School of Dentistry to receive largest grant in UAB history

Oral health has been called the window to one’s overall health, and a new national research effort led by the UAB School of Dentistry aims to provide people on the frontline of oral health care — community dentists in private practice — the opportunity to be on the forefront of research that addresses day-to-day issues they face with patients. The effort could improve the nation’s dental health and its overall health, as well.

A seven-year, $66.8 million grant to UAB from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, part of the National Institutes of Health, will create a national dental practice-based research network, consolidating the institute’s former three regional research networks into a single, nationally coordinated effort. The grant is the largest single award in the university’s history.

The network is a unique investigative union of practicing dentists and academic scientists, says the grant’s principal investigator Gregg Gilbert, D.D.S., M.B.A., chair of the UAB Department of General Dental Sciences. Dentists in private practice will be able to propose and/or participate in research studies that address issues they face treating patients. The studies then will be conducted in participating dental offices to help quickly expand the profession’s evidence base and improve patient care.

“This network is designed to engage the end-user — dentists — from the outset,” Gilbert says. “We want to know from community dental care providers and their patients what their most pressing clinical practice issues are, then conduct national oral-health studies to improve dental care. We hope to improve the nation’s oral health by improving the knowledge base for clinical decision-making and moving the latest evidence into routine care.”

The consolidated initiative, named The National Dental Practice-Based Research Network, will be headquartered at UAB, which will be the national administrative center leading and overseeing six smaller regional research centers located in Birmingham, Rochester, N.Y., Gainesville, Fla.; Portland, Ore.; Minneapolis, Minn. and San Antonio, Texas.

Since launching the first practice-based initiative in 2005, NIDCR had supported three regional networks, including one at the UAB School of Dentistry. Each had its own affiliated practitioners, clinical studies and administrative tasks independent of the other.

“A national coordinating center streamlines the network structure for greater financial and administrative efficiency,” says NIDCR director Martha Somerman, D.D.S., Ph.D. “The national hub-and-spoke structure also should free up those at the regional networks to focus almost solely on research.”

Professor, pianist Kasman awarded 2012 Ireland Prize

UAB Professor Yakov Kasman has been awarded the 2012 Ireland Prize for Scholarly Distinction.

“I am very happy, very honored and very thankful,” Kasman says. “Yakov emulates everything this prize was created to celebrate,” says Thomas DiLorenzo, Ph.D., dean of the UAB College of Arts and Sciences. “The level of prestige and honor he brings to the Department of Music, the college and UAB is priceless.”

Kasman will be honored at a free dinner awards ceremony at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 17 at The Club, 1 Robert Smith Drive. To make a reservation to attend, call UAB Events at 975-0756 or email uabevents@uab.edu.

As a pianist, Kasman made his U.S. debut in 1997 as silver medalist in the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas.

Today, Kasman is the professor of piano and artist-in-residence in the UAB Department of Music, and his students are winners of regional, national and international competitions. In January he performed Prokofiev’s Second Piano Concerto in Paris with Orchestre Lamoureux in the famed Theatre des Champs Elysees, considered one of the most important concert halls in the world.

UAB presents the award annually to a full-time faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences for professional and academic achievements and contributions to the university and local community. The award is made possible by the Caroline P. and Charles W. Ireland Endowment for Scholarly Distinction; it includes a $5,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal award.

Center ready to coordinate teaching needs of faculty

The offices of the Provost and the Vice President for Information Technology have created the UAB Center for Teaching and Learning to support excellence in teaching.

The center will promote learning through a commitment to pedagogical best practices, appropriate and effective use of technology and innovative collaboration.

“The mission of the Center for Teaching and Learning is to promote and support excellence and innovations in all aspects of teaching,” says Suzanne Austin, Ph.D., vice provost for student and faculty success. “This will include excellence across curricula — including traditional in-class instruction, blended formats and completely online instruction — and across pedagogies.”
No exams permitted during study days

The final examination for each course is scheduled for a designated period during finals week, and the time cannot be changed without the dean’s approval. Suzanne Austin, Ph.D., vice provost for Student and Faculty Success, says under specified conditions a student may request, in writing, to reschedule an exam, and faculty are encouraged to work collaboratively when such situations arise.

Faculty and students should report any concerns to their dean. Read more in the Undergraduate Catalog at catalog.uab.edu.

Gray is new DPMS, Quarles to lead BAS

UAB’s Facilities Division has announced that Tripp Gray is the new director of project management services.

Gray will provide project management services for large construction projects at UAB. Gray, who received his building sciences degree from Auburn, has been under the direction of Mark Goska in Facilities for the past two years. Gray can be contacted at 934-1604 or trggray@uab.edu.

After minor restructuring and realignment of Facilities, Building Alterations Services (BAS) will now report to Facilities Administration under the direction of Mark Goska in Facilities for the past two years. Gray can be contacted at 934-1604 or trggray@uab.edu.

Ingalls/UAB NAS Award accepting noms

To be eligible, the faculty member must be a full-time, regular employee, be a past recipient of the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and have served UAB for 20 or more years.

Nominations being accepted for Visiting Scholar Prize

The deadline to nominate an outstanding scholar in the arts and sciences to present a public lecture and participate in other campus activities is 5 p.m. Monday, April 30. The Ireland Distinguished Visiting Scholar should be someone who will interact profitably with UAB faculty and students in his or her field and present it in a way that will interest the whole academic community.

There is a $25 fee for UAB employees; a catered lunch provided. Register at www.hrm.uab.edu/learning system.

Autism and the arts is lecture topic April 19

Teaching Artist Erin Hardin, M.Ed., of VSA Alabama, will discuss exploring autism through the arts during the UAB Discussion Book Dialogues at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, April 19 in Heritage Hall Building, Room 549. For information, visit www.uab.edu/discussionbook.

Get tickets for the Fiesta Ball 2012

The Young Supporters Board of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center will present the opportunity to celebrate Cinco de Mayo for a cause — Fiesta Ball 2012.

The Fiesta Ball, to be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 3 at A&A Warehouse, is a fun-filled Mexican-themed event like no other. Guests will enjoy live music, Mexican food, beer and wine — all while supporting the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, Alabama’s only comprehensive cancer center as designated by the National Cancer Institute.

Tickets are $30 in advance, $35 at the door. Visit www.uab.edu/festivalab for tickets or more information.

Results online for Faculty Senate election

Results from the recent Faculty Senate election of the newly-elected senators, officers and FPPC members now are online at www.uab.edu/facultysenate.

Six faculty lauded for excellence

The UAB chapter of the National Society for Leadership and Success will honor six faculty April 20 in the Hill University Center. Honorees are professors Ian Knowles, Ph.D., and Colin J. Davis, Ph.D., associate professors Edwin Cook III, Ph.D., Sandra Sims, Ph.D. and Giten德拉 Uswatte, Ph.D., and Robin Fiedler, Ph.D., assistant professor.

WBHM offering new student membership

Public Radio WBHM 90.3 FM, a listener-supported service of UAB, is offering a new student membership for only $45 a year. Check out the music features of Tapetstry on www.wbhm.org or listen in the car, online or through an app to keep up with the world around you. Become a part of the public in your university’s public radio station!

Register for lab-safety workshop

Attend a one-day course on laboratory safety May 22 for in-depth discussions and demonstrations on biosafety, chemical safety, hazardous materials, waste, general safety, environmental and emergency management.

There is a $25 fee for UAB employees; a catered lunch provided. Register at www.hrm.uab.edu/learningsystem.

The Emerald Corporation Chair and CEO James McManus, third from left, presented “The Blessing,” painted by Alabama artist Lee Wilson, fourth from left, to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center in honor of longtime UAB employee Sandra Behel. Behel was treated for breast cancer at UAB. The painting will be hung in the infuension center at the Kirklin Clinic. Also pictured are (from left), Deb McGrew, Penny Phillips, McManus, Wilson, Jennifer De Los Santos, M.D., and Warren Smedley.

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UAB graduate students Alison Barnard and Farah Khan have quite a bit in common. They met in middle school, graduated from high school together at Vestavia Hills and went off to college together — both earning undergraduate degrees from MIT — before coming home to UAB to start graduate school.

They also have one other thing in common — they love math and science and have a desire to see more young girls involved in it. Their appetite for math and science is so strong that they created Girls in Science and Engineering Day in 2011. It’s a day for local middle-school girls to come to UAB and participate in fun and engaging science and engineering activities led by female UAB professors, scientists and students.

This past year’s event was a major success, with more than 70 middle-school girls attending. This year’s Girls in Science and Engineering Day is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Saturday, April 21 in the School of Nursing. More than 160 girls have registered.

“Alison and Farah really have a love of science,” says Melanie Shores, Ph.D., assistant professor of human studies and the group’s faculty advisor. “They want girls to have this opportunity just like they have. They want to see girls be successful.”

Math and science always have played a strong role in the lives of Barnard and Khan.

They met and became friends in middle school when they joined the math team, and they competed in math tournaments across the Southeast as high-school students. Barnard earned a bachelor’s degree in earth, atmospheric and planetary science at MIT, and Khan earned hers in environmental engineering. Barnard now is a third-year doctor of physical therapy student, and Khan is a third-year medical student. Barnard says because those disciplines affected her greatly, she wanted to share science with others.

Barnard became especially interested in teaching young girls science after another MIT friend opened her eyes to the gender disparity in their science and math abilities. Khan certainly remembers middle school as a pivotal time in her school life. It’s when she experienced her first career day, which gave her new ideas for what she could pursue in school and as a career.

“Everybody has glorious and glamorous ideas in elementary school about what kind of job they want to pursue,” Khan says. “And in high school, you kind of already have preconceived notions put on you from middle school. I believe middle school is when people first start funneling more realistic ideas into the minds of young students. Targeting that group and catching them before they get to high school where they already may have some opinion formed that we wouldn’t be able to affect is important.”

Barnard and Khan both say one of the joys of science for them is learning how and why things work.

“Science is used to make cars safer, to develop new medications and to forecast the weather. There is even chemistry involved in creating the perfect cookie recipe. As a physical therapy student, I use anatomy, kinesiology, and neuroscience to help patients,” Barnard says.

Students attending the event will participate in two different workshops from the following opportunities:

• Neuroscience
• Chemistry/forensic science
• Biology/repels
• Medicine
• Civil engineering
• Exercise physiology

The event is a collaborative effort of the School of Nursing, the School of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Science, the School of Engineering and the Science and Technology Honors Program.

Other sponsors of the event include Vulcan Materials; Alabama Power; BioHorizons and Wilson Capital Management Inc.

AUB undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty will volunteer as instructors. “The students and faculty volunteers are awesome,” Barnard says. “I don’t know if they realize it, but they are serving as role models for the girls to look up to in these fields in addition to exposing them to science and engineering.”

Students from Jefferson and Shelby counties are expected to attend.

“This event will enable these female students to meet other females in the profession and let them see that it is possible for them to have a career in science, engineering and math.” Shores says. “This offers local girls an opportunity to see that females can succeed regardless of your ethnicity or socioeconomic status. Alison and Farah deserve a lot of credit for giving these students this opportunity. They are awesome, unbelievable really. They took this idea and ran with it, and it has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of numerous young ladies.”

Faculty, staff asked to complete Campus Rec survey

Since its completion in 2003, the Campus Recreation Center has served as an important asset to the UAB campus community. It has served thousands of students, faculty and staff annually, and the university knows the Campus Rec program is an important part of campus life. The center is a high-quality facility available to the entire UAB community.

In the coming months, the Campus Rec team will replace equipment, modify programs and improve services to provide a better experience for all users.

As a part of this process, the Campus Rec team is inviting all UAB faculty and staff to participate in an online survey to identify additional improvements for the future.

The key component of this undertaking is to learn how faculty and staff use the center — or reasons for not using the facility — so the staff can better meet the needs of its members.

“The faculty and staff’s participation in this survey is vital to the success of our efforts,” says Carolyn E. Farley, director for Academic and Student Service Operations. The web-based survey — at studentvoice.com/uab/ub012 — takes 15 to 20 minutes to complete and will close April 19. Those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing to win prizes.

Once you have completed the survey, you will be prompted to enter your email address, which will make you eligible for the prizes. Winners will be notified once the survey period is closed.

UAB has retained the services of independent consulting firm Braodfoot & Dunlavey, to administer the survey. Direct questions to survey@programmanagers.com. All information provided is anonymous. No individual responses will be identified.

Temporary closing

The Campus Recreation Center will close May 12-15 for improvements and re-open May 16.

All Rec Center members can workout at the Jewish Community Center for free during this time using their campus ID cards. To use the Jewish Community Center, you need to purchase a $10 daily pass. Information on the Jewish Community Center, including directions, can be found at www.uab.edu/campusreccenter.
Twenty professors from 17 departments are the recipients of the 2011 Graduate Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentorship.

The award, now in its fifth year, recognizes exceptional faculty mentorship and demonstrates that UAB is a university that values the commitment to excellence in mentorship that is exhibited by its faculty, says Bryan Noe, Ph.D., dean of The Graduate School.

“This award recognizes faculty who have been outstanding mentors, advisers and role models to the students and trainees with whom they have worked,” Noe says.

“We are particularly pleased to see that faculty from different disciplines and departments across campus were nominated for their dedication to assisting students, post-doctoral fellows and other trainees to realize their career goals.”

These recipients were honored in a ceremony April 2.

Olivia Affuso, Ph.D., associate professor of epidemiology; Anne Alexandrov, Ph.D., professor of nursing; Scott Barnum, Ph.D., professor of microbiology; Michael Brenner, Ph.D., professor of neurobiology; John Burgess, D.D.S., professor of prosthodontics; Lois Christensen, Ph.D., professor of curriculum and instruction; Gary Cutter, Ph.D., professor of biostatistics; William Drace, assistant professor of physician assistant studies; Paul Goepfert, M.D., professor of medicine; Renitta Goldman, Ph.D., professor of curriculum and instruction; Adrienne Lahti, M.D., professor of behavioral neurobiology; Max Michael, M.D., dean of the School of Public Health; Selvarangan Ponnazhagan, Ph.D., professor of molecular and cellular pathology; Rosalinda Roberts, Ph.D., professor of behavioral neurobiology; Bisakha Sen, Ph.D., associate professor of health care organization and policy; Jon Daniel Sharer, Ph.D., assistant professor of clinical genetics; Susan Spezzini, Ph.D., associate professor of curriculum and instruction; Günter Stolz, Ph.D., professor of mathematics; Timothy Wick, Ph.D., chair of biomedical engineering; Bradley Yoder, Ph.D., professor of cell biology.

For faculty to be selected, at least five letters of nomination had to be submitted. The nominees were asked to consider personal characteristics, excellence in teaching and communication and mentoring characteristics in considering whom to recommend for the award.

The faculty receiving the award this year will not be eligible to be nominated again for at least 10 years. “This will help to ensure that as many deserving faculty as possible from across the university can be recognized for serving as outstanding mentors,” Noe says.

These are excerpts from the nomination letters:

Olivia Affuso

“She continually seeks opportunities for her students, mentees, friends, etc. to grow. Whether in the School of Public Health, the Graduate School or life in general, Dr. Affuso is on a continual search for the next big and better thing and takes those she mentors along for the ride.”

Anne Alexandrov

“She would always say that she was ’just doing her job’ but she did more than that. What Dr. Alexandrov showed by ’just doing her job’ was that she not only cared but that she was invested in you and that she wanted you to succeed.”

Scott Barnum

“Dr. Barnum has a way of instilling in his trainees self-sufficiency and the will and ability to take the necessary steps to succeed. This ability to find the precise balance between mentoring and promoting self-sufficiency is a unique quality that makes Dr. Barnum an outstanding mentor.”

Michael Brenner

“Rather than giving me simple answers to questions in study, research and even life, he has always tried to teach me how to find it. In other words, he favored my encountering big challenges in order to teach me how to trouble-shoot effectively.”

John Burgess

“I can truthfully say in nine years of working together, he has never made one disparaging comment, had a curt moment or even waivered from his omnipresent smile.

He has a positive outlook for every situation and treats every person with whom he interacts with profound respect and courtesy. He is loyal to his students and will not hesitate to defend us.”

Lois Christensen

“Her devotion to my personal success is empowering. She is more than my professor and mentor; she is my friend.

Gary Cutter

“He guides students along in a manner that allows students the freedom to explore topics that are of genuine interest to them, provide opportunities to grow and go outside one’s comfort zone. And if one finds themselves with the need for a push or an explanation, he seems to always be available and helpful.”

William Drace

“Mr. Drace is the eternal optimist and serves his students with an open-minded, unbiased opinion whenever he is asked for help or feels called to guide a student in need.”

Paul Goepfert

“Throughout his mentoring he has provided me with countless opportunities for success, and he has ensured that I act on these opportunities to be successful. He has promoted my independence while maintaining opportunities for continued guidance and mentoring.”

Renitta Goldman

“Dr. Goldman has consistently demonstrated enthusiasm in her teaching and as a project leader. She continually expected nothing less than excellence from her students and motivated us to meet and/or exceed her expectations.”

Adrienne Lahti

“The hardest lesson that I have had to learn — a lesson that I could not have learned without Dr. Lahti’s patient wisdom and guidance — is the need for a scientist not only to give but to graciously receive the assistance of his or her colleagues.”

Max Michael

“Multidisciplinary work requires an individual who can understand several different points of view and bring people together to work for a common purpose. Dr. Michael is one of the rare individuals who can seamlessly transition from the individual-based world of the clinician to the population-based world of the public-health professional, and he actively mentors students to help them learn to do the same.”

Selvarangan Ponnazhagan

“He always has maintained an open-door policy and makes time to speak with everyone in his lab. He has never made me feel inferior when asking a question and always was very patient with me no matter how many times a concept had to be explained.”

Rosalinda Roberts

“Dr. Roberts is a person who inducts inspiration and optimism, provides guidance when needed, fosters independence, and works tirelessly to make sure her trainees are successful.”

Bisakha Sen

“Dr. Sen highly holds mentoring excellence and champions her students and mentees through commitment to professionalism, code of ethics, and beyond expectation quality. She is a role model to me and my peers and has inspired us to become better, life-long learning researchers.”

Jon Daniel Sharer

“Dr. Sharer created a collaborative atmosphere in the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory in which students were able to exchange ideas freely, observe the daily activities in the lab and see a clear transition from clinical to laboratory genetics.”

Susan Spezzini

“Her support, guidance, expert instruction, and willingness to share her experiences has endowed me with knowledge and understanding far beyond that which one person just entering their career as a professional educator would normally have.”

Günter Stolz

“It is amazing the numerous times I walked into his office frustrated and walked out with a newly found hope and enthusiasm. His enthusiasm for science is truly contagious and his undying optimism never failed to inject new hope when things seemed dire.”

Timothy Wick

“Dr. Wick always has a passion for inspiring students to do their best and reach for new heights that they would not otherwise have strived to obtain. I can say with absolute certainty that I would not be where I am today without the support and guidance of Dr. Wick, and I know this to be the case for many other students as well.”

Bradley Yoder

“Dr. Yoder expected the best from his students and post-doctoral fellows and communicated these expectations in a supportive and enthusiastic manner. This approach resulted in us striving to meet his standards of what he knew we could accomplish while also allowing us room to grow as researchers and individuals.”

20 profs presented Excellence in Mentorship Awards
SCHOLARSHIP RUN 5K/10K
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Spring WBHM Fund Drive to feature marquee guests

Public Radio WBHM 90.3 FM/WSGN 91.5 FM is pairing key business and civic leaders and community personalities as guest hosts for the station’s Spring 2012 Fund Drive. The 6 to 8 a.m. "entrepreneurial hours" will open the guest portion of the drive Monday, April 23, and the 4 to 6 p.m. "entertainment hours" will bring it to a close Friday, April 27. In between will come representatives of the legal, financial and nonprofit communities, as well as leaders in the arts, health care and athletics.

"We could not continue as an important news, entertainment and information resource for North Central Alabama without the support of our community."

“We could not continue as an important news, entertainment and information resource for North Central Alabama without the support of our community,” says Kristi Lamont Ellis, WBHM interim general manager. “We are extremely grateful that our guests recognize the value of public radio and are willing to take the time to very actively show their support in this way.”

Ellis says the station’s total goal for listener donations for the entire calendar year is $750,000. All funds raised will be used for national provider direct programming costs ($415,000) and expenses related to station-produced programming and services, including the Alabama Radio Reading Service for the blind ($335,000). General donations and donations in honor of specific guests may be made in advance and during the drive by calling 888-444-9246 or online at www.wbhm.org.

Listener support is WBHM’s chief source of funding: the station also receives significant funding from UAB, Cooperation for Public Broadcasting, various grants, business underwriting and donations of vehicles.

“We are communicating our total listener fundraising goal from the very beginning because of feedback from our members,” Ellis says. “It’s a new approach, and we hope people like it. Once we meet the goal, we won’t need to conduct another drive until the next calendar year.”

Currently, the station’s Summer 2012 Fund Drive is set for Aug. 9-10; the Fall 2012 Fund Drive is on the calendar for Oct. 16-19.

The Nursing Hours, 4-6 p.m.
Doreen Harper, dean, UAB School of Nursing
Velinda Block, chief nursing officer, UAB Hospital

Tuesday, April 24
The Medical Hours, 6-8 a.m.
Ray Watts, dean, UAB School of Medicine
Will Freniary, CEO, UAB Health System

The Financial Hours, 4-6 p.m.
Norman Berk, certified financial planner, Berk Cleveland Rathmell

Wealth Strategies LLC
Kim Lepley, chartered retirement planning counselor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Wednesday, April 25
The Nonprofit Hours, 6-8 a.m.
Ami Flores, executive director, Leadership Birmingham
John Stone, director of development, Alabama Symphony Orchestra
The Sporting Hours, 4-6 p.m.
Garrick McGee, head football coach, UAB Joe Dean Jr., athletic director, Birmingham-Southern College

Thursday, April 26
The Marketing Hours, 6-8 a.m.
Kara Kennedy, director, External Affairs, Brock School of Business, Samford University
Ed Fields, managing director, Projects Unlimited, Inc.
The Arts Hours, 4-6 p.m.
Eric Essix, jazz performing artist & artist coordinator, UAB’s Arts Stephens Center
Buddy Palmer, president & CEO, Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham

Friday, April 27
The Legal Hours, 6-8 a.m.
Sharon D Stuart, partner, Christian & Small Attorneys and Counselors
Denson N Franklin III, partner, Bradley Arant Boult Cummings
The Entertainment Hours, 4-6 p.m.
Keith Cromwell, executive director, Red Mountain Theatre Company
Alan Hunter, SiriusXM Satellite Radio host & owner, Hunter Films

Public Radio WBHM 90.3 FM, a listener-supported service of UAB’s "Your NPR News Station" and home to the Alabama Radio Reading Service, a resource for the blind and print-impaired. WBHM programming and award-winning journalization also can be heard in North Central Alabama on WSGN 91.5 FM through a partnership with Gadsden State Community College. Listen online at WBHM.org and follow the station at WBHM903 on Twitter and Facebook.

DENTISTRY

So, it’s an excellent opportunity for everyone.”

“We are thrilled that the UAB School of Dentistry is going to lead this important national research effort,” says Michael Reddy, D.M.D., D.M.Sc., dean of UAB’s School of Dentistry. “This network gives the people providing the bulk of patient care a voice in the science behind patient care.

"Through this effort we are poised to transform oral health and dental education and be a model for all health-care education. I firmly believe this will change future practice," Reddy says.

"This grant is a ringing affirmation of UAB’s continued national leadership in research and care, of our ability to secure very competitive federal research funding and of our long-term culture of collaboration that thrives on a regional and national scale," says UAB President Carol Z. Garrison.

Gilbert hopes that both general dentists and dental specialists participate actively in the research network. This will broaden the network’s perspective and allow it to investigate the role of specialized care.

Gilbert says another important aspect of this network is the participation of community practitioners at every step of the process, including as authors of journals in peer-reviewed journals and presenters at national meetings.

Dentists are an important first line of health care or prevention. Various studies during the past decade have shown evidence of heart disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and osteoporosis first can manifest in the mouth, and dentists likely are the first health-care provider to notice the changes linked to these diseases, which if treated early, can usually be prevented or successfully controlled.

“This network is different than anything they are doing on a daily basis, including the scientific basis for how they approach patient care,” Gilbert says.

In addition to Gilbert, Souia Makhlja, D.D.S., M.P.H., assistant professor in the UAB Department of General Dental Sciences, will be the national director of communications and dissemination for the project, ensuring research information reaches practices and is implemented.
Nursing’s fundraiser an investment in health care’s future

UAB students Sarah Lawrence and Yewo Chye Ng are poised to become leaders in nursing thanks in large part to the generosity of others — including the Board of Visitors (BOV) of the UAB School of Nursing who awarded them scholarships to aid in their education.

“In investing their money to help me become a nurse, these donors have given me a vote of confidence that I take very seriously,” says Lawrence, a Tuscaloosa native, a BOV scholarship recipient and an undergraduate nursing student. “I feel a commitment to each one who has ever donated a penny, and I feel a responsibility to make sure I use their investments wisely.”

“Receiving a scholarship gives a person the knowledge that there are others who appreciate what he’s doing,” says Ng, a Malaysia native, a BOV scholarship recipient and a doctoral nursing student. “I believe that by supporting nursing scholarships, donors can set off chain reactions. A person who receives a scholarship can realize the opportunity he has been given, and later this can motivate him to contribute to additional scholarships to help future nursing students.”

Lawrence, Ng and other students will be saluted and monies will be raised to help current and future students Thursday, April 26 during the School of Nursing’s Applause for the Cause: Educate a Nurse event held in the Alys Stephens Center Sirote Theatre and hosted by the BOV and presented by UAB Medicine.

Proceeds from the event will support the school’s nursing students through scholarships and financial assistance. Activities for the fundraiser will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and silent auction, followed by a 7 p.m. performance that will feature local singers, dancers, musicians — and a touch of comedy. As part of this year’s event, patrons also are invited to honor a nurse in their life with event support. These special tributes will be showcased at the event and honorees will be recognized during Nurses Week from May 6-12.

During its 20-year history, the BOV has directly raised or inspired charitable donations to the school that have made possible hundreds of scholarships for UAB nursing students.

“The School of Nursing thrives on the generosity of our community partners and inter-professional colleagues. We want to encourage the philanthropic support of nursing education,” says Doreen Harper, Ph.D., dean of the UAB School of Nursing. “This support enables the school to create nurse leaders that provide high-quality care to improve the lives of patients, families and communities.”

UAB’s School of Nursing has a reputation for producing leading nurse scientists, clinicians and educators in the field. More than 12,000 nurses have graduated from the school and have made a lasting impact on health care in Alabama and around the world. Their training enables them to participate in the latest, progressive models and gain part of their education alongside other health-related students on campus. Nursing students are educated in Alabama’s only two magnet hospitals — a recognition of quality patient care, nursing excellence and innovations in professional nursing practice.

Nursing scholarships play a pivotal role in helping to transform today’s students into tomorrow’s health-care leaders.

“With a gift to support nursing scholarships, donors are touching every patient these scholarship recipients will care for in the future, every bit of knowledge they will uncover through their research, every future nursing student they will teach and every top position these future nursing leaders might hold in any arena,” Harper says. “Everything in nursing comes back to education — a lifetime of learning — to address emerging and complex health-care needs.”

Former Miss Alabama and current UAB student Ashley Davis and motivational comedian Ed Conyers will emcee the event. Individual tickets to the event are $100, and sponsorships are available.

To attend or sponsor the event, or to honor a special nurse, call 975-8916 or visit uab.edu/sonapplause.

UAB reporter
April 16, 2012
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CAMPUS NEWS

TEACHING

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“The CTL is something I wanted to start for years — since I served on our last Quality Enhancement Plan committee,” says Doug Rigney, Ph.D., vice president for Information and Technology. “It could not have gotten off the ground without the support and collaboration of Suzanne and the provost’s office.”

Interim Faculty Director Jonathan Waugh, Ph.D., and Instructional Technology Director Ronan O’Beirne are the leaders of the Center for Teaching and Learning. Waugh will assume his role May 1. O’Beirne and his technology team began work in the center this past fall.

“It’s a partnership intended to merge support for pedagogy, design and technology use and provide a full range of faculty-support services,” O’Beirne says. “Technology is becoming more central to education, but it’s not necessarily changing information. Instructors still have to generate content that students want to learn, the technology is becoming a significant part of delivering education.

“Jonathan has been teaching a long time and has a lot of good practice behind him. I’ve taught a lot online and with technology. We’re trying to merge those two functions to enhance teaching and hopefully help create new and effective teaching practices — with or without the use of technology.”

“There will be situations in which I will work with a faculty member who has a particular need in the classroom and it won’t have anything to do with the electronic aspect of teaching,” Waugh says. “But when there is a need to infuse technology or when technology could be part of the solution, Ronan’s team will be there to support that solution.”

In his role overseeing the Teaching Enrichment Program within the School of Health Professions, Waugh worked with first-time faculty, new UAB faculty and faculty veterans.

Waugh says the center will incorporate some of the philosophies of the Harvey Brightman Master Teacher Program and will be a place for individual faculty members to learn, interact and experiment with others. They will be able to try new methods in the teaching laboratory — even in front of sample groups of students — and have access to resources that they don’t own or have access to within their school.

“We have two goals, one of which is to help new faculty integrate more quickly and have a much smoother start to their teaching career at UAB,” Waugh says. “We also want to work with seasoned faculty who want to try new things. We want to facilitate that experimentation.”

“We want to be a showcase for faculty.”

Waugh adds: “If somebody’s got an interesting teaching method, we want to show them to other faculty and let them see what they are able to do.”

O’Beirne’s instructional technology team of designers and technologists provide workshops for groups of faculty and one-on-one consultation on course design and institutionally supported learning technologies.

“My group is going into departments and assessing the hurdles or stumbling blocks in running a course, whether it be presenting content, classroom management or assessment,” O’Beirne says. “We want to know the hurdles faculty are facing and see if we can solve it with technology. If we can’t, we have Jonathan available now to lend his expertise. We have a more integrated approach to solving the problem.”

The Center for Teaching and Learning is aided by a Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), which provides a channel for collaboration, feedback and guidance between academic units and the center.

This includes guidance to Instructional Technology (related to technologies) and to Faculty/Student Success (related to pedagogy and best practices) that could be recommended for campuswide adoption in online and classroom learning environments. Specifically, the FAC will provide such feedback and guidance as it relates to:

• The instructional needs of UAB faculty and students
• Breadth of potential use and adoption by faculty
• Effectiveness (demonstrated through pilot projects, faculty experience, etc.)

• Ongoing support availability both at the school and university levels
• Funding Priority

The council includes one faculty representative from each academic unit (colleges and schools) and a representative from the UAB Faculty Senate. Other representatives, including a representative from Instructional Technology and Faculty/Student Success, may attend meetings. The council, which will meet at least quarterly, will be co-chaired by Austin and Rigney. It also may engage representatives from the larger community as needed for more specific or detailed review.

Representatives from the center and the council will work together to review certain technologies and programs that may enhance the campuswide teaching and learning environment. The FAC will review such recommendations or information and assist the CTL in determining the value and priority of adopting the technology or program for the overall learning environment.

Visit www.uab.edu/cite for more information on the center. Contact O’Beirne at ronanju@uab.edu to inquire about technology guidance. Waugh will let office hours soon before his appointment begins May 1. He can be contacted at waughj@uab.edu.
WBHM Spring Fund Drive
April 23-27

April 23 • Doreen Harper & Velinda Block • 4-6 pm
April 24 • Ray Watts & Will Ferniany • 6-8 am
April 25 • Garrick McGee • 4-6 pm
April 26 • Eric Essix • 4-6 pm

WBHM is a listener-supported service of UAB.