UAB Provost Eli Capilouto has announced that Thomas DiLorenzo, Ph.D., will be the new dean of the UAB College of Arts and Sciences effective July 1.

DiLorenzo comes to UAB from the University of Delaware, where he was chair of the Department of Psychology since 2002. Prior to that, he was dean of the University of Delaware’s College of Arts and Sciences from 1999 to 2001 and chair of the University of Missouri-Columbia Department of Psychology from 1990 to 1999.

“We reviewed many outstanding candidates in a national search for the best person to lead the college as we begin this exciting new chapter at UAB,” Capilouto said. “We found in Thomas DiLorenzo the right mix of experience and expertise, as well as a strong commitment to interdisciplinary education, a passion for learning and discovery, and a demonstrated ability to bring together diverse groups to further advance UAB’s vision to be a world-renowned research university and a first choice for education.

“We are pleased to announce his appointment.”

The UAB College of Arts and Sciences is home to academic disciplines that include the arts, humanities, sciences and the School of Education. The college’s unique structure advances research and learning in both K-12 and higher education, and its courses are taught by a world-class faculty. It was created after an Academic Realignment Commission reviewed and assessed various options for the organization of UAB’s six non-medical schools in 2009.

Committed to the UAB spirit of independence and innovation, the college enables students to design their own majors, participate in undergraduate research or complete graduate degrees on a five-year fast track. Through productive partnerships, flexible curricula and a bold, interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning, the college is preparing students for success in the ever-changing global marketplace of commerce and ideas.

DiLorenzo earned his doctoral degree in clinical psychology in 1984 from West Virginia University, where he also earned his master’s degree in clinical psychology. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, both from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed his residency in clinical psychology at the University of Mississippi and Jackson Veterans

Anne Bet has founded the UAB Toastmasters Club in an effort to give faculty, staff and students struggling with fears of communication an opportunity to overcome their trepidations.

Microbiology’s Bet launches new UAB Toastmasters Club

Good communicators tend to be good leaders, and Anne Bet is determined to develop both by founding the first Toastmasters International club at UAB. Bet had a fear of public speaking growing up near Allentown, Pa., but she knew she needed to overcome that apprehension to become the type of leader she wanted to be.

As a working professional in Washington, D.C., she joined the National Institutes of Health Evening Speakers Club, a Toastmasters International (TMI) organization TMI is a non-profit organization recognized as a world leader in helping people become more competent and comfortable in front of an audience. Now this graduate assistant in microbiology has launched the UAB Toastmasters Club in an effort to give faculty, staff and students struggling with fears of communication an opportunity to overcome their trepidations.

“Our patients enter one place and have every common noninvasive cardiac test they need performed right here,” Lau says. “We can perform all of these tests and talk to the family about the results at one time.”

The increased space also enables cardiologists to perform exercise testing and pacing and defibrillator evaluation and follow-up as needed.

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Range of specialties Seven cardiologists with a range of specialties see patients in the ACHC, and an eighth will begin in July. They will continue to treat an array of heart ailments, including:

Preadolescent, adult heart patients receive expanded services

Adult and pediatric cardiology patients now have access to an expanded practice in the new suites of the UAB’s Alabama Congenital Heart Center’s (ACHC).

UAB Pediatric Cardiology has expanded access for patients to the best pediatric cardiologists available — six of whom are listed in “Best Doctors in America.”

“This suite was designed to be patient-centric, and we now have the capability to see more patients and see them more quickly than before,” says Yung Lau, M.D., associate division director of pediatric cardiology.

“We have been able to expand our commitment to perform all common non-invasive cardiologic tests in one place, and it makes a patient’s visit comprehensive and efficient.”

The ACHC moved from its offices in the Old Hillman Building in February into its new 14,400-square-foot offices in the Women’s and Infants Center.

“We’ve increased the number of patients we see by 50 percent and are able to see patients much more quickly,” Lau says. “Our goal, which we’ve met, is to see any urgent new patient the day of referral and any routine new patient is seen within two weeks. Another goal is to have our signed dictated note to the referring physician within two business days. We want to be thorough and efficient in our care.”

The ACHC also has completed a time study, which measured the amount of time each patient spends in the office from check-in until they leave. The average time is 65 minutes, which includes check-in, echocardiogram, chest X-ray, electrocardiogram (EKG) and a doctor’s consultation.

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CME applications now available online; must be received by June 18

The 2010-2011 Application for Certification for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit for Regularly Scheduled Sessions is now available from the Division of Continuing Medical Education. Completed applications must be received by June 18. More information about CME certification can be found at www.cme.uab.edu or call 934-2087.

UAB Research Civitan Club to host bicycle relay fundraiser June 19

The UAB Research Civitan Club is supporting Paisley’s Wheels Across America bicycle relay to raise money for Down syndrome research at the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC).

The bicycle relay is from North Little Rock, Ark., to Birmingham. The Birmingham leg of the relay will be held June 19 and will be from Jasper to the CIRC. Cyclists interested in participating are encouraged to sign up today.

The relay will begin in Jasper around noon and will end at the CIRC at 5 p.m.

Refreshments and entertainment will follow at the UAB Mini Park, and tours of the F-MRI facility at the CIRC also will be available. Contact Susan Campbell, Ph.D., at 996-4939 or sus08@uab.edu if you want to ride as part of the relay, or if you are interested in donating to the event. For more on the CIRC, visit www.circ.uab.edu.

Bluegrass legend Sam Bush to perform at ASC Friday, June 25

UAB’s Alys Stephens Center will present bluegrass legend Sam Bush with opening act the Alison Brown Quartet Friday, June 25 at 8 p.m. The performance is part of the ASC Casual Summer Concert Series; come early for summer tunes, brews and barbecue in the Haskell Courtyard beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $50, $42, $35. Call 205-975-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org.

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Follow UAB business students online as they live, study in China

Students from the School of Business are spending the month in China in an annual exchange program that includes a three-week stay in the Birmingham’s sister city Anshan and a trip to the nation’s capital, Beijing.

The students are blogging about their experiences and posting photos through June 29 on the UAB in China website at www.uab.edu/business.

Students are immersing themselves in Chinese society and coursework on international business and broader cultural interests at Anshan Normal University. Next they will travel to Cangzhou to visit a factory owned by Birmingham-based McWane Cast Iron Pipe Co., and then to Beijing.

Read named to editorial board of new ophthalmology journal

Russell W. Read, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of ophthalmology and pathology, is among the founding members of the editorial board of a new medical journal representing the International Ocular Inflammation Society (IOIS).

The Journal of Ophthalmic Inflammation and Infection will be the official journal of the IOIS; it will be electronic and offered free of charge to IOIS members. The journal will publish original studies, review articles, case reports, photo essays and challenging cases with expert commentary. The editorial board represents international experts in the field of ophthalmic inflammation and infection and will guarantee a prompt peer-review process.

Hailed the “King of Newgrass” by fans and media alike, Bush is one of contemporary string music’s most versatile performers. An innovator in acoustic music for more than 30 years, Bush is a bluegrass visionary who renews tradition but doesn’t let that stop him from exploring and expanding his art form. Famed for his skills on the mandolin, he also is a three-time national junior fiddle champion and Grammy award-winning vocalist. ‘Circles Around Me’ Bush’s seventh solo album, is an aurailly inspiring mix of bluegrass favorites and complementary new songs.

The UAB schools of Nursing and Health Professions hosted an open house of their clinical simulation laboratories, mannequins and equipment at the UAB Learning Resource Center June 7. The featured event of the open house was Noelle, a female robotic mannequin simulator, giving birth to Hal, an infant robotic mannequin simulator who was then resuscitated. Students also learned to give injections on other real-feeling, life-sized mannequins. The UAB schools of Nursing and School of Health Professions are leaders in the use of technology for teaching and learning, and their clinical simulation laboratories feature state-of-the-art human simulators and other high-tech teaching tools.

Human patient simulator gives birth: The UAB schools of Nursing and Health Professions hosted an open house of their clinical simulation laboratories, mannequins and equipment at the UAB Learning Resource Center June 7. The featured event of the open house was Noelle, a female robotic mannequin simulator, giving birth to Hal, an infant robotic mannequin simulator who was then resuscitated. Students also learned to give injections on other real-feeling, life-sized mannequins. The UAB schools of Nursing and School of Health Professions are leaders in the use of technology for teaching and learning, and their clinical simulation laboratories feature state-of-the-art human simulators and other high-tech teaching tools.
The immune system balances the ability to fight off infectious invaders with the development of autoimmune diseases. One of the main players in this balancing act is a white blood cell known as a T cell.

A team from the UAB Department of Pathology has analyzed a subclass of T cells called Th1 cells and Th17 cells that make distinct products to attack different kinds of pathogens.

Until recently it was thought that these cells and their daughter cells did not differentiate or change, and only maintained an ability to make their unique combination of proteins. UAB researchers have discovered that given certain environmental cues, Th17 cells no longer make their distinct proteins and begin to express the products Th1 cells make.

Details of the mechanism that drives this “plasticity” were published May 26 in the journal *Immunity*.

“Th17 cells primarily make interleukin-17 (IL-17) among other proteins when exposed to extracellular bacteria and fungal pathogens,” says UAB Assistant Professor Robin Hatton, Ph.D. “Under certain circumstances, Th17 cells can be diverted to become a Th1-like cell making interferon gamma and no longer expressing IL-17. Our findings form the basis of understanding the Th17 cell’s ability to adapt in response to changing environmental cues.”

By understanding how Th17 plasticity unfolds in normal and abnormal immunity, scientists hope to learn how to curb or harness the destructive potential of these cells as a way to find new treatments for autoimmune diseases, uncontrolled inflammation and cancer, said UAB Professor Casey Weaver, M.D., a co-author on the study.

### Discovery of immune-cell plasticity could lead to better care

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**CONTINUED from page 1**

- Cardiac rhythm disorders (fetus, newborn, child to adult)
- Congenital heart disease of all forms in infants, children, adolescents and adults
- Genetic abnormalities associated with heart disease
- Heart failure/heart transplantation
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Suspected congenital heart disease in the fetus

Interventional cardiologists also are able to perform the most up-to-date procedures in the ACHC, including implanting a device to close a hole between the upper chambers of the heart—a common problem among their younger patients. “We now have a device we can use to close the hole without having to do open heart surgery in 80 percent of patients,” Lau says.

Another new procedure available soon will enable physicians to place valves with a catheter without having to perform surgery, and Lau says more surgical procedures now are available using heart catheterization.

If surgery is necessary, pediatric cardiovascular patients can be seen by cardiothoracic surgeons in the new facility.

“Before we had to send them to Kirklin Clinic because we didn’t have the room,” Lau says. “Now we have consolidated the care of these patients. Whether they need a surgical outpatient visit or cardiology outpatient visit, everything can be done here.”

#### Congenital heart disease

The ability to see more congenital heart disease (CHD) patients also is important because of the growing population of those living with the disease.

Remarkable improvement in survival of patients with CHD has occurred during the past half century since reparative surgery has become commonplace. In fact, since the advent of neonatal repair of complex lesions in the 1970s, an estimated 85 percent of patients survive into adult life, according to the American Heart Association.

In 2000 it was estimated that there were approximately 800,000 adults with CHD in the United States; given modern surgical mortality rates of less than 5 percent, that number is expected to continue to rise.

“Our surgeons and cardiologists have been so successful in treating these patients and keeping them alive that more and more of them are reaching adulthood,” Lau says. “Most of the time, people born with malformed hearts are living full lives, and we now are caring for patients in their 40s, 50s and 60s. With our expanded capacity, we will be able to see more referrals in a timely manner and care for the expanding population of adults with congenital heart disease.”

If a child in your life is in need of cardiac care, call UAB HealthFinder at 1-800-UAB-8816 to schedule an appointment with one of UAB’s experienced pediatric cardiologists.

### DILORENZO

**CONTINUED from page 1**

Administration Medical Centers

In his clear and dean roles, DiLorenzo worked to significantly increase grant funding for faculty and graduate students and is credited with greatly strengthening academic productivity and recognition. He also has extensive experience in developing general education curricula and promoting writing and the use of technology in the classroom at the undergraduate level. He has played an active role in universitywide initiatives to strengthen academic program quality, enhance multicultural education, extend the use of technology in the classroom and the use of technology in the classroom at the undergraduate level. He has played an active role in universitywide initiatives to strengthen academic program quality, enhance multicultural education, extend the use of technology in the classroom and promote interdisciplinary research and teaching.

During his tenure as dean, DiLorenzo helped develop many interdisciplinary and collaborative centers, including the Center for International Studies, Center for American Material Culture, Early Learning Center and Delaware Biotechnology Institute.

DiLorenzo’s research interests focus on health psychology with an emphasis on addictive behaviors, mostly revolving around the prevention and cessation of tobacco use. In his career he has had more than $5 million in grants, mostly from the National Institutes of Health.

Even while taking on many leadership roles throughout his career, DiLorenzo continued to teach undergraduates in entry-level courses. He has mentored many graduate students, supervising theses and dissertations, and has taught a number of graduate courses; he created a Teaching of Psychology Practicum course for graduate students at both universities.

“UAB is an absolutely first-rate institution, and I am excited to serve as the founding dean of the College of Arts and Sciences,” DiLorenzo said. “The integration of the School of Education into the college presents an opportunity that will lead to a unique synergy and will be a model for the nation.”

“I look forward to working with this exceptional group of faculty members, Provost Caplouto and President Garrison as we move UAB into the next century of higher education.”

Jean Ann Lacey, Ph.D., formerly dean of the UAB School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, has served as interim dean of Arts and Sciences since Jan. 1 of this year. Caplouto expressed gratitude to Lacey for her effective guidance of the new college.

“Our faculty, staff and students are the beneficiaries of her tireless efforts,” he said.

Lacey will return to the faculty as professor in the Department of Psychology.
helped me on job interviews and in my work. Being a part of Toastmasters has provided me with many benefits.”

Bet launched the new club with support from the UAB Graduate Student Association. The organization held its first meeting in May and already has 15 members and a mailing list of more than 90. Meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in Spain Wallace Tower Auditorium. The next meeting is scheduled for June 22. All UAB students, faculty and staff are welcome to join.

Most Toastmasters meetings comprise approximately 20 people who meet weekly or biweekly for an hour or two. Participants practice and learn skills by filling a meeting role, ranging from giving a prepared speech or an impromptu one to serving as timer, evaluator or grammarian.

There is no instructor; instead, each speech and meeting is critiqued by a member in a positive manner, focusing on what was done right and what could be improved.

“One of the focuses is on making sure people are comfortable and relaxed,” Bet says.

“It’s a very constructive environment. You are comfortable and relaxed,” Bet says.

Bet’s passion for improving public speaking began with the NIH Evening Speakers’ Club, a group for which she is a past president.

Bet says she started to overcome her fears while a part of that group, but was looking to stretch herself further. That led her to achieving the Toastmasters International Competent Communicator Award after her first year in the organization. In most cases it takes two years for someone to attain that recognition.

Bet says Toastmasters has done more than hone her public-speaking skills. She also sharpened her interpersonal communications skills, a fact that was evident during her job interview with the American Red Cross in Washington, D.C.

“They actually mentioned to me that they saw on my resume that I was in Toastmasters and that there was a club in the building,” Bet says. “I already was in Toastmasters mode for the job interview because I was so used to practicing and answering questions. By the end of the interview they said, ‘I think you’re going to fit in here just great.’ Just the networking opportunities Toastmasters affords will pay you back ten-fold.”

As an officer of the organization, Bet also has had hands-on training in time management and mentoring.

“I knew I had a public-speaking problem, but I found out there is so much more to Toastmasters than public speaking,” Bet says. “You learn management, mentoring and networking skills among many others. The bottom line is that it builds confidence.”

Toastmasters International has nearly 250,000 members in 106 countries. Those interested in learning or sharpening their communications and leadership skills are encouraged to join, Bet says. Students who join Toastmasters will have their new member kit fee of $20 waived. Dues are $54 per year and are paid in $27 installments bi-annually. Dues cover education manuals, a monthly subscription to Toastmasters magazine and access to the international website www.toastmasters.org, which has numerous online resources.

“We will work with anyone who has a financial hardship,” Bet says of the dues.

For more information about the club, contact Bet at annette@uab.edu. For more information about Toastmasters International, visit www.toastmasters.org.