Haque to lobby Congress to change its hiring practices


Akhlaque Haque, Ph.D., says only five of his students have acquired a federal government job in his 12-plus years at UAB, and as the director of graduate studies in public administration, he’s got a big problem with that.

Haque says 60 to 70 percent of his master of public administration (MPA) students secure jobs with non-profit agencies. These jobs are well-respected and important positions that pay well and draw on MPA graduates’ strengths in areas including grant management, budgeting, information management, fund raising, Web application and program evaluation.

However, MPA graduates also are proficient in the areas of public policy analysis, public budgeting, research methods and statistical analysis, geographic information systems, e-government applications, human resources management and ethics — traits Haque believes are essential for government to run smoothly on a day-to-day, week-to-week and year-to-year basis.

“Our students have the skills needed to become professionally competent leaders of public and non-profit organizations,” Haque says. “Unfortunately MPA students at UAB and around the country aren’t getting job opportunities at the federal government level when that’s exactly what they’ve been trained to do — manage almost every aspect of public service.”

Haque is traveling to Washington, D.C., Oct. 14 along with directors and deans from more than 200 universities to lobby Congress to pass two bills that would change internship-selection practices and improve the hiring process at the federal level.

Haque hopes to meet with Alabama U.S. Rep. Artur Davis on the trip, and he will attend the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration’s (NASPAA) Deans & Directors Summit on Capitol Hill as part of the endeavor.

“This is a unique opportunity to change the way graduate students get hired and are brought into the federal government,” Haque says. “Our students are more inter-

New accreditation puts forensic science graduate program in rare company

The flashy television show “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation” debuted nine years ago as an innovative new type of drama that featured characters using cutting-edge tools to examine forensic evidence and solve a case.

The cop show — more about the how-dunit than the whodunit — was the most watched television show in the world in 2007 with an astonishing 84 million viewers, and is still one of the most-watched shows on television.

So when the director of UAB’s Master of Science in Forensic Sciences (MSFS) Program talks to students interested in studying forensic science, he always asks one specific question: Do you really enjoy science?

“Unfortunately when some students start to figure out the study of forensic science is more or less the study of chemistry or biology, they go through their first set of general chemistry classes and say, ‘Forget this, I thought this was going to be running around solving crimes and catching criminals,’” says Jason Linville, Ph.D., “They don’t realize forensic science is going to be chemistry, organic chemistry and laboratory bench work.

Biomedical sciences graduate training is reorganized

To increase opportunities for interdisciplinary education and research training in the graduate biomedical sciences, UAB has reorganized its Joint Health Science-affiliated programs to better align them with approaches to modern research and postgraduate employment opportunities.

Beginning in fall 2010, applicants will be reviewed and selected by the Graduate Biomedical Sciences (GBS) Admissions Committee to enter Ph.D. graduate training through one of eight themes (directors in parentheses): (1) Biochemistry and Structural Biology (Tim Towner, Ph.D., interim) (2) Cancer Biology (Dan Welch, Ph.D.) (3) Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology (Brad Youker, Ph.D.) (4) Genetics and Genomic Sciences (Dan Bullard, Ph.D.) (5) Immunology (Pete Barrows, Ph.D.) (6) Microbiology (Janet Yother, Ph.D.) (7) Neuroscience (Lori McMahon, Ph.D.) (8) Pathobiology and Molecular Medicine (Ralph Sanderson, Ph.D.)

Students will participate together in a concentrated core course followed by access to a menu of elective theme courses tailored to their individual interests and consistent with broad areas of training in the current doctoral programs.

“Approximately 300 of the university’s most outstanding faculty have agreed to participate as training faculty with themes related to their research interests,” said Provost Eli Capelouto. “Faculty who will consider coming to UAB in the future undoubtedly will find the opportunities to work with students in these interdisciplinary settings quite appealing, as of course will prospective students.” Students will receive one of the existing Ph.D. degrees at the completion of their training. For example, students who participate in the Cancer Biology theme may be granted a Ph.D. from Pharmacology Pathology or other existing programs depending on the focus of their research.

The restructuring was recommended by the Graduate Education Subcommittee of the 2006 School of Medicine Research Strategic Plan, chaired by Tika Benenoi, Ph.D., chair of Cell Biology, with Graduate School approval, and has been guided since June 2008 by the university-wide Graduate Biomedical Sciences Steering and Oversight Committee, chaired by Stuart Frank, M.D., professor, Departments of Medicine and Cell Biology and director of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.

For more information, visit www.uab.edu/ gbs.
BookTalk to discuss Rendezvous Eighteenth Oct. 6
The UAB BookTalk book club will discuss Lake Lamar's Rendezvous Eighteenth at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Sterne Library Henley Room. The discussion will be led by Associate Professor Virginia Whitney Smith. BookTalk is free and open to the public. The next book under discussion is James McBride's book The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother on Nov. 3. Information and a list of upcoming books can be found at www.uab.edu/english/events/uab-booktalk.

LHL to hold citing sources workshop
Lister Hill Library is celebrating National Medical Librarians Month with classes and events for students. Find out more about Citing Sources in this week’s Express Training @ LHL workshop at noon Thursday, Oct. 8 in the Electronic Classroom. Bring a brown bag lunch; fruit and water will be supplied.

Try out some new yoga moves or challenge a classmate or library liaison to tennis or baseball on the Wii at noon Friday, Oct. 9 in the library. For more information visit www.uab.edu/lister or call 975-HUB1.

Conversation on Capstones is Oct. 8
Chris Walker, associate professor in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, will lead the Conversation on Capstones meeting on SW 404 Field Practicum Seminar, the capstone course for Social Work majors, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8 in Education Building Room 144.

Conversation on Capstones workshops provide opportunities for administrators, faculty, and staff to exchange best practices and discuss challenges in developing and/or revising capstone courses and experiences. Registration is required; the deadline is noon Tuesday, Oct. 6. Direct questions to Juanita Stizmore at juziemor@uab.edu.

Alzheimer’s Disease Center to hold bake sale Friday, Oct. 9
The Alzheimer’s Disease Center is raising money for the Alzheimer’s of Central Alabama “Walking to Remember” event in November. Come by the second floor North Pavilion to purchase baked goods from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.

All proceeds will be donated to the Alzheimer’s of Central Alabama and will be used for services, education and research benefiting Alabama’s patients and families dealing with dementia.

Pianist Gabriela Montero to perform at ASC Oct. 10
Pianist Gabriela Montero will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 in the Alys Stephens Center. Montero, a protégé of the legendary Martha Argerich, is among the premier classical pianists in the world and a tireless advocate of the lost art of classical improvisation.

Go to www.alystephens.org for ticket information.
I n 40 short years the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) has become known for its inno-
vative and interdisciplinary approach to education, its internationally renowned research, an academic medical center considered one of the nation’s elite, and the fact that it is the state’s largest employer with some 18,000 employees. Hundreds of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends marked those accomplishments and celebrated “UAB: Forty Years of Breakthroughs” in the Alys Stephens Center Jamison Concert Hall Thursday to commemorate the occasion as part of UAB’s first University Day.

Malcolm Portera, chancellor of The University of Alabama System, presented remarks at the academic convocation ceremony, led by President Carol Garrison.

Core values
Portera said that when the Board of Trustees created UAB 40 years ago, it could not have imagined “the enormity of the impact the institution would have on the citizens of the state of Alabama.” Portera lauded the accomplishments of the institution first four decades, listing five core values UAB possesses that he says will lead to the creation of future successes: innovation, collaboration, entrepreneurship, community and optimism.

“These five core values will shape the future of what I believe is one of this nation’s most dynamic institutions of higher education,” Portera said. “Guided by these core values, we will create the future. If this 40-year history of UAB has demonstrated one thing to Alabama, it has proven that we can create our future. No matter how great the challenge, there is a culture here that motivates the faculty, staff and students to step up and get it done.”

Portera said one of UAB’s greatest strengths through its first 40 years is the enveloping sense of optimism shown by the faculty, staff and students.

“There has always been a pervasive and contagious sense of optimism here, and that is truly a good thing these days,” Portera said. “It is woven into the fabric of UAB — to Portera.

Standard bearers
Garrison honored UAB faculty, staff and students past and present in her remarks, including former UAB Presidents Charles “Scotty” McCollum and Claude Bennett, both of whom attended the convocation. Garrison also paid tribute to UAB’s first president, Joe Volker, for shaping UAB’s tradition and character when he became president of the university in 1969.

“President Volker said, ‘We don’t have any traditions to uphold. This is a new school. We can do anything we want,’” Garrison said. “That is our tradition. UAB has never been fettered by conventional boundaries among disciplines and departments, and consequently our intensely collaborative, interdisciplinary research and academic programs are known and respected the world over.

“We know our partnership with this community will continue, that our tradition will continue, and that great accomplishments lie ahead as we look toward to a future even more illustrous than our past and present.”

Graduates reflect
One graduate from each decade presented remarks during the ceremony: Tommie Cummings, Class of ’75; George Little, Class of ’81; Marquita Furness Davis, Class of ’98; and Brian Sims, Class of ’98 and ’00.

Cummings, a 1975 accounting graduate and a partner in the Birmingham accounting firm Frost Cummings LLP, became the first woman executive in the Birmingham office of Ernst & Whinney (now Ernst & Young) when she was hired in 1987. Her experience as a business advisor spans a variety of emerging high-tech businesses to medium-sized companies with complex operations in multiple states. Cummings, a member of the School of Business Dean’s Advisory Board and past president of the UAB National Alumni Society, said she is forever grateful for the opportunities UAB provided her personally and professionally.

“For me, UAB was opportunity,” Cummings said. “The School of Business faculty showed great concern, provided guidance and delivered an exceptional education. It provided me an opportunity to work with some of the best accountants in the profession and delivered an exceptional education. The professors were the foundation. They set the tone and pushed us hard — UAB was for success!”

“They saw potential in us and invested their own time in us,” she said. “No other college in the state of Alabama could provide an opportunity to work directly with the business leaders in the financial center of the state the way UAB did.”

Little, a 1981 electrical engineering graduate, is president and chief operations officer for HDR Engineering Inc. Since he became president in 1997, the Omaha-based company has grown to more than 5,800 employees in 180 offices, earned revenue in excess of $1.1 billion and made numerous acquisitions across the United States and Canada. Little grew up in Hueytown and said UAB’s co-op program was instrumental in helping him develop the skills he desired to learn.

“My co-op experience was invaluable because I got to work with a lot of peers in my field,” Little said. “I was working and going to school, and when I was in the classroom I would obviously have some real-world experiences I could pull from and know what questions to ask. I learned from so many experiences in all of my work environments when I was in school, and they still apply today.

“I’ll always call UAB home.”

Davis earned her Ph.D. in early childhood development in 1998 and is the commissioner of the Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs — a position appointed by Alabama Gov. Bob Riley. Davis manages Alabama’s Children’s Policy Council, Head Start Collaboration Office, Office of School Readiness (Pre-K), Alabama Parent Network, Zero-Five Initiative and the Alabama Resource Management System (ARMS). Davis remembers and thanked many of her instructors and secretary Janice Taylor for their guidance and commitment during her days as a student, saying when she found UAB, she found a family.

“What I love about UAB is that we don’t have anything to prove, but we are trying to prove something because we’re capable of it. UAB has always been fertile ground for success.”

“My experience at UAB was on one of the best things that could have happened to me,” Davis said. “It molded me. I challenged me. I connected to this community and my connection came through this great school. Isn’t it amazing how God gives you a family and they become part of your fabric? How family is redifined as an experience through four years?”

“You, UAB, for leaving footsteps on my heart. Happy Birthday!”

Sims, who earned his M.D./Ph.D. from the School of Medicine in 1998 (Ph.D.) and 2000 (M.D.) and a B.S. in biology in 1991, is an assistant professor of pediatrics at UAB. His research in neonatology focuses on closing racial health disparities, and he is a dedicated mentor of minority students. He was nationally recognized with a Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for research on premature brain injury. Sims, who was born June 5, 1968 — one year to the day before the Board of Trustees signed a proclamation declaring UAB as its own institution — graduated from Ramsay High School and walked eight blocks to continue his education at UAB.

He knew as a junior in high school he wanted to pursue children’s health research.

“The question that no one answers is where do you take a dream,” Sims said. “For me, I took it eight blocks. I took it to UAB as an undergrad, and that’s where I started my dream.

“What I love about UAB is that we don’t have anything to prove, but we are trying to prove something because we’re capable of it. UAB has always been fertile ground for success. It’s always been there, but you could want or need right at your fingertips,” he said. “This environment has always been nurturing to me. I have seen from this university is positive thinkers, positive mentors and positive experiences. That’s what I’m most thankful about.”

The convocation was followed by a joint luncheon of the UAB National Alumni Society and the UAB Leadership Cabinet, during which the ninth annual Alumni Leadership Recognition Awards were presented.

Inaugural University Day takes a look back, ahead

Brian Sims, an assistant professor of pediatrics at UAB, says he started his dream of being a doctor at UAB. Sims was one four alumni to speak at UAB’s first University Day.

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Fertility hopes don’t have to end for cancer patients

Fertility isn’t always immediately on someone’s mind when they are first diagnosed with cancer. But for some, problems with fertility — in time — can become more of an issue.

Many reproductive-age men and women in the United States successfully undergo cancer treatment each year, and many of those men and women have a desire to start a family.

UAB’s Fertility Preservation Program, directed by Wright Bates, M.D., offers advanced treatments for fertility preservation and restoration for individuals and couples who have cancer or other serious medical conditions that may affect their chances of having children.

The UAB Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility is part of the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Ovarian fertility consortium, a national interdisciplinary initiative to explore reproductive options for patients diagnosed with serious diseases.

The goal is to increase our understanding of the impact of cancer treatment on reproduction. We need the answers to basic questions such as how likely is a man or woman to become infertile after cancer treatment,” Bates says. “You’d think that’s something we readily know, and we don’t. We can only make broad estimates based on a woman’s or a man’s age, type of cancer and duration or dose of chemotherapy and the amount of radiation exposure they receive.”

“We’re trying to define how often reproduction and fertility are affected by chemotherapy or radiation and develop techniques to combat that.”

The Health Services Foundation recently awarded the program a grant to raise awareness of the potential for fertility preservation in Alabama.

Nationwide, less than 1 percent of women are sent to fertility doctors for consultation, and only about 10 percent of men are offered sperm-banking prior to cancer treatment. UAB is beginning a large outreach campaign this fall to increase awareness among medical professionals and the public about the options available.

“Evidence shows that those who at least discuss fertility treatment options with a specialist cope better with their cancer treatment, whether they choose to pursue fertility treatment or not,” Bates says.

“Many options are available for those who choose to pursue fertility preservation.”

Preserving fertility in women

Advanced techniques are being used to give women with cancer viable options to preserve their fertility before their treatment, including:

• In vitro fertilization (IVF) and embryo freezing
• IVF and egg freezing
• Ovarian tissue freezing
• Ovarian transposition or relocation

Currently the only recommended and approved option is IVF with embryo freezing. Egg freezing is a very new technique, there have been just a few dozen children born after ovarian-freezing.

So why freeze the ovaries? It has the potential to be a much more attractive option over embryo freezing for several reasons.

Embryo freezing requires time to get the woman ready to harvest her eggs, and she needs a spouse or partner to fertilize the egg. In most cases the woman also has to take hormones, which may raise her hormone level and may impact her cancer treatment. Ovarian tissue freezing requires no hormone treatments and little or no delay.

With ovarian tissue freezing the tissue may be stored for years and re-implanted with the potential added benefit of restoration of normal hormone production by the ovary.

“And with ovarian freezing, if someone calls today, in theory we can do it tomorrow,” Bates says. “There’s no prep time, and it’s outpatient surgery.”

UAB surgeons also can harvest most or all of one ovary, divide it into pieces and freeze and re-insert it back in the remaining good ovary when cancer treatment is done.

“That gives the patient the potential for a successful pregnancy without fertility treatment,” Bates says. “And unlike the other treatments, it’s the only one that has the potential to restore normal hormone function. That may mean fewer hot flashes, better sleep and better sexual function.”

Surgery, storage of the tissue and insurance coverage are disadvantages to freezing ovarian tissue.

“It can be costly because you have a surgery to harvest, you have freezing for years if not decades, and then you have surgery to re-insert or auto transplant the tissue,” Bates says. “Insurance covered our past two cases, but it’s very much a case-by-case, company-by-company decision.”

The other drawback is the potential for malignant cancer cells in the harvested ovary. A harvested ovary is tested for cancer prior to freezing. If it’s free of cancer the freezing process can continue. No cases of cancer reoccurrence as a result of ovarian tissue re-implantation have been reported.

Preserving fertility in men

UAB’s fertility preservation program offers sperm-banking for men. Samples can be stored for several years and used for insemination or IVF with intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection.

Semen samples may be frozen prior to the start of chemotherapy or radiation. In some cases, artificial or intravaginal insemination (IUI) may be performed when the couple is ready to pursue fertility. In many instances, IVF with injection of the sperm into the egg is required because of low number and poor quality of the sperm.

Help after treatment

Many women and men are able to safely pursue pregnancy after chemotherapy or radiation, and Bates says there is help available at UAB.

“We commonly see patients who have had treatment, and it’s relatively easy to restore normal, healthy hormone levels with supplementation,” Bates says. “We also offer assisted reproduction with donor sperm or egg so those couples can experience a pregnancy and become a parent.”

UAB’s reproductive experts work with a patient’s oncologist to determine fertility potential and treatment options. For men, sperm production and function may take several years to recover.

“A semen analysis is used to determine the potential for pregnancy, with several options available based on test results,” Bates says. “A woman’s fertility potential may be determined with a blood test and ultrasound of the ovaries. The full range of reproductive options then will be reviewed.

“Many patients will in fact have some return of function, and that’s based on a combination of the type of treatment they had, the type of cancer they had and the age they experienced it,” Bates says.

UAB’s IRB approval for fertility preservation ranges from ages 8 to 40. Visit www.uabmedicine.org/fertilitypreservation for more information or call 800-7523.

Sweet on a Cure: Donations will benefit cancer research

Funding a cure for cancer can be a piece of cake during the inaugural Sweet on a Cure event benefiting the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The Nov. 9-15 event will help fund Comprehensive Cancer Center scientists and doctors who are working to discover new cancer treatments and sweeten the hope for a cure.

That week customers at restaurants, cafés and bakeries in and around the Birmingham metro area can purchase Sweet on a Cure-designated desserts, baked treats and dreamy confections, and 100 percent of the proceeds from the sale of each item will be donated to UAB cancer research.

Sweet on a Cure cherry-top cupcakes logo on menus and posters will highlight the dessert, treats and bakery items included in the program.

Among the participating businesses are Another Broken Egg Café; Ashley Mac’s; Bellini’s Ristorante & Bar; The Bright Star; Borgonaro Italian Restaurant; Café Dupont; Chappy’s Deli; DeVinci’s of Homewood; Dynon’s Lowcountry; Edgar’s Bakery; Hat and Hen Fish Club; Irondale Café; Joe’s Italian Pizza, Pasta & Café; Jim N Nick’s Bar-B-Q; Nabee’s Café & Market; O’Henry’s Coffee; Rojo; Soho Sweets; Smith’s Oyster & Steaks; The Cajun Steamer Bar & Grill in Hoover; The Redmont Café; and Tracy’s.

“In an economic climate in which competition for federal and state funding is intense, scientists are increasingly faced with difficulty in maintaining world-class translational research,” says Cancer Center Director Edmund Partridge, M.D.

“Community support for research is critical to the discovery of new treatments and cutting-edge therapies.”

UAB’s Fertility Preservation Program, led by director Wright Bates offers treatments for fertility preservation for individuals or couples interested in having children who face cancer or other serious medical conditions.

For more information, see uabmedicine.org/fertilitypreservation.
There are three things you especially need to know about Kerry Madden. She is an accomplished children’s book author, she has moved around frequently in her life, and she is not John Madden’s daughter.

Well, except for that one time. But more on that later.

Madden, who joined the UAB Department of English this summer as assistant professor of creative writing and the new editor of the award-winning literary magazine PoemMemoireStory (PMS), has been confounded for the daughter of legendary football coach and television announcer John Madden many, many times. So many times, in fact, she wrote an article for the Los Angeles Times almost three years ago to make her announcement to the world that she is the daughter of a former football coach, just not that football coach.

“My father coached with Johnny Majors at Iowa State, Pittsburgh and Tennessee and for several years in the NFL,” she says. “I’m very proud of my dad and what he accomplished, which was why I wrote the ‘I-am-not-John-Madden’s-daughter’ article. But I was a reluctant football daughter.”

Football was so far from her mind in her youth Madden made her brothers, sister and the family dog act out stories like Anne Frank, OLIVER or Little House on the Prairie when she watched them. But her reluctance always was at its height on moving day — all 10 of them. That’s how many she experienced growing up in the home of an assistant football coach.

“The way we moved was with my dad saying, ‘Get in the car. You’re a part of this family, part of this team,’” Madden says. “There was no time for reflection or good-byes. He’d say, ‘You want to go in the same town your whole life? What kind of life is that?’ and ‘You’re not even going to remember these people.’”

But Madden has carried the experiences of Florida, Mississippi, Kentucky, North Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Michigan and Georgia and their people with her throughout her life. They enabled her to write the novel Offsides, a New York Public Library Pick for the Teen Age in 1997, and the Maggie Valley Trilogy, published by Viking Children’s Books. The trilogy includes Gentle’s Holler (2005), Louisiana’s Song (2007) and Jessee’s Mountain (2008) and is set in the heart of Appalachia in the Smoky Mountains.

Offsides captured that zany life of her youth in an almost autobiographical form. Madden didn’t like to move, and especially not-John-Madden’s-daughter.”

Madden says she constantly is writing, and a good portion of that which she composes, she stays in notebooks never to been seen by others. “I tell my students you have to write the junk to get to the good stuff, to find the story,” she says, and argued and hated to say goodbye. “I’m grateful because I got to see many different areas, meet many different people and have some wonderful life experiences.”

Constantly writing

Madden has written other books and essays, including Writing Stunts, which is full of story sparks for young writers and was published by American Girl.

Her latest book, Harper Lee: Up Close, was published by Viking and made Booklist’s Ten Top Biographies of 2009 for Youth.

Madden traveled to Monroeville to interview Lee’s classmates, which led to opportunities to interview writers and Alabama natives Mary Ward Brown, Kathryn Tucker Windham and Helen Norris Bell. She wrote the essay Words on Fire based on those encounters, published in Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art.

“I just loved writing that essay,” Madden says. “I wanted to talk with old ladies writers who didn’t care about Facebook or keeping a blog, women who just wrote stories because they wanted to write stories at a time when they weren’t encouraged to write stories.”

Madden says she constantly is writing, and a good portion of that which she composes, she stays, in notebooks never to been seen by others.

“I tell my students you have to write the junk to get to the good stuff, to find the story,” she says.

Madden is 12 chapters into a children’s novel called The Fifth-Grade Life of Jack Getzefinger, which is a takeoff on her son Flannery’s childhood loves of werewolves, Lon Chaney senior and Hamlet.

“All three of my kids are involved in some way,” she says. “It’s a love letter to the kids and their childhood.”

Missing family

And it’s her family that Madden misses the most right now. She moved to Homewood in August, leaving her husband Kiffen and 10-year-old Norah in Los Angeles for this school year. Flannery is a senior at the University of California-Santa Barbara and daughter Lucy is a freshman at Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Her husband is a teacher at an elementary school in Los Angeles with 21 years in the system. Norah goes to school there, but has an open invitation to join her mother here if living apart gets too hard for her.

The distance apart has been tough on Madden, as she chronicled in an opinion piece published in the Sept. 20 edition of the Los Angeles Times, but she says the faculty in the Department of English have gone out of their way to help her feel at home, collecting furniture for her apartment and helping her set it up. Their kindness has eased the transition to what she hopes will eventually be her new home.

“I’ll consider it home when my husband and daughter join me,” she says.

“My husband is from the South, from Tennessee, and he looks at coming back as making our lives bigger and opening up more possibilities. What we’d love to do is get a place here out in the country. That’s the dream.”

And about that one time was John Madden’s daughter? Well, she’s got a good excuse for playing the role of imposter.

She was at a Books-A-Million in Knoxville, Tenn., for a book-signing when an elderly woman who worked at the store showed her the pedometer attached to her belt to count how many miles she cycled each day at the store. Then she took Madden by the hand and said with tears in her eyes: “You don’t know how happy you’ve made me by showing me today. I’ve followed your father’s career my whole life. I love your father so much. It means the world meeting you.”

Then, the elderly woman started to cry. “What could I say,” Madden says. “I just hugged her and said, ‘Thank you very much.’”

Well-traveled Madden tackles her creative works with flair

The UAB Writers’ Series will present Kerry Madden at 4 p.m., Oct. 21 in the Mary Culp Hulsey Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Call 934-4250 for more details. Visit www.kerrymadden.com to learn more about the author.

Submissions to PMS accepted beginning January 2010

Would you like to submit an item for consideration in the literary magazine PMS?

Submit your entry from Jan. 1 through March 31, 2010. Send only five poems or 15 pages of prose for consideration to the Department of English at HB 217.

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your entry. A complete list of rules can be found at pms-journal.org.

PMS is nationally distributed by Ingram Periodicals and Ubiquity Distributors and available for checkout at Sterne Library. Copies can be ordered on Amazon.com or purchased locally at Greencup Books, Milestone Books and Little Professor Book Store.
Appoint an internship coordinator with undergraduate track in forensic science available

UAB’s new and innovative undergraduate forensic chemistry program is one of only a handful of programs in the country offering in-depth forensics training. Students take courses in analytical chemistry, biochemistry and justice science and fulfill unique requirements such as public speaking, photography and a 10-week internship.

Another course Chemistry Department Chair David Graves, Ph.D., is squeezing into the expanded curriculum is photography. It is very useful for a forensic scientist to know the workings of a camera, how digital photos can be manipulated and how to extract information from films and photos, he says.

“This actually is the most robust chemistry program we have,” says Graves.

“UAB’s degrees have 120-credit-hour limits. We had to get an exception to get everything in that we needed, and still there are a few additional classes that we encourage students to take. The students are told up front that it’s the toughest degree program we have, and they still jump on it.”

To build the new program, Graves, who was the director of the University of Mississippi’s forensic chemistry program before he came to UAB in 2003, drew from his 20 years of experience in teaching forensic science and also talked closely with directors in the Alabama State Crime Lab.

“We have a very good relationship with the state crime lab,” he says. “Their input was extremely important to us in developing the appropriate courses. The One actually is the past year and now is joining the FBI.”

Read more about the undergraduate program in UAB Magazine www.uab.edu/uabmagazine/2009/march/forensic.

HAQUE

CONTINUED from page 1

ested in federal service than ever before, making this even more important.”

Aggressive agenda

There currently is an aggressive agenda for reform of the federal government’s human resources. Congress has introduced legislation, the Office of Personnel Management is overhauling its hiring, assessment and compensation mechanisms, and the Office of Management and Budget has been issuing directives about desired changes.

The two bills in Congress are exciting, Haque says, because the government is aware that its practices need changes.

The first bill is H.R. 3264, which is designed to improve federal internship programs to facilitate hiring of full-time federal employees. If passed, the bill will require federal internship programs to undergo several changes, including:

• Appoint an internship coordinator within each agency and have their informa-

tion available online on the Internet, along with the application procedures and deadlines for the program.

To apply for the program, students must be currently undergraduate forensic science students whose courses have provided them with the coursework, teaching them how to apply the knowledge they already have to the forensic laboratory settings. Students also benefit from casework experiences gained via the University with practicing forensic scientists and laborato-

ries, including with the Alabama State Department of Forensic Science.

“Forensic science covers a broad area, and students really have to determine the area they are interested in,” Linville says. “It’s not just a criminal investigation and the crime lab stuff, it’s also areas like forensic anthropology or forensic psychology or even becoming a medical examiner and performing autopsies. All of those career paths require a different starting point in your education.

Wanted: Good scientists

While many students initially are drawn to forensic science because of the Hollywood image, Linville says the opposite also is true. Sometimes students don’t realize forensic science academic programs are looking for aspiring scientists not detectives.

“We want good scientists — good chemists and biologists,” Linville says. “We can provide them with the coursework, teaching them how to apply the knowledge they already have to the forensic laboratory settings.”

The job possibilities also extend far beyond police work. Students who emerge from the graduate program are very competitive for jobs in federal, state and private forensic labs.

“Forensic science field jobs aren’t the only ones available to our graduates,” Linville says. “They’re going to be trained on the area they focus on as an analytical chemist or molecular biologist. They can get a job in any type of analyti-

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“It’s really a flexible degree; we just give them that additional training on how to apply their knowledge to the forensic field so they have one more option.”

Contact Linville at jgf@uab.edu for more information on the program, or visit http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=10561.

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Change the future

UAB, one of 240 universities accredited by NASPAA, has spent many resources to maintain the accreditation, enabling students to be better equipped to handle government issues.

Most of the training and access to jobs comes while students are in school, usu-

ally through the forms of internships and co-ops. The Presidential Management Fellowship is one of the options many UAB MPA students have pursued through the years, and a few have been selected. But many students who go for their final interviews have told Haque the recruiters are dominated by people other than MPA graduates, giving them a lim-

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“They want to lobby, too,” he says. “They’ve been asking me what they can do to help, which is fantastic. I love their enthusiasm — and needed. If our students deserve a better shot in the pro-

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Religion may impact decision on prostate cancer screening in African-American men

African-American men are more likely to have had a digital rectal exam in the past year to screen for prostate cancer if they engage in religious behaviors, according to a UAB study published in the American Journal of Men’s Health. Study co-author Theresa A. Wynn, Ph.D., program director in the UAB Division of Preventive Medicine, and colleagues found that African-American men who engaged in religious behavior, but do not necessarily hold religious beliefs, were nearly two times more likely to have had a digital rectal exam (DRE) than African-American men who do not engage in religious behavior.

“The results of this study clearly demonstrate the important role religious involvement plays with Southeastern African-American men in their prostate cancer-screening practices,” Wynn said. “This is important to understand because African-American men are more likely to develop prostate cancer, and twice as likely to die from the disease, when compared to other men.”

$2.1 million grant to boost math teacher readiness in schools

The Greater Birmingham Mathematics Partnership (GBMP), a partnership between UAB, Birmingham-Southern College and area school districts, has earned a $2.1 million National Science Foundation grant to provide professional development programs for middle-school math teachers and research the impact of the programs.

Math teachers at 13 schools from the partnership’s seven participating school districts — Jefferson County, Shelby County, Hoover City, Homewood City, Trussville City, Fairfield City and Tarrant City — will participate in fully funded, professional development courses, including intensive summer camps led by UAB faculty, during the three-year life of the grant. The newly announced grant is a second round of NSF funding for GBMP, which was started in 2004 with a five-year, $10 million award.

ARRA training Oct. 5

UAB investigators have been awarded more than 118 stimulus awards exceeding $35 million as of Sept. 22. Visit www.uab.edu/ARRA to read about these awards and learn about new funding opportunities. Training for principal investigators and award managers to learn how to fulfill reporting requirements for ARRA awards is scheduled this week. E-mail Lyons@uab.edu to register and learn about new funding opportunities.

Register for free symposium is Oct. 6

The Comprehensive Neuroscience Center will host the Brevill Neuroscience Symposium 2009 on Neuroimaging from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Children’s Harbor Bradley Conference Center. The symposium is free but registration is required. For information, contact Molly Moran at mmmoran@uab.edu or 996-6329.

Vision Science seminar is Oct. 9

Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend a Vision Science Research Center seminar, “Cone Visual Cycle in the Vertebrate Retina” by Vladimir Kefalov, of Washington University-St. Louis. The seminar will be held at noon Friday, Oct. 9 in the first floor Worrell Conference Center, 924 18th Street South.

First Barfield-Carter Lecture is Oct. 13

The inaugural Barfield-Carter Lecture will be presented at UAB Radiology Grand Rounds in honor of Melvin Barfield-Carter, M.D., who chaired the UAB Department of Radiology from 1945 to 1955. She was both the first female department chair and the first female professor at the Medical College of Alabama. The event will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13 in West Pavilion Conference Room E. Guest lecturer Kay Vysarty, Ph.D., professor of radiology from Emory University, will speak on “ARR’s Alphabet Soup: IC, CAQ, MOC, EDF and U.” The event is CME approved.

UAB marks breast cancer awareness with donor events

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, UAB will host and participate in several events that support research, prevention, treatment and awareness of breast cancer. The October events highlight partnerships between UAB medical professionals, patients, cancer survivors, Alabama business owners and nonprofit groups. For a list of events, visit main.uab.edu/Sites/ MediaRelations/articles/6996.

SOE Blazer Best competition seeks volunteers, mentors

Blazer BEST, the local contest hosted at UAB in conjunction with the national BEST Robotics competition, is a non-profit endeavor in which student teams and their built-from-scratch robots compete against one another in a one-day competition. Mall Day is a chance for the teams to test the robots they have built on the unique competition-day game floor a full two weeks before the official contest is held inside Bartow Arena at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Blazer BEST also is seeking volunteers for a range of tasks for its second annual robotics competition. Paul George, the UAB event’s coordinator and development director for the School of Engineering, said the competition contains costs by leaning heavily on the time, treasure and talent of volunteers serving in a range of capacities. Interested volunteers and sponsors should contact Lyn Lewis at 975-2427 or llewis@uab.edu.

Childbearing increases chance of developing metabolic syndrome

Childbearing is associated directly with future development of the metabolic syndrome — abdominal obesity, high triglycerides, insulin resistance and other cardiovascular disease risk factors — and the risk is more than twice greater for women who have had gestational diabetes, according to a study co-authored by UAB researchers published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

UAB Professor of Preventive Medicine Cora Lewis, M.D., and colleagues used data collected in the CARDIA (Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults) study to determine the correlation between a higher incidence of the metabolic syndrome among women ages 18-30 at the start of the study who bore at least one child during the 20-year period following.

Money management may be indicator of Alzheimer’s Disease

Inability to handle financial transactions or manage money may be an early indicator that a person with mild memory problems soon is likely to develop Alzheimer’s disease, according to new research from UAB’s Alzheimer’s Disease Center, part of the Department of Neurology. The findings, published in the Sept. 22 edition of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, examined patients with a condition known as mild cognitive impairment (MCI), thought to be a precursor to Alzheimer’s “Declining financial skills are detectable in patients with mild cognitive impairment in the year before their conversion to Alzheimer’s disease,” said Daniel Marson, Ph.D., J.D., professor of neurology and director of the UAB Alzheimer’s Disease Center.

Learn more about these topics and other UAB research at www.uab.edu/news.
CLOSE TO HOME—another reason to SMILE

THE BEST IN DENTAL CARE
from UAB’s faculty, residents, and dental students

- **LIMITED CARE** – Walk-in clinic for limited or urgent dental needs
- **COMPREHENSIVE CARE** – Services from whitening and cosmetic dentistry to oral surgery and periodontal therapy
- **SPECIALTY CARE** – Orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, endodontics, and oral and maxillofacial surgery
- **EXPERT CARE** – Choose your provider from among UAB’s skilled faculty, residents, and students.

For dental emergencies during clinic hours, visit the Limited Care Clinic at the UAB School of Dentistry; registration is open 7:45-10:30 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m.

**To set up an appointment with clinics,** call (205) 934-3000 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. or visit www.dental.uab.edu.

**To set up an appointment with the UAB Dental Group,** call (205) 934-2340 or visit www.uabdentalgroup.org

UAB Dental Clinics now accept MetLife dental coverage.*

*Not available from all providers. When making your appointment, remember to ask if your provider accepts MetLife.