Council appointment a high point for Winwood and UAB

David Winwood, Ph.D., CEO of the UAB Research Foundation, says his recent appointment to the Board of Directors of the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) will help position the university as a major player in the research community. His office, along with UAB’s primary point of contact with federal agencies, the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Office of Counsel, has to carefully review awards received from agencies ranging from the National Institutes of Health to the Department of Homeland Security.

“COGR’s primary function is to provide advice and information to its membership and to ensure that federal agencies understand academic operations and the impact of proposed regulations on colleges and universities,” Winwood says. “As CEO of the Research Foundation, I think that’s obvious to those of us here, but it’s not always recognized elsewhere. This gives us a voice at the front of the line with all of the other major players.”

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Since its inception in 1948, COGR has been continuously involved in the development of all major financial and administrative aspects of federally funded research. Today, COGR’s primary function is to provide advice and information to its membership and to ensure that federal agencies understand academic operations and the impact of proposed regulations on colleges and universities. COGR helps to develop policies and practices that fairly reflect the mutual interests and separate obligations of federal agencies and universities in research and graduate education.

“It’s an advocacy and information group,” Winwood says. “You get to meet with federal program representatives as they are designing new regulations or implementing existing legislation that’s going to affect how we do research. It runs the gamut of research administration — from proposals, costing policies, reporting requirements and commercialization and intellectual property, among others.”

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COGR announced Winwood’s appointment to its Board and Contracts & Intellectual Property Committee earlier this month. His three-year term begins Aug. 1.

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Since its inception in 1948, COGR has been

CommuteSmart program saves employees time, money

Matt Windsor lives a life that’s much like any other UAB employee, which means he’s busy.

As the manager of UAB Publications and Periodicals in Creative & Marketing, there’s always something that needs to be written, completed, planned or scheduled. He also has a busy home life with a wife and two young children. And his daily commute from Calera often gets the best of him — mentally and physically.

“It was essentially taking up two hours of my day,” he says. “I had to find a way to get some of that time back.”

Windsor mentioned his need to find someone to carpool with him to fellow co-worker Jo Lynn Orr, who carpool with two others from Jasper. She signed up with the CommuteSmart program several years ago and suggested Windsor look into the program as a possible solution.

Windsor did just that and soon connected with Darlene Callen, a registered nurse at The Veteran’s Affairs Hospital. She offered him an opportunity to ride with her vanpool from Calera the last week of May to see if it was something that would fit his needs. Windsor was happy with the experience and now is part of the UAB Employee CommuteSmart Program.

“It’s been me back those two hours I was missing,” he says. “I can do work, read, nap — whatever. It’s also a lot less stressful. I find when I get home that I feel much better. And because we get here early in the mornings — usually just after 6:30 a.m. — and leave at 4 p.m., I’m home a little earlier in the evening, and I get to spend more time with my wife and kids.”

CommuteSmart works with companies, organizations and institutions to develop tailored commute options programs that are mutually beneficial. UAB also provides incentives for those who sign up to participate in the program. Among the benefits are reserved parking spaces for commuters with three or more riders and passes that enable those who must drive to work separately an opportunity to do so once per month.

Windsor’s group has as many as nine people riding on any given day. Monthly vanpool costs are approximately $120 per
Artisan Wood captures UAB’s story from behind the lens

I f you’ve read the UAB Reporter, UAB Magazine or any other UAB-produced periodical, magazine or website, you’ve seen Steve Wood’s artistry on display.

The senior photographer is responsible for almost every photograph used by Creative & Marketing, Media Relations and Internal Communications — literally thousands of images each year. And the quality of those photos is unmatched.

“He photographs are amazing,” says Shannon Thompson, media specialist. “I have worked with Steve for more than 18 years, but he still amazes me every day.”

Wood’s top-notch work, his professionalism and positive attitude are lauded by his co-workers and are traits they say that make him a worthy selection as June’s Employee of the Month.

The number of assignments Wood has in a week is impressive. He routinely has upward of 10 photo shoots a week and sometimes more. He had 68 photo shoots scheduled in April, including one week with 25 appointments.

“Steve never complains about how busy he is or that he’s got too much on his plate — and he always does,” says Jessica Huffstutler, art manager in Creative & Marketing. “Some days he even misses lunch with his back-to-back scheduled photos. But when you pass him the hall, he has a big smile on his face and meets you with a cheery disposition.”

Co-workers are amazed at how the quality of Wood’s photography never suffers despite his often-busy schedule.

“He could have easily fallen into churning out the run-of-the-mill static photos every standard university produces, but that’s not Steve,” says Marie Sutton, media specialist. “Steve is an artisan. He makes UAB look different than any other UAB-produced magazine, website or any other UAB-produced image each year. And the quality of those images is unmatched.”

Q&A with Steve Wood

Q. What do you look for when photographing a subject, especially if it’s a photo with no movement?
A. Really I just try to see things in a different way than you would if you were just looking at something straight on. I try to get different perspectives and different angles.

Q. What’s your camera of choice and the lenses you use most?
A. I’m a Nikon shooter and always have been. I’m using a Nikon D3S right now. For lenses, I use a 14-mm lens all the way to a 300-millimeter. It just depends on the subject and what I want to try and capture.

Q. What are some of the more interesting photo shoots you’ve had?
A. Surgeries are always amazing to watch and to shoot. I did a brain surgery one time, and that was really something to see. I enjoy shooting athletic events, although it is difficult to enjoy a game while watching it through a two-inch viewfinder. You kind of miss some stuff going on around you. But then again you get to see little nuances of the game that you would miss from the stands.

Q. Who are some of the more famous people you’ve photographed?

Q. Who was the most fun to photograph?
A. Coach Bartow was always fun. All you had to do was point the camera in his direction and you pretty much had an image or two you could use. I got several photos of coach throwing and stumping. He was very easy to shoot, especially on game day. Aaron Johnson is a guy like that too. You just have to point and follow him for a minute and you’ll get some good photos.

Steve has a smile and great attitude all day, every day,” Sutton adds. “Never, in all of my years of working, have I ever met a person who never seems to have a bad day. And, in turn, his energy, positivity, and commitment to doing a good job makes your day better.”

Wood’s busy days don’t end after all of his work assignments are completed. He and his wife Traci have three children — 17-year-old Patrick, 13-year-old Sara and 4-year-old Sam. Wood is always in attendance for high school band performances and pre-school programs.

“I admire him so much,” Gamble says. “He’s such a good family person. He loves his family so much.”

“How do you make a brick building look attractive, a place where you’d want to work or take classes? Ask Steve Wood. For more than 20 years, Wood has photographed UAB — everything from the buildings and parks to the people — with his best side showing.
Amateur radio rises to the rescue when disaster strikes

From the roof of Jefferson Tower, 17 stories and more than 280 feet high, you can see for miles in all directions. For decades, the building has been the signature piece of the UAB Hospital campus and a landmark visible all around Birmingham. It now houses medical offices rather than patients, but in the aftermath of the catastrophic storms that swept through Alabama in April, the old veteran made another significant contribution to Birmingham health care — as an antenna.

This radio drama begins with another natural disaster and an amateur radio enthusiast known as KJ4KZ. "After Hurricane Katrina, responders such as the police, fire and rescue, and EMA [emergency management agencies] were severely handicapped because they couldn’t communicate," says Vann Martin, director of facilities and capital projects for the UAB Health System. "In a disaster situation, particularly a natural disaster, you can coordinate care at all facilities if I’m needed to get involved. Thirty people showed up to get involved. Thirty people showed up. Thirty people showed up.

In 2009, the Federal Communications Commission started offering grants to health-care organizations willing to purchase and install radio equipment that would keep them in the communication loop in case of an emergency — if they could find volunteer operators to run the radios. Martin, a 20-year veteran of amateur radio, jumped at the chance to take part.

By October 2010, Martin had received funding and established a well-equipped radio room in UAB Hospital’s Russell Building. Then he put out the call for interested volunteers — both amateur radio veterans and newcomers who wanted to get involved. Thirty people showed up for the first meeting, and within the month the UAB group had led an emergency drill with eight area hospitals to simulate response to a natural disaster.

A place for radio
"In the event of a disaster, particularly a natural disaster, one of our biggest challenges is how to know where to send patients," Martin says. "What is their acuity of a patient? What is the injury?”

For more than a month, ham radio operators ferried food and supplies to relief stations in Pleasant Grove, Pratt City, Fultondale, Cordova, Cullman and other devastated cities. They used car-mounted radios to provide up-to-the-minute reports to central command about conditions and needed supplies. Martin personally assisted with the delivery of 42 truckloads of supplies — everything from grills and diapers to food and feminine hygiene products.

"The last thing you want to do is have a truckload of supplies and deliver them to the wrong location," Martin says. "We communicated on an hourly basis for four weeks straight. It was a very real test that proved that all of the training we do on a monthly basis really pays off.”

Many of those reports were relayed through a newly installed antenna on top of UAB’s Jefferson Tower, which took the place of a key backup amateur radio repeater antenna that went down on April 27. "We took equipment from our club and recreated the destroyed tower," Martin says. "We were able to do some rewiring, change some frequencies and get it up and running.”

Surfing the waves
Like many of his fellow operators, Martin doesn’t have a background in engineering — just a fascination with radio gear, the unique properties of radio waves and the chance to meet new people around the world. "Many amateur operators are doctors, office workers, construction workers," he says. "They just find it interesting.”

Martin got involved more than 20 years ago after he read an article describing how amateur radio operators could build their own antennas, learn electrical theory and even communicate with astronauts in space. Many amateurs are hams, and several have taken their radio units into orbit, Martin says. Amateur operators have even bounced their signals off the moon. "I’ve not personally been able to talk with the space shuttle, but I know several who have," Martin says. His own favorite long-distance call was a chat with a yachtman crossing in the middle of the Caribbean Sea.

Getting involved in amateur radio isn’t difficult, Martin says. "You can buy a book or seek out information on the Internet, study for two or three weeks and pass the Technician exam.” Operators who hold the entry-level Technician radio license can communicate on several popular frequencies and get their own call sign. A few more months of dedicated study are required to earn the remaining General and Extra licenses that allow operators to communicate on other frequencies, broadcast at wattages sufficient to talk to people around the world and acquire other on-air privileges, Martin says.

More information
To learn more about the Healthcare Community Amateur Radio Club, visit hcarc.org or contact Vann Martin at jmartin@uabmc.edu or 205-993-0069.

Learn more about amateur radio from the national American Radio Relay League at www.arrl.org.
Professor travels to China to help improve child safety

Crossing the street can be dangerous for any child. That is why a UAB professor is traveling halfway around the world to teach pedestrian safety in China.

David Schwebel, Ph.D., has received a prestigious Fulbright Specialist award to work with Chinese scholars to reduce child-mortality rates caused by changing demographics there.

“China is seeing an influx of families migrating from rural Western China to the larger urban cities in the East, and pedestrian safety must be addressed immediately,” says Schwebel. “Too many of these children are unaccustomed to heavy traffic patterns, and one mistake can prove fatal.”

Schwebel, who has conducted extensive child-injury-intervention work in the United States, South Africa, Iran and Japan, has created a virtual reality lab that teaches pedestrian safety in an environment that simulates traffic flow at a crosswalk. During his nearly two-week visit, Schwebel will conduct a needs assessment for Anhui Medical University concerning pedestrian injury-prevention among children. He also will participate in the USA-China Agricultural Injury Research Training Seminar and lecture on child injury-prevention strategies.

“We are excited about Dr. Schwebel’s Fulbright award and the tremendous strides he has made in keeping children around the world safe,” said UAB President Carol Garrison.

“This award reflects the quality of UAB’s research and our commitment to serving our local and global community,” she says. “We are proud to have one of the leading international scholars in child injury prevention represent our university, state and nation.”

UAB Cancer Center launches Cancer Care Network

Often people diagnosed with cancer who don’t live near a major academic medical center have limited choices for affiliation between the Cancer Center and medical center have limited choices for giving doctors and nurses access to leading-edge research, and the opportunity to stay close to home while giving doctors and nurses access to leading-edge research, and the opportunity to stay close to home.

The UAB Cancer Care Network, an affiliation between the Cancer Center and community cancer centers and hospitals in Alabama and Georgia, provides access to the latest discoveries in cancer research and offers an unmatched level of expert cancer treatments in those communities.

“By working closely with our affiliates we can multiply the power of cancer research and care, while delivering premium cancer care where it is most needed,” says Edward Partridge, M.D., director of the UAB Cancer Center and president of the American Cancer Society Inc.

As Alabama’s only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center, and the only one in a six-state region, the Cancer Center will work closely with each affiliate to support their cancer center program’s growth by providing ac-

Leading-edge research

Winwood, a native of Northern England, came to UAB in 2008. He previously worked in research administration at North Carolina State University, the Ohio State University and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

After earning his doctorate, Winwood worked in university start-up companies and a private start-up company in drug delivery for almost 15 years. Instead of pursuing a career as a bench chemist, he became the business development point person for the companies; he pitched their research in an effort to get companies and investors to invest in their products.

“that’s one of the great things about UAB — it’s leading edge in so many different areas,” Winwood says. “We get to watch the origins of a project from funding to successful results. And it’s fun to see for us because most of the licensing people in the Research Foundation are Ph.D.s and have done these kinds of things themselves. The really enjoyable thing then is finding somebody to make it available to the public once that invention has been created. That’s what it’s all about — finding a private sector partner who believes the invention or discovery has real value and will develop it further and make it available for public use. That’s the payoff point. And I enjoy doing that.”