**GCL students get first-hand look at living in poverty**

The video footage of urban slums in developing countries — whether it’s in an infomercial or the television news often is jarring. The men, women and children living there often struggle to find food, water and shelter.

UAB sophomore Amber Peek had seen those conditions first hand. Still, Peek admitted, she’d never been able to relate to the lifestyle in those areas. That has changed.

Peek and 18 of her classmates in the Global and Community Leadership (GCL) Honors Program recently took an overnight trip to Servants in Faith and Technology (SIFAT) in Lineville, a Christian nonprofit organization that provides training for people who want to work with the poor in developing nations. The students were divided into families of six and had to negotiate their way through mock-up villages and urban slums set up by SIFAT — and experience the daily struggles to obtain basic necessities.

“It was a difficult experience and very humbling,” says Peek, a sophomore majoring in Spanish. “We had to do whatever we could in this slum modula- tion to find food, water and shelter. We had to beg for jobs, and things were very uncertain because we did not know whether we were going to get any of those things.

“I certainly have a better grasp of how hard life can be elsewhere and how fortu- nate we are to live in a country of oppor- tunities,” she says.

**A mentoring process**

The students visited SIFAT as part of their Thinking Locally and Globally leader- ship class. The purpose of the GCL is to help students find their own personal passion in a global or community issue and discover ways to apply their own dis- cipline to that topic. This exercise enables students to explore that.

“We want to mentor them through that process,” says Kristin Boggs, program manager for the GCL and teacher of the course. “We want to help them discover what they care about, how they want to be a leader on that topic and how they can use their knowledge and abilities to be a part of it.”

Education, poverty and health care are popular topics for the students. Some have a desire to help in these areas locally. Others are interested in these types of issues on an international level.

“By discussing these things and making them aware of what's going in the world, they have an opportunity to really see what the problems are and try to uncover solutions,” she says.

**New clinic aims to treat the ‘cellular glue’ that supports the building blocks of life**

Cells are the building blocks of life, and connective tissues are the structures our bodies use to hold those cells together. These tissues are vital. They develop a framework, or matrix, for the body, and form a cellular glue that gives tissues their shape and helps keep them strong. Our bodies break down or don’t develop prop- erly when connective tissues deteriorate, causing pain and discomfort. Sometimes, it can be lethal.

The formation of the new Bone Dysplasia and Connective Tissue Disorder Clinic for Adults and Children provides integrated care for patients with anomalies in these functions and gives them a place to find help to battle this often painful disease.

“The goal is to approach the patient as a whole and minimize and improve their quality of life,” says Maria Descartes, M.D., director of the clinic. “The clinic will enable us to follow patients, before birth and through life. We can follow them through childhood into adulthood and help them transition into each stage of life as smoothly as possible.”

The result will be improved quality of life for patients and an opportunity to better understand the natural history of the complicated disease for health-care profes- sionals.

“The information we can gather about how they progress and the complications they have is endless,” Descartes says.

**Grant funds clinic**

The University of Alabama Health Services Foundation General Endowment Fund recently awarded a $120,000 grant to Descartes to create the clinic, the first of its kind in the Southeast.

Connective tissue disease isn’t something that receives much coverage in the mainstream media, despite the fact that an estimated 1 million Americans may have it.

**Dixon’s colorful talent wins School of Medicine Art Show**

Karen Dixon’s “Dichro Maze” fused-glass sculpture was this year’s faculty winning entry in the School of Medicine Art Show.

Karen Dixon’s colorful talent wins School of Medicine Art Show

A sk Karen Dixon, Ph.D., to draw you a picture and she admits you’re likely not going to get much that dazzles you in return.

“I have a couple of aunts who are amazing artists,” says Dixon. “They’re painters and they can draw extremely well, but I can’t even draw a stick man.”

Dixon, an assistant professor of neuro-biology, has many other artistic talents, however. She began creating glass mosaics nine years ago and has become proficient at her craft, as is evidenced by the selec- tion of her faculty entry as the winner in the annual School of Medicine Art Show. Her piece, “Dichro Maze,” created using fused glass, is on display with the other art show submissions in the museum on the University of Alabama at Birmingham campus.

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State ethics filing deadline is April 30

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

Employees now can file the annual Statement of Economic Interests form online using the form and instructions now provided by the commission on its Web site, www.ethics.alabama.gov.

Physician training on Medicare compliance begins April 21

UAB is providing training to educate faculty and staff on procedures that will limit liability and monetary recoveries that could be caused by noncompliance with a new Medicare Recovery Audit Contractors process that becomes effective Aug. 1.

Physician-led training sessions are open to all UABHS medical and house staff, and physicians should make every effort to attend one of these sessions. They will be held at noon April 21 in the West Pavilion Board Room and 5 p.m. April 21 in West Pavilion E. On May 6 sessions are set at noon in JT906 and at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. in CPM Auditorium. Lunch will be served for noon sessions. Refreshments will be provided for others.

Register for radiation safety training class

Occupational Health and Safety is offering a Radiation Safety Training Course for lab personnel who have never attended a formal course in radiation safety practices and/or those using radioisotopes for the first time.

The in-class portion of the course will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, May 1, and an examination will be given May 15. Both will be held in the Volker Hall Lecture Room B. Review the training manual online at www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/radiationsafety/rad_training_manual.htm. Call the Radiation Safety Office at 934-5151. Registry deadline is April 30.

Nominations for the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award are being accepted for a full-time, part-time or emeritus member of the faculty who has advanced the frontiers of science, made a significant contribution to the health of people or made an outstanding contribution to the academic health center through education, research or public service. Guidelines are available online at www.uab.edu/facultydevelopment, and the deadline for receipt of nominations is Monday, May 11. Direct questions to Associate Provost Claire Peti, Ph.D., at 934-5151 or e-mail pecki@uab.edu.

DFL nominations being accepted now

Fly America Act still governs most travel

All airfare for foreign travel reimbursed from federal funds will be reviewed for compliance with the “Fly America Act,” which essentially states that anyone using federal funds to pay for air travel must use U.S. flag carriers.

Only the National Science Foundation supports the Open Skies policy. An explanation of the Fly America Act and links to exact language and examples is on the Financial Affairs site at www.uab.edu/finance/affairs.

Learn how to better manage your finances

A personal finances management seminar will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 in the UAB Hospital West Pavilion Board Room.

Kay Kirk of UAB Training and Development will give you the tools to help evaluate your financial situation so you can develop a systematic and reality-based financial plan for the future. Review your monthly cash flow and bring a summary of monthly cash flow income and payouts to the class. Space is limited. Call 934-2281 to register.

‘Rhinoceros’ to be performed April 22-26

The UAB Department of Theatre presents “Rhinoceros,” directed by Will York, at 7:30 p.m. April 22-25 and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 26 in the Alys Stephens Center Sirote Theatre. General admission tickets are $12 and $15. UAB and BACHE students $6; UAB employees/senior citizens $10. Call 975-2787. Visit UAB Theatre online at theatre.uab.edu.

The sublime is confused with the ridiculous in this savage commentary on the human condition in a small town besieged by first one roaring rhinoceros, then more.

Warren St. John, Coach Luma Mufleh to host book benefit

Birmingham native and best-selling author Warren St. John will speak about his new book, Outcasts United: A Refugee Team, an American Town, at a benefit at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25, at the Alys Stephens Center.

Proceeds from “An Evening with Warren St. John and Coach Luma Mufleh” will benefit the Figgeas Family, a non-profit organization Mufleh founded to support the education of young refugees in Clarkson, Ga. The event is made possible by the support of UAB, The Altamont School and Catalyst for Birmingham.

Tickets are $55 for adults and $20 for students, and can be purchased online. Tickets include a signed copy of the book. Call 975-2787 or visit www.AlysStephens.org.

CSI camp for teens set for June 22-26

High-school students can learn what it is really like to be a crime scene investigator at “Camp CSI Birmingham” sponsored by the UAB Department of Justice Sciences June 22-26. Camp offers hands-on training in collecting evidence, dusting for fingerprints, analyzing DNA, interpreting DNA profiles and examining insects for students in grades 10-12.

The cost is $199 plus a $50 nonrefundable registration fee. Register online by June 12 at main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=104788.

On the move— UAB quarterback Joe Webb (5) looks for an open receiver during the Blazers’ final spring scrimmage April 11. Webb had 283 yards passing and three touchdowns in the scrimmage as the offense won the day. UAB opens its season in Legion Field Saturday, Sept. 5 when the Blazers host Rice in a Conference USA clash. You can be a part of this action this fall and see all five home football games by purchasing the B-Ticket. The B-Ticket enables you to receive entrance to 50 UAB home sporting events of your choice for a little more than $10 a month. Visit www.uab.edu/bticket to learn more.
Bear market doesn’t slow Center for Economic Education

The current recession hasn’t been a boon for many people, but you can count Associate Professor of Economics Sarah Culver, Ph.D., in the minority. Her business is booming.

“Teaching macroeconomics right now is very exciting,” Culver says. “I’m having such a great time in the classroom with my students. There’s something to talk about.”

Culver, as director of the UAB Center for Economic Education, lends her expertise to promote economic and financial literacy by providing education resources to teachers and students from Huntsville to Anniston to Birmingham. It’s even led to a national championship for one local school.

“Simply put, the center exists to help teachers teach economics,” Culver says. “The hope is that the resources and programs the center provides will better equip teachers in their own understanding of economic concepts and will help them to actively engage their students in economic education.

“You’ve got to provide them with the resources to help them understand it better, and you’ve got to help them excite their students.”

The Alabama Economics Challenge

The Center for Economic Education uses three tools to engage secondary education faculty and students: The Alabama Economics Challenge, the Alabama Stock Market Simulation and in-service training for teachers.

The Alabama Economics Challenge is a highlight of the center’s work. It is the statewide round of a national competition for high-school seniors that tests their understanding of and interest in economics. The students compete for prizes and an all-expenses-paid trip to one of four regional competitions.

More than 20 teams competed in this year’s challenge, held at UAB March 31. Vestavia Hills High School won both divisions of the event and is sending two teams to the regional tournament in Atlanta later this month. A win there and the teams move on to the Final Four national competition in New York, where Vestavia won the National Economics Challenge this past year.

“These quiz-bowl competitions have been in existence for some time for math and science, but it’s only recently that economics joined the group,” Culver says. “Each year they’re coming better prepared, which means that each year I have to make the exam a little harder. Even so, test scores are increasing on average. You’re always trying to show evidence that what you’re doing matters, so I’m encouraged by this news. The other good news is that one of our state’s teachers coached a team that beat every other team in the nation.”

Simulation engages students

The Alabama Stock Market Simulation occurs in the fall and spring semesters for Alabama students in grades 5-12. The simulation engages students in many areas of scholarship. They learn to analyze news on the economy and markets, strengthen their computer and Internet skills and work together to make team decisions.

“I’ve got fifth graders winning big and outperforming the market, but I’ve also got fifth graders that are losing big, too,” Culver says. “Some wonder if the simulation — because it’s just 10 weeks long — teaches students to be day-traders. The answer is no. It’s rather students experience a loss with fake money. It teaches you the value of critical analysis and demystifies stock trading. The simulation is quite sophisticated and realistic. It mirrors real life.”

Students participating in the simulation buy and sell stocks with $100,000 of virtual money. They can sell short or purchase funds or stocks outright. They must have a diversified portfolio and are limited in the total number of trades they can make.

Culver says the simulation also teaches the students the connection between the stock market and their roles as consumers.

“Many of the teachers tell them to buy what they like,” Culver says. “That means they’re buying Wal-Mart, Nike and Apple. It’s giving them some insight as to how consumer tastes impact the stock market.”

Training of teachers crucial

The Economics Challenge and the Stock Market Simulation would not be possible without in-service training for teachers.

“Simply put, the center exists to help teachers teach economics,” Culver says. “They inspire me to work a little harder for them. If we can give these teachers resources, lesson plans, content and expose them to best practices, they take that back to their classroom. And they teach it to that class, to the next year’s class and so on. It becomes a multiplier effect that I feel very fortunate to be a part of.”

Parents of grade-school children often contact Culver to ask if she can help implement some of these techniques in their schools. She advises them to find a teacher interested in learning more about economics and its role in helping students learn more about multiple subjects.

“It may be a math teacher in middle school, it may be a social studies teacher in high school or it may be the enrichment teacher in elementary school,” Culver says. “They’re always trying to find programs that are going to motivate their students.”

K-12 teachers can contact Culver at sculver@uab.edu or 934-8633 to learn how to participate. Visit main.uab.edu/Sites/business/departments/52606/ to learn more about the center.

NEW CLINIC

CONTINUED from page 1

connective tissue disorder

UAB’s expertise in the Center for Metabolic Bone Disease, the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic and the Bone Densitometry Service is one reason the institution is well positioned to lead in the treatment of patients with connective tissue disorders.

More than 400 disorders impact the structure and function of skeletal, skin, vessel and joint connective tissue and may be the result of infection or injury or have no known cause. These disorders may involve hormonal, metabolic, structural and other abnormalities that are often difficult to determine as well as to treat.

Because of this, patients with connective tissue disorders require specialized medical care. Physicians will be better able to consider the many variables in diagnostics, intervention and research by combining their resources and knowledge to care for patients, Descartes says.

“What we have encountered in many of the children we see is that they go to a rheumatologist, an immunologist and others, and they still don’t have a defined diagnosis,” Descartes says. “I think this clinic will help.”

Descartes says the support of Jay McDonald, M.D., director of the Center for Metabolic Bone Disease, and Sarah Morgan, M.D., director of the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic, is crucial to providing the care the clinic strives to give to its patients.

“Dr. McDonald and Dr. Morgan have really encouraged me and encourage further development of this clinic,” Descartes says. “They are very interested in participating, and I think that will be fantastic for the whole system. It means we will get an involved group of specialists that can be available, enabling us to provide prompt care. That’s the goal.”

Contact Debbie Austin at 934-1154 to schedule an appointment.
Register your kids now for 2009 UAB summer camps

Athletics Summer Sports Camps

UAB offers a variety of summer sports camps for children and teens in football, basketball, softball, soccer and volleyball. UAB offers both day and overnight camps. For more details on dates, cost and registration, visit the Web site at www.uabsports.com:

Youth Football Camp – 934-7586
Brian Shoop Baseball Camps – 934-5182
UAB Summer Basketball Camps – 934-3402
UAB Girls Basketball Camps – 934-2045
Softball Camps and Clinics – 975-7000 or go to www.uabsoftball.com
UAB Boys Soccer Camp – 800-0194 or go to www.uab-soccercamp.com
UAB Gir Soccer Camp – 934-4797 or go to www.uab-soccer.com
UAB Volleyball Camps – 975-8010 or go to www.uabvolleyball.com

Children’s Creative Learning Center

Address: Rocky Ridge Elementary School, 2876 Old Rocky Ridge Rd.
Web site: www.ed.uab.edu/cclc
E-mail: Lynn Kirkland, Ed.D., at lkirk@uab.edu
Ages: Enrollment and reading for children ages 4-6th grade; workshops for ages 10-12
Dates: Dates for workshops and enrichment programs vary. Visit the Web site for details
Cost: Enrollment $100-$150 weekly; Workshops $100-$150
Details: The program features reading, writing, science and math enrichment workshops. The children also can attend special workshops to learn art, poetry and more.

UAB Spanish Summer Camp

Address: Huxley Center for the Arts & Humanities, 950 13th St. South.
Web site: www.uub.edu/foreignlangs/spanishsummercamp.html
Phone: UAB Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures at 934-4652
Ages: 9-10
Dates: June 1-5
Cost: Registration fee $195; Scholarships are available
Details: Immersion Spanish classes are made fun through dance, drama, storytelling, crafts, cooking and art. The registration deadline is May 1.

UAB Computer Science Camps

Address: UAB Campbell Hall, 1000 University Blvd.
Phone: 934-8643
E-mail: gray@cis.uab.edu
Ages: 9th-12th grade; 5th-8th grade
Dates: High School: June 1-11
Middle School: June 22-26
Cost: High school, $200 per week; middle school $250 per week
Details: Several merit-based and need-based scholarships are available. Registration deadline is May 1. The middle school camps sell out early.

Camp CSI: Birmingham Day-Camp

Phone: Jason Linnell at 934-2069 (gil@uab.edu)
Address: University Boulevard Office Building, 1201 University Boulevard
Web site: www.uab.edu/criminaljustice
Ages: Grades 10-12
Date: June 22 - 26
Details: This day camp teaches the reality behind the forensic science depicted on television dramas like CSI and NCIS. Students receive hands-on training on such topics as DNA analysis, hair and fiber analysis, and fingerprint, footwear, and tire tread identification. Space is limited to 20 students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration deadline is June 12. Cost is $199 per camper plus a $50 non-refundable registration fee. The camp is sponsored by the Department of Justice Sciences.

Summer Institute on Simulations and Enabling Technologies

Address: UAB Business-Engineering Complex, 1150 10th Ave. South
Phone: Marilyn Durrath, 934-8400
Address: UAB Business-Engineering Complex, 1150 10th Ave. South
E-mail: mmdurrath@uab.edu
Ages: High-school seniors or juniors for the 2009-2010 academic year
Dates: June 15-19
Details: Students will gain a basic understanding of computer simulations using science and engineering principles and how these simulations can be used to solve everyday problems. They will participate in team projects involving in-class training and laboratory experiences. The cost is $200 per camper. Applications received after April 17 will be considered if space is available.

Engineering Camp – Experiencing Engineering and Robotics

Phone: 934-8480
Address: UAB Hoeln Engineering Building, 1055 13th St. South
E-mail: malko@uab.edu
Ages: High school students entering their junior or senior year
Dates: June 22-26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Details: The hands-on program will introduce you to engineering fundamentals and the disciplines of biomedical, civil, electrical, materials and mechanical engineering. Camp members will participate in modules, consisting of both in-class training and laboratory experiences, to introduce engineering fundamentals, programming and robotics. The cost is $150 per camper. The deadline to register is Friday, May 15.

Department of Music Summer Camps

Address: 950 13th St. S., Birmingham
Web site: main.uab.edu/Sites/ArtsMedia/Radio/articles/576960
Phone: 934-7376
Ages: For middle and high-school students grades 6-12.
Dates: June 14-20.
Cost: $425 for residential campers; $300 for commuter campers
Details: For residential or commuter campers. The full residential camp experience includes housing, meals and evening activities including a pool party, movie night, skit night and game night in addition to music recitals and concerts. Camp music-making opportunities include full symphonic band experience, small ensemble participation and training in music technique, theory and literature. Elective sessions include music technology, improvisations, music history, composition and more. Students also will have the opportunity to study privately with members of the UAB music department faculty and perform on a world-class stage. Registration deadline is May 18.

Alys Stephens Center Kids on Stage summer drama camp

Address: 1200 10th Ave. S., Birmingham
Web site: alysstephens.uab.edu/education/summer-camps
Phone: 934-0862
Ages: For children ages 7-14
Dates: Session one: June 5-26; session two July 6-17; session three July 20-31
Details: Camp hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily; pre- and post-camp care options for working parents. Camps will be introduced to many aspects of theater with a variety of fun, intense classes. They can learn theater games, improvisation, warm-ups, concentration exercises and study voice and diction, terminology, acting and stage production. Each camp session culminates with a musical production. Cost: $325 per session for the general public and $300 per session for UAB employees. Registration closes as camps fill.

Camp Shakespeare Extreme in Birmingham
Presented by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival Address: Alys Stephens Center, 1200 10th Ave. South.
Web site: www.asf.edu/summercamp
Phone: Greta Lambert, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, 334-271-5393
E-mail: glambert@asf.net
Ages: For student in grades 7-12
Dates: June 15-19
Cost: $200
Details: Associate Professor Dennis McLennon, of Theatre UAB, will lead this intensive camp for students who are prepared to dig deeper into Shakespeare’s world and his text, explore complex characters and discover new levels of theatrical expression. Students will perform a Shakespeare piece at week’s end. Camp hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Space limited. Visit the Web site for more details.

UAB Summer Treatment Program

Address: Community Education South Community School, 1220 50th St. S.
Phone: 934-5471
E-mail: bhodgens@uab.edu
Ages: 6-12
Dates: June 15 – July 24
Cost: $2,900 per child due by the first day of camp.
Details: Summer Treatment Program for children ages 6-12 with behavioral disorders such as ADHD, Asperger’s disorder and oppositional defiant disorder. The program offers a comprehensive and individualized approach to treatment in a summer day camp setting and is offered through the UAB Civilian International Research Center and the Civitan-Sparkes Clinics Space is limited.

GLC STUDENTS

CONTINUED from page 1

some potential solutions,” she says. “They also see the kind of advocacy needed to implement the solution that seems best.”

Complete desperation still exists

The students spent 24 hours at SFHAT, spending the night in the slums and negotiating with SFHAT employees who were playing the part of landlords, police officers and other powers of authority. The students were responsible for gathering their own food and preparing it using a sawdust cooker.

“Even knowing that it was just an exercise, you quickly realized that those infomercials on TV are real,” says Thomas McLemore, a junior majoring in political science. “People do live in areas of the world like that. They struggle to find food, water and shelter and even with all of their efforts it’s not enough,” he says. “I’ve worked with homeless relief and Habitat for Humanity, and I know the poverty exists, but complete desperation still is shocking.”

Boggs says she scheduled the SFHAT trip because she wanted students to understand that finding solutions is not as easy as it sometimes seems.

“The perspective of us as an outsider wanting to help is good, but we need to be cognizant that the people who are experiencing these issues also have a lot of knowledge,” Boggs says.

“It’s important that we work with people and not come with our own ideas and assumptions and implement something that is not good for the community,” she says. “That perspective can be beneficial whether you’re doing something in downtown Birmingham, the Black Belt or rural Uganda, and it’s a core component of community-development work,” Boggs says. “One person can make a difference,” McLemore says. “Even if the initial impact is small, the effects of the efforts put forth perhaps become more significant for others who will be widespread.”

The UAB Reporter 4 April, 2009
CAMPUS NEWS

Cord develops regional science fair into state’s largest

Mike Wyss, Ph.D., remembers reading an article three years ago lamenting the demise of science fairs in Birmingham. Students seemed to be losing interest, and the events no longer were well attended.

That appeared to be case for the Central Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair in 2004 when only 80 participants entered the event.

UAB and its Center for Community Outreach and Development (CORD) assumed responsibility for the event in 2005, and the number of children, teachers and schools participating has skyrocketed.

Thirty-seven schools from 13 counties sent 396 students to compete in this year’s fair. There were 338 projects registered in the competition from children in grades 5-12.

“We have gone from being the smallest regional science fair in the state to the largest in four years,” Wyss says. “UAB is building a pipeline to science education and careers. We see kids in our fair competing at very high levels and moving on the International Science and Engineering Fair.”

“This is science at work,” she says. It’s UAB faculty working with these kids and making sure they have the tools to move forward in their careers.”

Schools participating this year represented Bibb, Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Chilton, Cleburne, Etowah, Jefferson, St. Clair, Shelby, Talladega, Walker and Winston counties.

Sixty projects from the fair were chosen to compete at the Alabama State Science and Engineering Fair on April 3-4. Those 60 young scientists collected 102 awards, including eight first-place awards. The State Fair’s four top projects will represent Alabama at the INTEL International Fair Two of those projects were from the UAB-CORD Regional Fair.

The success of the fair is due in part to school recruitment. Wyss says. Jarrod Lockhart, the program coordinator for CORD’s Regional Science and Engineering Fair, travels to area schools and talks to teachers to promote science education, the regional science fair and other year-round programs CORD offers to help teachers educate their students.

“We’ve tried to be a visible face in the school systems because I want teachers to know we’re here to help them,” says Lockhart, whose participation is funded through a Science Educational Partnership Award grant from NIH’s National Center for Research Resources. “I think schools are realizing the importance of science fairs in the science-education process. When you get to college you’re doing research, but many kids don’t get exposed to that until they go to college. Now, some school systems are making the science fair a requirement and part of their curriculum. They see the importance, and they know we’re here to help.”

Answer for kudzu?

Wyss says the science fair projects range from simple (Does water in older schools contain more lead?) to the complex (Is there a way to stop the growth of kudzu?).

For example, Mason McFarland, a junior at Jefferson County International Baccalaureate School, has found a way to suppress the growth of kudzu. The answer? Sweet potatoes.

“Mason has been involved in this project for three years and will compete in the 2009 International Science Fair,” Wyss says. “His freshman year he found that sweet potatoes inhibit the growth of nearby kudzu. The next year he learned a little more about the effects, and this year he worked with Dr. Jacqueline Nikles [associate professor of chemistry] to isolate the compound within the sweet potato that inhibits the growth.”

“It is great to see students like Mason successively conduct more sophisticated probes of a scientific question,” Wyss says. “There are many examples of kids who have exciting ideas and are able to pursue them with the help of our faculty.”

Lockhart says the best thing about the science fair is that it is the vehicle for students to take classroom theory and put it into practice.

“This gets them involved in science, taking it from classroom discussion into action,” Lockhart says. “The students do many of the projects at home. They formulate their hypotheses and do the research to test their ideas.

“We want these kids to learn how to approach questions scientifically and have greater opportunity to explore and pursue scientific careers.”

ART SHOW

continued from page 1

the third floor of the Lister Hill Library through May 22.

“I really began creating glass art pieces in 2000, so I’m relatively new to it,” Dixon says. “It became obsessive, really. I just can’t stop doing it.”

Expressing humanity

More than 60 entries from faculty, residents and medical students were entered in this year’s art show, which is presented by the Alabama chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honor society for medical school students, and the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences.

The show features myriad works including paintings, drawings, photography and sculpture. A panel of UAB faculty, staff and students judged the event. The top three winners in each category received cash prizes, and all entries are displayed in the museum.

“The opportunity for physicians and medical students to express themselves through art enhances their ability to interact with patients and families,” said Stephen R. Smith, M.D., director of Student Life for UAB’s medical school and a contest judge. “The art show provides another means to creatively explore and express their own humanity, reinforcing a pathway to help them connect with all people on a basic human level.”

Dixon says she always has been enamored with glass. Her mother had many cut glass and blown glass art pieces. Dixon collected some pieces for herself through the years before finally deciding she wanted to create something of her own.

“I think that comes from the scientist within me,” she says. “I thought, ‘Let me experiment with this and see what happens.’ I didn’t really know if I could create something. I just thought I’d give it a shot.”

Dixon began making different pieces including earrings and pendants. Then she started making bowls and platters.

She initially began making pieces for herself and family members, but her friends were so impressed with the creations that they were asking Dixon to make items for them.

“I started making things and giving them as gifts,” she says. “All of this has just really kind of blown up in the past year.”

Dixon did her first art show with the Alabama Designer Craftsman this past fall, selling her first items. “The first time you sell something it’s pretty exciting,” she says.

She had another show in March that also was a success. In fact, Dixon’s art career has blossomed to the point she is opening a glass gallery and studio at 111 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard between First and Second Avenue South in June.

“I’ll be teaching classes along with the woman who taught me how to create fused glass,” Dixon says. “We’ll also feature many local glass artists and their work in the gallery. There’s nobody that really carries the fusing glass locally, so we’ll also be selling that to the public. I’m very excited about it and can’t wait to get started.”

Other winners

Other winners in this year’s School of Medicine Art Show include: “Woman Combing Her Hair, After Degas,” a pastel on paper by second-year medical student Leslie Perry; an untitled pencil drawing by Alicia Vogt, M.D., in Obstetrics and Gynecology won first place in the resident competition.

In addition to Smith, the art submissions were judged by Brett Levine, director of the UAB Visual Arts Gallery; Stefanie Rookis, curator of the Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences; and Virginia Rudolf, a fourth-year medical student and vice president of Alpha Omega Alpha.

Judges review a science project at the recent Central Alabama Regional Science and Engineering Fair. Almost 400 students competed in this year’s fair, up from just 80 participants four years ago.
Friday, April 24

11:30 am Arabic Conversation Table, Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Dima Zeiden, dzo08@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Noon Japanese Language Table, Commons on the Green, Makko Cook makkooc@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

12:30 pm Russian Conversation Table, Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Marina Lysenkova marina.lysenkova@yahoo.com or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Exhibits

Meryn V. Sterne Library Discover Spain. Library hours: 7:30 am – 11 pm. Thursday, 7:30 am–7 pm; Fri, 9 am–5 pm Sat; 11 pm Sun.

The Samuel Ullman Museum. Home of prominent Birmingham civil elder and poet. Open by appointment only, 4-3328.

Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. Alabama Museum is housed in the Health Sciences Education in Alabama, 1859 – 2009. Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the School of Medicine presented by Lewis Carroll. Third floor, UHLS, 1700 University Boulevard. Museum is open to the public Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm. Admission is free.

Visual Arts Gallery, The Writing is on the Decks: Contemporary Artists Gallery Benefit. A silent auction of custom decorated skateboards, vinyl Murky Knight art work, and resin graffiti car tiles, decorated by local and national artists, will be auctioned to benefit the UAB Visual Arts Program. Shows through Jan. 30. Beginning Feb. 6, the gallery will show works from Leonard Nemeoy, the 2009 John Horton Visiting Artist. Works from “New York: Full Body” series, an examination of concepts of female beauty and sexuality, will be on exhibit through Feb. 28. Admission is free. The gallery is located at 800 13th St. S. Call 4-0815.

WBHM-FM, 90.3

80.3 WBHM-Birmingham and 91.5 WSGN-Gadsden broadcast NPR News and Information programming as well as classical music. 24 hours a day. NPR News offers a thorough, in-depth approach to the news of the day on program such as “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered.” Though the intelligent talk and discussion can also be heard mid-days on program such as “The Diane Rehm Show”, “Fresh Air” and “Talk of the Nation.” “Tapestry” is WBHFM’s signature local program featuring interviews and local stories on Birmingham area arts and culture. Weekend highlights include popular shows such as “Car Talk,” and “A Prairie Home Companion.” For a complete program line-up, go to www.wbhm.org.

Special Lectures

Wednesday, April 22

11 am Public Health Glenwood Endowed Lecture Series. Emerging science and rising numbers in autism: Implications and opportunities to help, Dr. Martha Herbert (Asst Prof. Neurology, Harvard Medical School); HUC Alumni Auditorium. Open to free and the public. CEUs available.

2 pm UAB Psychology Colloquium Series. Graduate awards day events and lecture, Dr. Betsy Hoza (Visiting Scholar, University of Vermont); Campbell Hall 327.

Friday, April 24

Noon UAB Vision Science Research Center Visiting Scholar Program. Where do correlations between neuronal activity and sensory dimensions originate? Dr. Bruce Cumming (NIRI); Worrell Conference Center 1st fl.

Meetings

Tuesday, April 21, 28

9 am Conversation Table, Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Junsong Chen, jschen@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

10 am Conversational English classes, Level: intermediate/advanced; Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Carola M. Cumming, carola@uab.edu.

10:15 am Conversational English classes, Level: intermediate/advanced; Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Carola M. Cumming, carola@uab.edu.

12:10 pm Tai Chi meets.

1 pm Arabic conversation table.

2 pm Spanish Conversation Table, Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Leslie Strempel lystrempel@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

3 pm German Conversation Table, Rast Hall 3rd Floor Study Lounge, beltail@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

6 pm Russian Conversation Table, Rast Hall 3rd Floor Study Lounge, beltail@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Thursday, April 23, 30

11 am Catholic Mass. West Pavilion Interfaith Chapel.

Noon Student Involvement & Diversity. Free food for thought: is Western-style democracy right for the entire world? Lister Hill Library Ireland Room.

12:10 pm Tai Chi meets, UAB Resource Center Classroom, Suite 330. Call 4-2281/ www.uab.edu/eap for more info.

1 pm Spanish Conversation Table, Level: intermediate/advanced; Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Centro Centro@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

2 pm Arabic Conversation Table, Humanities Bldg 3rd fl “The Hub.” Dima Zeiden, dzo08@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

3 pm German Conversation Table, Commons on the Greens. English conversations in German flag on the side dining room! Catherine Danielou, danielou@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

6 pm Italian Conversation Table, Rast Hall 3rd Floor Study Lounge, beltail@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Thursday, April 24

3-3:30 pm School of Engineering. Directed by Yuli Turovsky, I Music of Lewis Carroll’s laughable and lovable characters. “Adventures in Wonderland” will be joined by more than 90 composers and musicians. Featuring food for sale from local restaurants and drink specials. The parties will be moved inside the Alys Stephens Center in the event of rain. Members of the ASCS Club can enter the VIP lounge complete with complimentary beverages and delicious food. Call 4-0860/5-2787 visit www.uab.edu/asc. The Writing is on the Decks: Contemporary Artists Gallery Benefit. A silent auction of custom decorated skateboards, vinyl Murky Knight art work, and resin graffiti car tiles, decorated by local and national artists, will be auctioned to benefit the UAB Visual Arts Program. Shows through Jan. 30. Beginning Feb. 6, the gallery will show works from Leonard Nemeoy, the 2009 John Horton Visiting Artist. Works from “New York: Full Body” series, an examination of concepts of female beauty and sexuality, will be on exhibit through Feb. 28. Admission is free. The gallery is located at 800 13th St. S. Call 4-0815.

Special events

Tuesday, April 21

1-3 pm School of Engineering. Annual spring fling. All engineering students are welcome. Business-Engineering Complex front lawn.

7 pm Music, UAB Jazz Ensemble, directed by Steve Roberts. Free. Alys Stephens Center. Call 5-2787 for more info.

Thursday, April 23

7 pm Music. UAB Music Honors Recital, featuring winners from the 2009 Honors Recital competition. Free. Alys Stephens Center. Call 5-2787 for more info.

Wednesday-Sunday, April 22-26

7:30 pm Theatre UB, Rhinoceros. Written by Eugene Ionesco. The sublime is confused with the ridiculous in this savage commentary on the human condition. A small town is beset by a raid of roaring rhinoceroses. Shortly more citizens are transformed into rhinoceroses. The tempest becomes louder until one man remains, unable to change his form and identity.

“Rhinoceros” belongs to the school of drama known as theater of the absurd, a designation for plays written by primarily European playwrights in the late 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. There is a 2 pm matinee show April 26. General admission tickets are $12 and $15; UAB and BACHE students $8; UAB employees/ senior citizens $10. Call 205-975-2787. Visit UAB Theatre online at theatre.hum.uab.edu.

Friday, April 24

9 am noon School of Health Professionals. Open house. Participants will learn about the rewarding careers available in the allied health professions. Demonstrations, informative presentations by distinguished faculty members, tours, giveaways and refreshments will highlight the event. Learning Resource Center Room 102.

6 pm National Alumni Society. Dollars for Scholars (DFS) national scholarship money for student scholar- ship. Registration opens at 4 pm. Pepper Place District. Register online at www.ac.com or download and application at www.alumni.uab.edu. For more info, call 934-3555.

8 pm Music. UAB Choirs Spring Concert, conducted by Philip Copeland. Alys Stephens Center. Call 5-2787 for more info.

Saturday, April 25

7 pm Alys Stephens Center. “I Musici de Montreal. Enjoy a free Prelude to this wonderful music at 7 pm. Founded by cellist and conductor Yuli Turovsky, I Music of Lewis Carroll’s laughable and lovable characters. “Adventures in Wonderland” will be joined by more than 90 composers and musicians. Featuring food for sale from local restaurants and drink specials. The parties will be moved inside the Alys Stephens Center in the event of rain. Members of the ASCS Club can enter the VIP lounge complete with complimentary beverages and delicious food. Call 4-0860/5-2787 visit www.uab.edu/asc.

Monday, April 27

7 pm UAB Gospel Choir. 13th annual spring concert. Tickets are $5; general admission; $5 for UAB students and employees with valid ID; $4 for children age 12 and under. The concert will feature more than 100 voices and the UAB Gospel Choir dance team and band. Jefferson Concert Hall. Call 5-2787 for more info.

Thursday, April 30

5:30-7:30 pm Alys Stephens Center. ASC Social Club “After Work & Outdoors,” featuring poetry and spoken word with ASC Arts in Action instructor Sharif Simmons. Free. Experience a different sound every Thursday through May 21 with live music by Birmingham’s best up-and-coming performing art- ists and musicians. Featuring food for sale from local restaurants and drink specials. The parties will be moved inside the Alys Stephens Center in the event of rain. Members of the ASCS Club can enter the VIP lounge complete with complimentary beverages and delicious food. Call 4-0860/5-2787 visit www.uab.edu/asc.

Saturday, May 2

10 & 11:30 am ASC Kids’ Club. Alice’s Even Bigger Tea Party. The original tea party guests from “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” will be joined by more of Lewis Carroll’s laughable and lovable characters. Tickets are $7. Sirote Theatre.

UAB Sports

April 22: UAB Baseball vs Troy, Young Memorial Field, 6:30 pm

April 24: UAB Baseball vs UCF, Young Memorial Field, 7 pm

April 25: UAB Baseball vs UCF, Young Memorial Field, 2 pm

April 26: UAB Baseball vs UCF, Young Memorial Field, noon

May 1: UAB Baseball vs Memphis, Young Memorial Field, 7 pm

May 2: UAB Baseball vs Memphis, Young Memorial Field, 1 pm

May 3: UAB Baseball vs Memphis, Young Memorial Field, 1 pm

UAB Reporter April 20, 2009
The 2009 Class of Leadership UAB, a group of community advisors comprising young professionals and community volunteers who offer their support to the university, has been announced.

Called Leadership UAB, the group's annual membership class consists of approximately 50 people ages of 25 to 40 who represent a cross-section of Birmingham's young professional community, including corporate, civic and volunteer organizations.

"The organization's mission is to help educate young leaders about UAB's vision, mission and ongoing endeavors in education, research, economic development and patient care," said Shirley Salloway Kahn, vice president for Development, Alumni and External Relations.

"As a result of the inaugural class' inside look at UAB through the Leadership UAB initiative, almost every member of the Class of 2008 has become involved on campus, participating in advisory boards, mentoring and offering input in innumerable ways," Kahn said.

"Their insight and support are invaluable to the future of UAB."

Visit Leadership UAB online at www.uab.edu/leadershipuab.

Class of 2009

Corinne E. Alcazar  
WVTM-TV NBC 13

Courtney E. Althbrook  
Actor, Singer, Choreographer, Director

Lacey M. Bacchus  
Barfield, Murphy, Shank & Smith, PC

Margaret S. Camp  
RealtySouth

Richard A. Campbell III  
Corporate Realty Associates, Inc.

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BBVA Compass Bank

Andre C. Natta  
Urban Conversations

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Sterne Agee & Leach, Inc.

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Trinity Medical Center

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Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama

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Birmingham Magazine

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Sirote & Permutt, PC

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April 24, 2009

Opening Remarks and Poster Presentations  
9-11:30 a.m., Center Court, UAB Rec Center

Podium Presentations  
1-4 p.m., Heritage Hall Rooms 102, 106, 126

"In Language" Session, 2-3:30 pm, Heritage Hall Room 102; presentations in language of study

A celebration of excellence in research, scholarship and creativity

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April 20, 2009 UAB Reporter 7
'Spirited of collaboration' makes Whitmire a valuable asset

Co-workers who know Carolyn Whitmire frequently mention her attention to detail, technical skills, professionalism and superior knowledge as strong characteristics — characteristics certainly valued in her role as research compliance manager.

Tina Ayer, program director II in the clinical studies unit in the Comprehensive Cancer Center, certainly appreciates those qualities in Whitmire. But what makes Whitmire special is her willingness to share ideas.

“Carolyn is a colleague with whom I can easily discuss ideas and strategies as well as an adviser,” Ayer says. “Her spirit of collaboration and communications makes her a valuable asset both to the university and the research community.”

Whitmire’s collaborative spirit is cited by many as a key reason she is deserving of her selection as April’s Employee of the Month. Whitmire’s list of responsibilities is long, but many as a key reason she is deserving of her selection as April’s Employee of the Month. Whitmire’s list of responsibilities is long, but her desire to help others achieve success in their jobs is unmatched, co-workers say.

Whitmire coordinates activities within the research compliance office. She supervises three research compliance auditors and is in charge of projects related to audits of clinical trial-billing and effort-reporting issues.

She has been the leader of the Fiscal Approval Process and Siteminder implementation project since 2008 and directed the clinical trials office during that time also. She has developed an aggressive implementation and training schedule for the fiscal approval process and Siteminder, a financial-management system. She’s done this in addition to her full schedule in the research compliance office.

Whitmire says she manages the dual roles by staying organized and relying on her supervisory staff.

“I always make sure I’m following up with our employees who have questions they need answered,” Whitmire says. “I think it’s critical in today’s environment that we foster a positive culture and perception of compliance. I want our employees to know that we are always available to answer questions or to provide guidance. More important, I want them to know that we are responsive.”

“That’s the same with the clinical trials office. It is also a customer-oriented office. I have a tremendous staff there who work daily with the research community. That office continues to evolve and develop strong customer relationships.”

Richard Margison, vice president of financial affairs and administration, says Whitmire brings to her job a rare blend of technical skills, business savvy, leadership and excellent written and oral communications skills.

“She is the go-to person in a highly specialized and technical area and consistently delivers measurable value and results for the institution,” Margison says. “She leads and mentors the employees she supervises to reach beyond minimum position requirements. She isn’t hesitant to share credit and consistently demonstrates the understanding that those same staff members play a vital role in the department’s overall success.”

Whitmire’s compliance role is important for auditing, monitoring and assessing the risk to the institution. It means Whitmire is in constant communication with researchers throughout campus — one of the things she enjoys the most.

“I love the interaction with the coordinators and investigators, the people doing the day-to-day work who encounter problems and ask questions,” Whitmire says. “I feel like the people who contact me know they’re going to get a response. I may not always have an answer, but I can point them to the person who can help them. I have excellent employees in both offices that help make this happen. They have a commitment to UAB and compliance in general, and that’s important.”

One of the reasons Whitmire’s departments run smoothly is her unflappable demeanor, says Rosemary Beals, nurse research manager of the arrhythmia section in the Department of Medicine.

“She simultaneously manages to keep her eye on UAB’s goals, uses feedback to improve and facilitate processes, integrates both process and goals and communicates the information clearly and concisely to all,” Beals says. “Beyond that, she always is willing to assist us with troubleshooting specific difficulties.”

Regardless of whether she is fulfilling the role and responsibilities of her formal position or a role she has been asked to assume, she charts a steady course and gives 200 percent.
Healthy girls 17-10 years old needed for a research study of an investigational herpes vaccine. You must be willing to be vaccinated and to participate in a study to educate women with sexual dysfunction and not on blood pressure meds needed. Involves 2 overnight stays and 1 week of food. Compensation. Laura 502-996-4015.

Are you a woman age 60 or older? Do you have blood pressure reading greater than 140/90? You may qualify for a study using an investigational drug. Must be at least 60 years old and not on blood pressure meds needed. Involves 2 visits, exams and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-996-4015.

Are you a woman 19-65 and not taking medication for high blood pressure? You may qualify for a study using a severe, high blood pressure medication. You will receive a free medication and visits at no cost. Involves 2 visits, exams and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-996-4015.

Are you a woman age 20-65? Do you have a headache? You may qualify for a study using an investigational medication and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation up to $100. Lucy 4-9079.

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Men & women age 45-65 who have had a primary care, colonoscopy examination within the past 5 years. You may qualify for a study evaluating the effectiveness of an investigational medication. Must be at least 45 years old and not on blood pressure meds needed. Involves 2 visits, exams and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-996-4015.

Are you a woman age 19 or older? Do you have a headache? You may qualify for a study using an investigational medication and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation up to $100. Lucy 4-9079.

Are you a woman age 19-65 and not taking medication for high blood pressure? You may qualify for a study using a severe, high blood pressure medication. You will receive a free medication and visits at no cost. Involves 2 visits, exams and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-996-4015.

Are you a woman age 60 or older? Do you have blood pressure reading greater than 140/90? You may qualify for a study using an investigational drug. Must be at least 60 years old and not on blood pressure meds needed. Involves 2 visits, exams and study-related procedures at no cost. Compensation. Laura 502-996-4015.

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5K & 10K Run/Walk

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Friday, April 24, 2009
4 p.m. - Registration Opens
6 p.m. - Race Begins

5K and 10K Run
$25 (now thru April 23)
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On-site registration begins at 4 p.m.

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