Online Japanese course going new places

Very few professors would likely admit that Mr. Bean and the movie "Wayne's World" influence their teaching style. Count Tim Cook in that small group.

"I'm sure it's very small — really, really small," Cook says. "How many can say they believe their teaching skills would benefit themselves and their own television show? I really believe they've benefitted me. I feel like a Japanese actor's physical comedy and two misfits with a larger vocabulary."

Welcome to Cook's innovative online Japanese 101 course, a joint production from incorporating styles from a silent character's physical comedy and two misfits with their own television show? I really believe they've benefitted me. I feel like a Japanese Mr. Bean, but with a larger vocabulary."

Ray Watts to lead medical education

Birmingham native Ray L. Watts, M.D., will become senior vice president for Medicine and dean of the School of Medicine at UAB, effective Oct. 1.

"After a thorough national search that resulted in many excellent candidates, the very best fit for UAB came from within," said UAB President Carol Garrison.

Watts, 56, holds the John N. Whitaker Endowed Chair in Neurology and chairs the Department of Neurology. An internationally renowned leader in Parkinson's disease research and care, he also is the chief of the Neurology Service for UAB Hospital and president of the UAB Health Services Foundation.

"In today's environment, medical schools must prepare tomorrow's physicians for many challenges, while also supporting their faculty in sustaining excellence in patient care and research," Garrison said. "Dr. Watts consistently has demonstrated superior leadership in the academic, executive, clinical and scientific realms.

"I am confident that, working with our outstanding faculty, he will continue to raise the level of excellence for medicine at UAB, which benefits our community, the state of Alabama and extends to a national and global reach," she said.

Watts takes over the position held since 2004 by Robert R. Rich, M.D., who announced this past year he would step down once a successor was named. Garrison praised Rich, saying, "We are very grateful to Bob Rich for the many important accomplishments during his tenure."

Rich will be returning to the medical faculty.

Watts says he is "honored and very pleased" to have been chosen for this role.

"It has been my privilege during this search process to learn and listen to the concerns and aspirations of our students, research faculty, clinicians and supporters in the community," he said. "I know that if we work together we can achieve great things."

Watts received his degree in biomedical and electrical engineering from UAB in 1976, and he earned his medical degree from the Washington University School of Medicine in 1980. He was valedictorian of both his undergraduate and medical school classes. He completed a residency in psychiatry at
Re-certify Educational Assistance for new school year

Want to take advantage of UAB’s outstanding Educational Assistance Program benefit for your dependents/spouse? Then now is the time to re-certify them; the deadline is the fall 2010 Drop/Add date of Tuesday, Aug. 24.

Employees are required to re-certify eligible dependents/spouse annually before the fall semester; that means if you want to use this benefit in the 2010/2011 academic year, you need to go online to the Educational Assistance section of the Oracle self-service menu and update the form. Log in to Oracle via www.uab.edu, then Administrays link, then Oracle HR & Finance System.

Remember — any employee who had certified their eligible dependents for the 2009-10 academic year has had those certifications removed.

The certification form requires employees to enter the student’s BlazerID on the Oracle self-service form in order to certify an eligible dependent/spouse. Once a student is accepted for admission to UAB, he or she will be notified by the Office of Admissions of the process to obtain a student BlazerID. The BlazerID is their sole identifier allowing them to securely access all of UAB’s electronic information services. The certification form also will validate the date of birth entered to ensure it matches the student system.

Please note that this only applies to dependents/spouse. Educational Assistance eligibility for the employee will continue to be electronically verified between HR and the Students Affairs area. Employees who meet all eligibility requirements for the program and are registered should see the educational assistance benefit applied to their account automatically.

Need more information? This benefit is available for all full-time regular and 3/12 hour shift employees and their dependents/spouse to help pay tuition costs. For all eligibility requirements and detailed information on the Educational Assistance Program, including dependents and spouses, visit www.hrm.uab.edu/main/policy_procedures/policy319.html.

All new students must meet UAB admission requirements. Admission requirements can be found at http://main.uab.edu/Sites/apply/apply/freshmen/645/.

The prize carries an award of $250. Contact Associate Provost Claire Peel, Ph.D., at 934-8513 or e-mail peel@uab.edu or laptiero@uab.edu for more information.

For more information, contact Carlin Evert at 996-9969.

Conner Prize in the History of Ideas: Call for submissions

The Conner Prize is awarded for an essay in the history of ideas written by a member of the UAB faculty. The term “history of ideas” is to be interpreted liberally, as including a broad range of interdisciplinary concerns.

For any questions regarding certification and re-certification for educational assistance, contact your HR consultant directly or HR Benefits at 934-3458.

Single tickets on sale today at ASC

Single tickets go on sale Monday, Aug. 9, for shows in UAB’s Alys Stephens Center new 2010-2011 season.

The new season kicks off in September with an 11-day opening festival featuring a free night of live music by national and local artists, a week-long project/performance that turns the Alys Stephens Center building into a giant musical instrument, a special event with the legendary Liza Minnelli, and more. This year the center’s arts season is again filled with the world’s greatest artists and innovative educational programs: Pat Metheny, Rosanne Cash, Joan Rivers, Joshua Bell, Ira Glass, David Sedaris and more.

The Alys Stephens Center will host a single-ticket day contest for online purchases: patrons who purchase 5/$0 of tickets Aug. 9 on the www.AlysStephens.org website will receive a $10 Alys Stephens Center gift card to be used for future purchases. The offer applies only for purchases made online on Monday, Aug. 9. The offer does not apply to previously purchased tickets.

This new year is a single-ticket discount for UAB faculty and staff. 15 percent off the regular price of single-ticket purchases. Plus, UAB faculty and staff will get an additional discount on the purchase of season ticket packages. Season ticket packages are now discounted 15 percent for UAB faculty and staff.

Season ticket packages are on sale now. For a brochure or to purchase tickets, visit the center online at www.AlysStephens.org, call 975-2787 or toll-free 1-877-ART-TIKS, or go to the Alys Stephens Center Box Office.

Campus Rec offers free trial to employees, affiliate groups

But the heat and start the school year off on the right foot with a one-week free-trial period from the UAB Campus Recreation Center, through Saturday, Aug. 14. The Campus Rec Center is offering free access to all UAB employees and approved affiliate groups without a current membership during this period, providing an opportunity to see and learn about the 150,000-square-foot facility.

For more information, operating hours and a list of approved UAB affiliate groups, visit www.uab.edu/campusrec-center.
Experts working to minimize toxic effects of Gulf oil leak

Experts are working to anticipate, quantify and minimize the potential health risks of the Gulf oil leak, says Nalini Sathiyakumar, M.D., Dr.P.H., an associate professor in UAB’s Department of Epidemiology who is part of a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-led team formed to plan and execute research strategies to examine health outcomes.

The Deepwater Horizon accident has leaked the equivalent of a supertanker spill into the Gulf of Mexico every week since April 20, says Sathiyakumar, who was part of an Institute of Medicine panel of health experts who met in New Orleans in June to discuss repercussions.

“We need to move quickly to monitor and study the physical and psychological impacts in the short and long term among clean-up workers, volunteers and in adults and children, and we need to follow these with long-term studies,” she says.

While some of the short-term health effects are known — watery and irritated eyes, skin itching and redness, coughing and shortness of breath — there are also many unknown health effects, says Sathiyakumar, who has researched a prior oil tanker ran aground in 2003 off the coast of Karachi, Pakistan. An investigation of the Karachi incident found commonly reported symptoms were temporary eye, throat or skin irritation, headaches or general malaise. Those health effects showed a clear sign of decreasing in number as people moved farther away from the oil-slick site, she says.

The summit followed a national meeting called by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood in September 2009 and attended by Nalini Foe, Ph.D., director of the UAB UTC, and Despina Stavrinos, Ph.D., a post-doctoral fellow and co-organizer of the Alabama summit. LaHood was the keynote speaker at the Alabama summit.

An estimated 80,000 vehicles were driven by someone using a cell phone in 2008, according to statistics gathered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Six thousand people died in distracted-driving-related vehicle crashes, and 500,000 were injured.

The America Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety reports that seven out of 10 drivers admit to texting while driving. Statistics also show that almost 50 percent of all drivers ages 18 to 24 are texting while driving, and drivers who use cell phones are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves, according to the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration. One national study reported distraction from cell phone use while driving extends a driver’s reaction as much as having a blood alcohol concentration at the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Cook also plans to upload several of his original videos to iTunesU as a way to promote the language naturally, “with the added bonus of a totally different delivery will draw the students into the classroom.”

“With video I can make my own little show, show them real-life situations and at one point. Wayne was breadth casting out of a moving vehicle, and I just thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study. They can’t wait to do it.

“They are students, ‘No one learns a language by just watching a TV show,” says Cook, who gives the name Tim Sensei for his class. “At some point you have to engage your tongue and thinking out loud,” says Sathiyakumar, who was an amateur actress, Cook says. She trained him in stage presence and was serious about performing, “I literally had no experience in front of a camera,” he says. “I thought I would wilt. I thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study.

“All of these things have informed what I do,” Cook says. “When I think about Georgia, it was a great experience. When I think about what we did at Nebraska, I think about broadcasting out of a studio and it reminds me of ‘Wayne’s World.’ Wayne and Garth were doing their little TV shows themselves, and they didn’t answer to anybody. At one point, Wayne was broadcasting out of a moving vehicle, and I just thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study.

“All of these things have informed what I do,” Cook says. “When I think about Georgia, it was a great experience. When I think about what we did at Nebraska, I think about broadcasting out of a studio and it reminds me of ‘Wayne’s World.’ Wayne and Garth were doing their little TV shows themselves, and they didn’t answer to anybody. At one point, Wayne was broad- casting out of a moving vehicle, and I just thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study.

“All of these things have informed what I do,” Cook says. “When I think about Georgia, it was a great experience. When I think about what we did at Nebraska, I think about broadcasting out of a studio and it reminds me of ‘Wayne’s World.’ Wayne and Garth were doing their little TV shows themselves, and they didn’t answer to anybody. At one point, Wayne was broadcasting out of a moving vehicle, and I just thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study.

“All of these things have informed what I do,” Cook says. “When I think about Georgia, it was a great experience. When I think about what we did at Nebraska, I think about broadcasting out of a studio and it reminds me of ‘Wayne’s World.’ Wayne and Garth were doing their little TV shows themselves, and they didn’t answer to anybody. At one point, Wayne was broadcasting out of a moving vehicle, and I just thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study.

“All of these things have informed what I do,” Cook says. “When I think about Georgia, it was a great experience. When I think about what we did at Nebraska, I think about broadcasting out of a studio and it reminds me of ‘Wayne’s World.’ Wayne and Garth were doing their little TV shows themselves, and they didn’t answer to anybody. At one point, Wayne was broadcasting out of a moving vehicle, and I just thought, ‘Whoa, I wish I could do that.’ And now you can with Skype. I can take this course anywhere, transmit video to students watching and interact with them.”

“More than just a language”

Another unique aspect of the course involves its interdisciplinary nature.

Cook has recruited as many as 15 students from Theatre, Education and Communications to help him produce the course. Some of the students will act with Cook each class, and others will work behind the camera.

Many of the students have agreed to volunteer at the urging of their professors and mentors as a way to gain experience in their areas of study. 
New techniques mean new hope for rheumatoid arthritis

When you are 22 and about to graduate from college, your feet aren’t supposed to hurt like this. Not this bad. Not this much.

Not so much that you have to move back home with your parents. Not so much that life, as you’ve been living it, comes to an end.

But, for Kayla Kitchens, recent graduate of the University of Alabama, newly hired director of marketing/communications for a health-care company in Tuscaloosa, life as she’d known it did end. She first felt pain in her feet in 2007, while finishing up her degree at UA. By April of the next year, she was back at her parents’ home in Birmingham, unable to walk without pain, unable to work.

“Life just stopped there for a little while,” said Kitchens.

Kayla finally found her way to rheumatologist Robert Kimberly, M.D. He suspects rheumatoid arthritis (RA), but it’s a tricky diagnosis in a young woman, and he couldn’t be sure — until he employed a triumvirate of tests only available at a major health-care facility such as UAB.

“There is a new blood test called anti-CCP, or anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibody, that is usually positive in aggressive rheumatoid arthritis,” says Kimberly. “The test is only about five years old and is not routinely available at many doctors’ offices.”

Anti-CCP was the first of the three tests Kimberly also ordered an X-ray, which at UAB is read by radiologists with the utmost seriousness. The X-ray provided another clue — a small erosion in the toe bone of Kayla’s right foot.

Third, he called for an ultrasound exam, a very sensitive test that showed swelling of the soft tissues of the foot that even an X-ray could not detect by manual examination of Kayla’s foot.

“The combination of all these diagnostic methods, particularly the anti-CCP and the ultrasound, along with our traditional techniques, make it possible for making an early diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis,” said Kimberly. “And early diagnosis is important as it is much easier to push RA into remission if it’s found in the early stages.”

RA is a chronic, inflammatory disorder that primarily affects joints. It’s seen in only about 1 percent of the population, in women three times more likely to be affected than men. Typical onset is between the ages of 40 and 50, but it can begin at any age — like 22.

So, now Kayla and Kimberly knew what she was up against. She started on methotrexate, a standard medication for RA. But, just as new diagnostic methods helped identify Kayla’s disease, new treatments are helping to manage it.

“There is a new class of therapeutic antibodies called biologics that are under development,” Kimberly says. “Theses agents are a major expansion of our therapeutic toolkit.”

About four months after beginning treatment with methotrexate and a biologic, Kayla saw results. She was able to walk, to function. To return to work.

“I don’t know what I’d do without the biologic,” said Kayla. “Now, I’m functioning normally with minimal pain. Boy, has it been a journey.”

Kayla’s working again, about 35 hours a week at Morgan Ashley Studio Salon. She has a great support system at work and at home, which she says is vital for anyone dealing with RA. For Kayla, life has begun again.

“Don’t wait, don’t delay seeing a rheumatologist,” she says. “And if you’ve got RA, it’s not the end of the world. Fight back and don’t give up. What I lost to RA I’ve now recovered, thanks to early diagnosis and the new medications.”

Kayla points to a trip she made to Atlanta on Dec. 5, 2009, as proof that life, as she lives it, has returned. She watched her Crimson Tide beat Florida in the SEC Championship Game. For the first time in two years, she was pain free.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a tricky diagnosis in a young woman, but rheumatologist Robert Kimberly can employ a battery of tests only available at a major health-care facility such as UAB to determine if the disease is prevalent.

Kayla points to a trip she made to Atlanta on Dec. 5, 2009, as proof that life, as she lives it, has returned. She watched her Crimson Tide beat Florida in the SEC Championship Game. For the first time in two years, she was pain free.

Repub lication of UAB’s Sexual Harassment Policy

Periodically, UAB republishes existing policies so that new employees or new administrators will be kept informed of the policies and guidelines governing UAB. The version of the Sexual Harassment Policy that is currently in effect, the 2009 revision, has been in effect since Jan. 27, 1999, and as is required by the policy — it being revised to the UAB community in full as a reminder of its existence.

Sexual Harassment Policy

Introduction: The University of Alabama at Birmingham is firmly committed to providing an environment that is free of discrimination, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when (1) submission to such conduct is expected, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual’s employment or education, including disciplinary action, including, discharge.

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: It is a violation of UAB policy for any employee, including faculty, to engage in sexual harassment in the workplace or in work-related situations. Employees who believe they have been sexually harassed by a supervisor, co-worker, or other employee of UAB should report the incident promptly to the Human Resource Management Relations Office. Only Human Resource Management has the responsibility for coordinating and conducting an investigation of sexual harassment claims in the workplace and also for recommending corrective action to the UAB administration.

Sexual Harassment in the Instructional Setting: UAB prohibits sexual harassment of students by the teaching staff or other employees of UAB. For purposes of this policy, the term “teaching staff” means all those who teach at UAB and includes, but is not limited to, full-time faculty, part-time faculty, students functioning in teaching roles (such as graduate assistants), and academic administrators.

A student who believes that he or she has been sexually harassed should report the incident promptly to the vice president for Student Affairs.

Sexual harassment by a student is considered nonacademic misconduct, and the alleged student offender will be subject to the disciplinary process contained in the Direction: Student Handbook.

Sexual Harassment — General: Full and prompt reporting is necessary for effective implementation of this policy, and UAB encourages such reporting. However, UAB’s duty to protect employees and students exists when UAB’s supervisory personnel know, or have reason to know, of unreported sexual harassment. Supervisors therefore are directed to take all appropriate steps to prevent sexual harassment in their areas of responsibility and to take corrective action, including disciplinary action, in response to inappropriate behavior which may constitute sexual harassment even in the absence of a complaint.

This policy seeks to encourage students, staff, and faculty to express freely and responsibly, through established procedure, complaints of sexual harassment. All such complaints shall be treated as confidential information and shall be disclosed only to those with a need to know as part of the investigatory and resolution process. Any act of interference, retaliation, or coercion by a UAB employee against a student or employee for using this policy interferes with such free expression and is itself a violation of this policy.

Implementation: This policy may be published regularly in the UAB Reporter and in the Class Schedule. The policy will be included in revisions of handbooks relating to staff, faculty and students.

The vice president for Financial Affairs and Administration is responsible for implementation of this policy as it relates to sexual harassment in the workplace. The vice president for Student Affairs is responsible for implementation of this policy as it relates to sexual harassment in the instructional setting.
New walking trails give employees a roadmap for fitness

Benefits of walking
Walking helps you achieve important health benefits:
• Lower low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol (the "bad" cholesterol)
• Raise high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol (the "good" cholesterol)
• Lower your blood pressure
• Reduce your risk of or manage Type 2 diabetes
• Manage your weight
• Improve your mood
• Stay strong and fit

Linda McCord has walked the halls of UAB Hospital for years. It’s been her way of maintaining an exercise regimen to help her overall health.

“It helps keep my blood pressure low ... keep it in check,” says McCord, an administrative associate. “I try to do it at least two to three times a week.”

Now McCord has a roadmap for her walks thanks to four, newly designated UAB Medicine Walking Trails. Employees now have two half-mile and mile-long indoor and outdoor walking trails for use at lunch or other times. The trails are named for the UAB Medicine core values: Own It, Always Care, Do Right and Work Together.

The indoor trails are on the second floor of the medical center complex, and the outdoor trails wrap around the buildings.

“The trails are clearly marked and measured so employees can keep up with how far they walk,” says UAB Health System Human Resources Executive Director Marty Box. “Employees could complete a shorter route during their break period and perhaps a longer one during lunch. We hope employees will enjoy the convenience of the marked trails and take advantage of the opportunity to exercise at work.”

Deb Nuby and Jane McCann have walked the trails almost daily this summer. Nuby, an administrative associate, says the number of people on the inside trails has increased far they walk,” says UAB Health System CEO Jane McCann, an executive assistant, says she has walked primarily to help her overall health, but she says a 15- to-30-minute walk also can be a great way to relieve work-related stress.

“It’s a very nice reminder of who they are,” McCann says. “One of the beauties of the trails is that you can talk to someone, and it makes or strengthens friendships.”

New radiation device improves accuracy, lessens exposure

The Department of Radiation Oncology at the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center is among the first in the United States to begin using radiation technology that dramatically reduces treatment times.

UAB’s Hazell-Salter Radiation Oncology Center is the third U.S. site to acquire TrueBeam technology. TrueBeam, by Varian Medical Systems Inc., can complete a standard 40-minute radiation therapy in less than a minute for select patients. The precision of the instrument, measured in increments of less than a millimeter, comes from real-time patient imaging, positioning, beam-shaping and many other data points synchronized continually as treatment progresses.

“This technology gives us the tools we need to shrink the number of treatment visits for some patients from weeks to days,” says James A. Bonner, M.D., chair of UAB’s Department of Radiation Oncology and a senior advisor at the Cancer Center. “Patients coming to UAB can expect leading-edge care with more options for fighting cancer and, hopefully, improved chances for survival.”

TrueBeam made its debut in the United States earlier in 2010 at Stanford University in Stanford, Calif., and at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. TrueBeam can be used to treat tumors anywhere in the body where radiation treatment is indicated. The technology opens the door to new treatment plans and improved quality of life in patients who have challenging cancers such as in the lung, breast, abdomen and head and neck, as well as cancers that are treated with radiotherapy.

However, the technology is still very new, and long-term outcomes have not been determined. It can perform advanced external-beam radiotherapy, including image-guided radiotherapy and radiosurgery, intensity-modulated radiotherapy, stereotactic body radiotherapy and other procedures.

“This accuracy involves a first-of-its-kind synchronization between imaging, patient positioning, beam shaping, motion control and dose management,” says Richard Popple, Ph.D., a UAB assistant professor of radiation oncology and physics team leader. “More than 100,000 data points are monitored continually as a treatment progresses, ensuring that the system maintains a true focus on the tumor and avoids healthy tissue.”

TrueBeam’s radiation delivery times are 50 percent faster than conventional “intensity-modulated” radiation therapy with up to a five-fold reduction in the number of steps needed to treat patients compared to many other machines, according to a Varian statement.

A healthy workforce is important to UAB Health System CEO Will Ferniany and the walking trails initiative originated in his office. The trails offer a health activity for employees and posted maps measure the distance they walk.
The tech specialist creates pop art that fires up the Internet

Walt Creel is a revolutionary artist — or perhaps an artistic revolution- ary. Instead of relying on paint or ink, he uses firearms to create images. His dot-matrix designs, composed of bullet holes in six-foot panels of painted metal, have gone viral on the Internet and attracted attention from Chinese and European media and prestigious American art journals. At UAB, however, the Web wonder is better known as an information-technology specialist for audio and video support.

Recently Creel spoke to UAB Magazine about his unique art and the acclaim it has received.

What inspired you to use guns?
Creel: Being from Alabama, I am familiar with guns and wanted to incorporate them into art, but I did not want to photograph them, paint them or otherwise use the gun as an image. I took a canvas into the woods and shot at it from a multitude of angles; things really clicked when I got right up on the canvas and shot in a single-file line. Then I realized I could use the gun solely as a tool to create my work.

What led you to focus on animal images?
Creel: My first experiments were on hunting land, and animal images seemed natural. The deer was the first to jump to mind. The opossum is the most divisive hunting land, and animal images seemed to get an "aww, how adorable" reaction to their own home. I was happy with how the images; people either love it or mind. The opossum is the most divisive

What do people respond?
Creel: Enthusiastically. Pro-gun people see my work as a sort of celebration of life rather than an ironic protest. I have heard more works well, but it has to be reinforced. I apply white paint to the surface; each bullet knocks off a little paint around each hole and really defines the image. The gun is a Ruger .22 rifle that my father gave me for Christmas.

Describe your project with the Coleman Center for the Arts.
Creel: The Coleman Center is a great cultural resource located in York, Ala., that brought well-known artists from around the country to work with the community. I displayed my work in their gallery and held two special events. At the first, I demonstrated the process I use to make my work. The second was a closing reception and paintball event. I took a sheet of wood with the same dimensions as the deer, painted it white, and then laid a cardboard stencil resembling the deer over it. Everyone took turns shooting it with multicolored paintballs until it—and everything around it—was fully covered.

What’s next for your art?
Creel: I have designed a new body of work

What materials do you use?
Creel: I quickly discovered that canvas was not going to hold up to repeated shots at point-blank range. Aluminum works well, but it has to be reinforced. I apply white paint to the surface; each bullet knocks off a little paint around each hole and really defines the image. The gun is a Ruger .22 rifle that my father gave me for Christmas.

Reaffirmation of Equal Opportunity Policy
Reissued August 2010
The University of Alabama at Birmingham is fully committed to the policies and practices of equal opportunity and non-discrimination in our treatment of all persons, including current and prospective faculty, staff, and students. We freely and enthusiastically endorse diversity and equal opportunity as core values that contribute to our effort to create a positive, supportive, and diverse environment in which faculty, staff and students can excel. These values only strengthen our vision of being an internationally renowned research university – a first choice for education and health care.
UAB pursues a vigorous program of affirmative action and equal opportunity and, in support of our Affirmative Action Program, we reaffirm our commitment to, and pledge our full support of, diversity and equal employment opportunity for all persons, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation,
national origin, disability unrelated to job performance, veteran status, or genetic or family medical history. UAB also complies with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act which prohibits employment discrimination against persons 40 years of age or older. In an effort to assure that all actions involving faculty, staff and students are administered and administered to comply with our commitment to fairness and non-discrimination, all UAB administrative and supervisory personnel are required to ensure that this policy is fully implemented by enforcing only valid, position-related requirement decisions for employment, promotions, and work assignments. Our commitment to fairness and non-discrimination are the foundations of UAB’s Equal Opportunity Policy and should be the guideposts for other management decisions as well.

The Equal Opportunity Policy may be accessed on the web at www.uab.edu/ProvFedEqInv.pdf.

WATTS
CONTINUED from page 1
the Massachusetts General Hospital (he was chief resident in 1984) and clinical fellowships at Harvard Medical School. Between 1984 and 1986 he was a fellow of motor control and movement disorders at the National Institute of Mental Health.
In 1986 Watts was named to the neurology faculty at Emory University, where he became professor and vice chair of the department in 1998. In July 2003 he was named professor and chair of UAB’s Department of Neurology, and in December 2003 was appointed to the endowed chair position. Between January and September 2008, Watts served as interim chief executive officer of the UAB Health System. Watts has published widely about experimental therapeutics for Parkinson’s disease. Since 1997 he has co-edited the textbook Movement Disorders: Neurologic Principles and Practice; the third edition will be published in 2011.

More information
—UAB Magazine

Medicine enriched
During his tenure as dean of the School of Medicine at UAB, Robert R. Rich, M.D., oversaw the development in 2006 of a research strategic plan that led to a $25 million annual increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health.
He also engineered a program to fund the recruitment and retention of top medical faculty and led a complete overhaul of the school’s curriculum.
Funding renewed for study of financial decision-making skills and dementia

The UAB Alzheimer’s Disease Center has received new $3 million, five-year grant from the National Institute on Aging for its Cognitive Observation in Seniors study to examine the declining financial skills in patients in patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), a precursor to Alzheimer’s disease.

MCI is considered to be an intermediate step towards Alzheimer’s disease (AD), although not all patients with MCI will develop AD. Patients with MCI typically are still functioning in the community but have focal memory or other cognitive impairments and are beginning to show initial signs of functional decline.

“Declining financial capacity is a good barometer for progression of Alzheimer’s disease,” said Daniel Marson, Ph.D., J.D., professor of Neurology and director of UAB’s Alzheimer’s Disease Center. “Our previous research has shown that a decline in skills such as balancing a checkbook or using a bank statement is a harbinger of a patient’s progression to AD.”

Clinical trial looks at diabetes/gum disease connection

The School of Dentistry is one of three sites recruiting patients for a clinical trial to test whether the treatment of chronic periodontitis, or gum disease, improves control of Type 2 diabetes. “Research clearly shows an association between chronic periodontitis and Type 2 diabetes, and there is early evidence that treating periodontal infection and inflammation can improve glycemic control,” said co-principal investigator Michael S. Ruddy, D.M.D.

For more information on enrolling in the trial, call 975-7117 or 934-1503.

New trial assesses aspirin’s ability to prolong a healthy life

UAB researchers are examining aspirin as a potentially useful drug in the fight for health and longevity. The study is designed to assess whether daily consumption of low-dose aspirin can increase the life span for healthy people age 70 and older and help them live with less physical and cognitive impairment.

UAB will enroll 200 healthy participants age 70 and older in the ASPREE study; for information about participating, call 205-934-2294.

Resuscitation research funding renewed

Funding has been extended six years for Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC), a clinical research network studying early delivery of interventions for serious trauma and cardiac arrest by emergency medical services (EMS) teams. The Alabama Resuscitation Center, located at the UAB is one of 10 sites involved in the project.

The ROC will receive $65 million in funding from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health and other federal and Canadian agencies during the next six years. Previous funding totals $55 million since the consortium was founded in 2004.

The ROC researchers include EMS and fire personnel, public safety workers, hospital staff, community health-care providers and medical centers in 10 regions across the United States and Canada. Since 2004, the ROC has enrolled tens of thousands of patients to test pre-hospital interventions that aim to improve outcomes in severely ill or injured patients before they are transported to a hospital.

“If paramedics and EMS personnel knew which resuscitation efforts were most effective, and could apply them within the first minutes after cardiac arrest or a serious trauma, many lives could be saved,” said Jeffrey Kerby, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of surgery in the section of Trauma, Burns and Critical Care and principal investigator for ROC at UAB.

UAB funding pilot research into effects of Gulf oil spill

UAB is soliciting applications for pilot projects that will explore the economic, health and social effects that the Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill will have on virtually every aspect of life in the Gulf coastal states. The UAB Gulf Oil Response Initiative will enable investigators to obtain data and prove feasibility for projects in anticipation that substantial new extramural funding opportunities soon will become available. Guidelines for submitting applications can be found online at workspaces.ad.uab.edu/ra/committees/get/default.aspx.

The first deadline is 5 p.m. Aug. 15. Direct inquiries to Charles Prince, Ph.D., princecw@uab.edu, or Mike Perone, mgperone@uab.edu

CCTS offers training for presenters who are beginners

A seminar on conference posters and oral presentations for beginners will be presented by Victor M. Darley-Umar, Ph.D., professor of pathology and director of the Center for Free Radical Biology, from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24 in Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium.

The practical skills necessary for preparing and conducting scientific abstracts, posters and the 15-minute oral presentation will be covered as well as information on visual design, presentation organization, verbal and non-verbal communication strategies, and tips on audience interaction.

Lunch will be served. Registration required at http://ccuaug24.eventbrite.com.

Protect your intellectual property

Many discoveries that result from funded research can be commercialized for the financial benefit of UAB and its faculty. The UAB Research Foundation can help you protect your interests before you publish your results to the public domain.

For more information, visit www.uab.edu/uarf.

Learn more about these topics and other UAB research at www.uab.edu/news.
Better health is only two feet away.

UAB Medicine employees now have a new way to improve their health thanks to two indoor and two outdoor walking trails in the medical center. The trails are named after the UAB Medicine core values: Own It, Always Care, Do Right, and Work Together. The half-mile Always Care and Work Together indoor trails are on the second floor of the medical center complex. The half-mile Do Right and one-mile Own It outdoor trails wrap around medical center buildings. Get a group together and make a move to improve your health.