Math lab has increased student success

Walter Johnson opens the door to the Mathematics Learning Laboratory with the look of a young student showing his parents his report card with all As. Johnson, director of the pre-calculus program, is eager to show off the more than 30 percent improvements in class grades, quiz grades — even the number of classes that have been attended or missed.

The lab has become the backbone of a Pre-Calculus program that has helped push the success rate of students enrolling since restructuring began in 2006. “This lab is a major factor in improving our success rates and, more important, improving student learning.” Johnson says. “That’s really been our focus all along. If you increase math competency, hopefully the passing rates will follow. Fortunately, they have. And they’ve followed while we’ve maintained rigor in the course. That makes it feel like your students really have accomplished something.”

UAB will be sending a required Fifth-Year Intern Report to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools early in 2011, and a major part of the report will be the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) Impact Report. It will detail the success the university has achieved with the QEP it proposed as part of its reaccreditation in 2005. The performance of pre-calculus math students will be a component of that report, highlighting the success rate and math instructors’ ability to support student learning through computer-assisted instruction.

Johnson says the improvement did not happen overnight. The restructuring process is regularly scrutinized and adjusted to make the program stronger.

Marilyn Kurata, Ph.D., director of Core Curriculum Enhancement, says math department Chair Rudi Weikard, Ph.D., and his staff have been instrumental in the restructuring success. “It’s been very, very impressive what they have accomplished,” Kurata says. “The math department has worked hard to help ensure that our students will have the basic skills they need to go on to more advanced courses. Even though there have been 30 to 40 percent improvements, they’re not resting on that. They look at their feedback, and they’re constantly tweaking.”

**Keys to success**

Johnson says three elements have enhanced learning: the instructional software, the monitoring system developed by faculty and Information Technology staff and the tutoring available after class hours.

Pre-calculus classes meet three times each week for 50 minutes. The first class meeting is a workbook-based, interactive classroom lecture and/or group-learning experience. Students meet with their campus math lab director to discuss their performance.

**New Online Policies and Procedures Library launched**

The new online UAB Policies and Procedures (P&P) Library is now up and ready for use at www.uab.edu/policies.

In a report to the Faculty Senate at its Aug. 10 meeting, President Carol Garrison announced the launch of the one-stop repository for all current universitywide policies and associated procedures/guidelines. The library offers reference abstracts and a fully integrated and user-friendly search engine that locates documents by title, keyword, unit, or full text.

The library was developed as a result of a directive from Garrison and Provost Eli Capilouto in response to a request from the Faculty Senate to provide an electronic policy library for the UAB community. It may be easily accessed from the UAB main page from the pull-down menu under the Faculty & Staff heading, as well as from the QuickLinks menus on the Current Students and Faculty & Staff landing pages. Access is also available from BlazerNET on three tabs: Faculty Resources, Employee Resources and Student Resources.

The P&P Library will be the official source for universitywide policies from the Policy Reference Manual and other UAB policies, procedures, and guidelines maintained by administrative offices.

**Discussion Book explores art as a form of dialogue**

The most common way to explore an issue is to read as much about the topic as we are able. That always has been the heart of the annual Discussion Book, a vehicle for introducing difficult dialogues and learning outcomes while uniting undergraduates, faculty and staff.

This is the sixth year for a campus Discussion Book and the fifth year the Birmingham Museum of Art has been a community partner. However, for the first time, there will be a heightened emphasis on exploring the way in which artists develop projects that will help us better understand issues central to the Discussion Book.

Marilyn Kurata, Ph.D., director for Core Curriculum Enhancement, says Warren St. John’s Outcasts United provides a perfect opportunity to integrate art with dialogue about often-controversial issues and prepare UAB students to participate in a global society.

“Sometimes students are so profession-driven that they neglect to develop the whole person,” Kurata says. “We want them to be aware of the multiple disciplines that contribute to their academic knowledge, well-being and future citizens of our society. We’re focusing on art this year because that hasn’t been an area we’ve highlighted in the past. “It’s very easy for students to connect the Discussion Book with important social, scientific or health-care issues and sometimes even with issues of literary merit,” Kurata says. “But often they don’t make the broader connection to other less obvious disciplines.”
Learn about new retirement plan options at town hall meetings

Faculty and staff will have the opportunity to learn firsthand about important new retirement investment plan offerings that will be available in September at town hall meetings set for Monday, Aug. 23 and Wednesday, Aug. 25.

While in the past UAB has contracted with only one 403(b) provider, TIAA-CREF, Human Resources has negotiated a new contract with VALIC as another provider of this matching funds-eligible option.

In addition, UAB will begin offering a 457(b) plan with both TIAA-CREF and VALIC as providers for non-matched, additional tax-deferred contributions. More details on the meetings and the plans can be found at www.hrm.uab.edu/main/benefits.

Eating disorder behaviors topic of Resource Center presentation

Join the UAB Resource Center Employee Assistance Program for an informative lunchtime program on eating disorders presented by Elizabeth McMurray, clinical director for A Center for Eating Disorders. The program will be Wednesday, Aug. 25 from noon until 1 p.m. in the UAB Highlands Media Center at 1201 11th Ave South.

Eating disorders including anorexia, bulimia and binge eating include extreme emotions, attitudes and behaviors surrounding weight and food issues. McMurray will address the various types of eating disorders, their signs and symptoms, the physical and psychological consequences and treatment options. She also will discuss the impact of the media as it influences our culture and our perceptions related to body image and eating disorders.

The program is free for UAB and UAB Health System employees and their family members. Participants may bring their lunch. Space is limited; call 934-2281 to register.

“Artifacts” to exhibit in The Gallery

Jürgen Tarrasch’s “Artifacts” explores ideas of perception and representation through a site-specific installation constructed by the Birmingham-based artist Jürgen Tarrasch in The Gallery at UAB.

An opening reception is planned for 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 2. Admission is free. Call 934-0815.

Register for radiation safety training to begin Sept. 13

Occupational Health and Safety is offering a Radiation Safety Training Course for lab personnel who never have attended a formal course in radiation safety practices and/or those using radioisotopes for the first time. The in-class portion of the course will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, and an examination will be given Friday, Sept. 24. Both will be held in the CH19 Room B-1. Review the training manual online at www.healthsafe.uab.edu.

Call the Radiation Safety Office at 934-4751 or 934-2487 to register by Friday, Sept. 10.

UAB Piano Series to feature David Korevaar Sept. 19

David Korevaar will perform in the UAB Piano Series at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 in UAB’s Alys Stephens Center. Korevaar’s mastery of the piano is joined with a large and varied repertoire and enhanced by his work with living composers and his own experience writing music. He is an active performer as a soloist and chamber musician and associate professor of piano at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Tickets are $15 for the general public and $5 for UAB students and employees with valid ID. Call 975-2787 for tickets.

ASC presents “Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve!” Sept. 19

Mark your calendar for a play date when UAB’s Alys Stephens Center presents Disney’s “Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve!” at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19 in the center. Tickets are $15 for kids, $27 for adults. Call 975-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org.

“Choo-Choo Soul with Genevieve!” is one of the new family fun performances presented by the center. Come early at 2 p.m. for an exciting preview celebration of the Alys Stephens Center’s new Arts Education Institute, ArtPlay, set to open January 2011. Then get on board with musical artist Genevieve Goings as she drives her train through fantastical lands while singing soulful, contemporary, kid-friendly hip-hop songs about ABC’s, 1-2-3’s, being polite and more.

Welcome to UAB Students from the incoming freshman class gathered on the Campus Green Monday, Aug. 16, for a class photo highlighting their graduating date of 2014. The photo is the first of its kind taken of the UAB freshman class, and plans are to take one each year going forward.
New lab facility gives Vision Sciences look into the future

The newly renovated Vision Research Laboratories in Volker Hall will promote collaboration between the departments of Optometry and Ophthalmology,Judith Kapp, left, vice chair for basic research in Ophthalmology, together with Paul Gamlin, chair of Vision Sciences, both expect this new partnership to bring the scientific world closer to understanding the diseases that cause blindness.

“The space is wonderful,” says Judith Kapp, Ph.D., professor of Ophthalmology and vice chair for basic research “For many of us, this is a more central location within the university, and it’s a much richer environment for research. To walk into a modern, state-of-the-art space as well done as this is exhilarating.” The facility was created through a $1.2 million grant from the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama, plus additional funds from the provost’s office and the schools of Medicine and Optometry. The open-lab design concept will enable several faculty members to share large, adjacent lab spaces and create more opportunities for collaboration.

“We have a strong group of vision scientists on campus, but some are in the School of Medicine and some are in the School of Optometry,” says Lanning Kline, M.D., chair of Ophthalmology. “These researchers have made great strides on their own, but in many cases, they’re working several blocks apart. The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama recognized the value of bringing these two groups together to create a synergy that will enable us to generate new ideas and accelerate the research through collaborations.”

Paul Gamlin, Ph.D., professor and chair of Vision Sciences, agrees that proximity will help overcome challenges and make it easier to actively collaborate on projects and attract more grant funding and novel research.

“We now have ongoing collaborations between faculty in different buildings, but the logistics of the previous year are cumbersome. Gamlin says “Several new collaborations already are being planned. People will have more coffee-pot conversations about projects they’re working on, which will facilitate ideas.”

### Treating, curing disease

The goal of these laboratories will be to address the underlying pathology of vision loss associated with glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, genetic diseases and age-related macular degeneration; to determine the best treatments for these blinding diseases; and ultimately to cure them.

The prevalence of partial vision loss and blindness from these diseases is disproportionately high in the Southeast, particularly Alabama. The hope is that the new research space will provide the infrastructure that will help prevent vision loss throughout the state, region and nation.

“Most of the focus is on basic research, but there is an increased emphasis on translational research and moving into clinical treatments,” Gamlin says. “That represents the push at the National Institutes of Health.”

“Hopefully this translational emphasis will generate new clinical trials that also will take advantage of the other strengths we have, such as the Clinical Vision Research Unit directed by Cynthia Owsey, Ph.D.,” Kapp adds. “The CVRU provides core research infrastructure to increase the clinical research capability at UAB in eye disease and vision impair-ment so that our investigators can develop high-quality research programs and enhance existing ones. The CVRU provides core resources and consultation to investigators in the areas of study design and implementation, project coordination, database design and management, biostatistical analysis, grantsmanship and grants management. They have a great base of knowledge.”

School of Optometry faculty relocating to the new labs include Gamlin, Alecia Gross, Ph.D.; Kent Keyser, Ph.D.; Timothy Kraft, Ph.D.; Thomas Norton, Ph.D.; Steve Pirrler, Ph.D.; and On Srivastava, Ph.D. Xincheng Yao, Ph.D., from the School of Engineering, will join them. Faculty from the School of Medicine moving into the new labs include Kapp, Christine Curtis, Ph.D.; Christopher Girkin, M.D.; Clyde Gauld, Ph.D.; Russell Read, M.D.; Ph.D.; Shu-Zhen Wang, Ph.D.; and Yuhua Zhang, Ph.D.

Vision researchers are excited about the opportunity to generate more clinical studies from within UAB. Kapp believes this is an important stimulus for basic scientists.

“When you’re focused on your own area, which goes all the way down to the molecular level, it’s easy to wonder, ‘Is what I’m doing ever going to translate into a treatment for disease in patients in my lifetime — or ever?’” Kapp says. “This will be an excellent environment where researchers can work together and imagine how their work is going to translate, and it will keep them focused.”

The new research labs will be dedicated during a two-day celebration Sept. 23-24. A reception, dedication and lab tour will take place Sept. 23. Paul Sieving, director of the National Eye Institute, will be the featured speaker of the Vision Science Symposium, which will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., Sept. 24 in the Smith Education Center in the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital.

### Gospel Choir to preview new “Mirrors” CD in concert

The UAB Gospel Choir will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a reunion concert and new CD preview at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 22 in UAB’s Alys Stephens Center.

The concert will feature a reunion choir and music will be performed in three segments: 1995-2000, 2001-2005 and 2006-2010. The Gospel Choir Director Kevin P. Turner says “We are asking that former choir members, musicians, lead singers, dancers, everyone who has been involved with the choir in the past 15 years participate.”

The rehearsals for the Reunion Choir will begin after fall break and will last four weeks. Former students from this area and throughout the continental United States will be returning to UAB for that weekend.

The concert will feature a full horn section, band, decorations and a souvenir book, which will be available for purchase. WAGG! Heaven 40 AM will broadcast the concert live from the Alys Stephens Center. The choir also will debut songs from their new “Mirrors” CD as a plus, anyone attending this concert can purchase a copy of the “Mirrors” CD two months before the national release.

Concert tickets are $7; $6 for groups of 20 or more (advance purchase required); and $5 for UAB students and employees. Call 205-975-2757 for tickets. Visit the UAB Department of Music online at www.music.uab.edu.

Additional reunion and concert details will be available at www.uabgospelchoir.org; www.facebook.com/uabgospelchoir; and www.myspace.com/uabgospelchoir.
The elderly lady with pneumonia was breathing well at morning rounds. But when Ronnie Mathews, M.D., visited her hospital room that afternoon, he noticed her breathing was more distressed. He moved her to the intensive care unit and began treatment to prevent respiratory failure.

The patient didn’t have to wait for a nurse to call her primary-care physician or for her doctor to arrive. Because Mathews is a hospitalist—a staff doctor who provides inpatient care—he was able to take immediate action.

Less than 10 years ago, hospitalists were a new concept; today the specialists are found in most major hospitals. The UAB Hospitalist Service was the first hospitalist group in Alabama when it opened in 1998. Medical Director James Lyman, M.D., says today the service is staffed by eight hospitalists and five nurse practitioners.

“There are tangible benefits in having a hospitalist available 24/7 to monitor patients and coordinate their care,” Mathews says. “We stay in touch with each patient’s doctors to keep them in the loop. Less than 10 years ago, hospitalists were a new concept; today the specialists are found in most major hospitals. The UAB Hospitalist Service was the first hospitalist group in Alabama. The goal of the unit, according to its medical director and geriatrician Kellie Flood, M.D., is to anticipate and prevent new geriatric issues in elderly patients while managing their acute care. “Geriatric patients in a hospital setting may be prone to developing acute confusion, falls, pressure ulcers, incontinence, and other problems less often seen in younger patients,” she says. “They may have multiple geriatric issues in addition to their acute medical problem. They also are at increased risk of functional decline during a hospitalization.”

No one person has time to adequately address all of these issues, “so we work as an interdisciplinary team,” Flood explains. The ACE Unit team includes physical therapists, respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, volunteers and a pet therapist—with hospitalists as attending physicians.

The hospitalist model is a perfect fit for the ACE Unit, says Flood. “Our team meets every day to discuss how patients are doing and what we’re observing from a geriatric standpoint. Are they eating? How’s their muscle strength? Are they depressed or showing signs of cognitive decline? Do they have multiple prescriptions putting them at risk for an adverse drug event, a fall or confusion. We work to promote mobility and cognitive stimulation to help them avoid developing new complications.”

Studies show that the ACE mult discipli nary team model of care helps to improve function, reduces length of stay, increases patient satisfaction and results in better outcomes—findings that are similar to survey responses about hospitalist care. “Use what has proven to work and build on it,” Flood says.

Communication and compassion

Becoming a hospitalist doesn’t require additional medical training—most hospitalists have completed residencies in general or internal medicine—but it does require some key expertise. “You need high-level interpersonal and communication skills to explain what’s happening to the patient and work closely with the referring physician,” Lyman says. “You should be adept at using information technology for systematic communication and the appropriate handoff of records when patients are discharged. A hospitalist also has to be comfortable with multitasking. It’s not uncommon to be reviewing a chart when a pager goes off, sending you to treat an unstable patient. You have to be able to change with the ebb and flow of the day and go with the flow.”

Patience also is paramount, Mathews says. “If a patient doesn’t have a primary physician or comes to the emergency department and records aren’t available, we have no baseline. We have to begin at the beginning to get a good medical history.”

Lyman echoes that point: “The first time you meet a patient, it’s usually in an acute situation with the patient and family under stress. You have to develop the doctor-patient relationship.”

Despite the challenges of working in a hospital all day, Lyman and Mathews enjoy being hospitalists. Their schedules are more flexible than those of other medical specialists, and both men agree that inpatient medicine is exciting and dynamic. “We see a variety of patients and many interesting cases,” Lyman says. They also are proud of what they have accomplished as hospitalist pioneers in Alabama and are eager to see how their field evolves and influences health care. “There are many rewards, and I enjoy what I do,” Mathews says.

“Hospitalists play key role in evolving health-care sphere...”

CAMPUS NEWS
U nless you are a big fan of roller coasters, you have not enjoyed the U.S. economy during the last 24 months. One day it’s up, the next it’s down. From Wall Street to Main Street, most Americans feel like they’ve been hung through too many loops at high rates of speed. Stephanie Rauterkus, Ph.D., an assistant professor of finance, has launched a new personal finance blog—a kind of lap bar to keep families on the rails through dips and curves.

I wanted to revisit my family’s budget and see how we could improve, and I wanted to keep a written record so that we would have something to look back on in the future,” Rauterkus says. “I thought about it some more and the educator in me said ‘I’ll write about it on a blog so that others can learn what I learn as I go through the process.’”

Rauterkus’ blog, 365 Days on a Budget, was started July 5. Every day, the professor, wife and mother of two updates readers on her struggles and successes as she attempts to balance both budget and life. The blog is not about the daily challenges and triumphs of a “regular” family but works to achieve its financial goals by keeping a watchful eye on spending.

“I check the blog every day,” says Debbie Colpuck.

Professor uses personal finance blog to help families
Case exorcises the devil in the procurement details

Todd DeVore, Ph.D., knows the proof of good work is in the details. DeVore, an instructor who manages the undergraduate physics labs, also knows details can be overlooked, misunderstood or ignored. So DeVore relies on Mark Case, a financial assistant who does every I and crosses every T when helping him order unique or one-of-a-kind items from specialty vendors.

“There are the kind of details Mark helps me with all of the time,” DeVore says. “If something needs to be done, signed or arranged by a certain time, he reminds the faculty. It’s never the other way around.

“It really helps to have someone good at details with so many of us wearing different hats all day.”

Case’s positive attitude, willingness to help others and strong work ethic are all reasons he has been named Employee of the Month for August.

Yogesh Vohra, Ph.D., director of the UAB Center for Nanoscale Materials and Biomaterials, says Case is diligent and has offered exceptional support to faculty, graduate students, postdoctoral associates and staff for many tasks.

“Mark always has been friendly, courteous and not just willing but enthusiastic about carrying out whatever has been requested of him,” Vohra says. “Mark has contributed in many ways to the success of research and teaching mission of the Department of Physics.”

Case is flattered by the comments of his co-workers, but he says he’s just trying to do his job the best he can each day — regardless of the challenges that come his way.

“I try to make things as painless as possible for our faculty, especially with all of the paperwork,” Case says. “That’s not really something they should be concerned with.

“Some of the professors think I work hard, and it’s a great compliment,” Case adds.

“But folks really live their jobs. It’s not uncommon to get e-mails from them at 1 a.m. These scientists have a relentless attitude toward their work. They’re totally focused on physics and their responsibilities.

if we have to hire adjunct instructors because we’ve got an overload of students — there’s a discipline imposed on the instructor,” Johnson says. “We have much less variability now in passing rates from section to section. They have to teach each course a standard way, they have to use the homework problems we’re providing for them, they have to use the schedules that we give them. That has kept us from getting wild fluctuations in passing rates.

“Every instructor gives the same types of tests and quizzes,” he says. “And the rules are laid out for faculty and students in terms of what it takes to pass the course. It’s much better from that perspective.”

Monitor progress

The math department also developed software that gives the instructor and advisors the ability to monitor student progress daily. The monitoring software shows the current course grade, home-work grades, quiz grades — even the number of classes that have been attended or missed.

The grade database is housed on math department servers and is updated every hour.

“This is a leading-edge capability,” Johnson says. “We have advisors who monitor their students’ progress. UAB Athletics gives us a list of athletes at the beginning of each semesters and we give a set of academic advisors in the athletic department database access. They can sit down every day if they want to and get an up-to-date record of who’s coming to class, doing their homework and mak- ing the grade from the beginning of the semester. This is a great advance over the time-delayed way things used to be.”

Any advisor who wants access to their students’ records can e-mail Johnson at johnson@math.uab.edu at the beginning of the semester.

“This provides a great tool for our instructors and advisors and enables them to see when they need to talk to students and help them,” Johnson says. “And the students can see their own progress clearly. There’s no question in their mind about what’s happening and where they stand in the course.

Tutors also a key factor

The math department has pushed the lab together for a while, and we all try to back each other up. The workload gets bigger and bigger, but we’ve worked well together for so long that we have a good system. We work to get things done.”

If you would like to nominate someone for Employee of the Month, visit www.uab.edu/eotm or e-mail letters of nomination to Christina Peoples at eotm@uab.edu.

The lab, located on the second floor of Heritage Hall, is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each Friday during the semester. The facility is staffed with math- ematics graduate student tutors during this time. The lead tutor for the lab also is a full-time employee. Students can go to the lab anytime during the day and receive help.

Because of the success of the pre-calculus and non-credit basic algebra course, the lab has expanded through the restructur- ing. It supports numerous math courses, including college-level algebra, pre-calculus trigonometry, pre-calculus algebra and trig combined, business calculus, finite mathematics, statistics and calculus courses.

All of the courses are showing improve- ment in their success rate, and it’s a trend Johnson hopes will continue.

“It’s got to plateau at some point,” he says. “But we’ve seen gradual, steady improvement, and that is very gratifying.”

MATH LAB

CONTINUED from page 1

instructor in the math lab for the second class and work in the math lab on their own or with math department tutors for the third.

The computers use interactive software. Students can view examples and solutions for problems they are trying to solve, e-mail their professor with questions and view the textbook online.

Johnson says these teaching aids make the instructor more effective and engage the students in more hands-on study.

“To me, this is better than the old way of doing things because it’s dynamic learning,” Johnson says. “If a student is stuck, the program can give them a nudge in the right direction. It beats sitting in your dorm room for an hour in complete frustra- tion not knowing what to do. This is manna from Heaven, from a student and instructor perspectives.”

Another aspect in which the software helps is that there is no variance in con- tent from instructor to instructor.

“We have more control now because no matter who is teaching a course — even
NASA awards UAB the CRAVE contract for second time

Funding has been extended and expanded for the aerospace crew: robotics, avionics and equipment work performed by UAB’s Center for Biophysics Sciences and Engineering (CBSE) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The new contract is valued at more than $70 million and is shared among UAB and three out-of-state engineering firms. The contract involves spacewalk activity equipment, flight-crew health and conditioning systems, environmental control and life support equipment. It also sustains the UAB-designed cryogenic freezer units called GLACIER, along with a smaller refrigerator called MERLIN, for continued use on the International Space Station and advanced NASA vehicles.

New compound blocks soft-tissue tumor growth

Researchers in the UAB Department of Dermatology have published a study that highlights a potential treatment for rhabdomyosarcoma, a soft-tissue tumor type found most often in children.

The research, appearing in Cancer Research, focuses on an experimental compound called CP-31398 and its ability to regulate the most common mutated gene in cancer, p53. By controlling normal or mutated p53 proteins, CP-31398 shows it can inhibit rhabdomyosarcoma growth and invasiveness, says Mohammad Athar, Ph.D., professor and vice-chair of dermatology.

UAB CORD teaches kids the realities of scientific research

Several Birmingham City students participated in UAB’s Center for Community OutReach Development Summer Science Institute Research Internship. The eight-week program gave city high-school students the chance to work on real research studies, under the guidance of UAB scientists.

Tino Unlap, Ph.D., director of the internship and associate professor of clinical laboratory sciences, says the program is an opportunity to introduce students in the city high schools to the different areas of scientific research, including biology, chemistry and engineering. “Many of the students start the program in the 10th grade, and by the time they are seniors they have the knowledge needed to work successfully in a laboratory,” says Unlap.

Professional training seminar for beginning presenters offered

A seminar on conference posters and oral presentations for beginners will be presented by Victor M. Darley-Kumar, 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. Lunch will be served. Registration required at ccts.uab.edu/events.

Mentors needed for Nascent Projects Mentoring Panel

If you know a faculty member who is pursuing clinical or translational research, and is planning to submit a career development proposal or his/her first investigator-initiated grant to an external funding agency, please consider referring them to the CCTS Nascent Projects Mentoring Panel. Interested faculty members should e-mail Jean Lambert at jeanl@uab.edu with a copy of their NIH biosketch and a one-paragraph description of their research project.

For more information regarding the Nascent Panel visit www.ccts.uab.edu/pages/nascent_projects.aspx.

Clinical research unit renamed, fee schedule changed

The UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science Clinical Research Unit (CRU) provides the facilities and staff to conduct safe, high-quality, clinical and translational research. It formerly was known as PCIR. The CRU has modified its fee structure for non-industry sponsored protocols, effective Aug. 1, and staff will work closely with investigators to develop a CRU patient-care budget. Budget justification and facilities/resources description.

Direct questions to Beth Morton at bmorton@uab.edu or 975-6115. Information regarding services and fees is online at www.ccts.uab.edu.

Study coordinator training program starts Sept. 7

This workshop will provide study coordinators with the basics of good clinical practice, research compliance and other key topics. This is a six-session course to be held Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28 and Oct. 5 and 12. Sessions are from 8 a.m. to noon in the Children’s Harbor Bradley Conference Center; cost is $25 and payable with registration.

Enrollment is limited, so please register early. Direct questions to Susan Branscum, Sheree Carter, Penny Jester or Kathleen Powell.

CCTS to host open house Sept. 8

The UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science Clinical Research Unit (CRU) will hold its Open House and Research Subject Appreciation Event from 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 8 on the 15th floor of Jefferson Tower. The CRU formerly was known as the PCIR (Participant and Clinical Interactions Resources).

Find clinical trials, classifieds online

The Reporter Online publishes classifieds 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 provided on the site.

Grants and Contracts Awarded online

A Grants and Contracts Awarded report is distributed weekly through the UAB Research Administration Listserv. The reports consist of new grants and contracts, competing continuations, competitive renewals, supplements, and amendments or modifications that add additional funds to an existing award. Multi-year awards display the total funding awarded for the entire project period. All industry-sponsored titles have been removed and replaced by the protocol number or “Confidential Title.”

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/uabrf. Learn more about these topics and other UAB research at www.uab.edu/news.
Discussion Book Dialogues are open to the campus community and general public. The goal is not to push a particular agenda but to provide information to help everyone make more informed decisions about relevant issues. Snacks provided.

UAB Discussion Book Dialogues

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Third Thursday, Sept. 2010-April 2011
(except March 24)

Heritage Hall Room 549
(except Feb. 17)

Community Event

August 24, 2010
UAB Discussion Book Night at the Birmingham Museum of Art for students, faculty, staff, and families, from 6 to 8 p.m. Free bus shuttle between Blazer Hall and the museum beginning at 5:15. Free refreshments, presentations, collection tours, and activities.

2010

September 16
Samantha Kelly, Curator of Education, Birmingham Museum of Art
"The Power of the Creative Act: How Museums Transform and Unite Community"

October 21
Kristi Menear, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Human Studies, UAB
"Outcomes of Physical Activity in All Children"

November 18
Jessica Dallow, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, UAB
"Contemporary Artists and Exile"

December 16
Josh Carter, Director, Study Away, UAB
"An Interactive Simulation of Cross-Cultural Communication"

2011

January 20
Emily Hanna, Ph.D., Curator of the Arts of Africa and the Americas, Birmingham Museum of Art
"Unity and Diversity: African Art and the Creation of Community"

February 17 (HUC Alumni Auditorium)
Study Away Student Panel
"Lessons Learned by UAB Students Abroad"

March 24 (4th Thursday)
UAB Soccer representative TBA

April 21
Scotty Colsom, Office of Economic Development, Mayor’s Office
"Birmingham’s Sister City and Other International Programs"