Quantitative literacy needed for life, academic discipline

To appreciate the nature of quantitative literacy, consider the following version of a question that appeared in the April 10 edition of Parade magazine: If half of the children 14 and under who die in car crashes are not buckled, buckled or otherwise restrained, doesn’t this mean that half of the children are appropriately secured? If so, wouldn’t this also mean that the chances of a child surviving a crash are 50-50, restrained or not? This is the response from Parade columnist, Marilyn vos Savant:

“Yes to the first question, but not to the second. When statistics like this are quoted out of context, they can be misleading. You need more information. To illustrate, suppose that 90 percent of children involved in car crashes (not just fatal ones) are secured, and 10 percent are not. Now say that 10 percent of these accidents cause a fatality, half with the children secured and half with a child who is not. This would mean that every unrestrained child involved in an accident was killed, but only one out of nine restrained children was killed. You’d draw a very different conclusion, wouldn’t you?”

Now here are the questions for you: Where did the question-writer go wrong? Can you verify Savant’s math? What kind of bias has she introduced into her answer, and how would you go about finding out if there is such a bias? Could the answer have been written so the average reader would not still be scratching his or her head?

“This is a perfect example of what encompasses quantitative literacy,” says David Cvetic, Ph.D., director of special assessment projects in the Office of Planning and Analysis. Quantitative literacy (QL) is problem-solving using a higher-order set of skills involving numbers. The teaching of QL across all disciplines is a key component of UAB’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP promotes effective communication skills, depth and breadth of knowledge, experience with problem-solving and the ability to make informed, ethical decisions and the preparation of students for responsible citizenship in the community, nation and world. UAB’s QEP states that each of these things is essential for success in work and life. UAB’s QEP states that each of these things is essential for success in work and life. UAB’s QEP states that each of these things is essential for success in work and life. UAB’s QEP states that each of these things is essential for success in work and life.

Computer whiz kid mentors tomorrow’s science leaders

Jeff Gray, Ph.D., celebrated his 16th birthday Nov. 20, 1985—the same day Windows 1.0 was released. While Microsoft and Apple were evolving, Gray’s interest in computers was in overdrive as he was developing the software for an electronic bulletin-board system. One day Nov. 20, 1985—the same day Windows 1.0 was released. While Microsoft and Apple were evolving, Gray’s interest in computers was in overdrive as he was developing the software for an electronic bulletin-board system.

“People would call my house, log on to my PC and send messages to each other,” Gray says. “The speed of the modem back then was 110 or 300 bits-per-second. You could almost out-type the modern.”

Expanding employee outreach

“We are working on creating employee-recognition programs that encourage and reward employees who donate,” Waldrum says. “Our need is acute. This past year, UAB hospitals experienced a shortfall of more than 30,000 units between what was needed and what was collected on campus.”

Employees may donate by going to Jefferson Tower Room 229. The blood-donor room is open from noon to 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday. To make an appointment, call 996-7377.

Employees and others also can register online with the Red Cross at www.givelife.org; enter sponsor code UAB to make an appointment.

Remember to bring a photo ID when donating blood.

New donor facility planned

Hospital officials hope a new state-of-the-art donor facility scheduled to open this fall near the food court in the North Pavilion will help boost on-campus donation.

The new facility will have wireless Internet access, DVD players and monitors at each donor table, an online scheduling system for donors who wish to preplan their donation time and freshly baked cookies for donors who wish to preplan their donation time and freshly baked cookies.
Safe Zone training set

UAB HRM Training and Development is offering a workshop to train volunteers for the UAB Safe Zone program Wednesday, June 6 from 2-5 p.m. in Medical Towers Room 419A. The Safe Zone program is an established, visible network of trained faculty, staff, and students who provide confidential support and reliable information to other faculty, staff, and students regarding issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Please send a letter of intent by Wednesday, May 30, 2007 to: Debbie Morgette, morgette@uab.edu or e-mail to: debmorgette@uab.edu or visit the Web site: students.uab.edu/student-life/show.asp?durki=61359.

Seeking applications for health disparities research funding

The Minority Health and Research Center (MHRC) is inviting applications for the 2007 funding of one-year pilot developmental research projects focusing on health disparities. The submission deadline is Aug. 1. These projects must demonstrate relevance to health disparities and may be in the following areas: (a) clinical, (b) in epidemiology, social and behavioral sciences or (c) basic science. Eligible applicants are faculty at UAB, Morehouse School of Medicine or Tuskegee University at the instructor, assistant professor or associate professor level. Minority faculty are encouraged to apply. If the applicant is an assistant professor or lower, a senior co-investigator should serve as a mentor for the investigator submitting the proposal.

Three developmental projects likely will be funded:
• The Charles Barkley/CTSA Health Disparities Research Award led by a minority faculty investigator with a health disparities focus ($80,000). This project includes matching funds from the Office of the Vice President for Research.
• One Charles Barkley Health Disparities Research Award that addresses health disparities in the African American population, led by a minority or majority faculty investigator ($40,000).
• One Charles Barkley Health Disparities Research Award that addresses health disparities in the Hispanic/Latino population, led by a minority or majority faculty investigator ($40,000).

Please send a letter of intent by Wednesday, May 30, via e-mail to Ann Smith at annsmith@uab.edu. The letter of intent is required and should include PI and investigator(s), title, senior mentor name(s) and a one-paragraph description regarding the goals/focus of the study. Applicants will be notified by June 11, regarding approval to submit a full application.

Direct questions concerning the submission of these proposals to Smith or UAB MHRC Research Program co-leaders Catarina Kirke, M.D., Ph.D., director, Division of Preventive Medicine; Duck Hee Kang, Ph.D., Marie L. O’Koren Endowed Chair, UAB School of Nursing; and Graziela S. Alarcon, M.D., Jane Knight Lowe Chair of Medicine in Rheumatology, UAB School of Medicine.

Clinic opens for adults with Down Syndrome

UAB has opened one of the few clinics in the nation dedicated to providing services to adult patients with Down Syndrome. Because of improvements in diagnosis, treatment and management of the condition while young, Down Syndrome patients now are routinely living into adulthood and have the same risks for adult diseases as the rest of the population.

“Our clinic provides an array of services necessary to manage adult Down Syndrome and primary care for anything from serious illness to a bout with the flu,” said clinic director Edward J. Lose, M.D., assistant professor of genetics. Lose says the clinic, which meets two days per month, will see patients from Alabama and surrounding states.

CityStages discounts passes for employees

UAB faculty and staff are eligible to purchase the $50 CityStages Weekend Pass for only $36 through June 4 at the UAB Ticket Office, located in the Hill University Center. Tickets will be $50 per person. Employees must show a valid UAB I.D. to receive the discount. A line-up of performers for the three-day festival, set for June 15-17, is online at www.citystages.org.

The UAB Ticket Office offers discounted tickets to a number of entertainment destinations at http://students.uab.edu/services/show.asp?durki=62680.

UAB Culture Camp to be held June 18-22

At the UAB Culture Camp, campers receive a passport for an imaginary trip around the globe. Instructors will introduce campers to the culture, food, music, dance and arts crafts of several countries that represent different regions of the world. The cost is $50 per camper and the camp is open to all children entering grades 3-5.

The program is sponsored by UAB International Scholar and Student Services. To register, call Amy Ovens at 934-1207.
Faculty Senate elects new officers and representatives

Warren Martin, Ph.D., professor of business, will become chair-elect, and Jennifer Long, senior assistant librarian for Mervyn Sterne Library, will remain secretary of the UAB Faculty Senate for the 2007-08 term in elections conducted in April. These elections were held to select a new chair-elect and secretary of the senate plus academic unit representatives and their alternates for the period June 1 to May 31, 2008. Chair-elect Pat Greeneup, Ph.D., associate professor of clinical lab sciences, will replace outgoing Chair Joe Marsh, Ph.D., associate professor of chemistry, in the new term.

Elected senators for the new term are Stephen Moser, Ph.D., professor, Joint Health Sciences; Daniel Siegel, Ph.D., assistant professor, Arts & Humanities; Theodore Ros, Ph.D., professor, Business; Michelle Robinson, D.D.S., associate professor, Dentistry; Melanie Shores, Ph.D., assistant professor, Education; Robert Peters, Ph.D., professor, Engineering; William Ogard, Ph.D., assistant professor, Health Professions; Albert Pierce, M.D., assistant professor, Medicine; Chaner Raman, Ph.D., assistant professor, Medicine; Brooke Becker, assistant librarian, Mervyn Sterne Library; Joanna Hutchison, Ph.D., assistant professor, Natural Sciences & Mathematics; Linda Reed, Ph.D., assistant professor, Nursing; Adam Gordon, O.D., clinical associate professor, Optometry; Nianjun Liu, Ph.D., assistant professor, Public Health; and Rex Wright, Ph.D., professor, Social & Behavioral Sciences.

Alternate senators for the new term are Robert Kesterson, Ph.D., assistant professor, Joint Health Sciences; Nicole Griffith, instructor, Arts & Humanities; Joe Walker, Ph.D., associate professor, Business; Andraa Bazmark, D.D.S., assistant professor, Dentistry; Laura Talbot, Ph.D., assistant professor, Education; Uday Vaidya, Ph.D., professor; Engineering; Janelle Chisora, Ph.D., associate professor, Health Professions; Mark Lockhart, M.D., associate professor, Medicine; Alexander Szalai, Ph.D., associate professor, Medicine; Heather Martin, associate librarian, Mervyn Sterne Library; Craig McClure, Ph.D., assistant professor, Natural Sciences & Mathematics; Joy Douglass, instructor, Nursing; Melanie Crook, O.D.; associate professor, Optometry; Kui Zhang, Ph.D., research assistant professor, Public Health; and Christopher Robinson, Ph.D., assistant professor, Social & Behavioral Sciences.

Elected representatives to the Faculty Policies and Procedures Committee for the new term are Rose Scripa, Ph.D., professor, Engineering; Nicole Mitchell, instructor, Lister Hill Library; Craig Beard, senior assistant librarian, Mervyn Sterne Library; James Ward, Ph.D., professor, Natural Sciences & Mathematics; and Joan Grant, D.S.N., professor, Nursing.

Submit essays for Conner Prize in the History of Ideas

UAB is accepting submissions for the 2007 Frederick W. Conner Prize in the History of Ideas for the 2007-08 academic year. The Conner Prize is awarded for an essay in the history of ideas written by any member of the faculty or administration of UAB. The term “history of ideas” is to be interpreted liberally, including as a broad range of interdisciplinary concerns. The prize carries an award of $250.

QUANTITATIVE LITERACY

Department of Education, The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School Through College, found that many world disciplines are quantitative and math skills are essential. It concluded that “No matter what a student’s major, more than a tenth of college-level math is called for.”

“QL equips students to practice good judgment and make sensible life decisions on a daily basis on campus and after graduation,” explains Marilyn Kurata, Ph.D., director of Core Curriculum Enhancement.

Critical-thinking skills

How does someone develop quantitative literacy?

“It can be simple math in some cases, but it’s not simply math,” Corliss says.

“To become quantitatively literate, students must learn a transferable, higher-order set of skills, problem-solving and critical thinking. This set of skills is developed through the discipline-specific QL portion of the curriculum.”

In any kind of assessment of QL you have to ask the question: What do the wrong answers tell us?

“When you look at this in the context of the stages of problem-solving, you must comprehend the problem, structure the problem, do the math and then make a judgment about the answer,” Corliss says. “Those are the four stages you go through.”

BlazerNET home to faculty registration tools

Did you know that faculty registration tools are located on the BlazerNET Faculty Resources tab? The tab is also an easy and central access point for information on faculty development seminars and UAB Instructional Technology – and it puts frequently used policies and forms right at your fingertips.

BlazerNET is the portal for all faculty registration related tasks across the institution. It provides easy access to faculty registration tools – and it puts frequently used policies and forms right at your fingertips.

Submit an essay by May 28, 2007 to 934-0513 or e-mail blazernet@uab.edu for more information.

Back to the problem

The problem at the beginning of the story is a perfect example of why people need to be quantitatively literate, Corliss says.

The question is certainly very legitimate and similar “problems” appear in newspapers and on television newscasts every day. However, how do you know the answer given is legitimate? Even if the math is correct, the problem has been structured correctly and the operation is done correctly, you still have to make a judgment about the answer.

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Quantitatively literate UAB graduates should be able to do the same thing.

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Pang says China exchange program is reaping success

K.C. Pang is big on opportunity. When it shows up on your doorstep, he says, you better not take too long to embrace it.

“Tell my students opportunity is like a breeze coming in,” says Pang, a business professor in Management, Marketing and Industrial Distribution. “If you don’t feel it, it may leave quickly. And there’s no guarantee the breeze will come back.”

Eight of Pang’s students are taking their opportunity to go to China in June to study Chinese language and culture through a UAB exchange program with Anshan Normal University. This will be the second year Pang will take a group to Anshan for a hands-on, month-long study of China and its business culture.

Pang believes if the United States wants to compete with China in the global market, we must learn more about the language and culture of the country and the way in which business is conducted there. “The reason I wanted to set up this exchange program with Anshan Normal University is because China already knows much about us and our business practices. But we as Americans don’t know a whole lot about China. And the Chinese are major players in the global business world. China’s the fastest-growing economy in the world,” Pang said.

Alabama certainly realizes that fact. China is one of our state’s largest trading partners accounting for almost $1 billion in trade this past year, according to state statistics, “and it’s going to keep growing,” Pang says.

Intense month of learning
So, Pang’s plan is to take some of the best and brightest in UAB’s School of Business to meet community leaders, visit economic development zones, explore the culture and study in a Chinese classroom with fellow business students. He and his students leave for China May 31 and return June 29.

Pang, a permanent visiting professor at Anshan Normal University, has a project planned for both his UAB and Anshan students. He will divide his Chinese students into groups that include a UAB student, and each group must form a joint-venture company and write an international business plan in three weeks.

Pang also has planned a four-day tour of other Chinese cities, including at stop in Changzou, home to a factory owned by Birmingham-based McWane Corporation.

Connections to China
Pang has more than 20 years experience in strategic planning, business development and other strategic partnerships and joint-venture partnership development. For more than 15 years, Pang, a Malaysia native, traveled extensively in Asia and has traveled to more than 20 cities in China.

“I have been doing business in China for many years, and I have many contacts there and know many government officials,” Pang says. “I think that’s why this program has been so successful so quickly.”

There already are successes in the program on both sides.

Who is K.C. Pang?
• Joined UAB School of Business in 2003 as full-time faculty member after more than 20 years of business experience with companies FedEx, World Development Federation, GTE Wireless and Holiday Inn.
• Was featured in Birmingham Business Journal as one of “7 People to Watch in 2007.”
• Spoke on “China’s Next Phase” as part of the Harvard University China Review Conference in March 2006.

A professor from Anshan Normal University is coming to UAB this fall to observe the way in which American universities teach students. She will also study how the United States and China conduct business with one another from our country’s perspective.

Also, one student from Jilin has already applied for UAB’s MBA program. “Of course we want to bring more, but after one year, that’s pretty good,” Pang says.

Negotiations are also under way to bring 15 Chinese business executives to campus next spring to participate in the Express MBA Certificate Program, and he expects to establish a second exchange program on this trip with Shandong University in Jilin.

Summary minutes of the May 8 Faculty Senate Meeting

Chair Report: Chair Joe March announced the following items: 1) SBIR dean search programs and still time to nominate candidates; 2) Virginia Tech incident discussed at APC and FSEC meetings; 3) Provost and dean reviews families friendly policies and draft periodic career developmental review policy.

President Report: President Carol Garrison announced the following items: 1) Protocols and policies exist for dealing with emergencies on campus. 2) Police officers, hospital employees, and resident assistants receive training on handling distressed individuals and emergency situations. 3) Classes being developed for faculty and staff on handling distressed individuals and emergency situations to be offered during summer and fall semesters. 4) UAB Web site includes emergency information fact sheet and dealing with distressed students guide. She thanked Chair Joe March for his leadership during past year and senators for their hard work and continued support of shared governance.

Presentation: Marisa Marques discussed blood short-age system and need for blood donors.

Standing Committee Reports: Curriculum and Research Committee – Chair Nasim Uddin summarized activities accomplished during past year including copyright policy review, student evaluations of faculty teaching resolution, faculty development grant program, and senate representation on UPC.

Faculty Affairs Committee – Chair Mark Lockhart summarized activities accomplished during past year including administrator evaluations and periodic career developmental review proposal.

Faculty Policies and Procedures Committee – Chair Carolyn Walden summarized activities accomplished during past year including revisions to faculty handbook. Revisions to section 2.6.3.7 (annual evaluations) were presented and explained and will be discussed and voted on at June meeting.

Finance Committee – Chair Michael Humber summarized activities accomplished during past year including review of fringe benefits, educational assistance program, and employee travel guidelines.

Governance and Operations Committee – Chair Pat Higgensbottom summarized activities accomplished during past year including election cycle review, senator-at-large duties, senate liaison program, constitutions and bylaws reformating, attendance monitoring, and elections.

Announcements: The next senate meeting is June 12 in AB Penthouse CR1. The next FSEC meeting is May 30, and the next FPPC meeting is May 18.

Secretary Jennifer Long submits this draft summary of the minutes on the senate Web page at www.uab.edu/senate/home.html and a complete record will appear after approval at the June senate meeting. The minutes of the FPPC meeting are available for review on the senate page.

GIVE BLOOD

CONTINUED from page 1 and muffins provided through an initiative with Sodexo, the North Pavilion Market operator. The room will have the ability to consolidate all Red Cross blood services, collecting whole blood, packed red blood cells, plasma and platelets.

Critical needs
“Its extremely important that we achieve self-sufficiency in blood collections,” says David Hoidal, chief executive officer of the UAB Health System. “Alabama is forced to import nearly 20 percent of the blood used in our hospitals from other states, which raises the costs associated with collection and can potentially create critical shortages if the exporting states have a crisis of their own.”

UAB and Alabama faced such a crisis in January. Devastating winter storms this year disrupted normal blood collection activities across the Midwest, drying up the surplus. UAB Hospital was forced to hold a series of urgent blood drives across campus to provide enough blood to maintain normal operations.

“Such one-to-two week period in January was the most severe shortage we’ve experienced at UAB to my knowledge,” Marques says. “We hope this new partnership with the Red Cross will ensure that soon we’ll be collecting enough blood locally to meet our needs and that we never again find ourselves in a similar situation.”

4 UAB Reporter May 28, 2007
Omega-3 fatty acids investigated as deterrent to Alzheimer’s

Omega-3 fatty acids investigated as deterrent to Alzheimer’s disease in a clinical trial.

“Evidence to date in various research studies that have examined the effect of omega-3 fatty acids on Alzheimer’s disease merit further evaluation in a rigorous clinical trial,” said Daniel Marson, Ph.D., interim director of the UAB Alzheimer’s Disease Center and UAB’s principal investigator. “Our hope is that we may find out that DHA plays a role in slowing the progression of this destructive disease.”

Researchers primarily will evaluate whether taking DHA over many months slows the progression of Alzheimer’s disease and functional decline in people with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s. During the 18-month clinical trial, investigators will measure the progress of the disease using standard tests for functional and cognitive change.

Participants needed

In recent European studies and the Framingham Heart Study, scientists reported that people with the highest blood levels of DHA were about half as likely to develop dementia as those with lower levels.

UAB is part of a nationwide consortium of leading Alzheimer’s disease researchers supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and coordinated by the University of California, San Diego. The trial will take place at 52 sites across the United States. It seeks 400 participants age 50 and older with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease.

“Study volunteers will be critical to helping us find out if DHA can make an impact on the disease process,” Marson said.

For the clinical trial the Martek Biosciences Corporation of Columbia, Md., will donate a pure form of DHA made from algae devoid of fish-related contaminants. Participants will receive either two grams of DHA per day or an inactive placebo pill. About 50 percent of participants will receive DHA, and 40 percent will get the placebo. Doctors and nurses at the 52 research clinic sites will monitor the participants in regular visits throughout the trial. To ensure unbiased results, neither the researchers conducting the trial nor the participants will know who is getting DHA and who is receiving the placebo.

In addition to monitoring disease progression through cognitive tests, researchers will evaluate whether taking DHA supplements has a positive effect on physical and biological markers of Alzheimer’s, such as brain atrophy and proteins in blood and spinal fluid.

Learn more

To learn more about the federal effort that supports and conducts research on aging and the medical, social and behavioral issues of older people, including Alzheimer’s disease and age-related cognitive decline.

For more information visit the NIA’s Alzheimer’s Disease Education and Referral Center at www.nia.nih.gov or Alzheimer’s or call 1-800-438-4380. For general information on research and aging, go to www.nia.nih.gov and for information about NIH and its programs, visit www.nih.gov.
VAG exhibit features sculptures and 3-D objects

The UAB Visual Arts Gallery presents a newly scheduled exhibition, “The Third Dimension: Sculpture and 3-D Objects from the Collection,” showing through June 29. Gallery Director Brett Levine has selected many works from the university’s collection that have not been on show in more than a decade.

“Recent additions, acquisitions and the desire to explore the collection thoroughly make this an unusual event,” Levine said. “Exhibitions that are discipline-based are often diverse, wide-ranging and enjoyable because they aren’t focused solely on a single medium.”

The UAB Visual Arts Gallery has diverse holdings in sculpture and three-dimensional objects. Among them are two ceramic plates by the artist Yacov Agam, given as a gift to the university three years ago. Agam is best known in Birmingham for his large-scale optical sculpture that graces the façade of the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital. Also of note is a rare bronze sculpture by Alabama artist Lonnie Holley and both serious and whimsical works collected during the gallery’s 35-year history.

Also included are works by current and former UAB faculty, including professors James Alexander, Sonja Reiger and retiring professor Janice Kluge.

The UAB Visual Arts Gallery has new summer hours. The gallery will be open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday. The gallery is closed Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays throughout the summer.
Meetings

Tuesday, May 29
Noon UAB Resource Center Wellness Program. Stress management through meditation; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/rap.
4:30 pm Spanish conversation table; Commons on the Green dining room (look for the Spanish fan).

Wednesday, May 30
Noon French conversation table; Commons on the Green cafeteria (look for the French flag). Come to speak French and make new friends! For more info, Catherine danielou@uab.edu.
5:25 pm Power Yoga; UAB Marshall Conference Center. For more info, call Fran 987-0303.

Thursday, May 31
12:10 pm UAB Resource Center, Tal Chi-Stress management through movement; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/rap.
6:30 pm SMART recovery group meetings; not a 12-step or religious program. Any addiction or habit can be helped. Southside Baptist Church. Call WL Fulcher 975-7795 for details.
7 pm Conversational English classes; levels 1-4; Smoller Int’l House. 4-1205/jerse@uab.edu.
8 pm Stammtisch conversation table, for anyone who speaks German; Giuseppe’s Cafe, 905 8th Street South. For info, agresti@uab.edu.

Friday, June 1
7 am Falun Dafa exercises, an ancient Chinese exercise that brings harmony & health. UAB Mini Park, 4-8295.

Religion

Tuesday, May 29
Noon Medical Center Christian Fellowship Meeting. WP-B. All welcome. Mark 647-5177 or Blair 951-3826.

Wednesday, May 30
Noon Employee-led Bible study; Interfaith Chapel-West Pavilion.
12:15 pm Latter-day Saints Student Association. Scripture study and discussion; HUC-413. All welcome. For more info, Andrew 822-9338.
7 pm Catholic mass; St Stephen Church, 1515 S 12th Ave. 933-2500.

Sunday, June 3
5 pm UAB Hindu Student Council. We will have a session on singing and feasting the Hare Krishna way where everyone is welcome to join. For more info, Varadraj Prabhu 383-9805. 1501 15th Ave S, Apt 20, Bham.

Exhibits

Mervyn H. Sterne Library. The Czech Republic. Show runs through May 31. Library hours: 7:30 am-11 pm Mon-Thu; 7:30 am-7 pm Fri; 9 am-5 pm Sat; 1-11 pm Sun.
The Samuel Ullman Museum. Home of prominent Birmingham civic leader and poet. Open by appointment only, 4-3328.
The Visual Arts Gallery. The Third Dimension: Sculpture and 3D Objects from the Collection. 900 13th St. South. Admission is free. Call 4-0815.
The Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. 2007 UABOM Art Show featuring Student, Resident and Faculty entries. LHL-3rd fl. For info, call 4-4475.

WBHM-FM, 90.3
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May 28, 2007 UAB Reporter 7
Maner enjoys new challenges of Training & Development

A fter a 20-year career in the Navy that featured plenty of worldwide traveling, Cullman native Michael Maner was happy to return to Alabama four years ago. And he’s just as happy to have discovered a new home at UAB.

Maner brought his computing and training expertise to UAB’s Training and Development office after his hiring in 2004, and his impact in the department — and across campus — has been noticeable.

He develops and teaches a variety of computer technology courses, is the Webmaster for the Human Resources Management Organizational Department, administers the Training & Development Self Service (TADSS) registration system and develops materials for BlazerNet and online orientation. In addition, Maner receives and responds to support questions from employees who have taken computer classes in Training & Development.

Maner’s high level of work performance, upbeat attitude and sense of humor impress his colleagues. So it’s no surprise that Maner has been selected May’s Employee of the Month.

“I just love being around people who are positive, down-to-earth and want to be part of a group of people that’s special,” says Pamela Gray Burks, a UAB reporter.

Maner works in HRM Organizational Development as an instructional designer. He began his UAB career as a training instructor shortly after his retirement from the Navy. But Maner quickly expanded his role to Web design and instructional design work. He has been involved in many of the Web changes in the HRM department for more than a year.

“There have been extensive and frequent changes to some of the HRM Web pages in the past 12 months, and Mike took upon himself to learn what he needed to be able to do this work,” says Pamela Gray Burks, Ed.D., director of Organizational Development. “Mike seems to enjoy new challenges and has never turned me down when I have requested he take on additional duties.”

Maner’s colleagues have been impressed with his desire to learn, his interest in teaching the new skills he learns and his enthusiasm for assisting on departmental projects.

“I frequently receive e-mails from employees who compliment Mike’s responsiveness and knowledge,” says Kay McCabe, manager of the computer-technology program in Training and Development. “Mike consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and willingness to assist with projects whenever possible.”

Maner says he enjoys learning new skills to enhance his abilities, but he really enjoys developing and teaching courses for Training and Development. It’s his way to use his Navy prepared him to do.

“My last tour of duty really made me aware that I wanted to be involved in training education,” Maner says. “My job was helping develop, refine and update courses we were teaching in the Navy, and I really liked it. It prepared me very well for this.”

Bonnice Powell, instructor in Professional Development Programs, says Maner has modeled exemplary customer service in his teaching role, and he isn’t satisfied with the status quo — whether he’s developing classes that help UAB employees, maintaining a Web site or any other project he believes can make a difference.

“He is willing to help any of us within the department with our computer woes and offers that same easy-going spirit of helpfulness to our students also,” Powell says. “To me, Mike embodies everything that a UAB employee should be. He is respectful of other people’s needs, he provides service to anyone who requests it, and he is unfailingly kind.”

Maner’s willingness to help others is something that comes up often among those who interact with him.

“When he tells you that he will take care of something, he really does,” says Marie F. Baisden, director of The Resource Center Employee Assistance Program. “When I hear his name mentioned in conversations about work, people always say ‘He makes things so easy. I like to work with him.’”

Maner is appreciative his co-workers think so much of him. But he wants them to know he is equally appreciative of the work environment they have created for him.

“I love my job and working with this group. Our mission is to help employees in their job. My colleagues always create a positive atmosphere where we can do just that.”

Mike Maner, an instructional designer in HRM Organizational Development, is May’s Employee of the Month. To nominate someone for this recognition, visit www.uab.edu/eotm.

JEFF GRAY

CONTINUED from page 1

Gray, an assistant professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences (CIS), discovered early in his youth that computer science was the field in which he wanted to operate. His decision has proven fruitful for him, his students and for UAB.

Gray recently received the prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award, presented annually to a select faculty nationwide. Gray supports exceptionally promising university faculty who integrate research and education and who likely will become the academic leaders of the 21st century.

Gray’s selection marks the fourth NSF CAREER Award given to a UAB faculty member in the 12-year history of the award. It’s the first time a member of the CIS department was selected for the honor, although Anthony Skjelham, Ph.D., chair of the CIS Department, was a recipient of the award while he was on the faculty at Mississippi State University.

Early start

It’s no surprise Gray would win an award this prestigious. After all, he showed early potential; the software developer for his bulletin-board system won the Virginia State Science Fair in the computer science division when he was a sophomore.

“I’m not Al Gore,” he says, laughing. “I didn’t invent the Internet. DARPA (the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) built the Internet. The bulletin-board system was just a way for the people in my West Virginia community to get together and communicate at a time when online computing among the general public was in its infancy.”

Gray’s bulletin-board was just the beginning. For the following year’s science project, he built the software that would allow two computers to play tic-tac-toe against each other and learn from mistakes.

“It was like one machine was teaching the other how to play;” he says. This project earned him honors in the Westinghouse Science Talent Search (now called the Intel Science Search) and placed him as a top 25 international semi-finalist in the Edison-McGraw Science Competition.

Paying it forward

While computers are Gray’s interest, teaching others how to use them is his passion.

The NSF is rewarding his research in model-driven engineering and numerous activities that improve the awareness of computing in Alabama with a $400,000 grant to support new lines of research and educational opportunities for students.

The grant will help support community outreach endeavors like the recently held statewide High School Programming Contest and Alice Film Festival, which he organized with support from colleagues in the UAB Department of Computer and Information Sciences.

“These young kids are just unbelievable,” Gray says of the students in grades 4-12 that attended. “They are just so smart and talented.”

Three high-school students solved all six problems in the programming contest in three hours, including one that required them to write a computer program that would generate the missing numbers to fill out a Sudoku puzzle and another to convert Roman numerals to decimals.

The Alice Film Festival challenges students to use the Alice 3-D interactive computer program to create a one-minute movie. Gray was ecstatic with the student turnout and quality of the work submitted by students.

“We had a fourth-grader win the Alice contest at the elementary school level,” Gray said. “One kid from Auburn City Schools sent a video, and I couldn’t figure out how to run it. It was incredible. It was like watching an episode of the new reality show, Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?”

TOMORROW’S LEADERS

Gray enjoys the opportunity to watch and teach young people at these contests and the summer computing camps the CIS department hosts. He also takes great pride in the students coming through the CIS program at UAB and embraces the importance of being a good mentor.

This past spring, Will Whitney, a sophomore at Moulton Brook High School who spent a year in Gray’s lab, won the Alabama State Science and Engineering Fair in the computer-science category for research on a self-parking vehicle.

“These kids are tomorrow’s leaders,” Gray said. “If you reach a couple hundred kids a year, you never know what kind of difference that might make.”

8 UAB REPORTER May 28, 2007
Adults without HIV to participate in a study on cognitive and everyday skills. Volunteers receive $60. All information confidential. David 934-0233

Type 2 diabetes — if you are age 19-75 and have been taking an oral hypoglycemic agent for at least 6 months you may qualify for this study. Call for more information. 4-1668.

If you have rheumatoid arthritis? People age 19-85 diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis may quality for the AL2A study using a Cattarepant clinic. Before you decide to participate in a study, ask the UAB department of genetics if you are eligible to participate. Compensation. Hollis 5-4907.

If you have rheumatoid arthritis? People age 19-85 diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis may quality for the AL2A study using a Cattarepant clinic. Before you decide to participate in a study, ask the UAB department of genetics if you are eligible to participate. Compensation. Hollis 5-4907.

If you have been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, arthroskopie spondyloïd, psoriatic arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis? The UAB Clinical Intervention Program is seeking participants for its clinical trials that offer, at no cost, physical, lab work and study medication. Compensation. 5-279.

Are you a woman older than 65 or have you been diagnosed with osteoporosis or a fracture? The UAB Center for Nursing Research is seeking women age 65 or older, with no history of heart failure you may be eligible to participate in this study. No medication, lab work, medical history. No follow up. Participation involves answering questions related to your health and your medical history. No blood draw. No follow up. Compensation. 996-7002.

If you have a sleep disorder? The UAB Women’s Health Institute is seeking healthy adults who are taking Metformin for their diabetes. Compensation. 4-9001.

UAB’s Dept of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation needs volunteers are 19-60 who are 6-9 months post SCI or SCI in a good health without disability for a research study to determine the relationship between neuromuscular function and physical activity. Compensated $300. Jim 4-2088/9/9/2333. hubbub.co

Would you like to participate in a nutrition & weight loss study? Study involves 2 in-pa- tient visits to UAB over a four week period. You must be age 21-50, 10-50 lbs overweight, non-smoking, ambulatory, not on any blood pressure medications. 5-9632.

Do you have diabetes? Are you taking metformin (Glucophage)? Call for more information. 5-4081. There are people who are taking metformin for their diabetes. Compensation. 4-9001.

Adults 19 & older needed to test an investigational drug for narcolepsy. Must be age 19 and older. If you have been having memory problems, or if you have noticed any trouble remembering, or have had a memory loss memory you may qualify. One visit involving blood test and memory testing and ambulatory monitoring at no cost. Compensation. 4-9001.

Women

Are you taking antidepressants? Are you healthy, at least 70 years of age, with no history of heart failure, you may be eligible for a research study in which you can get a blood pressure check, an electrocardiogram, an echocardiogram and a walking test at no cost. The electrocardiogram is a test that tells about the function of the heart. Participants would also be involved in answering questions related to their health and physical activity. Participation involves answering questions related to their health and medical history. No blood drawing. Compensated. Carolyn 4-9632.

Contacting us may be difficult for African-American 19-85 and older needed for Project African Americans to Expose the Risks of Schizophrenia. Study procedures include clinical interview, computer- used test of thinking, concentration and memory (a T score and a blood test). Compensated up to $100. 996-2193.

Have you ever had or is there a family member who has Alzheimer’s disease or dementia? We want to interview anyone who has had a single, 4-hr study. Compensated. Nancy 5-7724/2366.

Women’s Health Institute is seeking women age 65 or older, with no history of heart failure you may be eligible to participate in this study. No medication, lab work, medical history. No follow up. Participation involves answering questions related to your health and your medical history. No blood draw. No follow up. Compensation. 996-7002.

Cancer Treatment of adults with TBI and/or caregivers of women with disabili- ties wanted for research on problem-solving. Compensation. Confidential. Dr. Pears 800- 405-2640

Healthy adults 65 & older with no his- tory of heart disease/stroke to partici- pate in your study. Compensation. $100. Dan 4-3987.

Smokers & ex-smokers age 40 or older needed. You may have a disease called Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease or COPD. Call to see if you qualify to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. 4-5555/6/6600.

Would you like to know your body fat %? The UAB Center for Nursing Research has developed a Web site that addresses the pain experienced by patients with cancer. Visit the uAb.dept.omegahealth.com and also take part in a new on-line study. For more information contact Patrick hubbard@uab.edu or 4-7597.

Do you have epilepsy? Have you experi- enced transportation problems? Call 800-900- 6666 to participate in a study about transpor- tation impacts on people with epilepsy.

We want to interview anyone who has had a single, 4-hr study. Compensated. Nancy 5-7724/2366.

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Do you have diabetes? Are you taking metformin (Glucophage)? Call for more information. 5-4081. There are people who are taking metformin for their diabetes. Compensation. 4-9001.

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Do you have rheumatoid arthritis? If you are age 19-85 and have been having memory problems, or if you have noticed any trouble remembering, or have had a memory loss memory you may qualify. One visit involving blood test and memory testing and ambulatory monitoring at no cost. Compensation. 4-9001.

Women & men age 55-65 with a diagnosis of age-related macular degenera- tion needed. You may be eligible to participate in a study assessing the role of the nutritional supplements lutein, zeaxanthin, and omega-3 fatty acids (DHA & EPA) in 2532-8257.

Depression study: If you are 19-60 currently taking an antidepressant but still having depression and are interested in a new investigational product. You must be on a stable dose of Metformin at least for one month. Compensated. 4-9001.

African-American men/women ages 55-90 needed for a memory-loss study. You are in good physical health and have no cognitive or everyday skills. Volunteers will receive $50. All information confidential. David 934-0233.

African-American men/women ages 11-60 and long-chain omega-3 fatty acids (DHA & EPA) you may qualify to participate in a study. Study involves a thorough sleep evaluation, lab work, and review of medical history. No blood drawing. Compensated. 4-9281.

If you are a woman older than 65 and not on estrogen or progestin replacement therapy and insulin resistance which have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes and are interested in a new investigational product. You must be on a stable dose of Metformin at least for one month. Compensated. 4-9001.

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COACH NEIL CALLAWAY’S UAB FOOTBALL CAMP
Junior Camp • June 8-9 (Ages 8-13)
Overnight Skills Camp • June 10-12 (Ages 14-17)
Day Skills Camp • June 10-12 (Ages 14-17)
Senior Camp • June 16 and July 21 (High School Juniors and Seniors)

COACH BRIAN SHOOP’S UAB BASEBALL CAMP
Pitching/Catching/Infield/Hitting Camp • June 11-15 (Ages 8-14)
High School Overnight Camp • June 25-27 (Age 14-High School Seniors)
Father & Son Camp • July 15-18 (Fathers and Sons Ages 8-14)

COACH MIKE DAVIS’ UAB BASKETBALL CAMP
Day Camp I • June 5-9 (Ages 5-18)
Day Camp II • June 18-22 (Ages 5-18)
Day Camp III • June 25-29 (Ages 5-18)
Big Man/Guard Camp • June 14-16 (7th Grade-High School Seniors)
Elite Camp • June 16-17 (High School Freshmen-Seniors)

COACH AUDRA SMITH’S UAB BASKETBALL CAMP
Team Jamboree I • June 22-24 (High School, Middle School, AAU Teams)
Individual Camp • June 24-27 (Age 8-High School Seniors)
Day Camp • July 9-12 (Ages 5-12)
Team Jamboree II • July 27-29 (High School and AAU Teams)

COACH MARLA TOWNSEND’S UAB UAB SOFTBALL CAMP
Hitting Clinic • June 6-7 (Kindergarten-Eighth Grade)
Pitching Clinic • June 6-7 (Kindergarten-Eighth Grade)
Commuter Camp • June 11-14 (Ages 6-18)
Commuter/Resident Camp • July 9-13 (Ages 6-18)
Team Camp • July 16-18 (High School and Summer Ball Teams)

COACH MIKE GETMAN’S UAB SOCCER CAMP
Day Camps
Session 1 • June 11-15 (Ages 5-12)
Session 2 • July 9-13 (Ages 5-12)
Residential & Commuter Camps
Premier Camp • June 17-21 (Ages 10-18)
Advanced Camp • June 17-21 (Ages 10-14)
Advanced Camp • June 24-28 (Ages 10-18)

COACH PAUL HARBIN’S UAB GIRL’S SOCCER CAMP
Day Camp • July 9-13 (Ages 5-11)
Residential & Commuter Camps • July 15-19
- Elite Camp (Ages 10-18)
- Advanced Camp (Ages 10-18)
- Goalkeeper Camp (Ages 10-18)
Team Camps
- Junior • July 11-14 (Ages 10-13)
- Senior • July 19-22 (Ages 14-18)

COACH LISA RIDDELL’S UAB SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING CAMP
Overnight Camp • July 21-26 (Ages 10-18)
Day Camp • July 21-26 (Ages 10-18)

COACH KERRY MESSERSMITH’S UAB VOLLEYBALL CAMP
Youth Skills Day Camp • June 12-14 (Grades 3-9)
Individual Skills Camp • July 12-14 (Grades 5-12)
Positions Day Camp • July 14 (High School Freshmen-Seniors)
High School Team Camp • July 15-18 (High School Freshmen-Seniors)
Middle School Team Camp • July 19-21 (Grades 6-8)