There are hundreds of crab species, but only a few are commercially important. The king crab, snow crab and Dungeness crab are popular in restaurants worldwide. Another crab — one that generates millions of dollars in revenue along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts — is the blue crab. The states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas brought in a blue crab bounty worth a total of $45.8 million in 2007, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If there were a way to regulate the molting of blue crabs — which produces freshly molted, soft-shell crab considered a delicacy by many — then seafood consumers could enjoy them year-round, not just in late spring and early summer when they molt naturally.

It also could mean hundreds or thousands of new jobs along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

Unprecedented success

UAB biologist and researcher Doug Watson, Ph.D., is unraveling the process by which blue crabs molt, and says his team is close to discovering the structure of the molt-inhibiting hormone (MIH) receptor, which could lead them to develop methods to induce molting on command to produce soft-shell crab as needed.

Watson unlocking mystery to crustacean molting

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Concert July 27

The UAB Gospel Choir will present its summer concert featuring traditional and contemporary American gospel music at 7 p.m. Monday, July 27 in the Alys Stephens Center.

Tickets are available in advance or at the door. Call the ASC Box Office at 975-2787.

Disaster preparedness seminar set for July 28

‘Are we ready for a disaster?’ That’s the question that will explore ‘Disaster Preparedness and the Community’ set for July 28.

The seminar will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Community Health Services Building Room 207. Lunch will be provided for the first 50 participants. To access the webinar, go to www.uab.edu/utc.

Learn the vocabulary of clinical, translational science this fall

The Center for Clinical and Translational Science is offering a two-week course to help prepare individuals to read and interpret medical literature through an understanding of types of research design, conduct, analysis and interpretation. The course will be held weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 14-25 in the Finley Conference Center.

Attendance is a mandatory component of all UAB School of Medicine post-doctoral fellowships for fellows beginning their fellowships in July and for those in their second year of training who did not attend this past year.

The course is a foundation for additional training for those participating in UAB’s Clinical and Translational Science Training Program, and it also is open to others within the university who wish to attend.

For information, contact Audrey Wrenn at awrenn@uab.edu. Register online at cctsocal2009.eventbrite.com.

Call for proposals: Research on women and education

Proposals are being accepted until July 30 for the 35th annual Research on Women and Education fall conference to be held Oct. 8-10 in the Courtyard Marriott Downtown at UAB. The call for proposals and conference information is online at www.rwesig.net.

Proposals that address issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender will be strongly considered.

Direct questions about the proposal guidelines to Catherine Hackney at cehackney@windstream.net.

Direct questions about the conference to Gypsy Abbott at gabbiott@uab.edu or 934-8330 or 335-2785.

Three postdoctoral positions available in bone center

The deadline for applications is Friday, Aug. 14 for three postdoctoral positions for either basic research in bone biology and disease or clinical research in bone disease. These are funded by a NIH T32 Institutional Training Grant through the UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease.

Eligibility requirements and directions for applying are online at cmbd.path.uab.edu.
Khoi Bishop always knew he wanted his personal life to be one spent serving others.

His first job after college was teaching emotionally conflicted junior and senior athletes in high school — students who had learning disabilities, came from broken homes or had behavioral problems that kept them out of mainstream classrooms.

Bishop’s connection to those children was strong.

“They felt they could talk to me and, more important, trust me,” Bishop says. “That’s when I began thinking about pursuing a career in counseling. I thought I could help make a difference for kids who may be struggling in certain areas of their life.”

Bishop is the new outreach program coordinator for the Counseling & Wellness Center. His mission is to promote the center throughout campus, talking with faculty, staff and students to let them know help is here for students feeling overwhelmed.

“The center’s philosophy comes from a personality model that identifies five problems. It is our goal to help students cope with these problems in an effective way,” Bishop says. Stress can come from academic pressure, adjusting to college life, balancing school and work, depression, relationships and anger management.

Other areas in which counselors can help include issues of separation, eating concerns, coping with long distance relationships, dealing with difficult people, assertiveness, sexuality and gender issues, death of a friend or family member and self-esteem.

Bishop is speaking to several campus groups and organizations this summer about the services of the Counseling & Wellness Center. Contact him at 934-5816 to schedule a presentation.

The Counseling & Wellness Center also provides opportunities to pursue enhanced wellness in a variety of other ways throughout the year.

“We are continually designing programs to enhance the well-being of our students,” Hart says. “In cooperation with Campus Wellness Committee and others, we are attempting to design and implement educational events to demonstrate that healthy living can be both practical and enjoyable.”

The UAB Counseling & Wellness Center is located in the 150 Holley-Mears Building at 924 19th St. South. Six counselors are available to help students from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Students can schedule appointments or be seen quickly in the event of an emergency. Call 934-5816, visit main.uab.edu/students/life/counseling or e-mail counseling@uab.edu for more details.

“Technology development is where the excitement and job opportunities reside. General computer usage is a commodity skill, but having the ability to write software to create new technology is a skill that always will be in high demand.”

Department of Computer & Information Sciences. The department also recently began offering Aladdin camps, a project funded by the National Science Foundation that involves Gray; Michael Wys, Ph.D., from Community Outreach and Development; John Mayer, Ph.D., from Mathematics; David Radford, Ph.D., from Education; and Alan Shih, Ph.D., from Engineering.

Lockett, Ismail and Chen have attended almost every summer camp the department has hosted during the past three years. Learning Alice, Java programming, robotics, graphics and other computer-programming techniques they quickly became hooked on computer science and the possibilities for their future. In fact, all three of them placed in the top 10 of the recent statewide high-school programming contest hosted by UAB.

“These kids are so smart,” says Dixon Shuttleworth, doctoral student in computer science and facilitator of the summer camps. “Many high-school students, if you ask them what is computer science, they’ll incorrectly tell you Microsoft Word. But these three had an interest in computers and came to the camps and now they’re hooked — all because of the opportunity.”

Alabama is well-positioned to provide jobs to computer scientists. Huntsville is one of the top five U.S. cities ranked by per-capita concentration of software developers and in the top three for engineering professionals. Cummings Research Park in Huntsville also is the second-largest research park in the United States and fourth-largest in the world.

Gray says the average starting salary for computer-science graduates in 2008 was $56,921.

The jobs are there, and Gray says there are students who would love to learn what it takes to get them.

“Our state has many bright students craving for this type of technology immersion,” he says. “We need to help equip K-12 educators to teach this material and serve as advocates of technology beyond the typical application of teaching business software use with Microsoft Office, which gives a gross misrepresentation of computer science.”
Uncertainty, fast pace of emergency room just right for Turner

Tracy Turner doesn’t mind working in the organized madness. In fact, he thrives on it. “When you like chaos you tend to flock to it,” he says.

Turner sees plenty of patients in turmoil in the UAB Hospital emergency room where he works as a CT technologist in Radiology. But his calming influence, knack for tolerance and dedication to his patients are traits his co-workers say make him worthy to be selected July’s Employee of the Month.

“Tracy’s dedication to patient care is one of his many strengths,” says Jerrie Gaut, CT technologist. “His constant patience with the most unruly of our clientele — in order to produce high-quality diagnos tic images that enable physicians to better evaluate and diagnose the patients — is at times amazing.”

Because Turner typically works the night shift, he sees some of the more extreme cases that come through the ER. Drunk drivers and patients who have experienced severe trauma often wind up in his care. That has led to several incidents in which patients have tried to attack him. One patient removed his bloody C-spine collar and hit Turner with it in the chest — all because he did not want to have a CT scan.

“I have a high tolerance for negativity,” Turner says. “The combative ones who come in and — for whatever reason — lash out and curse at you, those cases usually come to me. I usually get told, ‘Hey, you’re getting this guy. He’s right up your alley.’”

“I’ve been doing this since 1992, so I’ve been in it long enough to know there’s an agitation level that comes into play,” he says. “There are two keys for me: For the scans done so the doctors can do their job and stay focused.”

Turner learned the consequences of losing focus the hard way when one patient broke two of his ribs.

He was taking an X-ray of an 80-year-old man who was non-responsive. All it took to wake him up was the feeling of cold metal on his back.

“I was in front of him and had my arm around his shoulder and was lowering him down, and I guess the coldness of the X-ray cassette woke him up,” Turner says. “He called me ‘the death bringer’ and mule-kicked me. He put me four feet back into a wall and broke two ribs.

“It is probably the funniest thing that’s ever happened to me at work — I was laughing immediately after it happened — but it’s also a constant reminder that if you’re not focused on the task at hand it can get you hurt.”

Jim Galbraith, M.D., director of medical student education in the Department of Emergency Medicine, has worked with Turner for four years. Galbraith says he relies on Turner to get the most difficult jobs done, including imaging trauma patients and patients who are combative or have body habits that makes CT imaging challenging.

“Tracy is the kind of person who can get things done,” Galbraith says. “He is hard working and great with patient care. I have even seen him wash the feet of a patient in the emergency room.”

Aaron Dupree, M.D., in Emergency Medicine, says Turner has an exceptional aptitude with difficult patients, and he appreciates the quick response Turner gives to doctors’ requests.

“I have been impressed more than once by his quick recognition of life-threaten ing conditions in the preliminary scans, for which he took the initiative and called to alert me to an urgent scan that needed my attention,” Dupree says. “On several occasions I have asked him to scan a high-risk patient first or sooner, and I have never heard him complain or even make a single excuse.

Turner is quick to point out that the 25 CT technologists are a team that works together to provide their patients with high-quality care.

“My co-workers are focused on the mission at hand, and that’s taking care of people,” he says. “Sometimes there are lively discussions, but taking care of the patient is foremost in their minds. That’s what we’re here to do.”

trn1k1@uab.edu

CRABS

CONTINUED from page 1

leagues Teruaki Nakatsuji, Junying Zheng and current graduate students Hsiang-Yin Chen and Anna Pendleton are in year two of their research.

The applied science here is intervention by researchers to block the receptor that pre vents molting.

Conceivably, then the growth of the animals could be controlled, and this could create jobs and stimulate local economies through private aquaculture or farming operations across every state touching the ocean — from Texas to Maryland, Watson says.

“It probably would have to take place in an aquaculture setting because it would be dif ficult to control in the wild,” Watson says. “Once they molt in the wild they are very vulnerable to predators because their shell is so soft.”

How would it work?

Watson says they will either need to develop an injection or food pellet that could be used to induce the molting process.

“Ideally, I think we’d like to work out a system in which the inducer is put in a food pellet and we could just feed it to them,” Watson says. “That’s a goal down the line. Right now we think we have the receptor, and we’ve developed a receptor blocker.”

“We’re at a stage where we can test that. If it works, then we’ll worry about delivery.” That process would be easier, more lucrative and less time-consuming for the producers of blue crabs than their current arrange ment.

“The way soft-shell blue crabs are collected now is very labor-intensive, and it’s usually mom-and-pop organizations trying to do it,” Watson says. “They collect the crabs when they are ready to molt and then watch them every couple of hours 24 hours a day to see if the crab is molting. If we can control the molting, things can be timed in a much more manageable way. You could induce the molting and come back a specific period of time later and have soft-shelled crabs.”

Watson says watching a crab undergo the molting process is a remarkable sight.

“When you see it, I don’t know how you cannot be impressed,” he says. “It’s astounding that a complete new animal crawls out of that exoskeleton — and it’s much bigger. The new exoskeleton, once hardened, can accommodate additional growth of soft-tissues like muscles and internal organs. The process of molting is a sight to behold.”
A 24-month clinical trial of the vaccine is expected to begin in the fall of 2009.
For Sale

Appliances & Electronics
Sprint cellul phone, model MD20, never activated, costs $140, will sell for $10. Shirley/Don 285-9453.

Kenmore refrigerator, like new, beige, ice maker, in exc cond, $250. Teresa 437-8407.

Projectors, 1080p, all perfect cond, new cost $420, will sell for $135. Mike 313-3939.

16" flat panel monitor, perfect cond, new cost $420, will sell for $135. Mike 313-3939.

Magnavox 20" color TV, model MD133T5, exc cond, sell for $120. Panasonic 1080p 3D TV, brand new in box, $450.

Green Digital 3D home theater system, new, $3,000.

Kenmore 2.1 cu ft microwave, new in box, $200.

Bosch 15" tall dishwasher, super quiet, $300.

Kenmore 2.1 cu ft microwave, new in box, $200.

Larsen/Lee 2.0 cu ft mini refrigerator, $150.

Brand new stainless steel French door refrigerator, $1400.

22 cu ft maytag washer, $250.

28 cu ft frigidaire freezer, $250.

New Frigidaire refrigerator, $140.

New GE dishwasher, $200.

New GE washer, $200.

Brand new electrolux vacuum, $120.

New Kenmore 2.0 cu ft microwave, $120.

Frymaster 4.5 gallon fryer, $150.

Fireplace damper, new in box, $55.

Dacor 30" gas range, exc cond, $200.

Dacor 30" range hood, new in box, $150.

New GE dryer, $250.

New Frigidaire washer, $250.

New refrigerator, $100.

"The T," $359,000.

Rex 64" front projection screen, $500.

New GE washer, $250.

New Frigidaire dryer, $250.

New GE gas range, $250.

New Dacor 30" gas range, $1200.

New GE refrigerator, $1200.

New GE dryer, $250.

New GE washer, $250.

New Kenmore 2.1 cu ft microwave, new in box, $200.

New stainless steel refrigerator, new in box, $1400.

New Maytag refrigerator, new in box, $1400.

New Frigidaire washer, new in box, $200.

New GE dishwasher, new in box, $200.

New GE dryer, new in box, $200.

New Frigidaire washer, new in box, $200.

New Kenmore gas range, new in box, $1400.

New GE gas range, new in box, $1400.

New GE dishwasher, new in box, $200.

New GE refrigerator, new in box, $1400.

New GE washer, new in box, $200.

New Frigidaire dryer, new in box, $200.

New Dacor 30" gas range, $1200.

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New GE dryer, $200.

New Frigidaire washer, $250.

New GE refrigerator, $1200.

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New GE washer, $250.

New Kenmore gas range, $1400.

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New GE dryer, $200.

New GE washer, $250.

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New GE dryer, $200.

New GE washer, $200.

New Frigidaire dryer, $200.

New Frigidaire washer, $250.

New Dacor 30" gas range, $1200.
house, pool, covered parking, courtyard, $1300/mo. includes. Don 771-5680.

Cahaba Village executive condo/townhouse: 2 BR, 2.5 BA, 2-story, 1611 SF, $5600/mo. Call Nancy 430-8997/9. Max rental is $500. Mention UAB.

Panama City/ Gulf Highland Beach Resort: 2 BR, 2 BA, $950/mo. Call 432-7509 for info. See VRBO #146801. Contact Pam 586-4072. 1 BR/1 BA, very nice. 871-1356/879-0686.

Redmont/highland area: Glen Iris: Luxury home near UAB, 3 BR, 1.5 BA, huge kitchen, sunroom, basement, fenced yard with patio, $1100/mo. 337-2134.

Gulf shores: Homewood: 2 BR, 2 BA unit (sleeps 8), (1) 3 BR/3 BA corner unit gulf shores with patio, $1350/mo. Call Nancy Berland at 252-4277.

Reddix/Stone Gardens: 2 BR, 2.5 BA townhome for rent, 2-car garage, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, linen furnished, no pets, no smoking, central air condition, $1300/mo. Include utilities, call 432-5745. Minimum rental is $500. Mention UAB and receive discount. www.uab.edu/14250. 

Crestline Park- 3 BR house adjacent to the front yard, fully furnished, 1500mo. 275-6616.

Downriver/Shores Gardens: 2 BR, 2.5 BA townhome for rent, 2 BR, 1 BA, 2-car garage, linen furnished, no pets, no smoking, central air condition, $1300/mo. Include utilities, call 432-5745. Minimum rental is $500. Mention UAB and receive discount. www.uab.edu/14250. 

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