UAB caregivers lend a helping hand to Haiti, plan to return

UAB nephrologist Zipporah Krishnasami, M.D., is a veteran mission worker, having taken several trips to Africa to aid those in need. But she didn’t know what to expect when she went to Haiti in March to work in a Port-Au-Prince hospital some eight weeks after a catastrophic 7.0 magnitude earthquake wreaked havoc on the tiny Caribbean country. She saw total devastation of a nation and many people without hope.

“When I came back, I called my sister and when she asked me how it was, I just started bawling,” says Krishnasami, who traveled with a team from Loma Linda University. “You hold up all of these emotions while you’re there because you do what you have to do. It’s a lot like you do in the hospital here.”

Krishnasami is one of several UAB caregivers to make the trip to Haiti since the earthquake struck, killing an estimated 225,000 people, injuring another 75,000 people and leaving what the Haitian government estimates is 1 million people homeless.

Krishnasami spoke of her experience along with nephrologist Suzanne Bergman, M.D., physical therapist Mary Jane Wells and CICU nurse Lawana Sally at a recent Department of Social Services event, www.alumni.uab.edu to register.

Campus Rec implements new patron-friendly policies

The Campus Rec Center is asking for employee feedback on the facility. Visit www.uab.edu/campusreccenter and complete a short survey by 5 p.m. Friday, April 23. Those who participate will receive a free visit to the facility and an opportunity to win one of 10 free three-month memberships.

An easier transportation alternative, earlier opening times and flexible joining options are among the many new patron-friendly policies introduced by the Campus Recreation Center.

The changes come after a thorough review of polices by Campus Rec staff that began this past summer and from recommendations made by members and non-members, says Jeff Corley, associate director of the facility.

“We wanted to know if there were some adjustments we could make to make the Rec Center more available and appealing to our employees,” Corley says. One of the changes earlier this year enabled employees to use Campus Ride to get to the facility during work hours.

The positive feedback to this new policy has been tremendous, says Jennifer Babl, assistant director of marketing with the Campus Rec Center. “A lack of parking at the facility was probably our No. 1 complaint from employees,” Babl says. “Now, employees can get a lift to the Rec Center for a workout during the day without the hardship of driving and parking. It’s been a hit so far; the drivers tell me that they’ve been dropping people off all day.”

More than 3,200 people are members of the center, not including UAB students. Other changes include:

- Sign a 12-month contract ($360) before April 30 and get an additional three months free. 
- Sign a three-month contract ($120) and employees have the option of going month-to-month after that ($40 per month for employees, $30 per month for employee family member).
- Extended hours for dependent usage, employee family member).
- Sign a 12-month contract ($360) before April 30 and get an additional three months free.
- Sign a three-month contract ($120) and employees have the option of going month-to-month after that ($40 per month for employees, $30 per month for employee family member).
- Extended hours for dependent usage,
- Early opening times,
- Flexible joining options,
- New parking options.

Together, Mary Lynne and Eli Capilouto, who have worked at UAB for a combined 60 years, realize the work is all about the students. They are the honorary chairs for the NAS Dollars for Scholars event to be held April 30.

Capiloutos helping to raise more Dollars for Scholars

Eli and Mary Lynne Capilouto have given a combined 60 years of service to UAB. Eli was the dean of the School of Public Health, and Mary Lynne is a former dean of the School of Dentistry. Both have been professors — a position Mary Lynne still holds today — and Eli is university provost. Both are lifetime members of the National Alumni Society (NAS).

So when the NAS asked them to be honorary chairs of this year’s Dollars For Scholars race, the Capiloutos were only too happy to oblige.

The event, a 5K/10K that raises money to fund scholarship programs, will be held Friday, April 30 in the Pepper Place district in downtown Birmingham. Race day registration begins at 4 p.m.; the race begins at 6 p.m. The registration fee is $30 through April 27 or $35 on the day of the race. Visit www.alumni.uab.edu to register.
Got questions about grief? Get answers at April 28 seminar

The UAB Resource Center Employee Assistance Program will offer a luncheon seminar on grief and how to deal with it from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 28 in the West Pavilion Conference Center Board Room.

Grief is the normal response to loss, including death of a loved one or close colleague, job loss, relationship loss, loss of home, diagnosis of a life-threatening disease and other more private losses including divorce or experiencing a miscarriage. Grief can impact the workplace in areas from morale and working relationships to impaired judgment or decreased productivity.

What is normal when you’re grieving? How do you help a grieving colleague? Learn the answer to these and many other questions at this luncheon seminar.

Participants may bring a lunch to this presentation. Space is limited. Call 934-2281 to register or visit www.uab.edu/rcep to learn more.

Supplier Diversity to host trade show

The UAB Department of Supplier Diversity will present a mini-trade show, “Making Business Opportunities Happen,” from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 27 in the UAB Hospital North Pavilion Artrium. The event is free. UAB department managers, supervisors, buyers and the general public are invited to attend.

For more information, visit the UAB Department of Supplier Diversity Web site at www.msordiv.uab.edu.

Student Alumni to hold school-supply drive for Haitians

Help the UAB Student Alumni Society collect school supplies to send to Haitian school children, who even before the earthquake had to share items such as pencils and paper due to limited funding and supplies.

Please donate items before May 7 by placing them in a collection boxes. Boxes are located in all five residence hall lobbies, the Administration Building, School of Education, Campbell Hall, School of Nursing, Heritage Hall, Arts & Humanities Building, School of Business, School of Health Professions, Sterne Library, HUC 136 and the Alumni Affairs Office.

For more information, please contact Hillary Carnel at hpcarnel@uab.edu.

Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition open through May 1

This annual exhibition in the UAB Visual Arts Gallery will feature works by UAB students graduating with a bachelor of fine arts degree. Artists include Stephanie Shiver, Noel Harrison, Natale Smith, Chad Johnson, Kathy Baty, Leah Shrestha and Jonathan Hicks.

Professional schools again ranked among nation’s best

The UAB programs in health administration and AIDS remain among the nation’s Top 10 graduate programs, and its School of Medicine rankings in both primary care and research have risen in the 2011 edition of “America’s Best Graduate Schools,” available online at www.usnews.com/store and featured in the May U.S. News & World Report magazine, on newstands April 27.

According to rankings released April 15, the School of Medicine primary-care program rose to No. 23, up from No. 34 a year ago. The research ranking rose to No. 26, up from No. 29 the previous year.

The AIDS program in the School of Medicine is ranked No. 9. The School of Health Professions master’s degree program in Health Administration remains No. 7 in the nation. That ranking was last updated in 2007.

The doctoral program in biological sciences remains at No. 34 in rankings performed this past year, and the master’s program in the School of Nursing is ranked No. 26, in rankings last compiled in 2007.

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.

Brain development experts to present latest research at UAB April 22

UAB will host experts in child-brain development and neurodevelopmental disorders during the 2010 Neurodevelopment/Simpson-Ramsey Symposium Thursday, April 22 from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the UAB Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium. The symposium is free.

The fee for continuing-education certificates is $25. A complete list of speakers, the conference agenda and registration is online at www.uab.edu/cne. For more details, contact Rita Cowell at rcowell@uab.edu.

Program can help you ‘Manage Finances in Difficult Times’

Learn to improve the management of your basic finances for today and the future at the UAB Resource Center lunchtime seminar “Managing Finances in Difficult Times” from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 21 in the Smith Education Center on the third floor of the Callahan Eye Foundation.

Speaker Rick Coleman, a financial officer in UAB Human Resources, will focus on the foundations of establishing a solid platform of personal financial knowledge to build upon for the rest of your life. Space is limited. Call 934-2281 to register or visit www.uab.edu/rcep to learn more.
The earlier operating hours also enable the days and the summer. “We think this will be Saturday and Sunday. Children also are to 9 p.m. Friday and all hours of operation Dependent hours also were extended as children are present as a free service. staff member supervises the room when a DVD player for movies and games. One to do homework and another smaller desk their parents’ supervision and children 2 all ages can have access to the facility with policy wasn’t as family-friendly as it needed many families with one child that was the problem,” Prentice says. “We had our previous age limit of 4, which created “Many of our families that come in on the weekend had children younger than our previous age limit of 4, which created some problems,” Prentice says. “We had many families with one child that was the right age but had younger siblings that we couldn’t accommodate. We thought that policy wasn’t as family-friendly as it needed to be, so we changed it so that children of all ages can have access to the facility with their parents’ supervision and children 2 and older can have access to the KidsZone.” The KidsZone features a desk for children to do homework and another smaller desk for younger children to color. It also has a DVD player for movies and games. One staff member supervises the room when children are present as a free service.

Dependent hours also were extended as part of the policy change. They are now 3 to 9 p.m. Friday and all hours of operation Saturday and Sunday. Children also are allowed access to the facility during holi- days and the summer. “We think this will be a great way to get more kids involved in our facility at an early age,” Corley says. The earlier operating hours also enable the facility to better serve employees, Corley says.

largely by request of hospi- tial employees who said they would be more inclined to use the facility if it opened earlier. “Many of their shifts start at 7 a.m., and when we opened at 5:30 a.m., their feedback was that it wasn’t enough time for them to get a workout in, get a shower and get to their workstation,” Corley says. “They said opening up a half-hour earlier would make a big difference. We’ve only been doing it since April 1, but we’re start- ing to see a number of people come in at 5 a.m. We expect that it will increase as more people know about it. For more information, visit www.uab.edu/ campusrec or call 996-5038.

The Campus Rec Center has gone to great lengths to accommodate its mem- bers and their families. An extended-hours policy has been implemented as well as a KidsZone, a free, on-site place for children 2 and older to go while their parents make use of the facility’s top-of-the-line workout equipment.

Stacey Prentice

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Tino Unlap (far right) talks to his mentees who nominated him for The Graduate School Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentorship and friend Jack Parker (second from right) of Campus Ministry. The award, now in its third year, honored 22 faculty to demonstrate that UAB is a university that values the commitment to excellence in mentorship. The recipients were honored in an April 12 ceremony.

Twenty-two UAB professors from 17 departments are recipients of the 2010 Graduate Dean’s Award for Excellence in Mentorship. The award, now in its third 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 Noel, 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,” Noel 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 12:

David Chaplin, M.D., Ph.D., chair of Microbiology; Sheila Cotten, Ph.D., associate professor, Sociology & Social Work; Jose Fernandez, Ph.D., associate professor, Nutrition Sciences; Frank Franklin, M.D., Ph.D., professor, Health Behavior; Nataliya Ivankova, Ph.D., associate professor, Human Studies; Pauline Jolly, Ph.D., professor, Epidemiology; Ho-Wook Jun, Ph.D., assistant professor, Biomedical Engineering; John Kearney, Ph.D., professor, Microbiology; Connie Kohler, Ph.D., associate professor, Health Behavior; Claudia Lungu, Ph.D., assistant professor, Environmental Health Sciences; Raymond Mohl, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, History & Anthropology; Michael Mugavero, M.D., associate professor, Infectious Diseases; Kent Oestenstad, Ph.D., associate professor, Environmental Health Sciences; Sarah Parack, Ph.D., assistant professor, History & Anthropology; David Roth, Ph.D., professor, Biostatistics; Virginia Stoeppler, Ph.D., associate professor, Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering; Harald Sontheimer, Ph.D., professor, Neurobiology; Hemant Tiwari, Ph.D., associate professor, Biostatistics; Tino Unlap, Ph.D., associate professor, Clinical & Diagnostic Sciences; David Vance, Ph.D., associate professor, Family/Child Health & Caregiving; Pete Walsh, Ph.D., research professor, Mechanical Engineering; Thane Wibbels, Ph.D., professor, Biology.

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 recommendation had to be submitted on their behalf. The nominators were asked to consider personal characteristics, excellence in teaching and communication and mentoring characteristics in considering whom to nominate and defend 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.

Here are some excerpts from the nomination letters on the faculty being recognized:

David Chaplin
David was everything a graduate student could hope for in a mentor. He worked side by side with me demonstrating techniques at the bench. He taught me to critically evaluate both my field and my own results, and he instilled in me ethical and professional values that carried me through my training and have guided me through my career.

Sheila Cotten
Dr. Cotten was very interested in helping others develop their potential and follow their passions in research and education. She is truly excited about her work, a person who exhibits positive qualities and character that is carried over into her students and trainees.

Jose Fernandez
Jose’s leadership and mentoring abilities are not limited to that which he provides our research team, but also to the many students and post docs he has helped with organizations, including MongoDB and the Diversity Mentoring Committee he founded in The Obesity Society, an international organization. Jose’s open-door policy welcomes and enables daily interaction and fosters independence.

Frank Franklin
“Despite his busy schedule, Dr. Franklin always took time each week to patiently review my work, offer high-quality suggestions for improvement and keep me informed about publications, seminars or conferences that were congruent with my public health interests. He always has shown a keen interest in my development into a skilled but ethical professional and a well-balanced human being. 

Nataliya Ivankova
“Dr. Ivankova assisted me in the implementation of my pilot study and supervised the preparation of my doctoral prospectus. She managed this guidance using an effective balance of distance learning and face to face interaction, and she always was available for questions and support — even when she was working in another country. Her requirements were rigorous and challenging, and she raised the stakes with each new assignment, but these increased expectations always were backed with practical examples and encouragement.”

Pauline Jolly
“Dr. Jolly has worn many hats in her relationship with me. She has been to me a mentor, friend, mother, colleague, teacher, employer and role model. In all of these roles, she demonstrated a genuine interest in my academic, professional and personal growth. I am very fortunate to have crossed paths with Dr. Jolly.”

Ho-Wook Jun
“I had a hard time adjusting to life in the United States since this was the first time I was outside of my own country. My biggest problem was my inability to communicate effectively with others in English. Dr. Jun always encouraged me with his own experiences and eventual success as an international student. These conversations have helped me rise out of a feeling of despair and get motivated to improve myself, both as an English speaker and as a scientist.”

John Kearney
“The beginning of my postdoc training with John was without a doubt a shock to the system. John forced me to think on my own and to come up with ideas for projects and interesting ideas/observations. He patiently waited and helped me evaluate all of the ideas — both the good and bad. Consequently I have become a much more independent thinker, a stronger scientist, and a more prepared postdoc to handle the pressure of starting my own research lab.”

Connie Kohler
“Dr. Kohler is truly a caring and inspiring mentor. She takes the necessary time to get to know each student personally so she can better understand the needs and goals of each individual. By doing so, she helps craft an academic experience specifically for each student.”

Claudia Lungu
“Dr. Lunga gave me the liberty to conduct and develop laboratory techniques in such a way that suited my style, strengths and schedule while keeping me directed toward our initial research objective and timeline. Dr. Lunga also hosts a weekly meeting for all of his students conducting research and welcomes students not in his group that need guidance in his areas of expertise.”

Raymond Mohl
“Dr. Mohl consistently encouraged me to purse a Ph.D. in African History. He met with me about various African history programs and helped me make my final selection of schools. He collected articles, books, book reviews and newspaper clippings and gave them to me so I could start a filing system on every country in Africa to help me once I get into a program. He also designed a directed reading course for me on the African Diaspora so I would have an African history course under my belt when I applied for further graduate study.”

Michael Mugavero
“Dr. Mugavero has been an incredible mentor. He has perfectly blended hands-on teaching and training with the giving of responsibility and autonomy to his mentees. Through very calculated guidance he helped me become a competent, albeit immature, clinical investigator — one who can both ask for help and work with a team and plan ahead, take initiative and spearhead a project and follow it to its completion.”

Kent Oestenstad
“Dr. Oestenstad encouraged his students to think beyond the presented material and encouraged them when they failed to immediately grasp the concepts. He demonstrated a strong resolve to have his students rise to the challenges of their studies and gave them words of encouragement when they stumbled. There are professors, mentors and there are educators. Very few college professors rise to the challenge of all three, but Dr. Oestenstad embodies them all.”
Sarah Parcak
“Meeting Dr. Parcak was a turning point in my graduate career. It is not rare for students to change their graduate research topics in order to incorporate the skills that Dr. Parcak has shared through her courses. I am one of those students. She has honored me by being part of my graduate committee. As a researcher, she has taught me the value of critiquing published work and the art of creative thinking to solve unforeseen problems.”

David Roth
“Dr. Roth’s achievements make him a great scholar, but it is his belief in his trainees that makes him a great mentor. Times when I do not have enough confidence in my own capabilities, Dr. Roth steps up to remind me of what I have done and what I can do. He is concerned about me as a person, at times asking me about my life outside of UAB and showing interest in what makes me who I am.”

Virginia Sisioipiku
“In our first conversation, Dr. Sisioipiku paid great attention to what areas I was interested in and the goals I had in my mind and expressed her intention of full support. Together in the following days, we came up with a plan, which we believed was most suitable for me. Within this plan, I was given great flexibility to take the courses I was interested in besides the core courses. She also encouraged me to take some courses offered by other departments, which expanded my skill set and proved to be really helpful for my young career.”

Harold Sontheimier
“Dr. Sontheimier always supported my research ideas, offered suggestions and challenged me to think critically about techniques. While I was encouraged to work independently, his door was always open for questions. His advice and support enabled me to apply for and successfully obtain a National Research Service Award. I strongly believe I trained under an excellent mentor for future research. With his scientific record as an example, I will always be striving to make him proud.”

Hemant Tiwari
“When I was searching for a research topic, Dr. Tiwari went out of his way to include me on a project of his. This sparked my own interest and led me down a path where I eventually chose a research topic that was not being studied by the department faculty members. He encouraged me to pursue this area of research by securing a rich dataset and organizing a group of faculty and post-doctoral fellows who also were new to this area of statistical genetics and interested in this research topic.”

Tino Unlap
“Dr. Unlap arrives on campus as early as 6 a.m. to meet with students for tutoring and help in the lab. He works late into the night to do whatever is necessary to prepare his many laboratory classes and numerous weekly lecture presentations. Dr. Unlap exposes us to many famous people in the biotechnology industry and effectively motivates us with examples of his previous students’ successes.”

David Vance
“Collaborating with Dr. Vance improved my research skills and made me more competitive for academic faculty positions subsequent to my traineeship. Other aspects of Dr. Vance’s mentoring that are perhaps less tangible but extremely valuable include his help with networking and his availability and willingness to talk about issues ranging from different job options to balancing personal life with the demands of academia.”

Peter Walsh
“Dr. Walsh demands the best effort from each student in a way that is inspiring and supportive. He is a great teacher and cares passionately about each student and what they learn. He is a tireless worker and is always willing to share his thoughts on my research ideas and is genuinely interested in my success. He has become more to me than an advisor; he is my mentor and friend.”

Thane Wibbels
“I have learned networking skills and gained numerous contacts by working with Dr. Wibbels and attending conferences with him. He is a well-respected member of the sea turtle research community and serves as a great role model for how to conduct network building. He has supported my career by writing numerous letters of recommendation for grants, fellowships and postdocs. Thanks in part to his help, I am the only person from Alabama or Mississippi to be awarded the National Sea Grant College Program Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship this year.”

Benevolent Fund helps people in crisis, aids community

UAB 2010 Benevolent Fund campaign “Give Help, Give Hope” is under way, and Benevolent Fund Program Manager David Precise has two tough acts to follow. Record-setting pledges in 2008 and 2009 have raised this year’s goal to more than $1.7 million.

“Tgin past two years we have had the best two campaigns in the Benevolent Fund’s history,” Precise says. “Considering the economic challenges we’re facing as a nation right now, it says a lot about UAB employees that we’ve had two record campaigns during that time. It says something as a community of employees that we put forth that kind of relationship with the people we live with. There are many problems that would have no solutions without the generosity of our employees.”

Record pledges of more than $1.63 million were received in 2008 followed by another record pledge amount exceeding $1.7 million in 2009.

The Benevolent Fund is UAB’s own system for supporting charitable, service and health 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 renewable terms or appointed by the UAB administration to serve indefinitely.

Money pledged by UAB employees supports 127 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.

The Benevolent Fund also supports the employee emergency assistance program for UAB employees. Financial awards may be made to employees who qualify under the guidelines. The program may help pay grocery bills, rent or mortgage payments, electric or gas bills and doctor 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. Nearly $280,000 was given to employees in crisis in 2009.

“This program is a priority of the Benevolent Fund and a very important part of what we do,” Precise says.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to consider contributing at a level appropriate for them. Some common contributions include:

• One hour’s pay per month (just 12 out of 2,080 hours for a full-time employee)
• 1 percent of annual pay per month
• A continuous fixed amount each month
• A one-time payroll deduction or gift by check

“Tgin main goal of the campaign is to give every UAB employee the opportunity to consider giving,” Precise says. “We have many loyal volunteers who act as our departmental solicitors and attend meetings and lead campaigns in their departments. We want our campaign to make people aware of the Benevolent Fund and hope they have a few minutes to listen to a volunteer.”

For more information, visit www.uab.edu/benfund online, call 934-1551 or e-mail Precise at dprecise@uab.edu.
Designer teaches students ‘Do not play it safe today’

Doug Barrett knows what many people are thinking when they hear the words “graphic designer.”


What many people fail to grasp, he says, is that being a graphic designer means you have to know and understand businesses. You have to do business research to give yourself a map for success.

“When in general — students and clients in the business world — think graphic design is this very artistic and magical process, and in reality it’s a very business-centric process,” says Barrett, an assistant professor in graphic design and 20-year veteran in the graphic design business.

“You have to find out the needs and audience of your client and identify their brand identity. There’s definitely a creative aspect to it, but if you’re not meeting your clients needs, it doesn’t really matter how creative something is.”

Barrett says the question many graphic artist students then have is, “How does graphic design or any kind of design work get done?” Barrett recently invited IDEO Communications Designer Beau Bergeron to speak to his students on that topic as his Department of Art & Art History Jemison Visiting Artist. Bergeron’s lecture, “How to Get Everything You Want out of School, Job Hunting and Life,” showed the students his own wild ride to score the job of his dreams and live life by his own rules.

A friendship dating back several years enabled Barrett to bring Bergeron from IDEO, a global design consultancy that aims to create impact through design, to campus. Barrett met and became friends with Bergeron in graphic art school at the University of Florida. After graduation, Barrett sought a position as an instructor and found a home at UAB. Bergeron chased his dream job with IDEO. Barrett thought bringing in someone as young and experienced as the 25-year-old Bergeron would enable his students to learn from and bridge his own success with such an experienced, and give them real-world insight into how one of the world’s top design experience companies achieves its success.

“Beau came in and spent three days with the students, walking them through his own history and how IDEO approaches its design thinking,” Barrett says. “IDEO is known for the way they brainstorm ideas, and he took the students all the way through it.”

Using IDEO’s creative method of learn, look, ask and try, Bergeron had students brainstorm the idea of connecting a soda vending machine to cell phones and social networking.

Bergeron encouraged the students to come up with all ideas — “No idea is too crazy,” he says before adding, “Do not play it safe today.” The students worked, shouted and waved for 40 minutes, drawing out ideas on sticky notes that he posted on a window — a staple IDEO brainstorming method.

“The exercise is about building on other people’s ideas,” Barrett says. “It’s not to talk about whether an idea will work or not; it’s about getting all and any ideas out on the table first.”

Students used their new IDEO skills to ideate, remix and create artwork for vinyl door graphics based on feedback questions from the department faculty. Bergeron led the students through the formal process steps necessary to create smart, thoughtful work that answered the clients’ needs.

Portfolio reviews and one-on-one sessions also gave students the opportunity to get professional feedback on how their own work might be perceived by someone — an area in which Barrett says Bergeron excels.

“The way Beau got his job was selling himself,” Barrett says. “He created a five- to 10-minute video that talked about who he was as a person and what he likes to do as a designer. He basically stood up in front of this board of directors at IDEO and had this movie projected on his shirt and was taking off as the video was being projected on him.”

“That’s the kind of thing these companies are looking for out there — that creativity and gutsiness. They want to find people who aren’t afraid to look silly or go out and try things. That’s the way they make their money.”

Locking in on the creativity needed to bring out the best in someone’s product isn’t always easy, which is where the business side comes in to play.

Graphic designers have to know — inside and out — that the company they are working for, their product and their needs. Barrett says there are many times, however, when a company will ask for help, but won’t know what it is they want the graphic designers to do.

“That’s where real data-driven information comes into play and helps you get to that creative end,” Barrett says. “It helps for you to be able to go back to a meeting with your client and say, ‘Okay, here’s what we discovered about your product and here’s what we discovered about your competition and your customers.’ All of a sudden, it will oftentimes click with the client what it is they need.”

Barrett says the three-day exercise for his students with Bergeron will pay dividends for his students as they map out their career goals.

“I think the three days of intense learning from someone who is young and successful and immersed in the field will be very beneficial,” Barrett says. “This was a great way for students to see how to start building their own design practice.”

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

CONTINUED from page 1

“When you’ve been here for a combined 60 years, you’re reminded every day that the reason you’re here is for students,” Eli Capiloutos, endowed professor in graphic design and 20-year veteran in the graphic design business, says. “These are our future Truman and Jemison. This is an investment in your future,” Eli Capiloutos, endowed professor in graphic design and 20-year veteran in the graphic design business, says. “These are our future Truman and Jemison. This is an investment in your future,” Eli says.

The National Alumni Society raised more than $105,000 has been raised in the first three years of the event. More than 750 runners participated in 2009, and twice that many people attended the event.

“We think it’s great when UAB has fun activities for the community,” Mary Lynne says. “We’re strong believers in physical fitness, and this is a great activity for families and friends to be together and — in the process — raise important dollars for deserving students.”

ELI AND MARY LYNN CAPILOUTOS

That shows you the appreciation that our students have for what others did for them,” Eli says.

“We’re fortunate that we get to see how appreciative these students are and how hard they work,” Mary Lynne adds.

“They’re going to give back because of the opportunities they have been given.”

The National Alumni Society Dollars to Scholars 5K/10K is open to anyone who wishes to participate. A party with games for all ages, food, beverages and a live performance by Big Daddy’s New Band follows the event at 6:30 pm. Visit www.uab.edu/alumni for more information or to register.
UAB Engineering Research Facility earns support from U.S. Army

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) has released $1 million for an initial round of federal government-supported research to be conducted in the UAB School of Engineering Metals Processing Laboratory, set to come online this August.

The federal funds will support the development and production of innovative materials on scales so large that they essentially are nonexistent in any other university-based, metal-casting lab in the country or industry testing facility.

The 9,000-square-foot lab at UAB will foster unique research partnerships between UAB faculty and leading industry minds, says Barry Andrews, Ph.D., chair of the UAB Department of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE).

“arly research has already been signed on as a research partner and the reason other leaders of industry also are seeking partnerships with UAB,” Andrews says.

Under the new ARL project, UAB MSE researchers will use the lab’s state-of-art equipment to discover and test new metals and alloys for improved, safer armor vehicle armor. The equipment is capable of pouring 500-pound test castings, significantly larger than traditional test samples fashioned at similar U.S. facilities.

“The metals lab will provide a low-risk test bed for scaling up processes and allows for rapid transition to industry,” says Alan Druschitz, Ph.D., an MSE research professor. “Our facilities will help drive industry innovation while giving our UAB students special opportunities to work on the field's cutting edge.”

The ARL metals lab funding is an extension of a multi-year research partnership with the ARL that began with grants to its composites lab in 2004 to develop new materials for use in military missile systems and new compounds to create lighter-weight, more reliable body armor for military personnel. “We were able to establish a strong collaboration with the ARL through our work in the Composite Materials Research Laboratory,” says Uday Vaidya, Ph.D., the composite lab’s director and an MSE professor. “It is exciting to extend that relationship with new research when the Metals Processing Laboratory comes online.”

Once opened, the School of Engineering’s new metals lab will join its composites lab under one roof, the 501 Warehouse Building, to form the UAB Material Processing and Applications Development (MPAD) Center of Excellence. The MPAD center will be the only facility of its kind in the country and should help drive materials-science innovation.

“MPAD is a UAB breakthrough that helps meet the crucial innovation needs of the industry and gives our students the chance for numerous professional-level experiences and networking opportunities,” Andrews says.

Career-development program set for young investigators

A seminar to introduce participants to the various grant mechanisms available to young investigators, including career development awards will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 in Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium.

CCTS Professional Skills Training Program and the Department of Medicine are sponsoring “Career Development Programs at NIH: Off to a Running Start” presented by Tracy Rankin, Ph.D., director, Kidney and Urologic Research Training Programs, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.

Lunch will be provided. Register at cctsapr20.eventbrite.com

Rankin’s responsibilities include institutional (T32) and individual (F) National Research Service Awards and all career-development awards (K). Additionally, Rankin manages the developmental grant program (R03) that supports career-development awardees as they begin their independent research programs.

Autism researcher to speak April 21

Renowned autism researcher Craig Newschaffer, Ph.D., will deliver the 2010 Glennwood Endowed Lecture at the UAB School of Public Health.

The free event begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 21 in the Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium. Held during Autism Awareness Month, the Glennwood Endowed Lecture is hosted in conjunction with UAB’s 2010 Neurodevelopment/Simpson-Ramsey Symposium, set for Thursday, April 22.

Newschaffer’s lecture “Will epidemiology help us find the causes of autism?” will focus on the evidence-based science that comes from tracking trends in autism prevalence and the challenges to gathering data.

The Glennwood Endowed Lecture, now in its sixth year, is funded by Glennwood Inc., the autism and behavioral health center of Alabama.

Parkinson’s research findings to be presented at local conference April 24

The latest information on clinical treatments and the newest research findings from experts in the UAB Department of Neurology will be featured during the Parkinson Association of Alabama annual conference, Live Your Best Life Now, from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Saturday, April 24 in the Birmingham Marriott, 3590 Grandview Parkway.

The keynote address, Dream! Act! Live! Life after Diagnosis, will be delivered by Todd Bischoff, an international motivational speaker recently diagnosed with early-onset Parkinson’s Disease. Additional sessions will demonstrate innovative movement therapies, including a moving-with-music session presented by UAB physical therapy faculty that uses the Wii video-gaming system as a rehabilitation tool.

The conference is free, but seating is limited. Pre-registration is encouraged. Register on-line at www.parkinsonalabama.org or call 877-977-7275.

Researchers invited to add questions to statewide survey

Faculty are invited to participate in the 2010 UAB Researchers’ Omnibus Survey of Alabama (ROSA) that can provide preliminary data for grant proposals and information on current issues. Researchers can submit one or more questions to be included in a statewide telephone survey of 1,200 randomly selected adults. The survey is scheduled during May and July, data should be available in August. Additional information about the survey and the Survey Research Unit is online at www.uab.edu/surveysresearch.

Direct questions to Russ Fousse, co-director of the Survey Research Unit at 975-8030 or e-mail rfousse@uab.edu.

Call for nominations for Norwood Award

Nominate a woman for the ninth annual Janet L. Norwood Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Woman in the Statistical Sciences. Eligible individuals are women who have completed their terminal degree, have made outstanding contributions to the statistical sciences, and, if selected, are willing to deliver a lecture at the award ceremony. Additional details about the award are online at www.soph.uab.edu/nowoodaward/aboutaward. Electronic submissions of nominations are accepted and encouraged. Deadline is Friday, June 26.

Learn more about these topics and other UAB research at www.uab.edu/news.
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