Maintaining work-life balance is no simple task. For women, it can be especially challenging. Stephanie Rauterkus, Ph.D., assistant professor of business, wears many hats. She's a wife, mother, sister, daughter, teacher, researcher, blogger and community volunteer. It's a workload that would be daunting for anyone. “Everybody wants you to be who they want you to be, and all of these things that we're pulled to do are very important,” Rauterkus says. “But at the end of the day, I always go back to the thing my mom told me again and again when I was a kid — at the end of the day you've got to be able to look yourself in the mirror and be happy with the person who looks back at you. And if that is that great mom or teacher or whatever — that’s fine, but it’s the person you feel comfortable with.”

Rauterkus will be the keynote speaker for the Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education’s (BACHE) 2011 Women’s Conference, which will focus on finding balance in work and life. The conference will be held in the Hill University Center Great Hall Wednesday, March 30, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost for the conference is $35 per person or $15 for students. Lunch is included. Register online at https://sa.uab.edu/bache.

What: BACHE Women’s Conference
When: Wednesday, March 30, 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Where: Hill University Center Great Hall
Cost: $35 per person; $15 for students (including lunch)
Info: Register online at https://sa.uab.edu/bache

As UAB graduate student Matthew Rice turned the object in his hand and spoke, first-grader Jeffrey Youngson hung on every word. “What does that do? What's a hormone? What color is RNA?” Youngson couldn’t get his questions out fast enough. And when Rice let him hold the dissected sheep brain in his hands, Youngson turned to his mother. “I got to hold it,” he told her.

Youngson was among hundreds of students to visit the McWane Science Center during spring break March 14-18. He found his way to the UAB GENEius Lab at McWane where graduate students hosted Brain Awareness Week. Ewell, a fourth-year neurobiology graduate student, started the event three years ago. “It’s just so important to turn these kids on to science early,” she says.
Special life insurance enrollment offered

UAB has arranged for MetLife to offer eligible employees the opportunity to apply for or increase coverage of Group Voluntary Life during a special enrollment period April 4-22.

The process has been simplified, and few or no health questions will be asked; your application is subject to review and approval by MetLife. Spouse/child coverage also is available: premiums are paid through payroll deduction. Approved coverage will be effective June 1.

An announcement postcard and enrollment packet with more information will be mailed to your home address over the next couple of weeks.

Estimate how much life insurance you may need by using MetLife’s Life Insurance Calculator at www.metlife.com/mybenefits.

New requirement to watch ethics video

UAB employees who meet a certain salary threshold or whose job includes management of state funds in certain capacities are required by the state to file their annual Statement of Economic Interests form with the Alabama Ethics Commission by April 30.

This year, those employees also must be trained on the new Alabama Ethics Law by watching a 55-minute education video; training must be confirmed by receipt of a certificate of completion.

Unlike the annual form submission, this is a one-time requirement. Under state law, failure to comply with the new training requirement may result in a fine of up to $1,000 and constitute a Class A misdemeanor.

Go to www.erm.uab.edu/main/ethics_commission/index.html to find the checklist to follow to ensure all requirements are met.

Resource Center EAP to host conversation on faith March 23

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?

Come and learn how to talk about faith issues, whether it is with a patient in the hospital, friends, co-workers or family members as part of UAB Resource Center Employee Assistance Program lunch “Faith Conversation 101: How to Talk With Someone Who Has a Different Faith Background Than Your Own.”

Rev. Malcolm Marler, D. Min, the director of Pastoral Care, will be the guest speaker for the event, which is 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 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/eap.

March 31 deadline for Ireland Prize nominations

Nominations for the 2012 Ireland Distinguished Visiting Scholar Prize are being accepted until 5 p.m. Thursday, March 31. The award brings outstanding scholars in the arts and sciences to present a public lecture and to participate in other campus activities.

The nominee should be someone who will interact profitably with UAB faculty and students in his or her area and be able to present that specialty in a way that will interest the whole academic community.

Nomination guidelines can be obtained by campus mail, e-mail or fax; call 966-710. Submit completed forms to the Ireland Visiting Scholar Committee by campus mail or personal delivery to the Hill University Center Room 406E, +1150 or fax 966-7399.

Marx Lectureship to be held March 22

The Department of Microbiology will host the Bertram M. Marx Lectureship Tuesday, March 22 at noon in room 170 of the Bevill Biomedical Sciences Building.

Joan Brugge, Ph.D., chair of the Harvard Medical School Department of Cell Biology will be the lecturer. Her topic will be “Extracellular Matrix Regulation of Morphogenesis, Oncogenesis and Drug Sensitivity.”

The event is free and open to the public.

Special life insurance enrollment offered

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The event is free and open to the public.
A small step led to a giant leap in a UAB laboratory supported by grant funding from the American Cancer Society (ACS). Associate Professor Andrea Frost, M.D., is one of many UAB researchers who have benefitted from the ACS, the nation’s largest private, not-for-profit source of funds for scientific studies of cancer.

Frost’s Anatomic Pathology lab has shown that the Gli1 protein and Gli-mediated transcription — known for their roles in the progression of skin and pancreatic cancer — also play a role in the progression of ER-negative and triple-negative breast cancers.

“Our data indicate that Gli1 and Gli-mediated transcription are important in the invasion, migration, metastasis and survival of these breast cancers,” Frost says. “Now, we’re looking at inhibitors to see if they would be effective, targeted therapies in this sub group of breast cancers that doesn’t have any. We couldn’t have uncovered this information without support from the ACS.”

Funding for this and other types of cancer research at UAB is supported by events such as Relay for Life, scheduled from 6 p.m. Friday, April 1 to 6 a.m. Saturday, April 2, in the UAB Mini Park. Registration for the event is $10 and is underway now at www.relayforlife.org/ub. You can form a team or join one of more than 20 accepting members.

“The ACS is a vital resource for cancer researchers who are in the early stages of their research careers,” Frost says. “It provides funding that enables them to generate preliminary data so that they can compete for funding from other sources. ACS support enabled us to obtain additional funding that moved the work of our laboratory forward.”

Frost’s research offers hope that inhibitors of Gli-mediated transcription can be developed to deliver targeted therapies to treat triple-negative and ER-negative breast cancers and prevent metastasis — the process where the cancer spreads from the primary tumor to distant locations in the body.

Frost is working with a chemist at the North Dakota State University, Mukund Sibi, to synthesize and test compounds that will inhibit Gli-mediated transcription.

Researchers discovered several years ago that Gli1 and Gli-mediated transcription is important for cancer invasion — a process by which the cancer cells leave the primary tumor and travel through the normal tissue surrounding the tumor. After that, the cancer cells can gain access to a blood vessel and make their way through the bloodstream to another organ and spread there.

If a compound can be created to prevent recurrence and metastasis, the long-term outlook for many cancer patients could be dramatically improved, she says.

What: Relay for Life

When: 6 p.m. Friday, April 1 to 6 a.m. Saturday, April 2

Where: UAB Mini Park

Registration: $10

Info: Register online at www.relayforlife.org/ub

Anatomic Pathology Professor Andrea Frost says funding from the American Cancer Society was critical to the discovery of the role of the Gli1 protein in the progression of ER-negative and triple-negative breast cancers.

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Register your kids now for 2011 UAB summer camps

Additional information on camps and other summer events can be found online at www.uab.edu/summer

Arts camps
Alys Stephens Center “Kids on Stage” drama camp Session One: Disney’s “The Jungle Book, Kids” Phone: 205-975-4769 Address: Camp will be held in the Alys Stephens Center’s beautiful, new ArtPlay education facility at 1006 19th St. South during the first week; the camp will be onstage in the Alys Stephens Center Siote Theatre, 120 10th Ave. South, during the second week. E-mail: artplay@uab.edu Website: www.artplayasc.org Ages: 7-12 Dates: June 6-17, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday Cost: The cost for each two-week camp is $350 Description: “Kids on Stage” drama camp provides young actors an opportunity to experience the wonder and detail of theater performance. Campers will be introduced to many aspects of theater, including theater games, improvisation, warm-ups, concentration exercises, voice and diction, terminology, acting and stage presence. All campers should bring their lunch and snack each day. Pre- and post-care options available for working parents. Alys Stephens Center “Discovering the Visual Arts” Camp Phone: 205-975-4769 Address: Camp will be held in the Alys Stephens Center’s beautiful, new ArtPlay education facility at 1006 19th St. South. E-mail: artplay@uab.edu Website: www.artplayasc.org Ages: 8-14 Dates: July 17-22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday Cost: Cost for the camp is $190 Description: This new camp offers classes in ballet, modern, jazz and hip hop, flamenco, and more. Dates are June 17-19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All campers should bring their lunch and snack each day. Pre- and post-care options available for working parents.

UAB Summer Music Camp Phone Contact 205-975-2263 Address: UAB Huley Center for the Arts, 950 13th St. South E-mail: sammuel@uab.edu Website: www.music.uab.edu Ages: Students in grades 6-12 Dates: June 12-18 Cost: Residential tuition $425 if application is postmarked on or before April 29; $450 if application is postmarked on or after April 30 (residential applications will not be accepted after June 3). Commuter tuition is $300 if application is postmarked on or before April 29; $325 if application is postmarked on or after April 30. Description: UAB Summer Music Camp is a comprehensive week-long musical experience including full ensemble experience, small ensemble participation, and training in music theory, literature, conducting, music technology and jazz improvisation. Students will study privately with members of the UAB Department of Music faculty and perform on a world-class stage. Although students are welcome to commute to the camp, they are highly encouraged to get the full camp experience and stay in the new, aptly-designed dorm on campus, Blazer Hall. The full camp experience will also include housing, meals, and all evening activities designed to create a true summer camp experience including a pool party, movie night, ski and games night as well as musically enriching activities such as recitals and concerts.

UAB Beginners Drum Camp Phone: 205-975-5823 Address: UAB Huley Center for the Arts, 950 13th St. South E-mail: gflamбро@uab.edu Website: www.music.uab.edu Ages: For students in grades 6-8 Dates: June 1-3, 9 a.m. to noon Cost: $100 per student Description: A short session to introduce young students to drums and percussion.

UAB Drumline Camp Phone: 205-975-5823 Address: UAB Huley Center for the Arts, 950 13th St. South E-mail: gflamбро@uab.edu Website: www.music.uab.edu Ages: For students in grades 9-12 Dates: June 6-10, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost: $250 per student Description: A week-long camp designed to work on the fundamentals of marching percussion in a large ensemble setting.

UAB Summer Percussion Seminar Phone: 205-975-5823 Address: UAB Huley Center for the Arts, 950 13th St. South E-mail: gflamбро@uab.edu Website: www.music.uab.edu Ages: Students in grades 9-12 Dates: June 20-24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: $250 per student Description: A week-long camp designed to work on the fundamentals of marching percussion, along with percussion ensemble and steel drums.

Business
UAB Summer Bridge Program for Business Students Phone: 205-934-2453 Address: UAB Business-Engineering Complex, 1150 10th Ave. South E-mail: ldjohnson@uab.edu Website: www.uab.edu/business Ages: Graduating high-school class of 2011 Dates: May 31-July 15 Cost: Free tuition, textbooks, meal allowance and free room in a UAB residence hall; applications can be mailed to the University of Alabama at Birmingham, 401 Campbell Hall, 1530 Third Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35294-1170 Description: The UAB School of Business, in cooperation with the Office for Equity and Diversity, offers a seven-week program for minority students who plan to attend UAB as business majors. Students enroll in three college credit courses at UAB and receive faculty-though in tutoring in math and English. They also participate in social activities and mentoring support to promote networking. Students will receive a $700 participation stipend for successful completion of the program. They will also have an opportunity to receive an additional academic achievement stipend of up to $900, based on excellence in academic performance during the program.

Computer Science
Introduction to Game Programming with Alice Contact: camps@cis.uab.edu Phone: 934-2213 Address: UAB Campbell Hall, 1300 University Blvd Website: www.cis.uab.edu/programs/camps Ages: Rising 6th to 8th graders Dates: July 17-22; a second camp will be held July 25-29 Cost: Registration fee is $300. Space is limited to a maximum of 15 students.

Description: This camp uses the Alice computer-programming system to teach students the basics of computer programming. Students will write and create their own computer videos and games. The camp is sponsored by the UAB Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

UAB Computer Forensics Contact: camps@cis.uab.edu Phone: 934-8620 Address: UAB Campbell Hall, 1300 University Blvd. Website: www.cis.uab.edu/programs/camps Ages: High-school students Dates: July 11-15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: To be announced. Space is limited to a maximum of 15 students.

Description: High-school students will learn about cyber-crime investigation and forensics as well as methods for tracking phishing, spam and other Internet and computer scams. The camp is sponsored by the UAB Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

UAB Java Computer Programming Contact: camps@cis.uab.edu Phone: 934-8606, 934-2213 Address: UAB Campbell Hall, 1300 University Blvd Website: www.cis.uab.edu/programs/camps Ages: High-school students Dates: June 6-10; a second camp will be held June 15-19 Cost: Registration fee is $300. Space is limited to a maximum of 15 students.

Description: This camp introduces high-school students to the basics of writing computer programs in the Java language. The camp is sponsored by the UAB Department of Computer and Information Sciences.
UAB Computer Graphics
Contact: camp@cs.uab.edu
Phone: 34-213-975-5633
Address: UAB Campbell Hall, 1300 University Blvd.
Website: www.cs.uab.edu/programs/camps

Week Two: "The News of Writing." Youngsters will learn to write, using the rhythm of language to build computer graphics and designs. Past projects have included the geometric modeling of smooth objects, visualization of sorting algorithms and motion design. The camp is sponsored by the UAB Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

Humanities
Ada Long Creative Writing Workshop
Phone: 205-934-5838
Address: UAB Spencer Honors House, 1190 10th Ave. South
E-mail: tmharris@uab.edu
Website: www.uab.edu/english/events/ada-long-creative-writing-workshop

Ages: Rising 10th, 11th and 12th grade students
Dates: June 26-29
Cost: $600 without college credit; $595 with one hour college course-aid available.
Description: The Ada Long Creative Writing Workshop is a three-week day camp for high-school students. Instructional activities include directed writing exercises, small group/workshop discussion of students' work, individual conferences with instructors and related enrichment activities. The workshop is sponsored by the UAB Department of English.

UAB Children's Creative Learning Center “Summer on Broadway”
Phone: 205-996-3540
Address: UAB SOE 41108 1530 Third Avenue South, Birmingham, 35249-1250
E-mail: akirk@uab.edu
Website: www.uab.edu/cclc

2011 Location: Rocky Ridge Elementary School
Ages: 3-12 year olds (3-year-olds must be potty trained)
Start and End Dates: June 6-July 15 (closed July 4)
Description: A six-week summer enrichment camp focusing on literacy, math, art, science, music, technology and dance. The UAB Children's Creative Learning Center is sponsored by the UAB School of Education in partnership with the Hoover Board of Education.

UAB Red Mountain Writing Project Middle-School Summer Writing Camp: Write to Change!
Phone: Tonya Perry, Ph.D., at 205-934-7896
Address: School of Education Room 117, 901 13th St. South
E-mail: writcamp@uab.edu
Website: www.rmw.org

Ages: Grades 5-8
Dates: Camp will be held four days a week June 1-24. The first week of camp will be held Tuesday through Friday. During weeks 2 to 4, camp will be held Monday through Thursday.
Cost: $150 to $165 per week per week; $75 non-refundable registration fee
Description: This camp, offered through the UAB School of Education, provides children with four weeks of writing fun.
Week One: "Making Mysteries:" Campers will learn to build suspense and develop their style as they describe characters.
Week Two: "The News of Writing:" Youngsters will learn to become a journalist, gathering reliable sources through research and to weigh facts and opinions.
Week Three: "Writing for a Change:" Children will learn about the different causes and issues the Birmingham community faces and identify a cause that impassions campers enough to write about.
Week Four: "Music to my Ears:" Discover the musician who will impress campers enough to write about.

UAB Spanish Camp
Phone: 205-934-4652
Address: Humanities Building, 900 13th St. South
E-mail: kristachambles@uab.edu
Website: www.uab.edu/foreignlang

Ages: 5-10
Dates: June 27-July 1
Cost: $195 for one week
Description: UAB Spanish Camp, sponsored by the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, will provide one week of Spanish-language immersion and cultural activities.

Science
CORD Summer Science Camps for Middle-School Students
Phone: 205-934-5171
Address: Community Health Services Building, 933 19th St. South
E-mail: CCORD@uab.edu
Website: www.uab.edu/cord

Ages: Rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders
Dates: June 13-July 29
Cost: $175 for the first camp; $55 to add a second camp;
A $50 registration fee is applied toward the total cost of camp.
Description: The UAB Center for Community Outreach Development (CORD) offers six exciting science camps weekly for as many weeks Children can use high-tech instruments to monitor air and water quality, dive into the gene pool and investigate the role DNA plays in living creatures, conduct tests to discover the effects of exercise on the body, embark on a week-long adventure to explore the molecules that are involved in everyday life and spend a week exploring the wonders and magic of chemistry all while using state-of-the-art equipment in real laboratories. All of the camp experiences are aligned with the science curriculum that the campers will have the following fall.

CORD Summer Science Institute for High-School Students
Phone: 205-934-5171
Address: Community Health Services Building, 933 19th St. South
E-mail: caysw@uab.edu
Website: www.uab.edu/cord

Ages: Students entering grades 10-12
Dates: SSI I – June 6-June 17
SSI II – July 11-22 and July 25-Aug. 5
SSI III – June 2-Aug. 5
Cost: $250-$350; applications due are March 25.
Description: The Summer Science Institute (SSI), sponsored by the UAB Center for Community Outreach Development (CORD), is a multi-summer research experience for high-school students interested in learning to conduct real science. SSI consists of three progressive levels. SSI I: “Fundamentals of Cellular and Molecular Biology,” for sophomores, juniors and seniors, lets students participate in introductory molecular biology experiments. SSI II: “Advanced Principles of Molecular Biology and Neurosciences” is offered for juniors and seniors who have completed SSI I. In this seminar, students learn the principles of molecular biology and neuroscience investigations on different aspects of a specific, biologically important protein. SSI III: “Research Internship” is for high-school seniors who have completed SSI I and II. Students are placed in research laboratories to work on their own original project under the supervision of UAB faculty and a staff mentor.

ChemBridge for 9th Graders
Phone: 205-934-5171
Address: Community Health Services Building, 933 19th St. South
E-mail: gisw@uab.edu or emcure@uab.edu
Website: www.uab.edu/chem

Ages: Students entering the 9th grade
Dates: Two one-week sessions: July 11-15 and July 26-29
Cost: $150 per week
Description: ChemBridge is a one-week camp co-sponsored by the UAB Center for Community Outreach Development (CORD) and the UAB Department of Chemistry in which students explore chemical concepts and principles, learn hands-on applications and demonstrations and participate in discussions to help prepare them for high school chemistry.

Athletics
UAB offers a variety of camps for children and teens in football, basketball, softball, soccer and volleyball. UAB offers both day and overnight camps. For more information, call the sports camp offices or visit the websites.

Briar Shopp Summer Basketball Camps – 205-934-5182
UAB Summer Basketball Camps – 205-934-3402
UAB Girls Basketball Camps – 205-934-2084 or 934-2027
Youth Football Camp – 205-934-7586 or www.coachellawallsey.com
Softball Camps and Clinics – 205-975-7000 or www.uabsoftball.com
UAB Bees Soccer Camp – 205-870-0194 or www.uabsoccercamp.com
UAB Girls Soccer Camp – 205-934-4797 or www.uabsoftball.com
UAB Volleyball Camps – 205-975-8100 or www.uabvolleyballcamps.com

Coach Low's Strengthening and Conditioning Camp
Address: UAB Varsity Weight Room, 13th Street South and Sixth Avenue South
Website: www.cheerworld.com
Phone: 205-329-1343
Ages: 13-70
Dates: May 1-Aug. 1
Cost: Depends on training goals, $45-$70 per session or $100-$170 per week
Description: The goal of Lou DeNieri's camp is to ensure that all participants receive the highest personalized instruction and training aimed at maximizing physical development and total performance. On average, camp participants will have two to three highly energized, intense training sessions a week ranging from 50 minutes to an hour and a half, depending on training experience, goals and level of performance. Camp is limited to first 30 participants.

Cheerleading and Dance
Summer Elementary Cheer and Dance Camp
Address: UAB Campus Recreation Center, 1901 University Boulevard
Website: http://main.uab.edu/Sites/students/life/athletic-support/cheer/733226/

Ages: 7-12
Dates: July 11-13
Cost: $60
Description: Learn cheers and dances from UAB's nationally ranked cheerleaders and Golden Girls. Attendees will learn cheers, dances and engage in other fun activities. Attendees will receive a UAB Cheer and Dance Camp T-shirt, a snack each day and a special appearance by our mascot Blaze.

UC/ADA Summer Camps
UAB also will host several cheerleading and dance camps sponsored by the Universal Cheerleaders Association and the Universal Dance Association.

Universal Dance Association Camp I
Dates: June 9-12
Universal Cheerleaders Association Cheer Camp I
Dates: June 13-16

UDA Dance Camp II
Dates: June 13-16
UC/ADA Cheer Camp II
Dates: June 27-30
To register, or for more information, visit http://
main.uab.edu/Sites/students/life/athletic-support/cheer/733226/
Watts exemplifies mission of high-quality performance

Amanda Watts exemplifies mission of high-quality performance. She is the associate director of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Watts is dedicated to ensuring the ethical treatment of animals used in research and education. She is a certified professional IACUC administrator and has been recognized for her contributions to the field.

Watts describes her role as one that requires a balance of empathy and professionalism. She says, “I always think about how I can help people, how I can be present in their bodies and in relation with their environment. This is more about presence than actor training.”

Watts has a passion for the Alexander Technique, a method of study that encourages improved balance, posture, and movement. She says, “I became inspired by the Alexander Technique some years ago and once I got a taste of what it could do for me, I knew I wanted to continue training, so that I will be certified in the Alexander Technique.”

Watts’ dedication to the Alexander Technique has helped her in her research role. She says, “I teach voice, speech, and acting with an understanding of the Alexander Technique. My areas of research focus on the role of the Alexander Technique in promoting ethical practices and advanced animal care.”

Watts’ co-workers say she is an integral part of the IACUC and have praised her for her dedication to the profession. They say, “Amanda is very dedicated to her job. She eats, sleeps and breathes it. She comes in early and leaves late making sure that everything is completed.”

Watts’ work has been recognized with numerous awards, including the prestigious Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist award. Watts says, “This recognition by the Kennedy Center is a testament to Marlene Johnson’s prowess as an artist and an educator.”

The Kennedy Center National Teaching Artist program was established in 1980 to recognize and support artists who work in education. Watts is one of six national teaching artists and contributors to the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF) who were selected for the award.

Watts’ success as a teaching artist has been recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The festival is a national theater festival that brings together students and professionals from across the country to showcase their talents and receive feedback on their work.

Watts exemplifies mission of high-quality performance. She is a dedicated and accomplished teacher who is committed to ensuring ethical treatment of animals used in research and education.
**BRAIN AWARENESS**

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Awareness Week activities for children in the community.

"Jeffrey has always been very interested in science," says his mother Susie Youngson. "It started with space and went into rocks. He loves math; we really came for Pi Day, but when I saw this, I had to bring him in here."

Youngson was impressed as Rice told him how a sheep brain worked and how it was similar to a human brain.

"It was really cool," Youngson said. "I really like mathematics and science. I like to learn about the human body. I didn't know there was two kinds of brain matter — the gray matter and the white matter."

"I didn't know that either," his mom added.

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is the global campaign to increase public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research. The Dana Foundation, a private philanthropic organization that supports brain research through grants and educates the public about the successes and potential of brain research, founded the worldwide event. The Society of Neuroscience also organizes BAW events. Every March BAW unites the efforts of organizations worldwide, in a weeklong celebration of the brain.

During the BAW campaign, partners organize activities to educate and excite people of all ages about the brain and brain research. UAB began its BAW outreach three years ago under the direction of Sharday Ewell, now a fourth-year graduate student in neurobiology. She approached the McWane Center about hosting the event. Three years later, the activities continue to grow, and more important, area children get an opportunity to see that science is fun and that a career in the field is possible.

"I'm in neuroscience today because I attended a BAW event when I was in middle school," Ewell says. "It's just so important to turn these kids on to science early. We need to show them it's not this boring thing or this complicated thing or something to be feared. Science is all around us. It's fun to show them that they're actually scientists in their everyday life. They have to form hypotheses whether they realize it or not. If we can get through to them through an event like this, I think we've done our job."

UAB students conducted a series of learning activities throughout the day for McWane Center visitors. They dissected a sheep brain and cow eye — and even a diseased human brain — and held several other interactive activities to describe how the senses work.

"The students did an amazing job organizing this event, and all of the faculty are incredibly proud of them," says Kristina Visscher, Ph.D., assistant professor of neurobiology and faculty volunteer. "Sharday spearheaded this effort, and she is passionate about bringing science education to the community. She did a tremendous job of galvanizing and organizing a large group of volunteers for this effort."

That's also a key goal for Frankie Heyward, second-year neuroscience graduate student in David Sweatt's, Ph.D., laboratory. Heyward wants to show children how fun and interesting science can be and educate them and their parents about the progress and promise of brain research.

"Too often people underappreciate, avoid or even — or worse — fear neuroscience because they simply don't understand how it relates to them and the benefits of the research being conducted," Heyward says. "We seek to quell any anxiety regarding neuroscience research and inspire children to become interested in it at a young age."

Heyward volunteered to be a part of BAW in part to reach out to minority children. Heyward, a Philadelphia native, grew up with a father who told him never to sell himself short and to aspire to be whatever he wanted to be. Heyward fell in love with science, and now he wants to inspire other minority children.

"There are some children that do not fully buy into the notion that they, too, can become scientists because they don't see any scientists who look like them," he says. "The BAW volunteers are an amalgamation of different skin tones and gender. Hopefully, the children we were able to interact with walked away with the belief that neuroscience is something they can get excited about and a profession in which they can contrib-

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**RANKINGS**

Continued from page 1

29; and public health, No. 16.

The School of Nursing’s master’s program rose to No. 21. The nurse practitioner (adult) program ranked No. 10, as did the nursing service administration program.

Each year, U.S. News & World Report ranks professional-school programs in business, education, engineering, law and medicine. The rankings are based on expert opinion about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school’s faculty, research and students. For the rankings in all five areas, indicator and opinion data come from surveys of more than 1,200 programs and some 9,600 academics and professionals.

The magazine also ranks programs in the sciences, social sciences and humanities on a rotating basis, usually every three years. These rankings are based solely on the ratings of academic experts, as are the health specialties.
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about the music of
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2PM

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