.”

Cardell is a doctoral student and graduate assistant in Nutrition Sciences who is studying to become a registered dietitian. Cardell, a Puerto Rican native, has been active in recruiting post-docs and faculty to UAB from her home country. She has worked with a hospice service and inner-city children. She also regularly volunteers to provide and serve meals to the homeless in the Firehouse Shelter and raises money for the Norma Livingston Ovarian Cancer Foundation. She has made numerous mission trips to Honduras and Jamaica, and her work with inner-city children with the Urban Farms Seed to Plate project in Birmingham gave her a firsthand look at the serious and pervasive condition of malnutrition or poor nutrition in these communities.

“At Seed to Plate she jumped at the chance to help in the development of their curriculum and teach children about nutrition,” says David Allison, Ph.D., director of the Nutrition Obesity Research Center. “Since it is women who traditionally prepare meals in many cultures, she has worked hard to educate women and children about how to choose and prepare nutritious foods, even when selections are limited. She admits she is a nurturer, and this can be seen daily at UAB where she helps both female and male undergraduate and graduate students and her peer doctoral students with her experience and intelligence.”

Peterson has provided significant service to women through her volunteer work at Pathways, a United Way agency that serves homeless women and children. She has volunteered at the Southside and downtown locations for almost two years and often has worked double shifts when volunteer manpower was short. She has also been an afterschool tutor for Glen Iris After School Care and chairs the chapter of Habitat for Humanity, among many other outreach initiatives. At Pathways, Peterson implemented a ticket drive for the Sapphire Lecture so women at Pathways could attend the event, which featured the author of the novel Precious, upon which the movie was based.

“Sherkeeca thought it was so important for the women associated with Pathways to interact with Sapphire that she single-handedly held a drive for students who were not able to attend to donate their free tickets,” says Creston Lynch, assistant director of student programs. “As a result, all of the women at Pathways were able to attend the program. This is a testament to her dedication and commitment to serving the interests of and providing assistance to women.”

McGlamery is the program director for the Birmingham Crisis Center’s Rape Response and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) programs. She helps survivors of sexual assault through their recovery process. McGlamery does this through excellent management of the program, training and counseling volunteers and counseling and supporting survivors as they go through the legal and recovery process.

“Meg is a wonderful, caring and giving person,” says Molly Moran, program manager at the UAB Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics. “She very rarely takes any time or breaks from her work at the Crisis Center. Her job requires her to be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She always is there to give a hug, listen or to provide support to a survivor, counselor or the nurse on staff. Meg does not like to be noticed, and because she stands in the shadows she rarely is. She really helps make the world a better place and has been instrumental in helping survivors of sexual assault through their recovery process.”

Maps is Safety Professional of the Year

The American Society of Safety Engineers selected Elizabeth Maps, Ph.D., MPH, as the 2010 Alabama Safety Professional of the Year (SPY).

Maps was awarded this honor for her work promoting the advancement of women in the profession of the ASSE Chapter and safety and health programs of UAB students, enabling students to receive scholarship funding through ASSE.

She will receive the award April 29 at the ASSE Meeting, which will be held in Birmingham.

Maps is an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences and the deputy director for the Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety.

Founded in 1911, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) is the oldest professional safety society and is committed to protecting people, property and the environment.
Jun’s research could have impact on back injuries

UAB’s designation by the Carnegie Foundation as an institution with “very high research activity” has accustomed faculty, staff and students to hearing about the world-renowned teacher-scholars who have received competitive grants and other awards to support their research. Even so, it is still impressive that some of our youngest and brightest scientists have been thrust into the spotlight in the past seven months, with three professors winning National Science Foundation Career Awards — a prize that the foundation describes as among its most prestigious.

Ho-Wook Jun, Ph.D., assistant professor in biomedical engineering, David Hilton, Ph.D., assistant professor in physics, and Xiaoweng Yao, Ph.D., assistant professor in the biomedical engineering, each won the influential award to support the early career-development activities of professors who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.

The UAB Reporter will feature each of these outstanding researchers during the next three months, giving our campus community insight into their work and its promise.

Jun received a $407,000 NSF Career Award this past July for research into a bioactive hybrid nano-matrix for intervertebral disk regeneration. He is exploring biomedical applications for treating spinal injuries through tissue regeneration.

Q. What was your reaction to be selected for this honor by the NSF?

A. I was so pleased. The NSF Career award is very competitive and a great honor for a junior faculty. I was glad the NSF recognized my proposed research, education and outreach program.

Q. What is your hypothesis of your research?

A. As I know, five UAB faculties received the NSF Career Award in the past seven months. It is amazing. As UAB advances, more junior faculty continuously receive the NSF Career Award. I would be very happy to contribute to this.

Read the text of the full interview online at www.uab.edu/reporter

MATHWORKS

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written in other languages, including C, C++ and Fortran. An additional package, Simulink, adds graphical multi-domain simulation and Model-Based Design for dynamic and embedded systems.

MATLAB can be used on personal computers and powerful server systems, including the UAB Cheaha (docs.uabgrid.uab.edu/wiki/Cheaha) computer cluster, which supports high-performance computing and high-throughput computing paradigms and is the primary interface for leveraging computational resources on UABgrid, the campus distributed research support infrastructure. With the addition of the Parallel Computing Toolbox, the language can be extended with parallel implementations for common computational functions, including for-loop unrolling. Additionally, this toolbox supports offloading computationally intensive workloads to Cheaha. Jobs that could take 20 hours running on an office computer can be run in 30 minutes to an hour if submitted to a cluster.

“This may seem like a small thing to make a big deal about, but this is putting significant scientific computing infrastructure in place,” says Paul Gamin, Ph.D., pro-fessor and chair of Vision Sciences. “You can have a great high-speed performance computer, but if you don’t have the software to do anything on it, you’re stuck. Imagine having a computer on your desk without Microsoft Word. What do you do?

“This is basically the software environment that enables us to develop programs to analyze any scientific data you can think of,” Gamin says. “It’s an environment to facilitate research and let investigators do what we have to do to do our jobs efficiently and effectively.”

Almost 260 employees had individual licenses before the brain reacts to a stimulus.

Thomas Foley, information systems manager II in Engineering, helped Shealy. Gamin and Vischer push for the universitywide license. He says faculty in his school are excited to see the full MATLAB product available.

For example, Hassan Moore, Ph.D., assistant professor of mechanical engineering, teamed with Douglass Ross, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, on the topics of Mathematics, Physics, Engineering and Computer Science converge in their Computer Methods in Engineering course.

“MATLAB certainly makes it easy to design freshman- level engineering assignments and projects,” Moore says. In fact, Engineering trains all of its students to use MATLAB.

MATLAB is freely available through MATLAB that many researchers can usually find someone who has written code that they in turn can use for their projects.

“MATLAB is a real open environment,” Gamin says. “It enables you to do the basic science really quickly and then do more innovative science as you need.”

Vischer says researchers who haven’t used MATLAB will find that the software can open up their data to faster and more flexible analyses than many other packages.

“It’s flexible, so we can use it for generating our experiments, and for analyzing all the different types of data that we have.” Vischer says. “This is great for us because we integrate a lot of different data — behavioral data about how long it takes participants to react, eye tracking data indicating what they are looking at, fMRI data indicating with good spatial precision the parts of the brain that are active during a condition and EEG data, indicating with good temporal precision the way the

Ho-Wook Jun is one of three UAB professors to win a National Science Foundation CAREER Award in the past seven months.
Egyptians rally to defend cultural heritage

As petrol bombs fly near the Egyptian Museum, citizens and army mobilize against looters.

Declan Butler

"I’m a little shaken. They are throwing Molotov cocktails towards the museum." Sarah Parcak, an archaeologist at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, who has spent the past 12 years working in Egypt, was speaking yesterday as the Al Jazeera TV news network showed