Benevolent Fund gives help, hope to employees, community

This year’s goal is $1.85 million, which would top 2010’s $1.7 million. “UAB employees very generously pledged $1.7 million this past year, so we’ve got an aggressive campaign for 2011,” says Lisa Higginbotham, Benevolent Fund program manager. “If there is one thing we’ve learned from previous campaigns, it’s that UAB employees can be counted on to be generous. We come from a very giving community, and I think that says a great deal about our employees.”

Record pledges have been received each of the past three years, rising from $1.63 million in 2008. The Benevolent Fund is UAB’s own system for supporting charitable health and human service agencies by providing a mechanism for employees to help those in need in the Birmingham area. Decisions regarding the solicitation and distribution of funds are made by a council of UAB employees who are elected by fellow employees to serve two-year terms or appointed by the UAB administration.

Money pledged by UAB employees supports more than 120 non-profit organizations in the Birmingham metro area, including United Way, American Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Childcare Resources, Alabama Kidney Foundation, American Heart Association, North Central Alabama chapter of Susan G. Komen, Salvation Army and YWCA to name a few.

The Benevolent Fund also supports the emergency assistance program for UAB employees. Financial awards may be made to employees who qualify under the guidelines. The program helps pay grocery bills, rent or mortgage payments, electric, gas and medical bills. Emergencies usually are related to loss and damage caused by fire, tornado or other natural disaster or a medical emergency that causes leave without pay.

Bach named 2011 Ireland award winner

Rebecca Ann Bach, Ph.D., first fell in love with the works of William Shakespeare as a sixth grader at a tiny Presbyterian grammar school in New York. She was picked to play Calpurnia in “Julius Caesar” and stood before her class robed in a purple bed sheet and let Shakespeare’s words roll off her 10-year-old tongue.

Today, Bach is an English professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, who captivates her students and colleagues with her command of 16th and 17th century literature. She has been named the recipient of the 2011 Ireland Award for Scholarly Distinction. The award dinner and lecture is April 25 in The Club Staterooms. Cocktails and dinner begin at 6 p.m. The cost is $55 per person. For reservations, call the UAB Events Office at 975-0756 or email uabevents@uab.edu by April 20.

“I was very surprised,” Bach said. “There are so many wonderful professors here; to be chosen is an honor.”

The award is presented annually to a distinguished professor who demonstrates excellence in research, teaching and service.

Matalon follows in the steps of his mentors

Sadis Matalon recently was named the next editor of the American Journal of Physiology – Lung, Cellular and Molecular Physiology. The journal is considered one of the most prestigious in its field.

“It is important to have great ideas, perform groundbreaking research and then communicate your results to the scientific community,” Matalon says. “Rigorous scientific review is important, and it ensures only the best work is being conducted in research labs at UAB and across the country.”

Matalon was named the next editor of the American Journal of Physiology in 2011.

The publish-or-perish admonition is true, says Sadis Matalon, Ph.D., the Alice McNeal Professor and vice chair for research in the School of Medicine.

“It’s a big responsibility; by choosing the best of the articles and improving articles by careful reviews, you have a huge impact on pulmonary research,” Matalon says. “The two of them, through their work, started the field of pulmonary physiology that we see now,” Matalon says.

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UAB Nutrition Obesity Research Center to fund pilot studies

UAB’s Nutrition Obesity Research Center will fund at least three nutrition-related pilot/feasibility studies for up to $25,000/year.

The studies may focus on any area of research related to nutrition or obesity and are designed to provide initial project support for new investigators, allow exploration of possible innovative new directions for established investigators that represents a significant departure from ongoing funded research, and stimulate investigators from other areas to use their expertise for nutrition/obesity research.

More information is available at www.norc.uab.edu.

BFA exhibit opens at UAB gallery

The works of six student artists graduating from the UAB Department of Art and Art History studio arts program are on display at the UAB Visual Arts Gallery through May 7.

Young musicians in Birmingham have a good reason to get excited — The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus is headed to the city for a three-day stay May 15-17. Presented by UAB and the City of Birmingham, the John Lennon Bus will visit UAB’s Alys Stephens Center, Birmingham’s new Railroad Park and Birmingham City Hall.

Youth musicians in Birmingham have a good reason to get excited — The John Lennon Educational Tour Bus is headed to the city for a three-day stay May 15-17. Presented by UAB and the City of Birmingham, the John Lennon Bus will visit UAB’s Alys Stephens Center, Birmingham’s new Railroad Park and Birmingham City Hall.

The John Lennon Bus is accepting entries for the Alabama Gospel Music Songwriting Contest through May 2, exclusively from Alabama residents and students.

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T
he Diamondback Terrapin turtle has become a passion for UAB's Thane Wibbels, Ph.D., who has studied the unique aquatic animal along with fellow marine biologist Ken Marion, Ph.D., for the past six years.

Wibbels can fire off fact after fact on the terrapin — now considered to be a protected species of the highest conservation concern — and its special relationship with Alabama.

In the late 1800s, Alabama had the world’s largest terrapin farm. It shipped 12,000 turtles a year by rail to Savannah, Ga., where they were loaded on a steam ship and sent to the northeast for Terrapin stew, a delicacy of the times.

Business was so profitable that there were instances of oil getting into the marsh areas were protected. I don’t think you saw an acute destruction of habitat. I’m hoping that Alabama weathers it well. That is going to be something for us to decipher. In Alabama there were instances of oil getting into the bay, but nothing like Louisiana, where they also have a Diamondback Terrapin population,” Wibbels says. “It was completely inundated with oil. Periodically we had oil wash ashore and up into Mobile Bay and Bayou La Batre — the mousey looking stuff — but Alabama reacted quickly enough to get the booms out that the mash areas were protected. I don’t think you saw an acute destruction of habitat. I’m hoping that Alabama weathers it well. That is going to be something for us to decipher.”

Part of the concern is the potential adverse effect on the turtles’ food chain. “If the oil that was in the water was taken up by the various animals and moved through the food chain, we need to know if that is something that could be deleterious to the turtles over time,” Wibbels says.

Wibbels, Marion and graduate students Andy Coleman and Taylor Roberge will assess reproduction in the turtles this year and compare their findings to this past year. They plan to look at the turtle eggs and see if they have any accumulations of hydrocarbons or other toxins. “We’ll learn more this spring and summer. We’ll be monitoring the nesting on the nesting beach, and we’ll be going up and down the channels to catch some of our turtles — the ones we’ve tagged,” Wibbels says. “We’ll see if they’ve grown and check their overall status compared to when we last caught them. Our goal is to assess that during the next several years. We’ll just have to wait and see what we find.”

UAB marine biologist Ken Marion and Thane Wibbels and graduate student Andy Coleman (right) will be returning to the Gulf soon along with graduate student Taylor Roberge to assess the health of the Diamondback Terrapins this year. They also will release 75 of the 150 turtles they have raised in captivity during the past two years.

A
stronauts anticipate more trips to the moon and manned missions to Mars. But exposure to cosmic radiation outside the Earth’s magnetic field could be detrimental to their arteries, according to a study by UAB researchers online in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Kucik said. “Anything we learn through such space missions of long duration, Kabarowski said. “Our future research will look at the mechanisms causing the damage, and we will try to find a way to target those mechanisms to correct the damage or prevent it altogether.”

Kucik said the team’s findings may inform cancer treatment. Newer proton radiation therapies can be targeted to stop and deposit all of their energy in a tumor, much like iron ions from space stop in the body. “No one knows the atherosclerotic risk of this therapy,” Kucik said. “Anything we learn through these studies on deep-space travel will be useful for cancer patients.”

Kucik and Kabarowski’s research was supported by a grant from the National Space Biomedical Research Institute through NASA.

SPecIAL to the UAB Reporter

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Twenty-two UAB professors from 16 departments are recipients of the 2011 Graduate Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship.

The award, now in its fourth 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 and creator of the award. “This award recognizes faculty members who have been outstanding mentors, advisors 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, postdoctoral fellows and other trainees to realize their career goals.”

These recipients were honored in a ceremony April 11:

Michael Brooks, Ph.D., associate professor of human studies; Steven Carroll, M.D., Ph.D., professor and director of the Division of Neuropathology; Nikolai Chernov, Ph.D., professor of mathematics; Joel K. Cherrington, D.D.S., professor and chair of Pediatric Dentistry; Lourecenia Collins, Ed.D., associate professor of human studies; John Heith Copes, Ph.D., associate professor of justice sciences; Terje Dokland, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology; Robert Fischer, Ph.D., professor and chair of biology; Roderick Fullard, O.D., Ph.D., associate professor of vision sciences; W. Timothy Garvey, M.D., professor and director of the Division of Endocrinology; Linda Serra, Ph.D., professor of health care organization and policy; Linda Moneyham, Ph.D., Rachel Z. Booth Endowed Chair and professor of nursing; Tim R. Nagy, Ph.D., professor of nutrition sciences; Linda Scavely, Ph.D., assistant professor of human studies; Rosa Serra, Ph.D., professor of cell biology; John Van Sant, Ph.D., associate professor of history and anthropology; Rosalyn Weller, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology; and Nongnun Yi, Ph.D., associate professor of biostatistics.

Honorees received an engraved plaque and a bound volume that contains the nomination letters written on their behalf. For faculty to be selected, at least five letters of nomination had to be submitted. The nominators 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 five 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:

Michael Brooks

“Dr. Brooks has always led from the front. He successfully works to correct existing societal problems on campus and within the greater community. This is exemplified through his work with African-American male students at UAB. He helped develop the Blazer Male Excellence Network mentoring program to create a formal class where at-risk African-American males could receive the fundamentals necessary for success in college. His service to the community is not an act of fleeting support, but one that values the commitment to excellence in mentorship that is exhibited by our faculty.”

Steven Carroll

“Dr. Carroll exerts effective leadership at all levels of the Division of Neuropathology, of which he is the director. It encompasses everything from teaching and mentoring

of neuropathology fellows and pathology residents and rotating residents from the Division of Neurosurgery and Department of Neurology. He teaches by precept and example, using a scientist/practitioner model. As such, he continually demonstrates the intellectual and moral qualities necessary for the success of our healing endeavors.”

Nikolai Chernov

“I graduated in December 1999 as a doctor in mathematics under the guidance of Professor Chernov, and I am currently a staff scientist at the Joint Center for Structural Genomics at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. Professor Chernov is widely regarded as a leading scholar in ergodic theory and dynamical systems. He carefully balanced guidance and self-discovery, enabling me to pursue my research independently. I benefit from his training every day in my career through a commitment to continuous learning and professional development.”

Noel Cherrington

“Dr. Cherrington began serving as my mentor when I was a first-year resident of pediatric dentistry in 2005. Dr. Cherrington has always been a good listener and gave me his advice to help me achieve my goal. He may not be the mentor who babysits the students all the time; however, he provides students with the resources needed and guides them to the right direction. While I was a graduate student, learning to be independent but still needing someone to give me guidance, the way Dr. Cherrington mentored was extremely helpful.”

Lourecenia Collins

“I love how Dr. Collins ‘keeps it real’ with her students. She is very straightforward. I truly admire and respect her because she is passionate about education. Dr. Collins possesses a plethora of knowledge pertaining to education. She enjoys people, teaching and traveling. I appreciate how she has taken me under her wing. We talk extensively about the importance of African-American women being in leadership positions. One of the most touching things Dr. Collins told me was that I was going places, and she was going to do all that she could to assist me in getting to those places. Talk about a selfless individual.”

Heith Copes

“Dr. Copes continually challenged me during the research and writing of my thesis. This guidance was an extension of his teaching methods. He always prompted his classes to consider issues from new perspectives and often asked very penetrating and important questions. He chose to take on difficult topics and handled them well. His assignments provoked thought, demanded a certain level of excellence and allowed for independent research, yet remained exciting and fun topics. Dr. Copes is passionate about criminal justice and the academic and personal progress of his students.”

Terje Dokland

“Dr. Dokland’s lab members are generally happy and feel respected, and, as a result, are very productive. Regular, casual conversations with his lab of science or nothingness around the daily coffee or snacks allows for the creation of a relaxed environment where students and researchers may flourish. I have already benefited greatly from my relationship with Dr. Dokland and only see the advantages of such a relationship growing as I move forward in my career.”

Robert (Bud) Fischer

“With his positive and encouraging attitude, Bud has the unique ability to motivate students to work very hard without pressuring them too much, a quality that all advisors and mentors should aspire to. He creates an atmosphere among the graduate students that makes them want to succeed in their research and inspires them to truly be interested in what they are doing. He is passionate about asking good questions in science and encourages others around him to do the same.”

Roderick Fullard

“From the first day I walked into his lab, Dr. Fullard has been a tremendous asset, helping me to grow as a researcher and prospective optometrist. As an undergraduate student new to research, he taught me the combination of basic science concepts and clinical skills necessary for both research and optometry school. Through Dr. Fullard’s guidance, I gained confidence to accomplish and present my research at the UAB Expo. Throughout my time in his lab, Dr. Fullard has placed me in every role possible to mold me into a well-rounded researcher and has continually thought of new opportunities to enhance my learning.”

Timothy Garvey

“Dr. Garvey has the rare ability to create a collaborative work environment with extreme integrity, ethics and professionalism, which is translated into his high quality of work. He is a role model and a key opinion leader for a life-long commitment in scientific research. Dr. Garvey’s dedication to his students, fellows and team players and the passion and excitement he demonstrates for new knowledge and discovery, has fulfilled all that I have hoped to get from my professor. I know that his support will be available to me in any shape or form as it always has been.”
Barbara Gower
“Dr. Gower has taught me to long for the endless immensity of science. Her passion for rigorous scientific research is contagious and it motivates all of us to do our best work. Dr. Gower’s guidance has helped me establish a solid foundation for my own career path as a research scientist, and her mentorship is instilling me with skills and confidence to pursue my goals. When I began my doctoral program, someone advised me to ‘select a mentor who you want to become like’—because you will. Dr. Gower exemplifies many qualities I wish to emulate. She models high standards in her own research, encourages excellent work from her students, and she always treats people with respect.”

Amjad Javeed
“Dr. Javeed has the attitude and the substance of a genius. He continually and convincingly conveyed a spirit of adventure in regard to research and an excitement in regard to teaching. Without his guidance and persistent help, this dissertation would not have been possible. He gave me assistance and advice and kept me motivated to complete my degree on time. As a person he is kind and was available to a great extent to offer support for my research studies and my career. I can say with pride that I selected one of the best mentors for my study.”

Julie Locher
“Through Dr. Locher’s team meetings, I have learned the importance of collaboration and open communica- tion. She fosters an environment of respect, and as a result, each team member feels valued and free to express concerns and questions. Dr. Locher embodies a unique ability to confront without being confrontational. Her approach challenges presuppositions and reminds me of Steven Covey’s advice to ‘seek first to understand, then to be understood.’ Dr. Locher’s guidance helped me develop a strong knowledge base of the topic, and her advocacy gave me confidence to formulate a dissertation proposal that was supported by my committee and funded by the NIH.”

Lori McMahon
“As a student, Dr. McMahon’s infectious enthusiasm for her lab’s work was a significant motivating factor. No matter what obstacles arose, she remained fully optimis- tic, always confident in our ability to work as a team to solve problems. This was really inspiring during the dis- couraging times that inevitably occur during the course of a graduate student’s research, and her encouragement got me moving again on numerous occasions. In particu- lar, I’m grateful for the great patience and care she took in working individually with students to foster presenta- tion and public speaking skills. She greatly enriched my educational experience and scientific understanding and also served as a role model for life outside of the labora- tory.”

Nir Menachemi
“Dr. Menachemi has a special way of focusing on the truly key aspects of a subject and can communicate in a way that is easy for the students to gain the same under- standing. He is always willing to spend extra time with students to explain and discuss issues. Many times, I have met with him outside of class to get extra help, and he demonstrated an uncanny ability to understand where I was having trouble and explain things in a way that made the light bulbs pop on. I returned to school after a successful 32-year career, and Dr. Menachemi’s ability to clearly see the truth of an issue and communicate it clearly to bring understanding is very, very special.”

Linda Moneymah
“Dr. Moneymah marks a point to meet regularly with all of her mentees to discuss their career progress and research and has maintained an open door policy for students and colleagues while somehow still managing her own successful research endeavors. Beyond this, I have been most impressed by Dr. Moneymah’s true desire to see her students excel in their early academic careers. She has spent the past year assisting me with project development and grant preparations for my own NIH independence award funding. This assistance has been through intensive, one-on-one meetings in which every aspect of the project conception has been dis- cussed. I credit her assistance with this process as one of the primary reasons this project was chosen as one of two allowed for submission from UAB to the NIH grant mechanism.”

Tim Nagy
“While transitioning through a number of differ- ent projects, I had Dr. Nagy’s support, guidance and a number of great collaborators whom he helped coordinate. I am thankful to him for enabling and encouraging me to work with a range of collaborators from various departments — pathology, cell biology, pharmacology and toxicology, epidemiology, preventive medicine, radiology and the Breast Health Clinic. With his encouragement, I have broadened my educational achievements by taking a number of elective courses. The skills I learned from the courses helped me draft my proposal on soy and breast-cancer prevention, which later was funded by the Sigma Delta Epsilon/Graduate Women in Science Foundation.”

Linda Searby
“Dr. Searby has been instrumental in my entire experi- ence as a graduate student at UAB. She possesses the rare ability to inspire stu- dents to pursue their pas- sions through the realization of research and scholarly publication, while at the same time providing the academic, emotional and cognitive support neces- sary to mentor students. Dr. Searby has enthusiastically upheld a high profes- sional ethic with stu- dents. Her commitment to positive character is above reproach. On many occasions, Dr. Searby has been willing to listen and provide guidance on mul- tiple career opportunities. On each occasion, her guidance has been both beneficial and extremely astute.”

Rosa Serra
“I truly believe that I would not be where I am today without Rosa’s mentor- ing. I was fortunate to obtain first-author publica- tions in Rosa’s laboratory, and I could not have suc- ceeded in these accomplishments without her direction and guidance. Rosa always exhibited an enthusiasm for research and a commitment to individual development, foster- ing both a productive and inviting work environment. She constantly held the best interest of her students in mind. While scientific research is sometimes unpredict- able, Rosa’s approachable nature provided me with a sense of reassurance and direction throughout the course of my training. Her example as a scientist, men- tor and teacher has given me a continued enthusiasm and appreciation for what I do now as a postdoctoral fellow.”

John Van Sant
“Dr. Van Sant is always willing to go above and beyond to assist students. I have never found him to be too busy to speak with or assist anyone. I highly respect Dr. Van Sant’s attitude and work ethic. He continuously displays great integrity, professionalism and kindness. On a daily basis, he offers a laugh and words of inspi- ration to many students and co-workers. In addition, to all of the help he provides, Dr. Van Sant still finds time to produce amazing work of his own and develop fascinating classes. He never once discouraged me from pursuing my passions. Instead, he encouraged me to continue and inspires me to accept any new challenges. Honestly, I hope I can provide this kindness to my own students.”

Rosalyn Weller
“Dr. Weller is an insightful and prompt editor whose insights are valued by many students and faculty. Beyond that, she will spend as much time as needed to explain and discuss her corrections and revisions. She has patiently guided many students, including me, through the difficult process of editing and revising our initial papers, proposals and posters. Dr. Weller also has immense honesty and integrity. Her standards are of the highest caliber, and she expects that in others, too. She teaches me by example, and she has shown me in many ways that integrity and honesty are the cardinal values of any true scientist. My life honesty would not be the same if I had not met her.”

April 18, 2011 UAB Reporter 5
Professor of English Rebecca Ann Bach is this year’s recipient of the Ireland Award for Scholarly Distinction. Bach’s inventive teaching methods and topics have resonated with students, her admirers say. She often gets letters and emails from those who say she opened up new ways of thinking and learning for them.

“Dr. Bach offers a picture of the ideal scholar/teacher. She is a deeply engaged writer and thinker, and this commitment to her research animates her teaching.”

— Alison Chapman, Ph.D.

Making the grade

Bach goes beyond the much-taught surface lessons on characters and context. She explores the provocative topic beneath the lines of iambic pentameter such as sexuality and race.

When Bach thinks that she is in a semi-circle because “I like to foster conversation,” she said. “I love getting my students to fall in love with Shakespeare.”

She has penned many articles addressing these issues and been published in some of the top journals in her field, sparking conversations in classrooms and among colleagues across the country.

In Bach’s classroom, students sit in a semi-circle because “I like to foster conversation,” she said. “I love getting my students to fall in love with Shakespeare.”

Bach moved into the administrative side of social work to use her math background, she says. She’s not afraid of statistics or numbers and enjoys tracking data and preparing reports to present to community leaders.

Benevolent Fund

CONTINUED from page 1

Nearly $280,000 was given to employees in crisis in 2009 and 2010.

Higginbotham has been the coordinator of the Employee Emergency Assistance Program for the past seven years and presents all employee cases anonymously to the council of UAB employees. She says 172 employees received assistance in 2010, and 80 percent of those who had their case presented were approved.

“Roughly 80 percent of the employees who are awarded assistance are off work for medical reasons,” Higginbotham says. “I just felt drawn to helping people.”

Higginbotham has worked in child-abuse prevention and early childhood education. And when the opportunity presented itself to work with the Employee Emergency Assistance Program, she jumped at the chance.

“The thing I like about having all the employees who are sick.”

Employees also are allowed to designate up to three agencies they would like to receive their gift.

Benevolent Fund chili cook-off set

CONTINUED from page 1

Shakespeare like an artisan. Bach was enamored with Shakespeare’s plays, and her professional destiny became entwined with the wordsmith’s.

While plotting her career path, Bach at first wondered if there was anything new she could teach about Shakespeare. Then, she read the 18th and 19th century adaptations of his works and noticed how editors excised them from the original text.

“That fascinated me,” she said and began looking at the difference between Shakespeare’s use of sexuality and the treatment of it today. That has shaped her lesson plans and writings. In 2007, Bach wrote the book Shakespeare and Renaissance Literature Before Homosexuality.

This past year, she co-edited a collection of essays in homage to her college professor called Feminisms and Early Modern Texts: Essays for Phyllis Rackin. Now Bach is working on a book that explores animals in Shakespeare’s texts.

Bach’s inventive teaching methods and topics have resonated with students, her admirers say. She gets letters and emails from those who say she opened up new ways of thinking and learning for them. When Bach thinks that she is in some way following in the footsteps of Rackin, her college professor, she smiles. “I would like to think so,” she said. “That would be wonderful.”

“The thing I like about having all the options to give is that every employee can become a part of the Benevolent Fund and offer help to those in need,” Higginbotham says. “I know the amount I give is not enough to pay somebody’s mortgage or keep their utilities on. But my donation with your donation and someone else’s donation can make a big difference to an employee in need or a young family who may have a child who is sick.”

For more information, visit www.uab.edu/benefund, call 934-1581 or email benevolentfund@uab.edu.
continuing

tries to use her role in the department as an example for others. “I want to represent myself and the school well and be a positive example for my children,” she says of Jayda, 10, and Javon, 9.

Bailey’s primary role is to assist Associate Dean Karen Menees, Ph.D., and support CNR activities, including 17 active research and training grants. She is the go-to person for a variety of CNR activities, large and small. For example, Bailey coordinates CNR scheduling, communicates with faculty, staff and service personnel, orders software and products needed and contributes to the SON’s efforts to raise money for the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. “During our event for Race for the Cure, I encourage everyone to wear pink and give donations to fight this horrible disease,” she says. “Having family and friends who have had this awful disease, it’s important to me to help in the support of finding a cure.” Because she embraces so many different roles within CNR, every day is a new day, something Bailey says she enjoys. And her love for helping others? She says it comes from her mother Catherine. “She’s always trying to help someone,” she says. “From that, I see how her life has been blessed. I want to do the right thing by treating everyone with respect.”

Co-workers say Bailey’s character shines through in her interactions with others. “I know Ms. Bailey to be a person of integrity and high moral standards,” says Yvonne Eaves, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing. “She has a quiet demeanor and often works behind the scenes preferring to let her words and actions speak for her, and this does not diminish the recognition that her performance deserves. However, I cannot think of anyone in the school more deserving and qualified for Employee of the Month recognition.”

Bailey says she enjoys her job and the people she works with immensely. She loves that everyone works with one goal in mind: “To make the school the best it can possibly be.” It’s a great, uplifting environment,” Bailey says. We strive to work together to accomplish the mission of the school, and we all pull in the same direction so we can be successful in completing that mission.”

Bailey is a positive role model in the School of Nursing

Chris Atkinson met Angel Bailey eight years ago under hectic circumstances.

Atkinson, now an information systems specialist in Infrastructure Services, had been employed at UAB as a computer technician for two weeks when a virus hit campus machines. Atkinson was running through the School of Nursing to find computers to install the patch each one needed.

“I was in a total panic due to the gravity of the situation, and it didn’t help that I didn’t know where all the computers were.” Atkinson says. “This was the first time Angel came to my rescue. She eagerly pointed me to every computer on her floor and unlocked the doors so that I could get to them. I become a fan of Angel that day.”

Bailey has made a habit of endearing people to her during her 12 years at UAB — I’ll of those as administrative associate in the Center for Nursing Research (CNR) in the School of Nursing. Her kindness, willingness to help others and tremendous work ethic are a few of the reasons she has been named April’s Employee of the Month.

CNR Program Manager Lauren Antia has worked with Bailey for more than 11 years and says she always has displayed the attributes of an excellent employee: professionalism, efficiency and courtesy.

“I was immediately impressed by her warmth, intelligence, ability to communicate and eagerness to improve processes,” Antia says. “Angel has been promoted into positions with increasingly higher responsibility through the years and always has performed with excellence.”

Antia describes Bailey as “a woman who is in perpetual motion and activity. “Need a huge file cabinet moved? A room organized? The printer, fax machine, shredder, door, floor or computer fixed? A requisition processed through Oracle? Kind words and encouragement? A hug? The answer is Angel.”

Bailey says she enjoys staying busy and tries to use her role in the department as an example for others. “I want to represent myself and the school well and be a positive example for my children,” she says of Jayda, 10, and Javon, 9.

Bailey’s primary role is to assist Associate Dean Karen Menees, Ph.D., and support CNR activities, including 17 active research and training grants. She is the go-to person for a variety of CNR activities, large and small. For example, Bailey coordinates CNR scheduling, communicates with faculty, staff and service personnel, orders software and products needed and contributes to the SON’s efforts to raise money for the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

“During our event for Race for the Cure, I encourage everyone to wear pink and give donations to fight this horrible disease,” she says. “Having family and friends who have had this awful disease, it’s important to me to help in the support of finding a cure.” Because she embraces so many different roles within CNR, every day is a new day, something Bailey says she enjoys. And her love for helping others? She says it comes from her mother Catherine. “She’s always trying to help someone,” she says. “From that, I see how her life has been blessed. I want to do the right thing by treating everyone with respect.”

Co-workers say Bailey’s character shines through in her interactions with others. “I know Ms. Bailey to be a person of integrity and high moral standards,” says Yvonne Eaves, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing. “She has a quiet demeanor and often works behind the scenes preferring to let her words and actions speak for her, and this does not diminish the recognition that her performance deserves. However, I cannot think of anyone in the school more deserving and qualified for Employee of the Month recognition.”

Bailey says she enjoys her job and the people she works with immensely. She loves that everyone works with one goal in mind: “To make the school the best it can possibly be.” It’s a great, uplifting environment,” Bailey says. We strive to work together to accomplish the mission of the school, and we all pull in the same direction so we can be successful in completing that mission.”