Virotherapy in spotlight again, in use at bedside

What is virotherapy?
Virotherapy is a targeted therapy in which a virus is altered and programmed in the laboratory to find and destroy cancer cells without harming healthy cells. Curiel and his researchers have drastically altered the adenovirus virus — the virus that causes the common cold — turning it into search-and-destroy missiles, selectively infecting and killing cancer cells while leaving healthy ones alone. This is being tested on 10 patients and represents the first point of departure for virotherapy in which the virus has been altered in a fundamental way, used in treatment and found to be safe.

“We radically altered a virus design to improve its utility, and we were able to get that into patients quickly because we provided all of the data that validated their safety,” Curiel says.

UAB researchers have opened the door for new, radical virus designs that will be useful to humans in the process.

“It’s like when you first break gravity; once you know you can do it, it becomes easier the next time,” Curiel says. “The next people who want to come with radically altered viruses will have this as their point of departure.”

The perfect delivery device
Fundamental to achieving gene therapy is the ability to re-engineer a virus to infect the target cell. “In other words, one could argue if you’ve faced with the problem of gene delivery, God made the most perfect

Fishing team preps for national championship

Derek Jones went to the weigh-in of the Bassmasters tournament in Birmingham a few years ago when he was a UAB freshman, saw members of the University of Alabama fishing team on stage during the event, and was envious. He wanted to be a part of a collegiate fishing team.

“When I saw Alabama’s team, I wanted to compete,” Jones says. “I wanted to do what they were doing.”

Jones and fellow student Bradley Myer decided to start a club fishing team at UAB, and it has turned out to be a great decision for them and the university. The fishing team was recognized as an official student club this past November, and on Sept. 18 it will be competing in the Boat U.S./National Guard/Fox College Sports National Championship Tournament on Lake Lewisville in Texas. All of this comes in a year when UAB has already claimed the 12-school Southern Collegiate Bass Fishing Series (SCBFS) regular season championship.

UAB drive boosts blood supply, but more is needed

The UAB/American Red Cross post-Labor Day blood drive nearly reached its goal, netting 770 units out of a goal of 800 during the four-day drive. Fifty-six percent of the donors were UAB employees.

The drive was timely because blood is traditionally in short supply at the end of summer. In addition, the drive coincided with the arrival in quick succession of three major storms — Gustav, Hanna and Ike — making blood collection even more important.

Gustav and Hanna both caused disruptions in normal blood collection along the Gulf Coast and eastern seaboard.

UAB employees can still donate blood at the Blood Donor Center on the second floor of the North Pavilion. Anyone giving blood in September automatically is entered in a drawing for a $1,000 gas card.

Go to www.uabtouchpoints.org to make an appointment and to register for the opportunity to collect valuable prizes.

For more information, call the Blood Donor Center at 205-975-3980.

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BRIEFS

UAB firearms policy reminder published

No firearms, ammunition or dangerous weapons are allowed in university buildings or other UAB facilities, including parking decks, at any time. A gun permit does not authorize a staff member, faculty member, student, patient or visitor to bring firearms into UAB buildings or into other UAB facilities under any circumstances. This includes guns in parked cars.

A full copy of the UAB Policy Concerning Firearms, Ammunition and Other Dangerous Weapons may be found online at www.iis.uab.edu/Pol.Firearms/tab.pdf.

UAB regularly updates its online policy manuals, and all members of the UAB community are responsible for review of and compliance with them. Both the UAB Faculty Handbook and You and UAB Handbook can be found in the Policies & Forms channel on the BlazerNET (blazer.net/uab.edu) Employee Resources tab. The student handbook, Direction, can be found in the Quick Links channel on the BlazerNET Student Resources tab.

SafeZone training is set for Sept. 16

UAB HRM Training and Development is offering a workshop to train volunteers for the UAB Safe Zone program from 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16 in Medical Towers 419A. Following the training, participants who agree to be volunteers are identified by a decal with the Safe Zone symbol placed on their office doors. There is no time commitment other than the training.

The Safe Zone program is established, visible network of trained faculty, staff and students who provide confidential support and reliable information to other faculty, staff and students regarding issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The instructor for the training is Glenda Elliott, Ph.D., associate professor emerita, UAB School of Education, assisted by a team of SafeZone volunteers.

For additional information, contact Debbie Mogette, mogette@uab.edu or visit the Web site, http://students.uab.edu/student-life/show.asp?durki=61359.

Public auction will be Sept. 17 at Warehouse

A public auction will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17 to dispose of surplus used equipment in the University Stores Warehouse, located at 1405 Second Ave. South.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the day of the sale. Items available for sale may be viewed Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 15-16 from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Call 934-3344 or 934-5144 with any questions.

DRTC to host Core Facilities Exposition

Learn more about the technologies and methodologies available through the Diabetes Research Training Center (DRTC), the scope and importance of diabetes-related research at UAB and the new DRTC Pilot/Feasibility grant program during the inaugural Core Facilities exposition scheduled from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, 4th floor lobby of Kirklin Tower.

Register online for the workshop at www.uab.edu/traindev. Click on “Professional Development Program Information”; click on “Professional Development Courses”; click on “Safe Zone Program,” under the list of courses.

Osteoporosis clinic earns accreditation

The UAB Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Clinic has won accreditation for its bone-density scan program – one of only a handful of scanning centers in the nation to be accredited.

The notification was from the Commission on the Accreditation of Skeletal Assessment Facilities, a program run by the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD). Fewer than 20 United States scanning centers have won accreditation this year, an ISCD report said.

In earning accreditation, UAB’s scanning center at The Kirklin Clinic demonstrated excellence in DXA accuracy, quality control, patient and referring physician education and other ISCD standards.

DXA scans are most often used to diagnose bone thickness and osteoporosis, and to track treatment of bones for musculoskeletal disorders and other conditions that may impact the risk of bone thinning and fracture.

Discussion Book Dialogues start soon

Allan Dobkins, associate professor of biomedical engineering, will examine “Climate Change: Mechanisms and Misconceptions” during the first of nine Discussion Book Dialogues planned for the academic year. The presentation, free and open to the public, will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 18 in the Blazer Hall Residence Life Center. A complete list of Discussion Book activities is available at campuscard.uab.edu.

The Green is open

The stage is set, the sod is laid and the sidewalks are complete. All that’s left to finish Phase I of the Campus Green are light fixtures and trees, says Susan Zumbado, project coordinator. The trees have been selected and will be planted between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The fixtures for the light poles are ordered. Only a small portion of the Green where sod recently was placed is roped off. Otherwise, Zumbado says, the Green is accepting visitors. “The sod has been in long enough that people can walk across the green or play football,” Zumbado says.

Use BlazerBucks now at Sterne Library

UAB Blazer Bucks may now be used at Sterne Library for printing and copying, and Venda cards are being phased out. Add Blazer Bucks to your CampusCard employee ID or buy a guest card. Add Blazer Bucks to your UAB CampusCard at the Value Transfer station located near the Sterne Library circulation desk or online at campuscard.uab.edu.

Distinguished Faculty Lecture set for Nov. 6

Robert Kimberly, M.D., senior associate dean of research in the School of Medicine, is this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer award.

A dinner will be held in his honor Thursday, Nov. 6 at The Harbert Center. Kimberly also will give a lecture at the event. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. The cost for the dinner is $55. To make reservations, contact University Events by Oct. 31 at 975-0756 or e-mail uabevents@uab.edu.

Plan to attend Fall Career Fair Sept. 17

A UAB Fall Career Fair for students seeking internships and full-time employment will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17 in the UAB Campus Recreation Center.

Register online at www.careerservices.uab.edu or contact Dale Stringfellow at 934-4324 or e-mail dststring@uab.edu.

The UAB Reporter is published biweekly by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Office of Public Relations. & Marketing to highlight and announce the interests, objectives and achievements of UAB and its faculty and staff.

Deadline: News items must be submitted by noon Monday the week prior to publication and sent used at the discretion of the publication staff.

Distribution: The UAB Reporter is distributed free to UAB employees. Office managers should report changes in the number of copies needed by calling 934-2040. Reprints permitted with prior approval.

Online: The UAB Reporter can be found online at www.uab.edu/reporter, including the previous 12 months’ issues. Issues since September 2001 are online at www.uab.edu/ubp/
New master’s program aims to fill need for biotech skills

A labama’s biotechnology industry is growing rapidly, and more than 80 businesses are seeking skilled employees. UAB is preparing to generate the workforce they need.

The School of Health Professions is introducing a biotechnology graduate certificate and master’s program beginning in August 2009. The Biotechnology Program can be completed in a year and will consist of three semesters of course work, a two-week internship at a biotechnology company, a research project and a scientific poster presentation at the end of the third semester.

Interested students can choose to complete 34 credit hours for the master’s degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences with a concentration in biotechnology or 20 credit hours for a graduate certificate in biotechnology.

“When students graduate they will be well trained and nicely positioned to join a biotechnology company,” says Tino Unlap, Ph.D., director of the program. “We believe we’re going to develop a workforce that’s going to go through training that’s very relevant.”

The graduate-level program is designed to prepare a diverse student body for careers in various fields in biotechnology, says Jenelle Chiasera, Ph.D., director and associate professor of medical technology and clinical science programs. The program prepares a student with foundational skills and knowledge they can translate to in a variety of job opportunities.

“Biotechnology covers a wide scope of fields with more than 60 percent of them in the human healthcare sector,” Chiasera says. “These graduates will work with a set of skills for a rapidly changing work environment.”

**Applied science**

Students with a bachelor’s degree in any science-related field such as biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, psychology and sociology are encouraged to apply for the post-baccalaureate program.

Two unique aspects of the curriculum include a certificate of good laboratory practices — a requirement for many companies in the biotech industry — and a short internship that will enable students to get a hands-on experience in the biotech industry.

Unlap says students will learn basic science in an applied science environment. Some of the courses included are: Biotechniques (which teaches every procedure a researcher needs to know in a lab setting), Molecular Diagnostics, Instrumentation and Automation, Protein Chemistry, Scientific Publications and Advanced Technological Assessment.

Students also will undertake a research project that they will then be able to use to help obtain a job or apply for a patent.

“For example, let’s say a student tries to generate hydrogen gas as an alternate fuel source,” Unlap says. “They can work with a strain of bacteria and work to grow it in the garbage; in the process that bacteria growing is going to put off hydrogen gas. Now, we’ve done two things: generate hydrogen gas and take care of our garbage. Now all you have to do is harvest the gas when the bacteria grows and then you can use it in an engine designed to run on hydrogen gas. Some say we can’t get hydrogen in a clean and efficient way. Well, guess what, we can if we get it this way, and we can sell it or design an engine to run off of it. That’s the kind of cutting-edge research we want our students to do.”

To ensure the program stays at the forefront of changes in the industry, an advisory board comprising members of the Biotech Association of Alabama, Hudson Alpha Institute of Biotechnology, the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, the UAB community and the local business community was assembled.

“Dr. Unlap was instrumental in the development of this advisory board, and we are certain it will transition us into the future,” Chiasera says.

**Open house**

The School of Health Professions is hosting an open house Oct. 9 in the DoubleTree Hotel from 4 to 6 p.m. Students, faculty and staff interested in learning more about the biotechnology graduate program are encouraged to attend. Biotech vendors also will be at the DoubleTree, as well.

Visit www.uab.edu/biotech or contact Unlap (unlap@uab.edu) or Chiasera (chiasera@uab.edu) for more information.
Kidney researchers earn NIH designation, $4.23 million

The UAB Division of Nephrology has been named a George M. O’Brien Kidney Research Center by the National Institutes of Health for its research and expertise in treating acute kidney disease. Annapam Agarwal, M.D., director, UAB Division of Nephrology, is principal investigator of the O’Brien Center award, one of just eight such centers funded in the United States.

Agarwal said there are also several overarching goals of the center.

“We hope to attract new scientific expertise into the study of the basic mechanisms of kidney disease and disorders, encourage multidisciplinary research focused in the causes of these diseases, explore new basic science areas with translational potential and generate pilot and feasibility studies that will lead to new and innovative approaches to the study of kidney disease,” said Agarwal. Acute kidney injury, or acute kidney failure, is a rapid loss of renal function due to damage to the kidneys. It develops in 5 percent to 7 percent of medical-surgical patients, complicates the recovery of 15 percent to 25 percent of intensive-care patients and can double the length of a patient’s hospital stay. Despite major advances in renal-replacement therapy, the mortality of patients with acute kidney injury has not significantly decreased in the past 30 to 40 years.

Forward thinking

UAB will partner with researchers at the University of California at San Diego for the center. Agarwal said the partnership will facilitate interactions that will result in productive collaborations among center investigators and other researchers.

“This combined thematic approach will facilitate acute kidney injury research at UAB and UCSD and allow for translational studies to be accomplished,” he said. “It also will help enhance collaboration among basic and clinical researchers in the field of kidney disease.”

The center’s activities will incorporate four thematic areas of research: acute kidney injury in the ECU setting, renal vascular dysfunction and hemodynamic alterations, biomarker discovery and genetic susceptibility. There will be three biomedical research cores and a biostatistics/bioinformatics resource making up the center.

Core A will be directed by Ravindra Mehta, M.D., professor of nephrology at UCSD, and charged with developing resources to support and facilitate clinical and translational research activities for the center. Core B will be directed by Paul Sanders, M.D., professor of nephrology at UAB, and will provide resources for animal physiology and imaging and for research studies. Core C will be directed by Stephen Barnes, Ph.D., professor of pharmacology at UAB, and will provide access to technologies and relevant education through recurring workshops, on-site seminars and consultations, or WebCast tutorials, as well as hands-on support for technology. The biostatistics/bioinformatics resource will be directed by Gary Cutter, Ph.D., professor of bioinformatics at the UAB School of Public Health. It will provide statistical and bioinformatics support to the research projects, pilot projects and cores of the center. It will also assist in planning and experiment design, data management and analysis of research projects.

The O’Brien Center also will include a pilot research grant program to emphasize innovation, translation and cancer development of highly promising junior investigators.

“The work and potential collaborations resulting from this core center offer an unparalleled opportunity to expand the knowledge base in the development, treatment and outcome of acute kidney injury,” Agarwal said. “This center will provide the engine necessary to drive innovation, training, productivity and new discoveries in acute kidney injury.”

These trials are primarily focused on the safety of the procedure, other data is being collected to be analyzed, including checking if the tumor size for changes.

“People always want to know if it’s working clinically yet, but it’s too early into the trial to be able to say that,” Curiel says. “The thing we can say immediately is that it’s not toxic, and that is extremely encouraging.”

Prompting innovation

Because the virotherapy is non-toxic it enables researchers to advance the dose of the virus and enables them to consider future designs of the virus to improve it further.

UAB’s need to get as much information from this trial as it can has led to the development of imaging systems. Researchers will be able to place an imaging motif on the virus, enabling them to monitor effectiveness in ways that have never happened in clinical research.

“We’ve made the viruses have the ability to give imaging signals so that simultaneous with therapy, we can monitor the viruses location and distribution,” Curiel says.

“Ronnie and I have been funded for that, so our next generation trials will embody imaging which we think will give us even more information,” Agarwal said.

The National Cancer Institute and Rapid Access for Interventional Development have funded these projects “aggressive as they can,” Curiel says. “It’s our hope that now that you can use advanced generation viruses and people are comfortable with them that it will open up all kinds of possibilities.”

VIROTHERAPY

continued from page 1

developed for canines, too

Cancer virotherapies developed for canines, too

Auburn’s veterinary school to engineer the canine adenovirus, make virotherapy agents and treat dogs just like we do patients in clinical trials.

This has enabled researchers to find treatments for humans and canines faster and given them data that’s helped design human agents.

“I’m certainly learning a lot about dogs,” Curiel says. There are very few cancer treatment options for canines that are effective, Curiel says. Many canine cancer therapies are holistic in nature.

“There are virtually no therapies for canine cancer,” Curiel says. “We’re developing things in our research with humans that we hope will end up being therapies for dogs as well.”

UAB researcher David Curiel, M.D., Ph.D., says the most rapid growth in the veterinary market is canine cancer. The desire for cheaper, new, effective and innovative ways to treat dogs has aided UAB’s virotherapy ovarian cancer research in its move from bench to bedside in less than five years.

UAB developed a relationship with Auburn University’s veterinary school to engineer the canine adenovirus, make virotherapy agents and treat dogs just like we do patients in clinical trials.

Auburn’s veterinary school to engineer the canine adenovirus, make virotherapy agents and treat dogs just like we do patients in clinical trials.

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Auburn’s veterinary school to engineer the canine adenovirus, make virotherapy agents and treat dogs just like we do patients in clinical trials.
E-mail job scams target students, stay-at-home moms

The back-to-school season has brought an increase in e-mail spam targeting stay-at-home moms and new college students, says Gary Warner, director of research in Computer Forensics.

UAB’s Spam Data Mine collects millions of e-mail messages used to provide investigators with spam intelligence and determine new attack methods. Since August, a large number of e-mails have been geared toward home-based mothers, moms who would like to work at home and students.

“There has been a shift in the focus of their recruiting,” Warner says of the spammers. “It’s mainly a volume thing. We always see this kind of e-mail, but they are noticeably more frequent in number. There are at least seven campaigns targeting work-at-home moms.

“It is the time of year people think, ‘Yeah, it would be nice to stay home and make a nice salary and be with my children.’

Work-at-home companies were the No. 5 most common inquiry received in 2007, according to a Better Business Report released last month.

Many of the messages require an up-front investment with no payoff at the end. They advertise ‘type 30 words per minute and make $2,000 a day’ but require people to pay money for a training class so they can verify that the interested person can do the work they say they can do.

“One angle they use is medical transcription and say if you pay for the class, we’ll hook you up with the people who can get you this kind of work,” Warner says. “If you’re a college student and need some extra cash because you’ve got scheduling problems and can’t work, you go. I can type 50 words a minute. I can do that. The problem is these scammers either take the money and never make contact again or they send you tapes that are impossible to understand and say you can’t do your job, so they don’t have to pay you.”

Ads for criminal activity

Others, including many in the Birmingham area, already are involved in get-rich-quick schemes that could be tied to organized crime. The “reshipping” scam involves a third party receiving a package and redirecting it to criminals overseas.

“It’s items, such as a computer, they’ve bought on an online store with a stolen credit card and they’ve given another receiving address, probably in the same ZIP code as the stolen credit card,” Warner says. “They have to give another receiving address because theirs already is blocked by the vendor because they are known as a criminal.”

Many of the e-mails read this way:

“Conrad Logistics, a large European company, is looking for employees in the USA for the vacancy of Courier. This is a part-time, work at home job. Your task will be to receive goods, pack them and send them to our buyers worldwide. We will pay you US$40.00 for each package.”

They also ask for a resume or CV and promise to send additional information on this position and an employment agreement in return.

“Unfortunately there are a lot of people in Birmingham who think they have the best stay-at-home job and they really don’t,” Warner says.

E-mail offers that mention “foreign currency transactions” or “financial services” are called “money mules.”

The job of a money mule is to receive stolen funds into your personal checking account and then wire the money overseas, keeping a small portion—usually 10 percent— as commission.

“The mob pays good, but what you’re doing is money laundering,” Warner says. “It could be stolen money, too. It could be money coming from the victims of phishing scams. You’re going to go to jail if you keep doing it, because you’re involved in criminal activity. The best thing you can do is contact law enforcement and see if they would be interested in learning more about your circumstances.”

Tips on recognizing these scams and helpful links to understand the scams and report fraudulent activity are provided on Warner’s blog at http://garwarner.blogspot.com/.

Leading kidney, GI research physicians recruited to UAB

Two leading physician-scientists from the National Institutes of Health have brought their clinical and research expertise in nephrology and gastroenterology to UAB to help accelerate the nationally recognized kidney-pancreas transplant program and the rising inflammatory bowel disease program.

Roslyn Mannon, M.D., an internationally recognized expert in kidney and pancreas transplantation, joined Nephrology as professor Aug. 1. She also is director of research for the Alabama Transplant Center at UAB.

Peter Mannon, M.D., an internationally recognized expert in inflammatory bowel disease, joined Gastroenterology and Hepatology as professor Aug. 1.

She said one of her goals is to set up a biorepository to aid in transplant research.

“The plan is to start initially with abdominal transplant patients, asking each transplant patient that comes in to allow us to store biopsy tissue, urine and serum so investigators have the ability to better understand issues such as graft failure and rejection. Eventually the hope is to add heart and lung transplants to the repository.”

She also is interested in recruiting companies that produce immunosuppressant drugs or have interest in transplanted organs.

“Hopefully through our transplant research, we will be able to attract biotech companies to the Birmingham area and work with them to study novel strategies to suppress the immune response, ameliorate graft failure and improve long-term patient outcomes,” she said.

Peter Mannon’s research interests focus on pathogenic mechanisms of inflammatory bowel disease. He is researching novel therapies for both ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease to understand why patients do or do not respond to therapy. In addition, he has been instrumental in developing novel therapies for more rare gastrointestinal disorders, including combined immunodeficiency syndromes.

Mannon also has worked with mucosal immunologists studying HIV and its pathogenesis involvement in gastrointestinal-associated mucosal lymphoid tissue. He said UAB’s consistent, excellent work in immunology makes the university a good fit for his research.

“UAB has always been on my radar,” he said. “While I was a resident at Duke I had a healthy respect for UAB because of the depth of its immunology research. It has always been excellent, and I knew there was no question UAB would be a great place to work when this opportunity came up. There are great mucosal immunologists here, and there are amazing opportunities to expand my research.”

At the NIH, he created a clinical program in inflammatory bowel disease and worked with both basic scientists and clinical investigators to help move discoveries from the bench to the bedside and take clinical findings back to the basic scientists for research.

Mannon said his goal at UAB is similar, building upon the Inflammatory Bowel Center UAB already has in place.

“My goal is to coordinate research and clinical care to synergize the care of our patients,” he said. “We have very busy clinical investigators and bench researchers at UAB. I am a translational scientist. I want to work alongside them to help synthesize the two, investigating lab questions in the clinic and taking clinical questions to the lab.”

“Dr. Peter Mannon is an internationally recognized physician-scientist in the area of inflammatory bowel disease,” said C. Mel Wilcox, M.D., director of the UAB Division of Gastroenterology. “With his expertise in mucosal immunology in inflammatory bowel disease, as well as his clinical skills, his work will dovetail nicely into the ongoing efforts here at UAB to understand inflammatory bowel disease.”

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Special Lectures

Wednesday, Sept. 24
12:30-2 pm Diabetes Research Training Center Core facilities exposition. Learn more about the technologies and methodologies available, the scope and importance of research that has been started at UAB and the new DRTC Pilot/Feasibility grant program. Shelby Bldg-105.
3:30 UAB Psychology Colloquium Series. Using virtual reality to study and prevent children's pedestrian injuries. Director David Schwebel (Psychology); CH-327.

Thursday, Sept. 25
5 pm Eighth annual UAB Champs Lyons Lecture. The President has been shot and they are bringing him to the emergency room! Ronald C. Jones, M.D., now chief of surgery at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. Jones was one of the first physicians on the scene in Dallas following the shooting of Pres. John F. Kennedy in 1963. Jones will describe his initial impressions of the wounds and will discuss his role in the attempt to resuscitate Kennedy. Jones also was present two days later when Lee Harvey Oswald was shot and was one of four surgeons who operated on Oswald. Jones’s presentation will highlight the atmosphere in the hospital as word spread of the president's assassination and Oswald's subsequent murder. MCSA.

Friday, Sept. 26
11:30 am Haddin Humanities Forum. The unity of the neurosciences from a contemporary philosophical perspective, an open discussion with Asst Prof Jacqueline Sullivan (psychology); Sterne Library Director's Conf Rm 1st fl.

Defenses

For a complete list of defenses and other Graduate School events, visit the Calendar of Events located in the Graduate School section of the Graduate School Web site at www.uab.edu/graduate.

Meetings

Tuesday, Sept. 16, Sept. 23
9 am Chinese Conversation Table: HB - 3rd fl "The Hub", Humanities Building. Jiansong Chen, jchen08@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
10 am International Women’s Group, provides activities to meet the cultural and social interests of the international community. Simonian International House, 4-1205 or floromen@uab.edu.
11 am Arabic Conversation Table: HB - 3rd fl "The Hub", Humanities Building. Ms. Dima Zeiden dzn002@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
12:10 pm Meditation, UAB Resource Center Classroom, Suite S3C. Call 4-2281 or uab.edu/eap for more info.
2 pm Spanish Conversation Table/Intermediate/Advanced: HB - 3rd fl "The Hub", Humanities Building. Centeno centeno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
7 pm Conversational English Classes: levels 1–IV, offered free to those interested in enhancing their English conversational skills. Smolan International House. 4-1205/ carolell@uab.edu.

Wednesday, Sept. 17, Sept. 24
10 am Conversational English Classes levels 1–IV, offered free to those interested in enhancing their English conversational skills. Smolan International House. 4-1205/ carolell@uab.edu.

8 pm Stammtisch conversation table, for anyone who speaks an opinion. Giovanni’s Coffee Cafe, 925 8th Street South. For info, agrestig@uab.edu.

Friday, Sept. 15, Sept. 22
11:30 am Arabic Conversation Table: Blazer Hall. Ms. Dima Zeiden, dzn002@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Monday, Sept. 15
11:30 am Noon music. Look for the French flag in the side din- ing room! Catherine Danielou at danielou@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Special Events

Monday, Sept. 15
1-7 pm Division of Ultrasound. Free annual free prostate cancer screening, as part of the National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week 2008. Screening for prostate cancer involves a digital rectal exam and a prostate-specific antigen blood test. Kirklin Clinic- 5th Floor. For more info, call 996-8765 or visit www.health.uab.edu.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
8:30 pm UAB Outdoors Pursuits 30 minutes to outdoor success stories. Why is my sleeping bag wet? Where and how to set up your tent. Near the fountain outside of the Commons on the Green. For more info, call 4-2409.

Wednesday, Sept. 17
8:30 pm UAB Equipment Accounting. Public auction to dispose of surplus used equipment in the University Stores Warehouse, located at 1485 2nd Ave. S. Registration begins at 8 am. For additional information, call 4-3344 or 4-5144.

Monday, Sept. 21
5-7 pm Spanish Conversation Table; HB - 3rd fl "The Hub", Humanities Building. Armando Ciccotti ciccoti@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Thursday, Sept. 18, 25
12:10 pm Tai Chi meets, UAB Resource Center Classroom, Suite 33D. 2-2281/ www.uab.edu/eap for more info. No Ta Chi classes in October.
1 pm Arabic Conversation Table; HB - 3rd fl "The Hub", Humanities Building. Ms. Dima Zeiden, dzn002@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
2 pm Spanish Conversation Table/Intermediate/Advanced: HB - 3rd fl "The Hub", Humanities Building. Centeno centeno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.
6:30 pm Spanish Conversation Table: Level Intermediate/Advanced; Starbucks Coffee Shop, 11th Ave at 5 Points S. Centeno centeno@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Thursday, Sept. 18
6 pm International Peace Corps/Sparksman Center for Global Health. Party and informational event, for those who have been curious about the Peace Corps and want to know more about it. Volunteers and staff from the Peace Corps Office will be available to answer questions. PHPH-407.

Sunday, Sept. 21
12-5 pm Alys Stephens Center. Rhythms of the Earth Festival, a halftime festival with music, food and crafts. Tickets are $10 adults; $7 children. The festival takes place outside in the ASGC's Haskell Courtyard. Call 5-2787 or visit www.Alys Stephens.org for more info.
2-4 pm Women’s Committee of Spain Rehabilitation Center. The art of rehabilitation, a one-day showing of works for and by the celebration of the effect of art on rehab patients - and rehab patients’ contributions to the event. Works of Alabama artists with disabilities will be displayed. UAB’s new Patient Portrait Gallery will also be on unveiled. Spain Rehabilitation Center. For more info, call 4-4899.

Wednesday-Sunday, Sept. 24-28
7:30 pm Theatre UAB. Annual festival of 10-minute plays. Featuring short plays written by UAB students and faculty. Admission is free; reservations will not be taken. Produced by Lee Shackelford. Call 4-3236. Or visit the- atres.hum.uab.edu for more info. There will be a 2 matinee show Sept. 28. Odess Theatre.

Thursday, Sept. 25
Noon UAB Outdoor Pursuits 30 minutes to outdoor success stories. What’s that floating in my water? Water purification and sanitation tips in the backcountry. Near the fountain outside of the Commons on the Green. For more info, call 996-4913 or outdoor@uab.edu.

Friday, Sept. 26
7 pm Alys Stephens Center. BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet. Before the concert, enjoy free dance lessons at 6 pm. Tickets are $12 and $5 for students. BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet takes the rich Cajun traditions of Louisiana and aptly blends elements of swing, tango, fox trot, jive and new orleans style jazz. Tenor, banjo, guitar, and more into a satisfying musical recipe. Call 5-2787 or visit www.Alys Stephens.org for more information.

Saturday, Sept. 27
8 am UAB Physical Therapy, 2nd annual U Are Able 5K run, the kick-off to National Physical Therapy. The run starts at 8 am, and the mile run/Walk heads out at 9 am. The event will help to raise awareness of the need for physical therapy and help support research in the field. All proceeds from the event go to the Foundation for Physical Therapy. Registration costs $15. To register, go to www.uab.edu/pt.
8 pm Alys Stephens Center. Wanda Sykes. Tickets are $85, $65, $55 and $45. This show contains adult lan- guage and subject matter. Ms. Sykes will cover the full range of topics, including树立 politics, gay marriage, karma, health care, racial profiling, being a woman and the perils of aging. Call 5-2787 or visit www.Alys Stephens.org for more info.

Outdoor Pursuits

Sept. 20: One-day Whitewater Rafting Ocoee River, Tenn. Depart at 8 am and return 8 pm. The cost is $80 for students; $90 for faculty, staff and alumni; and $100 for non-students. The pre-trip meeting and deadline for signup is Sept. 16 at 6 pm in Room 290 of the Campus Rec Center. For more info, call 996-4913 or e-mail Outdoor@uab.edu.
Sept. 26-28: Canoe Black Water, Fla. Depart at 5 pm and return at 10 pm. The cost is $50 for students; $60 for faculty, staff and alumni; and $70 for non-students. The pre-trip meeting and deadline for signup is Sept. 23 at 6 pm in Room 290 of the Campus Rec Center. For more info, call 996-4913 or e-mail Outdoor@uab.edu.

UAB Sports

Sept. 18: Women’s Volleyball vs Memphis, 7 pm, Bartow Arena
Sept. 19: Women’s Volleyball vs Alabama A&M, Noon, Bartow Arena
Sept. 20: Women’s Volleyball vs Florida International, 7 pm, Bartow Arena
Sept. 20: Women’s Volleyball vs Troy, 2 pm, Bartow Arena
Sept. 20: UAB Football vs Alabama State, 3 pm, Legion Field
Sept. 22: Women’s Volleyball vs East Carolina, 6 pm, Bartow Arena
Sept. 22: Women’s Soccer vs UCF, 7 pm, West Campus Field
Sept. 22: Women’s Soccer vs Southern Miss, 7 pm, West Campus Field
ASC KIDS’ CLUB PRESENTS

RHYTHMS of the EARTH FESTIVAL

Sunday September 21 Noon - 5 p.m.

Adults $10
Kids $7

Enjoy this outdoor festival celebrating music and its connection to our world. Kids and parents will enjoy:

- Interactive performances from Nathifa Dance Company, John Scalici & Get Rhythm Performing Ensemble, Celtic Band Hooley, and more;
- Arts and crafts;
- Yummy dishes using organic fruits and vegetables;
- Giveaways and prizes for kids


ASC Season Opening CELEBRATION featuring BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet

Friday, September 26 @ 7 p.m.
ASC Grand Lobby

Celebrate the new arts season with this music and dance party featuring Grammy-winning Cajun band BeauSoleil!

Guests will enjoy:

- Live music;
- Huge dance floor in the lobby;
- Complimentary Cajun hors d’oeuvres;
- Drink specials;
- The chance to win season kickoff prizes

6 p.m., Come early as the ASC Social Club offers free Cajun dance lessons led by ACME (Association of Cajun Music Enthusiasts).

Sponsored by ACME, The Birmingham News, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Viva Health, and WBHM.

(205) 975-ARTS
www.AlysStephens.org
1200 10th Avenue South

UAB Faculty & Staff Receive a Discount on Season Packages!
Fishing fuels inspiration for Vines’ teaching, writing

I wasn’t uncommon for the young boy to come home long after school had let out with his trousers soaked and mud on his feet and legs. Running the Cahaba — Adam Vines’ expression for his after-school activities — was as comforting to the 8-year-old as, well, breathing.

“I lived three blocks away from school growing up, so I would walk or ride my bike to school and along the way I’d stop off along the tributaries of the Cahaba River and hide my fishing pole,” says Vines, an assistant professor of English. “When I left school I would go back down there, get my rod and fish. You could walk up and down the banks and get your tail whipped when you came home for getting your school clothes all muddy.

‘Every day I was doing that.’

Vines’ love of fishing is a story as well known to some as any old fishing fable. Derek Jones, a junior in secondary education and history and Bradley Myer, a junior in Biology, were looking for a sponsor for a UAB Fishing Team and were immediately directed to Vines in spring 2007. Of course, the professor agreed to do it.

Vines has been a mentor and counselor both on and off the lake since the team became an official club in November 2007. For Vines, this is just another way he can do the two activities he enjoys most: teaching and fishing.

Earliest memories

Vines was the student to the teachings of his father, grandfather and uncle all those years ago on the Warrior River. He says he began fishing when he was 3 or 4 years old.

“My father used to say our family spawned in the Warrior River,” he says. “My earliest memories are fishing at the Warrior, either running a trot line or fishing with worms under a cork.”

Fishing — and the intimate contact with nature it affords — has fueled Vines as a creative writer and a teacher. He says his personal writing, mostly consisting of poems, is as informed by the natural world as anything else.

“That close attention to detail in the natural world has given me greater insight into human nature, our relationship to the natural world and what we’re like when we don’t have that relationship with the natural world,” he says.

The front page of Vines’ Web site (www.uab.edu/eng/fish/ — Adam Vines) shows him holding a king mackerel while standing on his aluminum boat in the Gulf, and that’s exactly the impression he wants his students to have of him.

Yes, he says he’s an academic, and he has knowledge he wants to impart on his students. But he believes the photo shows he’s a regular person like his students — and that he wants to learn from them.

Vines says his classroom is organic in style. It is structured, but he believes in community and likes to step back and encourage his students to take responsibilities in the classroom.

“I think that’s why my classroom is so successful,” he says. “It’s discussion-based, and the success of the class relies on student participation.”

Vines’ says his knowledge of the natural world has helped him critically analyze poetry and prose that’s set in the natural world.

“When I’m looking back at some of the work that’s been written in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, especially in America — when everything was about man’s relationship to the wilderness, I think I do have particular insight; that’s because of practical experience and not just reading and knowledge,” he says.

Still fishing

Little has changed in the 30 years since Vines began fishing, except that he has expanded his fishing territories. He has dropped the anchor of his old boat in rivers and lakes and streams across the South. And if you’ve ever seen a red-bearded man dragging a boat across the sand and into the Gulf of Mexico in Destin, it might have been Vines.

“I’ve taken it three or four miles out in the Gulf,” he says through a wry smile. “I’m a bit crazy.”

A new child and a plea from his wife now keep him from taking his little boat out into the ocean. “She even made me get a cell phone for the first time,” he says.

That doesn’t stop him from visiting Lay Lake, Lake Jordan, the Warrior and Coosa rivers or any other creeks and rivers he can find. It’s there where he finds his solace, his inspiration for his own writing and understanding of the great works of yesteryear.

“One of my favorite writers — Frost, O’Connor, Twain, Whitman — all were great listeners,” he says.

“And the old salts and river folk I’ve met along the banks of lakes, rivers, bays, piers, boat landings and jetties have helped shape my writing aesthetic and the way I approach literature as much as any of the wonderful writers and scholars I have read or have worked with.”

“Fishing, writing and teaching are not that different.” — Adam Vines

FISHING TEAM

CONTINUED from page 1

a second-place finish in the SCBFS tournament and an eighth place finish out of 55 schools at the ESPN/UnderArmour national tournament in July.

“To compete against some of the schools they’ve competed against and have the success they’ve had I think says a lot about these guys,” says Adam Vines, instructor of creative writing and faculty sponsor of the team. “We’ve got several really good fishermen who could at any time win tournaments.”

‘Wonderful idea’

Vines agreed to become sponsor of the team after being approached by Jones and Myer.

“I was involved with the fishing club at the University of Florida when I was in school there, so I thought the fact these students wanted to start a team here was a wonderful idea,” Vines says. “They started calling meetings and I went and these guys were so highly structured and motivated — everyone on the team. Before I knew it there were 30-35 members participating in all the meetings. They had qualifying tournaments and fundraisers. They wrote their constitution and the bylaws very quickly and pushed that through UAB so they could get some funding. They’ve really been doing all the work.”

Jones and Myer have set up and run collegiate tournaments locally and arrange travel schedules among many other duties. They also hold fundraisers to help pay expenses.

“It’s a good bit of work, but it’s worth it,” Jones says.

Many tournaments — like the upcoming national championship — require students to be on the road for a week. The students provide their own boats, gas and food. The fact that the majority of the team has a 3.0 GPA or higher shows its members’ motivation and desire to succeed. Vines says.

National exposure

The upcoming national championship is going to provide national exposure for the school on Fox sports, including a scholarship that will be presented to students Andrew Weathington and Walter Malone. Weathington and Malone won the Big Sack award at the SCBFS with a 21-pound haul and will be awarded $500 scholarships from the fishing accessories company Berkley for catching the Big Sack of the Year.

“The presentation is going to be wonderful exposure for our students and UAB,” Vines says. “During the tournament our students are going to be on national television, wearing UAB jerseys and promoting UAB, and they’re outstanding students.
Healthcare African-American, Caucusian, and Hispanic children ages 12-17 need to be dia- betes. You may be eligible to receive blood sugar monitoring; education, and diabetes medication. You may qualify for a research study using an investiga- tion. Compensated. 5-996-752-99. Young people who are at least 6 months post-stroke and have a chronic health condition may be eligible. You may qualify for a research study evaluating the effectiveness of a new diabetes medication. You may also qualify for a research study investigating the treatment and prevention of recurrent back pain. Call 996-2760. Postmenopausal women ages 45 and up with chronic back pain (greater than 2 months) may be eligible for an 8-month diabetes study. Compensation. 4-7238.

Men: Do you have osteoarthritis? Do you have pain in your hands, knees, or back? You may be eligible to participate in a study testing an investigational drug for osteoarthritis pain relief. Compensation. 9-955-66-81. Do you have rheumatoid arthritis? You may be eligible to receive drug samples and study-related services. Compensation. 4-7238.

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Women: Are you a postmenopausal woman at risk for breast cancer? You may be eligible for a breast cancer prevention study. Compensation. 9-555-66-81. Are you a woman 50 or older with breast density concerns? You may be eligible for a study comparing mammography and ultrasound as potential screening tools to detect breast cancer. Compensation. 4-7238. Women interested in finding out more about breast cancer prevention studies should call 996-2760. Postmenopausal women ages 45 and up with chronic back pain (greater than 2 months) may be eligible for a 12-month study to evaluate the effectiveness of an investigational drug for osteoarthritis pain relief. Compensation. 4-7238.

Does your child have egg allergies? If so, you may be eligible for a study evaluating the effectiveness and safety of a new medication for peanut allergy. Compensation. 9-955-66-81. Do you have osteoarthritis of the knee? You may be eligible to participate in a study evaluating the effectiveness of a new drug for knee pain. Compensation. 9-955-66-81. Do you have rheumatoid arthritis? You may be eligible to receive drug samples and study-related services. Compensation. 4-7238.

If you are an African American female under- 50 years of age who is interested in your child's fitness? You may be eligible to participate in a study evaluating the effectiveness of a new exercise program for improving physical activity and health-related quality of life. Compensation. 4-7238.

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If you have recurrent BV now? You may be eligible to participate in a study investigating the treatment and prevention of recurrent BV. Compensation. 4-7238. Do you have osteoarthritis of the knee? You may be eligible to participate in a study evaluating the effectiveness of a new drug for knee pain. Compensation. 9-955-66-81. Do you have rheumatoid arthritis? You may be eligible to receive drug samples and study-related services. Compensation. 4-7238.

Children: Do you have a child who is taking antibiotics? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a study evaluating the effectiveness of a new medication for preventing antibiotic resistance. Compensation. 4-7238. Do you have a child who is taking antibiotics? If so, you may be eligible to participate in a study evaluating the effectiveness of a new medication for preventing antibiotic resistance. Compensation. 4-7238. If you have had at least 2 episodes of recurrent BV now? You may be eligible to participate in a study investigating the treatment and prevention of recurrent BV. Compensation. 9-955-66-81.
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