**Track to help prevent large-scale disasters**

A new, unique graduate-level track in the School of Engineering will teach the best practices to engineers and safety, health and environmental professionals across industries to prevent expansive disasters like the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and Upper Big Branch Mine explosion in West Virginia.

The UAB Master of Engineering degree track in Advanced Safety Engineering and Management (ASEM) will be offered online; its curriculum is based in experiential learning and peer-to-peer interaction.

**School of Engineering Dean Linda Lucas, Ph.D., said the school is justifiably proud of its new offering.**

“We have designed a track within an existing program that is not available anywhere else in the world — and meets a crucial need,” Lucas said. “There is no industry that safety engineering and management does not affect.”

Bidez says the ASEM’s advisory board is a roster of industry leaders in workplace safety, including John Howard, M.D., director of the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health, and Kimberly Scheibe Greene, the group president of strategy and external relations for the Tennessee Valley Authority who helped lead that company’s response to its widely publicized coal-ash disaster in 2008.

“Our advisory board members are a unique group of practitioner-scholars who will share wisdom learned from deep and sometimes crisis-driven industry experience with adult learners in the ASEM graduate program through online discussion forums,” Bidez says. “This offers our students unparalleled access to the most influential minds in engineering safety.”

“The UAB School of Engineering has strong industry partnerships, and we are proud to work with our partners to improve safety and create new models for preventing and mitigating large-scale disasters.”

**Ear tubes appear safe in children with cochlear implants**

Children who are being treated for hearing loss with cochlear implants can safely have ear tubes installed to help clear up infections, say UAB researchers.

The study examined whether leaving the tubes in place or removing them before cochlear implantation made any difference in the need for procedures to reduce infection or improve hearing. Generally, some doctors avoid recommending ear tubes for fear that they will create complications with cochlear implants.

The researchers found that implant recipients can be treated with ear tubes in much the same way as children without implants who have ear infections treated, said Audie Woolley, M.D., an otolaryngologist in the UAB School of Medicine and lead author on the study, which is included in the June issue of Archives of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

“Getting rid of an ear infection and minimizing the risk of ear infection, especially for a child who is identified as a good candidate for cochlear implants, is very important,” Woolley said.

“This study shows that the management of the myringotomy tube before cochlear implantation makes no difference.”

**Design-build services realigned to improve effectiveness**

Jim James and Hope Hammond have shifted responsibilities in the Facilities Division to better match the current needs of the university with the resources and talents in the division.

The Architecture and Engineering Department (A&E), previously part of the Design Build Services Department, now will be under the direction of Jim James, the executive director of Facilities Planning and Design. James, a 1993 UAB graduate and registered architect, will manage the A&E staff of licensed architects and engineers and an interior designer in addition to his other responsibilities.

The Facilities Planning and Design Department manages the design of large capital projects, including the process of approval by the Board of Trustees. James has worked in UAB Facilities for more than 21 years. He oversaw the design of Heritage Hall, the Shelby Building, the Campus Recreation Center and the rodeo.

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Nine undergraduate students from seven institutions from across the country visited the Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety Center Wednesday, June 16. The students were here to increase awareness of heat-related disorders by “Taking it to the Streets.” Students passed out information, reusable bottles and cold water to construction workers, landscape workers and anyone they could reach.

School of Medicine senior VP/dean candidates to deliver presentations

Two candidates for the position of senior vice president/dean of the School of Medicine will deliver presentations Monday and Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in Volker Hall Lecture Room A.

Ray L. Watts, M.D., chair, Department of Neurology, and president, UA Health Services Foundation, will present Monday, June 28. David S. Wilkes, M.D., executive associate dean for Research Affairs, and director, Center for Immunobiology, Indiana University School of Medicine, will present Wednesday, June 30.

The campus community is invited to attend. View the information about the five finalists online at www.uab.edu/uabsom/announcements.

Ownership of UAB Highlands to transfer to UAB Hospital

The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees authorized the UAB Health System to dissolve UAB Highlands’ governing authority and transfer its ownership to UAB Hospital. Ease of operations and better efficiencies in management oversight and administration are the main benefits of consolidating the facilities. Consolidation also allows UAB Highlands to be reimbursed at the same rate as UAB Hospital. Filing administrative paperwork to complete the consolidation will take approximately two to three months.

Trustees name emeritus professors

The University of Alabama System Board of Trustees appointed three emeritus professors during its June 18 meeting. They include Cecilia Pierce, Ed.D., associate professor emeritus; James R. Wud, Ph.D., professor emeritus; and Associate Dean John Bernard Thornton, D.M.D., professor and associate dean emeritus in the School of Dentistry.

Deadline for DFL noms is July 8

Nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award are being accepted in the schools of Dentistry, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry and Public Health and Departments of the Joint Health Sciences until Thursday, July 8. For information on the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer Award call Claire Peel, DFL Coordinator, at 934-0513 or e-mail peelc@uab.edu.

Discounted Adobe home-use products available to campus

UAB IT announces a new offering under its agreement with Adobe that provides discounts on those products for use on computers owned by faculty, staff and students. A limited number are available for purchase and immediate delivery under the home-use program at the UAB Barnes & Noble Bookstore; a larger selection is available online through CDW-G.

Nominate someone for the Benevolent Fund Council

The Benevolent Fund Council is seeking nominations from UAB employees for members to serve for the upcoming year, August to July 2011. Employees can self-nominate with supervisor approval. Download and return the completed form by July 1. Direct questions to Benevolent Fund Manager David Precise at 934-1581 or benevolentfund@uab.edu.

Classifieds, clinical trials are online

The Reporter Online publishes classified ads and ads recruiting clinical trial participants as a service to UAB employees on its site at www.uab.edu/reporter. Faculty and staff may submit ads online using the online form.
Bill Cash is an unusual man. Not because he’s a successful business executive — that’s double. He’s unusual because he’s a survivor of a particularly nasty cancer: glioblastoma multiforme, the most aggressive malignant brain tumor. And he’s even more unusual because he’s helping scientists in the UAB Neuro-Oncology Program, part of the Comprehensive Cancer Center, find ways to help other people survive brain tumors, too.

Survival rates for those with glioblastoma are poor — only about half survive more than one year after diagnosis and only a quarter after two years. Cash still is cancer-free two years after his diagnosis; that’s created an opportunity he doesn’t intend to let slip away.

Following his treatment at UAB, he created a foundation to raise money for brain-tumor research. The Gaining Life Initiative (GLI), incorporated this past October, presented its first research grant of $100,000 to UAB in April.

This story really begins in May 2008, when Cash went to see his optometrist. He’d been having vision trouble. “Banging into desks and tables at the office,” in the way he puts it. The optometrist sent him directly to neuro-ophthalmologists at the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital at UAB.

“They said I’d either had a stroke or I had a brain tumor,” Cash said. “Neither was very appealing to me.”

They ordered an immediate MRI, which confirmed a tumor. Surgery followed in June, performed by James Markert, M.D., director of neurosurgery at UAB. A biopsy confirmed the tumor as a grade four glioblastoma. Surgery alone usually can’t get every malignant tumor cell, so chemotherapy and radiation were next — a long, hard road. Then, in September 2009, MRI images showed no evidence of a tumor.

“I don’t use the term in remission, but there’s no sign of a brain tumor,” he said. “I get an MRI every three months, and so far I’m completely cancer-free.”

Cash sold his pharmacy-management company to a group of investors in 2009 and decided to use his resources and energies to help others with brain tumors. After consulting with his UAB neurologists Burt Nahors, M.D., and Hassan Fathallah-Shaykh, M.D., Ph.D., he — along with family and friends — created the Gaining Life Initiative Foundation.

“Our goal is to raise $5 million in the next four years, money that will be available to the UAB Neuro-Oncology program to promote research we hope will extend life expectancy and find a cure for this deadly form of cancer,” Cash said.

Cash plans to collaborate with foundations with similar goals, and his professional relationships within the pharmaceutical and health-care industries should be valuable. GLI is a 501(c)(3) foundation, making all donations tax-deductible.

Technically, Cash says he’s retired. But he’s working with the foundation. Working to raise awareness of glioblastoma. Working to raise money for the UAB Neuro-Oncology program. Working to find a way to treat, cure or prevent this dreadful disease.

### EAR TUBES

CONTINUED from page 1

Implantation does not adversely affect outcomes.” Woolley worked with UAB medical resident Nathan Alexander, M.D., and Children’s Hospital of Alabama audiologists Richard Sweitzer, Ed.D., and Mandy Lutz Mahalak, M.A., Au.D., to complete the study. The study involved 78 ears of 62 children ages 1 to 5 who received ear tubes before cochlear implants. In more than half of the children, the tubes were removed before cochlear implantation surgery; those patients were compared to others whose tubes remained until cochlear implantation remained until cochlear implantation.

“We found all eardrums in which the tubes were removed before or during cochlear implantation remained until cochlear implantation.

The researchers found all eardrums in which the tubes were removed before or during cochlear implantation remained until cochlear implantation. A handful of persistent eardrum perforations required another outpatient procedure, but overall there were no cases of meningitis or removal of cochlear implants because of infection in those who had both procedures, Woolley said.

### DESIGN-BUILD

CONTINUED from page 1

The facilities.” Hammond’s, a 1989 UAB graduate, will oversee construction services for the campus in the newly renamed Building Alteration Services (formerly known as Design Build Services).

“Construction is where I came from,” Hammond says. “This is going to enable me to focus on construction value and quality and schedule work with the estimators, construction superintendent and construction supervisors.” Hammond’s has been a director in Facilities for 13 years. She was a project manager for a medical office building developer and the construction manager for the Gulfport School District in Mississippi before joining UAB.

Projects completed under her direction at UAB include small quick-hit projects (lighting, flooring, painting, asbestos abatement, mildew remediation, outlet installation); various life-safety projects; patient-care renovations; laboratory renovations and recent classroom upgrades.

Both A&E and Building Alteration Services will service projects that typically do not require approval by the Board of Trustees. These projects usually cost less than $750,000 but on occasion could be larger.

The new structure of A&E and Building Alteration Services will be transparent to current customers. All project requests can be made through the Facilities website at www.fab.uab.edu.

“After customers fill out a work order, they receive a confirmation e-mail back that will let them know who is handling their requests,” James says.

Many buildings on campus have building administrators whose job it is to submit work orders involving their respective buildings. It is important that potential customers verify their authority to submit a work order for a building or work area before filling a work request.

Brain-tumor survivor raising funds for cancer research

“Our goal is to raise $5 million in the next four years, money that will be available to the UAB Neuro-Oncology program to promote research we hope will extend life expectancy and find a cure for this deadly form of cancer.”

None.

June 28, 2010 UAB Reporter
Clinton Colmenares joins as new media relations director

Clinton Colmenares has joined UAB as director of media relations, effective immediately.

In his new position, Colmenares reports to Dale TARBROUGH, associate vice president for Public Relations and Marketing; the department is part of the overall Office for Development, Alumni and External Relations.

Working with an experienced staff of media relations professionals, Colmenares is responsible for developing and coordinating print, electronic and online media relations programs and outreach efforts at the national and international level, as well as state and local. He will serve as an official UAB spokesperson.

“We're delighted to have Clinton join us,” said TARBROUGH. “His extensive background in public relations and news reporting, especially in higher education and health care, means he comes to UAB well prepared for this leadership role.”

Colmenares, a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, previously worked in Alabama at the Montgomery Advertiser, where he was the health reporter from 1998 to 2000. While at the Advertiser he received awards for his reporting from the Associated Press, Medical Association of the State of Alabama and Gannett.

Colmenares went on to work at the Nashville Tennessean, and later held news director positions at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He began covering academic research as a reporter in San Antonio, where he received an Anson Jones M.D. Citation Award from the Texas Medical Association.

“UAB is an outstanding university with a stellar reputation among its peers,” said Colmenares.

“My goal is to continue moving us toward our proper place — as one of the best public universities in the country — in the minds of the general public in Alabama, across the country and around the world. The use of social media will be key to our strategy.”

Frances Harbin has been working in the Atherosclerosis Research Unit (ARU) for the past nine years, and many within the unit long have thought of her as the office mother.

“I've been called that from time-to-time,” she says, “and I do worry about every-one.”

Harbin, an office associate II in the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, recently found herself in that role again. Tamara Kecnum, a research technician in the division, passed out during a lab meeting one recent morning. She was frightened by the inci-dent and went to Harbin to ask for help.

“Ms. Frances is the sweetest, most caring person I’ve ever known,” Kecnum says. “She always takes time to check on others and see how they're doing. When I had my slight medical complication, Ms. Frances took care of me. She’s the last office mother anyone could have.”

“I called her grandmother and mother and tried to get in touch with everybody to let them know she wasn’t feeling well,” Harbin says. “If anyone gets sick, I try to help them. I just do whatever anybody needs me to do.”

Harbin's generosity, integrity and strong work ethic are a few reasons why she has been selected June's Employee of the Month.

Whether it's filing papers, typing letters, managing schedules, placing purchase orders, helping with grants — or playing the role of office mother — Harbin has proven no job is too big for her to handle, co-workers say.

G.M. ANANTHARAMAIAH, Ph.D., professor and associate director of the ARU, says Harbin is an exemplary employee who easily disseminates information to others in the research unit and has taken a leadership role managing the affairs of the group.

“Ms. Frances is my secretary, but also much, much more,” Anantharamaiah says. “She attends to the work to be done each morning and spends five minutes ensuring that everyone's needs are taken care of. Ms. Frances is one of the most diligent, reliable, persistent and proactive people I have ever worked with. She rarely takes a day off. When she does plan to take vacation, she makes sure everyone's needs are taken care of prior to leaving. Ms. Frances has our multi-national, multi-cultural group nine years ago, and she made us her family.”

Harbin says she hopes to retire next summer and move back to Anniston to spend time with her family and pursue some of her greatest loves — shopping at antique stores.

In the meantime, Harbin says she’ll continue to help her co-workers.

“I really didn’t know when I started to work at UAB that I would be here 10 years,” she says. “But this is a wonderful place to work, and I’m glad they like me and think so much of me. I am deeply touched and honored that I have been selected June's Employee of the Month.”

Frances Harbin is an office associate II in the Division of Gerontology, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. Her generosity, integrity and strong work ethic are a few reasons why she has been selected June's Employee of the Month.

with her before they start their work. I have never come across as kind-hearted a person as Ms. Frances.”

Harbin has spent most of her life in the work force, whether it was at the family-owned Superior Tire in Anniston, in public relations at Children's Hospital or at the Jack's corporate office. When she is not working she enjoys spending time with her three children, five grandchil-dren and one great-grandchild.

“I've had several jobs in my life-time,” she says. “But God has blessed me by allowing me to work with Dr. Anantharamaiah, and the faculty and staff in the Atherosclerosis Research Unit. I have really enjoyed working here because the people are so supportive, genuine and so nice.”

Medha Manchekar, Ph.D., an instructor in the division, says the contributions Harbin makes to the department are numerous. One of those, she says, is her persistence. Manchekar says she always is proactive and a step ahead in anticipating the needs of the office.

“Her work ethic is admirable,” Manchekar says. “Ms. Frances is one of the most diligent, reliable, persistent and patient office associates I have worked with. She rarely takes a day off. When she does plan to take vacation, she makes sure everyone's needs are taken care of prior to leaving. Ms. Frances joined our multi-national, multi-cultural group nine years ago and she made us her family.”

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