Engineers are in high demand locally, and no one knows that better than Paul George. George, the director of career services in the School of Engineering, talks regularly with local employers about their needs. The first thing they mention is the need for more engineers in the pipeline. “Engineering employers — large and small — are telling us many of their engineers are 55 and older and they’re retiring,” George says. “They need more engineers. My message to them always is if you want engineers in the pipeline, we have to start in the sixth and seventh grade. We don’t have the luxury of hoping that as high-school seniors they have an epiphany and decide to come here. It can often be too late at that point for them to prepare properly.”

UAB uses B.E.S.T. effort to increase engineering students

UAB raised $88.6 million dollar in gifts and pledges this past fiscal year, some 4.9 percent more than the year’s $84.5 million goal — and only slightly less than the university’s historical best of $91.5 million in the previous year. In the past five years, UAB has not been in a public campaign, but has continued to raise private funds aggressively in its Maintaining the Momentum initiative. However, UAB did more than maintain the fundraising momentum from its most successful comprehensive campaign. The Campaign for UAB — it exceeded the total amount raised during that drive. UAB raised $392.4 million since the Maintaining the Momentum effort began in 2004, while The Campaign for UAB raised $388.7 million between 1998-2003. The Maintaining the Momentum initiative exceeded its five-year goal by 6.2 percent.

Public speaking and knitting are both forms of art, and Cecil “Buddy” Betros, Jr., a basic course director in the Department of Communication Studies, knows them very well.

The ability to wrap an audience around your finger and have them hanging on every word is tough. But imagine the pressure of having to finish knitting a sweater you promised your 4-year-old great-nephew after a doctor says it’s time to have elbow surgery — now.

“I said, ‘I don’t think so. No surgery this week. I’ve got to finish this sweater,’” he said. “And I did, too.”

Betros is sidelined from knitting for a couple of weeks while his elbow heals, which means the knitting class he teaches on Saturdays is postponed for a little while. However, his teaching duties for his Communications 101 courses on public speaking continue. They include working with the students enrolled in the online version of the course, which is his main priority.

Betros developed the online public speaking class, now modified to bring content and live instruction to all students. The number of students taking the online component of the course has grown to 110 this year from 15 two years ago. In fact, almost 25 percent of the students taking the public speaking course are enrolled exclusively online.

“Most of these students are sophomores and up,” Betros says. “Interestingly enough, we’ve had a lot of UAB employees take this class. There are several reasons for taking this class online, but central to that is students learn differently today. We have to have educators look beyond traditional teaching methodologies and pedagogy. The challenge is transferring the traditional classroom to a virtual learning environment.”

Cecil “Buddy” Betros is a public speaking instructor in the Department of Communication Studies and an accomplished knitter — he made the UAB socks he’s wearing. He also designed a new online public speaking class, now modified to bring content and live instruction to all students.

Betros uses blended course to teach public speaking
Garrison: UAB still exceeds expectations

UAB continues to be an innovative and collaborative institution with a future even brighter than its past. That was the central theme of UAB President Carol Garrison’s State of the University address, hosted by the UAB Faculty Senate in the University Center Oct. 16.

Garrison highlighted and praised the work of UAB’s students, faculty and staff for more than an hour, lauding the current freshman class, increased graduation rate, QEP and Honors Academy successes and research and scholarship work, among other topics. She also applauded the work being done in the face of a difficult economic time in the state and nation.

“UAB has always turned disadvantage into a competitive edge,” she said. “Tight funding and scarcer resources only led to more boldness, innovation and success. In 2008 we continue rising above, seeing beyond and exceeding expectations.”

A video of Garrison’s presentation can be viewed online at www.uab.edu/president. Those wishing to follow along with the video can download the PowerPoint presentation from the same location.

Help to recognize outstanding women

The UAB Women’s Center and UAB Women’s Studies are looking for outstanding women. Do you know a woman who has made it easier for other women to achieve? Taken a courageous stance? Provided significant service to women or overcome adversity to achieve her goals?

Then nominate her (or them) for outstanding student, outstanding faculty, outstanding administrator/staff member or outstanding woman in the community.

Nominations forms are available at the UAB Women’s Center in the Holley-Mears Building Room 150 and are due no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, 2009. Please return the forms to the UAB Women’s Center or fax them to 934-5833. Direct any questions to 934-6946.

A reception for the honorees will be Thursday, March 5, 2009, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bartow Arena Green & Gold Room.

Annual benefits open enrollment under way

The annual benefits open enrollment period is under way, which means that all benefit-eligible UAB employees should be making final decisions related to medical, dental, vision, voluntary AD&D insurance coverage and flexible spending accounts (FSAs) before 5 p.m. CT Friday, Oct. 31.

To participate in open enrollment, employees may make all elections online at www.shps.com, or by using a touch-tone telephone and calling 1-800-223-0162. If additional help is needed, customer service representatives will be available to answer questions from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. Please remember that in order to comply with federal laws regulating benefit plan participation and to retain those pre-tax features which are desired by UAB employees, changes will not be accepted after the close of open enrollment; again, that deadline is 5 p.m. CT, Friday, Oct. 31.

You must participate in open enrollment if you are:

• Changing your level of coverage as it relates to the single/employee plus up to 2 dependents/family option

• Adding or deleting dependents

• Changing from basic to comprehensive level of coverage—or vice versa—with the dental plan

• Dropping existing medical, dental and/or vision coverage

• Enrolling or changing voluntary AD&D coverage

• Participating in the flexible spending account (FSA) program for 2009

Dental plan enhancements

There will be no changes to the dental plan for 2009.

Premium increases for UAB medical plans and plan design changes

The cost of healthcare is rising nationwide as a result of inflation, advances in healthcare and increased use of the benefits. UAB faces many of the same health-care issues of our nation, state and city. Premiums will increase for all three medical plans: Viva UAB by 6.5 percent, Viva Access by 8 percent, and Blue Cross Blue Shield by 10 percent.

Pharmacy plan changes are also being implemented that include increased generic drug utilization. Pharmacy co-pays will be increasing slightly in order to offset growing pharmacy costs, and a new co-pay level for specialist visits is being introduced under the medical plans.

Vision Insurance with VSP

Vision rates have remained level since introduction of the VSP plan in 2006. This year, VSP rates will increase 10 percent for 2009. In addition, the out-of-pocket co-pays for VSP will increase by $5.

Deductible

Employees should be making final decisions related to medical, dental, vision, voluntary AD&D insurance coverage and flexible spending accounts (FSAs). UAB will continue to offer flexible spending accounts (FSAs), which allow you to set aside money from your paycheck before it is taxed to pay for certain health care and dependent care expenses.

Employee benefits are subject to federal laws regulating plan design and will be reflected in your January 2009 payroll. FSA deductions will also be reflected in your January 2009 payroll.

Annual open enrollment materials are available on the UAB Human Resource Management Benefits Web page: go to www.uab.edu/benefits and click on Annual Open Enrollment. This area includes links to the providers’ home pages as well as provider directories. Informational materials are also available on the SHPS Web site. Any questions concerning annual open enrollment should be directed to an HR consultant or directly to the UAB Benefits Department at 934-3458 or by e-mail at benefits@uab.edu.

Flex Accounts

UAB will continue to offer flexible spending accounts (FSAs), which allow you to set aside money from your paycheck before it is taxed to pay for certain health care and dependent care expenses. Employees must re-enroll in the FSA program during open enrollment to participate for the 2009 plan year.

Voluntary AD&D

The voluntary AD&D program is now an open enrollment benefit. During open enrollment you may enroll or change your coverage. The plan is offered through MetLife.

To find out more

All elections will be effective Jan. 1, 2009. New premiums for medical, dental, vision and voluntary AD&D will be reflected in your January 2009 payroll. FSA deductions will also be reflected in your January 2009 payroll.

Annual open enrollment materials are available on the UAB Human Resource Management Benefits Web page: go to www.uab.edu/benefits and click on Annual Open Enrollment. This area includes links to the providers’ home pages as well as provider directories. Informational materials are also available on the SHPS Web site. Any questions concerning annual open enrollment should be directed to an HR consultant or directly to the UAB Benefits Department at 934-3458 or by e-mail at benefits@uab.edu.
Robert Kimberly, M.D., spent most of his working life in the northeastern United States before coming to UAB 12 years ago.

Since his arrival, Kimberly, a professor and senior associate dean for research in the School of Medicine and director of the UAB Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Center, has significantly strengthened the research and clinical components of the programs in which he is involved.

Kimberly is an internationally recognized research scientist, an esteemed and successful educator, an accomplished administrator and a visionary leader. His also is the principal investigator at the Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Center (MCRC). The Program Project is the only one on the genetics of systemic lupus that is supported by the NIAMS. The MCRC is part of a program with eight institutions involved nationwide. UAB is the only program in the country with both of those kinds of awards.

Kimberly is quick to point out that there are just two examples of a broad portfolio in Rheumatology and the Arthritis Center, and he lauds the cooperation between departments in aiding these research efforts.

“Grants like these speak to a very important principal, and the principal is that science increasingly needs to embrace teams of investigators and interdisciplinary research,” Kimberly says. “That doesn’t in any way diminish the importance of the individual investigator. The fundamental building block of research is the creativity and commitment of the individual investigator. But the effective way to ask the large questions that we’re after is by building these teams and drawing investigators from across campus.”

Within the work we do there are persons that come from multiple departments within the School of Medicine, and there are multiple schools — School of Public Health, Dentistry and Engineering. When you look at it from the center’s perspective, every life-science school on campus is involved and that’s very much a theme we’ve worked for — to identify those cross cutting opportunities that enable us to draw investigators from across the campus.”

The lecture

Kimberly is a student of past Distinguished Faculty lecturers, and he plans to touch on some of their history in his upcoming lecture.

The title of his lecture, “And Gladly Teach,” is derived from a quote in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales and is an extension of Howard Holley’s Distinguished Faculty Lecture titled “And Gladly Teach” from 1969.

Holley founded the Division of Rheumatology and his work made an impression on Kimberly, who read Holley’s lecture when he first came to UAB. “Howard Holley was an amazing physician and scholar.” Kimberly says.

“UAB has some of the most loyal supporters anywhere, and many have a long history of individual and even multi-generational giving.” statistic is that $86.9 million of the total is outright gifts — money that is available to the university for immediate use.

UAB President Carol Garrison praised Kahn, the entire development staff, deans and faculty for their diligence “and great teamwork, which has been key to our success. By continuing our focus on stewarding past and current donors, while searching for new funding prospects, I am confident we will sustain this upward trajectory.

While private funds can never supplant the Momentum these past five years. Of commitments, has been raised to create another $17.8 million in contributions.

A total of 81,445 individuals, 952 foundations, 5,166 corporations and 1,954 other organizations contributed to Maintaining the Momentum these past five years.
Office of Study Away gets new name, continues to expand

J osh Carter has directed the Office of Study Away since 2003, and the program has grown considerably under his leadership.

UAB offers more than 100 programs in more than 50 international locations in the areas of language, arts, nursing, business, social sciences, engineering and natural sciences. More than 150 UAB undergraduate students studied outside the United States this past year.

Carter recently was named the recipient of the International Award of Excellence from the NAFSA Association of International Educators for Region VII. The prize is awarded annually to a faculty member who exhibits outstanding leadership, locally or regionally, in international education exchange. He will receive the award Oct. 26 in Columbus, S.C., during the NAFSA Region VII conference.

Carter recently spoke to the UAB Reporter about his award, the Study Away program and its future.

Q. Why were you selected for the international award and what does that mean for the Office of Study Away?
A. All I can say is that I am apparently fortunate enough to have a number of enthusiastic supporters who believe in what we’re doing at UAB and who recommended me for this award. I have a passion for international education and for the free exchange of ideas across cultures. This passion has led me to several leadership opportunities both in the state and region. I just hope that what we do helps our students more fully understand their place in the world and that global change can truly begin with a single person who has the ability to cross cultural boundaries and learn from those who are different from them.

Q. Why is the office now called Study Away instead of Study Abroad?
A. As of 2007 we became the Office for Study Away when we added a variety of domestic exchange opportunities to our already strong cadre of international exchange programs. The name Study Abroad was too limiting to define our already strong cadre of international exchange programs. The name Study Away was more inclusive and we added a variety of nationally competitive scholarships to which our students are able to apply for the Presidential Study Away Scholarship. In 2007-2008 we awarded more than $70,000 in scholarships that covered 20 percent of each recipient’s total Study Away costs. Also, there are a variety of nationally competitive scholarships to which our students can apply. More information is available at www.studyabroad.app.uab.edu/news.asp.

Q. Can faculty promote scholarships to students interested in Study Away programs?
A. Absolutely! UAB students who meet eligibility requirements for the program of their choice are able to apply for the Presidential Study Away Scholarship. In 2007-2008 we awarded more than $70,000 in scholarships that covered 20 percent of each recipient’s total Study Away costs. There are a variety of nationally competitive scholarships to which our students can apply. More information is available at www.studyabroad.app.uab.edu/news.asp.

Q. What are your goals for the coming year?
A. We are always keeping our eyes on the UAB Scorecard. We have exceeded scorecard goals for the past four consecutive years. Our goal next year is to do so again by having more than 170 students participate. Additionally, we are encouraging more students to consider studying abroad for a semester or longer because programs of a longer duration allow the students to more fully immerse themselves in the host culture. And, we are looking forward to unveiling more resources online such as faculty-leader orientations and student pre-departure and re-entry curricula.

Q. What events are planned to celebrate International Education Week Nov. 16-27 and where is more information available?
A. Look for a wide range of events. Our 2008 International Education Week Photo Contest just opened. Students, faculty and staff can submit their favorite photos at www.studyabroad.app.uab.edu/photo_contest.asp. Also, we have just released our 2009 IEW Photo Contest Calendar, the proceeds of which go toward raising money for scholarships for international education. During the month of November, look for more information on www.studyabroad.app.uab.edu to learn about events including foods from around the world that will be showcased at the Commons on the Green, the international related activities at the Recreation Center, student presentations of their experiences overseas and foreign films.

Here are the Top 10 ways to make your laptop more secure

UAB’s Health System Information System conducted a study of laptops this past year to determine best practices for information security. Results were used to develop a list of ways to optimize security. They include:

• Back up all sensitive documents to the network shared drive and remove data that are no longer needed.
• Use virtual private networking (VPN) connections when remotely accessing work systems, and be careful when using public wireless access points (Wi-Fi Hot Spots).
• Make sure the computer requires a username and password to log in and that it uses a password-protected screensaver.
• Create a strong password. Go to www.hippa.uab.edu/files/UserHandbook-WebFall08.pdf for tips.
• Lock an unused laptop with a cable lock or place it in a locked cabinet or drawer.
• Do not leave the laptop in a car or hotel room. Keep it out of sight. For added security, don’t carry it in a laptop top bag, but in a padded backpack or regular briefcase.
• Keep the laptop operating system, anti-virus software and applications up to date.
• Do not auto-save usernames and passwords for any Web site.
• Disable the guest account and make sure to use strong passwords for all remaining accounts, including administrative accounts.

The Office of Study Away is flourishing under the leadership of Josh Carter. UAB offers more than 100 programs in more than 50 international locations. More than 150 UAB undergraduate students studied outside the United States this past year. “I just hope what we do helps our students to more fully understand their place in the world,” says Carter.
Robin Cox
B.T.E.S.T. director

The competition is beginning to track the metrics on the success of this program in driving young people into science and technology disciplines. Anecdotally, I can tell you it does.

The competition empowers the younger students, which is a key reason for that success, according to Lucas. The students are engaged in the project for six weeks, detailing every roadblock and success. And after the competition they then take their project on the road to local schools to show off their work and, hopefully, build excitement.

"When they go to other elementary and middle schools and show their excitement over building these robots and doing all these activities with it, it spreads the enthusiasm for engineering and science to the kids below them," Lucas says. "What better way to inspire the next generation than to hear it from other young people."

BETROS
CONTINUED from page 1

Housed on the Web
Betros uses the BlackBoard Vista 4 system for the CM 101 online classes. All sections of CM 101 are part of a master course, which is a hub of online and classroom instruction. The master course is uploaded each semester to all sections. All sections then, are standardized in content, testing and student outcomes.

Pearson, an educational publication company also responsible for the University Writing Web, designed a separate Web site housing materials for the courses. The site, called My Speech Lab, houses the assignments, video lectures, weekly objectives, tests, PowerPoint slides students can print out and use to take notes, a speech outline training system, a topic selector and research navigators that can connect students to Lister Hill or other reference centers around the world.

B.E.S.T.
CONTINUED from page 1

line thanks to a new community outreach program known as Boosting Engineering, Science & Technology — or B.E.S.T. The campus hosted its first Blazer B.E.S.T. competition earlier this month to a near-packed house at Barrow Arena. Students from 21 area junior and senior high schools competed in the competition in which they had to build a robot from raw scrap materials that could be used to assemble an airplane.

More than 110 UAB volunteers, including students, faculty and staff from Engineering, Computer & Information Sciences, Media Relations, the School of Business and Communications aided in running the event, which George described as having a “rock concert-type atmosphere.”

And this was not a one-shot deal,” says Engineering Dean Linda Lucas, Ph.D. “We are already thinking about year two.”

UAB is new addition
UAB was selected as Alabama’s fourth local hub to host the event by B.E.S.T. Robotics Inc., a non-profit, volunteer organization based in Dallas, Texas. B.E.S.T. started in 1993 with 14 competing schools and 221 students. Today, B.E.S.T. has almost 600 middle and high schools with approximately 10,000 students participating nationally each fall.

Five winners from the local hubs advance to regional competition. This year’s overall Blazer B.E.S.T. winner was Home- wood Middle School.

Any middle or high school can compete in the competition at no cost. Local hubs, like UAB, and area corporations provide the financial support and resources to enable schools to participate.

“The cornerstone of the B.E.S.T. program is that any school that wants to participate can,” George says. “The responsibility to raise the money and buy the components rests with the local hub, so we had to find the funding to do it.” This year, the School of Engineering funded a vast majority of what we did. We had to buy the robotics components. Those components came from everywhere from Lowe’s and Westside Auto to bicycle parts warehouses. It’s an amazing and eclectic mix of stuff — anything from plywood to PVC pipe to old communion cups. It’s nothing that snaps together in any form or fashion. It’s raw materials.”

UAB will continue to provide those kits to any school that wants to participate in the coming years. The kits were more than $300 each this year.

“Some of their table displays actually turn into walk-in exhibits like you would see at major trade shows,” he says. “They’ll design a T-shirt and a Web site. Students have to understand the field; it’s a comprehensive look at the engineering process,” George says. “Each team must present an engineering notebook. The students have to understand the brainstorming and trial and error that exists in how something new.”

Schools find out the theme of the game once in a series of three-minute, round- robin matches. Teams accumulate points for their performance in each round.

The second competition is for the B.E.S.T. Award, which is presented to the team that best embodies the concept of boosting engineering, science and technology. Elements include a project engineering notebook, oral presentation, table display and notebook teams. They really begin to understand project management. They come to understand the organizational structure needed to take something from an idea all the way through to a product. It’s tremendous work-force development. This is how we can engage these young people and get them into engineering.

How it works
B.E.S.T. features two parallel competitions. The first is a robotics game, this year based upon the theme of “Just Plane Crazy,” with four teams competing in one at a series of three-minute, round- robin matches. Teams accumulate points for their performance in each round.

The competition is not just the robot on the field; it’s a comprehensive look at the engineering process,” George says. “Each team must present an engineering notebook. The students have to understand the brainstorming and trial and error that exists in how something new.”

The competition empowers the younger students, which is a key reason for that success, according to Lucas. The students are engaged in the project for six weeks, detailing every roadblock and success. And after the competition they then take their project on the road to local schools to show off their work and, hopefully, build excitement.

“When they go to other elementary and middle schools and show their excitement over building these robots and doing all these activities with it, it spreads the enthusiasm for engineering and science to the kids below them,” Lucas says. “What better way to inspire the next generation than to hear it from other young people.”

“The new BlackBoard system tells stu- dents every week where they stand on their assignments.” Betros says.

“And everything else is in My Speech Lab. They have their assignments for all 15 weeks, and I’ve videotaped all of the lectures for every one of those weeks, including the orientation.”

Students are able to view the lectures at their own pace each week, but they have to take each assignment one week at a time. If it’s Week Eight of the semester, then every Communication 101 class — whether online or in the classroom — will be engaged in learning that material. The next week is unlocked each Sunday.

Trial and error
In this new area there has been plenty of trial and error during the first three years. Betros learned early he had to set strict ground rules for students.

“There are several reasons for taking this class online, but central to that is students learn differently today. The challenge is transferring the traditional classroom to a virtual learning environment.”

“The first time I did this I had people in front of a Christmas tree in their stocking feet and pajamas giving a public speech to their mother, daddy, aunt and anyone else there for Christmas,” he says. “So I had to establish criteria.”

Students now have to have their speech topic approved by Betros and deliver their speech as part of a community service project. Students have two choices: They can have their speech videotaped and submit it in electronic form or be graded by a contact person of Betros’ choice during the live presentation.

“If they choose to do it the latter way, I have developed a speech rubric, which is a grading schema of sorts, and I have a contact person at the off-campus community venue whose job it is to grade this person’s performance,” Betros says. “I send them information on what the student needs to be doing and what I’m looking for. It’s intensive and by no means easy.”

More to come
Betros hopes to develop places in the community for students to deliver their speeches. And eventually, he hopes students will be able to check out Web cams and join them on a centralized Web location to watch their speech and grade it then.

“That’s where I want to go with this,” he says. “We haven’t even tapped what we can do.”

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In 1968, UAB performed the first organ transplant of any kind in the state of Alabama. Forty years and more than 10,000 transplants later, UAB has one of the most sought-after transplant programs in the nation and the largest comprehensive program in the Southeast.

UAB Hospital celebrates the 40th anniversary of UAB’s transplant program and looks forward to another 40 years—and another 10,000 lives saved.
Special Lectures
Tuesday, Oct. 28
Noon Sigma Xi Luncheon Seminar. The environmental and ecological impacts of rapid climate change on the Antarctic Peninsula. Speaker: Professor James McConnohie (Polar and Marine Biology), Campbell Hall, Room 274.

Wednesday, Oct. 29
Noon The Eyelight Foundation of Alabama. How the Foundation Fights Blindness and brings research for the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases. Dr. Stephen Rose (Chief Research Officer), The Foundation Fighting Blindness, Owins Mills, Md; Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital 3rd Floor.

Thursday, Oct. 30
3 pm UAB Center for Nursing Research. Defining needs and developing educational programs. Ms. Dima Ziden, dr00zid@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu. Receipt to follow the talk; all are welcome to attend. RSVP to Angela Bailey, 4-0014 or angleba@uab.edu.

Tuesday, Nov. 4
3:30 pm UAB Dept of History Colloquium. Female killers in London, 1671-1711. Chair Carolyn Conley (History); Heritage Hall Room 106. Admission is free.

Wednesday, Nov. 5
4 pm Arabic Conversation Table. Free: public reading by novelist and activist Raphael Kanen. Kanen has won a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Whiting Writers Award, the Sterling Anderson Award and the John Dos Passos Award. He is an associate professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. His latest work is The Fire This Time published in 2007 at UAB Spencer Honors House. For more info, call 4-2281 or www.uab.edu/eap for more info.

5 pm UAB Center for Clinical and Translational Science Research Forum. Does somatic mtDNA mutation accumulation influence beta-cell's ability to maintain glucose metabolism? Prof John Corbett (Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism); Frinell Cotter.

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

Meetings
Tuesday, Oct. 28, Nov. 4
9 am Chinese Conversation Table; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”, Humanities Building. Junsong Chen, juchen08@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

10 am American Women’s Group; provides activities to meet the cultural and social interests of the international community. Smolton International House. 4-105 or fivemau@uab.edu.

11 am Arabic Conversation Table; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”, Humanities Building. Ms. Dima Ziden, dr00zid@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

12:10 pm Meditation; UAB Resource Center Classroom. Students also can gain awareness of college and career opportunities in the field of music technology. The academy takes place in the Department of Music’s music technology lab and recording studio, 950 19th St. S. For more details on the academy or for an application, go to www.music.uab.edu and click on the music technology academy banner. Free.

Wednesday, Oct. 29, Nov. 5
10 am English Conversation Classes levels 1 – IV, offered free to those interested in enhancing their English conversational skills. Smolton International House. 4-105 or cantab@uab.edu.

12:10 pm Meditation; UAB Resource Center Classroom. Smolton International House.

12:10 pm Meditation; UAB Resource Center Classroom. Call 4-2281; www.uab.edu/aps for more info.

2 pm Spanish Conversation Table; Intermediate/Advanced; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”, Humanities Building. Canton centenio@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

3 pm Spanish Conversation Table; Level: Beginner; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”. foreignlangs@uab.edu.

7 pm Conversational English Classes levels 1 – IV, offered free to those interested in enhancing their English conversational skills. Smolton International House. 4-105 or cantab@uab.edu.

Thursday, Oct. 3, Nov. 6
10:12 pm Tai Chi meets; UAB Resource Center Classroom, Suite 330, 4-2281; www.uab.edu/aps for more info. No Tai Chi meets on Thanksgiving.

1 pm Arabic Conversation Table; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”, Humanities Building. Ms. Dima Ziden, dr00zid@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

2 pm Medical Spanish Conversation Table; Level Intermediate/Advanced; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”, Humanities Building. Centro centro@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

6:30 pm “La Tertulia” (Spanish Conversation Table); Levet Intermediate/Advanced. Starbucks Coffee Shop, 11th Ave at 5 Points South. Contact Centro centro@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

3:45 pm Stammclasse conversation table; for anyone who speaks German; Lucy’s Coffee Shop. For info, foreigners@uab.edu.

Friday, Oct. 31, Nov. 7
11:30 am Arabic Conversation Table; Blazer Hall, Ms. Dima Ziden, dr00zid@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Noon Reunion Spanish Conversation Table; Leviet Intermediate/Advanced; 4th floor TV Lounge, HVC; Amador Jimenez-Garrido amador@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Noon Japanese Language Conversation; Conversos on the Green. Mak Cook makcook09@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

12:30 pm Russian Conversation Table; HB - 3rd fl “The Hub”, Humanities Building. Marina Lyseenko marina.lysenko@uab.edu or foreignlangs@uab.edu.

Exhibits
Meryn H. Sterne Library. Censuries in schools and libraries: An exhibit by the Long Island Coalition against Censorship on program exhibits such as “The 30 Illustrations with accompanying text on the history of censorship in the United States among the past 150 years. Library hours: 7:30 am-11 pm Mon-Thurs; 7:30 am-7 pm Fri; 9 am-5 Sat; 11-1 pm Sun.

The Samuel Ultman Museum. Home of prominent Birmingham civic leader and poet. Open by appointment only. 4-2281.

Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences. Helen Keller Art Show of Alabama. An Annual art show for students who are and have been impaired with the disease. Sponsored by UAB Vision Science Research Center Educational and Outreach Modules.

Visual Arts Gallery. Ross T. Smith; Hertl Tuwharangi Paraha and Statutes of the Cross. The UAB Visual Arts Gallery presents two distinct series of works by New Zealand Maori photographer Ross T. Smith. The first is a series of images of a single subject, Maori man named Tuwharangi Paraha. The second is an interpretation of the Statutes of the Cross, drawn abstractly from a number of images of New Zealand and presented as a work that is more than 27 feet long. 900 19th St. S. Admission is free. 4-0815.

WBHM-FM, 90.3
90.3 WBHM-Birmingham and 91.5 WSGN-Gadsden broadcast NPR News and programming as well as classical music, 24 hours a day. NPR News programs offer a thorough, in-depth approach to the news of the day on programs such as “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered”. Thoughtful, intelligent talk and discussion can also be heard worldwide on programs such as “The 1400 Hours”, “Fresh Air” and “Talk of The Nation.” “Tapestry” is WBHM’s signature program, exploring the world of art and ideas in the world of Birmingham area arts and culture. Weekend highlights include popular programs such as “Family Talk”, “A Prairie Home Companion.” For a complete program line-up, go to: www.wbhm.org.

Special events
Tuesday, Oct. 28
11 am-1:30 pm Spanish Rehabilitation Center. Annual silent auction benefiting the Patient Assistance Fund. Money raised for the auction will be utilized for aid patients who don’t have insurance or the financial ability to purchase items such as walkers and wheel chairs. You do not need to present to win. If you would like to donate items for the auction or make a monetary donation to the Patient Assistance Fund, contact Libby Blames at 934-4940 or elliblames@uabmc.com. West Pavilion Atrium.

7 pm Aly斯 Stephens Center. Garrison Keillor. Back by enthusiasm demand, Lake Wobegon’s most popular ambassador weaves a tapestry of his own stories with stories made famous on National Public Radio’s A Prairie Home Companion. Tickets are $35, $40, $45 and $50; students $27. Call 975-2787 or visit www.Aly斯Stephens.org for more info.

Thursday, Oct. 30
7 pm UAB Comprehensive Diabetes Center. Solo pianist Emile Pandolfi will bring his lush, intricate arrangements of popular music to the thrills of jazz with the feminine grace of acrobatics and dance. Enjoy Chinese cookies and treats at the Blazer house; UAB’s mascot, Blaze, will be on hand for the matinee pre-show reception. Tickets are $65, $45 and $25; children ages 13 years and under $15. Students $20. Call 975-2787 or visit www.Aly斯Stephens.org for more information.

Friday, Nov. 7
7:30 pm Music; UAB Computer Music Ensemble. New works of electro-acoustic music and multimedia by UAB student composers. Conducted by Scott Phillips. On the program is the new composition “Grassroots 2008: An Interactive Musical Town Hall!” Each audience member will be given a “clicker” and will respond to questions taken from newsletter readers. The results will be tallied instantly by computer. The musical performance will evolve in correlation to the audience’s responses. Submission. Hulsek Recital Hall. For more info, call 4-7376.

Saturday, Nov. 8
9 am–5 pm Music; One-Day UAB Music Technology Academy. This is an intensive, full-day workshop, featuring hands-on instructional sessions on topics, including producing, engineering and recording, music notation, laparoscopic skills, and information on purchasing a home. For more details, call 975-9652. Hulsek Recital Hall.

Sunday, Nov. 9
4 pm Music; UAB African-American Studies. First-time buyers seminar. The event is for anyone seeking to purchase a home for the first time. Presenter panel will include local realtor and broker. Includes tips on choosing a lender and火箭will provide helpful tips and information on purchasing a home. For more details, call 975-9652.

UAB Sports
Oct. 30: Women’s soccer vs. Memphis, West Campus Field, 7 pm
Oct. 31: Women’s Volleyball vs East Carolina, Barton Arena, 7 pm
Nov. 2: Women’s Volleyball vs Marshall, Barton Arena, 1 pm
Nov. 7: Men’s soccer vs. Marshall, West Campus Field, 7 pm

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Anderson honored by AAMC

Peter G. Anderson, Ph.D, professor of pathology at UAB, has received the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award, from the American Association of Medical Colleges. The AOA award provides national recognition to faculty members who have distinguished themselves in medical student education. Anderson is the creator of the Pathology Education Instructional Resource (PEIR), an online repository of more than 40,000 medical images. PEIR has become a popular resource for teaching the “image-rich” discipline of pathology and now is used by most medical schools, as well as users in 150 countries.

Anderson is a proponent of electronic teaching methods and distance learning. He is the creator of a Web site geared to fostering pathology education called GRIPE (Group for Research in Pathology Education). In the same vein as PEIR, GRIPE is an image database offering peer-reviewed testing materials for instructors. Anderson directs undergraduate pathology education at UAB and is the coordinator of the pre-clerkship phase of the School of Medicine’s new curriculum. He also is a founding member of the International Association of Medical Science Educators.

A caring Jean Thrift is the ‘Voice of Employment’

One word comes to mind when Mike Mathews thinks of Jean Thrift—integrity.

“Jean is a person of the highest integrity,” Mathews says of the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award winner. Loyd, dependable, diligent, compassionate and caring are other words co-workers use to describe Thrift, who is October’s Employee of the Month. Mathews, manager of HR Employment, says those traits translate well into Thrift’s job responsibilities.

He points to her excellent understanding of the processes and procedures of the Employment Office, and that she readily shares any information she has with her internal and external customers as examples. But it’s her congenial nature that leaves a strong impression on those with whom she interacts.

“I think of all of Jean’s excellent qualities, the one that I appreciate the most is the impression she leaves with customers, both internal and external, who call her desk,” Mathews says. “I have had countless customers tell me through the years how nice or helpful she was to them. I have had many customers who come to my office ask if they can meet Jean because she was so kind to them.

“I would like to think of her as the ‘Voice of Employment.’”

Thrift takes the compliments in stride. She says she enjoys her job because of the friendliness of her co-workers and the help they are able to provide those interested in finding employment at UAB.

“I work with a great group of people,” Thrift says. “They are my work family, and they mean a lot to me. It means the world to me to work with a group of people who have befriended me and encouraged me and been a pleasure to work with.”

Thrift supports Mathews and other staffing specialists by processing paper work, ordering background checks, sending out offer letters for new hires and setting up appointments for hiring.

Co-workers admire Thrift’s calmness and her willingness to help.

“Jean is eager to help anyone without being asked,” says Shanne George, Human Resources consultant. “She never says ‘I don’t know’ without adding ‘I will find out.’ She juggles multiple priorities and multiple people’s priorities and makes it look easy.”

Thrift says she enjoys having the opportunity to interact with so many people every day. She says some of her toughest and most rewarding days come when she is helping displaced people.

“When they call they sometimes are emotional,” she says. “They really need someone to help them. It’s nice to know you can have some part in helping them possibly get a job.”

Earlie Moore, clerical supervisor in HR Employment, says Thrift has a positive outlook on life that resonates with everyone she comes in contact with.

“I have talked with Jean on many occasions and oftentimes I tell her that I didn’t realize I was feeling down until after I talked with her and felt so much better,” Moore says.

“She is very positive when it comes to life situations. She tells me everything happens for a reason and that things will always work out. She is caring, helpful, friendly and very understanding. I consider her a friend and my life is better as a result of working with and knowing her.”

Retired Coordinator of Communications Katherine F. Howard (President’s Office), died on Oct. 8.

Environmental Services Specialist-Campus Richella Stewart (Building Services), Oct. 6.

Unit Secretary Mary Hamilton (Women’s & Infants Services), Sept. 29.

Retired Building Services Specialist-Campus Daphne Hendrix (Building Services), Sept. 29.

Retired Cardiac Monitor Technician Mary G. Hulsey (Monitoring Department), Sept. 17.

Retired Utilization Management Coordinator II Florence Louise Lee (Utilization Management), Sept. 8.

Retired Office Services Specialist III Marilyn Brown (Emergency Services Trauma/Burns), Aug. 30.

Obituaries

A caring Jean Thrift is the ‘Voice of Employment’
Healthy African-American, Causalnic, and Hispanic children age 7-12 needed for diabetes research study. Receive blood pressure checks, physical exams, laboratory tests, ABPM and ECG at no cost. Compensation. 4-2531. Male or female children 10-16 years of age who are overweight (BMI 1.5-2.0 hrs.). You will be compensated $15 for the participation in the clinical trial to understand health heart/brain function. You may be eligible to participate in a research study. Compensation. Rakesha 4-9189. Do you have blood pressure? Are you age 18-75? You may qualify to participate in a study comparing the effects of two types of blood pressure medication. Participants will receive study-related exams and study medication at no cost. Compensation. 4-2531. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042. Male or female adults 18-75 years of age who are overweight and have high blood pressure may be eligible to participate in a study being conducted by the UAB Div. of Endocrinology to determine the relationship between neurologic and cardiovascular disease. You may be eligible to participate. Receive a lung function test at no cost. Compensation. Storey 4-3042.
Apparatuses & Electronics

Porthol: $10 or ask XTL: ex cond, leather, 24,000 mi, $1,307–8,872.

Ford F-150 Lariat, 4x4 crew cab, $1,090,000, 3rd-gen, leather interior, asking $16,000.

Macromedia webmaker, ex cond, 4,100 mi, $990–2,059.

Sony D6, a lot of 4,900 mi, ex cond, $990–2,059.

Protex Grand Prize GT2, silver, 88,000 mi, P/P, sunroof, 5-disc CD changer, $6,900–14,480.

Acura RDX, ex cond, 4,290 mi, $10,000–20,412.

Ford Explorer XLS, white, 4,280 mi, 4x4, XLT, P/P, sunroof, 141,000 mi, 2006, $10,000–26,970.

Honda Passport EX, green, less sunroof, 146,000 mi, ex cond, $9,400–19,092.

Acrostar 212, orange, ex cond, $7,000–15,297.

Chevy Impala, 2–3 great shape, great motor, $5,000–10,000.

Super Beetle, blue/vanilla/heat leather, needs some TLC, $740–1,899.

1981 Buick, 4-dr, white/tan, all power, P/P, PA, SB, brown leather, $2,000–4,000.

Antique dining room suite, trunk, wardrobe, bedside suite, living room suite. Make offer. $250–1,100.

Miscellaneous

Westcliff, $150, Graeco playpen, 60-lbs. dog-walker, Heat gun, $35,  0-300.  5-340.

Buckeye 2000, silver, atv, hand-rake, PA, PB, air on all tires, ex cond, $1,200–2,000.

Loseow throne/throw pillows, beige, blue, & tan, 6 sizes, very good cond. $15, 970-790-9416.

Lea’s girl furniture, white water proof pant, twin bed with 6” memory foam, $450, PA, PB, $200, asking $150, 967-0751.

Computer table & desk chair, black computer table and desk chair on wheels, $45, 967-1179.

Beautiful rectangular glass/dining table w/ marble accents & 6 chairs, paid $200, asking $650, 516-7380.

Living room suite and leather recliner, 400, ex cond, 493-112/160-9117.

Sports & Fitness

17th century candelabrum silver, $15,000, garage kept, 90-lbs. motor, low miles—fresh water use only, extra polo holds, custom interior lights. $1,000, 561-910-9120.

Cane: Mohawk “A14”, little used, top quality custom made, 2 paddles, 2 vests, $400, 345-4349-9356.

YMCA Brunswick 350 ATV, auto, 2-wind, ex cond, $3,000, PA, PB, $200, asking $150, 967-0751.


1999 Ducati 916 with 1,000 mi, 1 center stand, tidy-ready, $12,000. 970 Yamaha Shovel con- vertible, $160,000, 1,000 mi, needs a few things. $1,000, 967-0751.

3 Classic Harley Davidson XL1000, black trimmed, loaded, on 30,000 mi, must see, $420, 860-304/92-5932.

For Rent

Bellevue Heights—$950 or less possible option to rent or 2 BR, 1 bath, new and updated, $995–1,010.

Birmingham/Estates—beautiful brick garden home in Homosassa/Estates to UAB and groceries, 2-car garage, 2 large family rooms, wood floors, large yard, convenient to UAB from 790-791.

Crestline/Holloway Gardens—4 BR/2 BA home on wooded lot, partially furnished, 2 large family rooms, wood floors, large yard, from $790-791.

Forestville—2 BR/1 BA, large, full w/2 BRs, $990–1,010.

Foresthill—3 BR/2 BA, garage, 2 BRs, $990–1,010.

Forest Park—2 BR at Brookmont Apartments to UAB and groceries, $995, 2 large family rooms, wood floors, large yard, from $790-791.

Gulf Shores—2 BR/2 BA, beautiful unit, near private beach, huge balcony/balcony, indoor/outdoor pool, underground parking, make offer, 773-4441.

Gulf Shores Plantation Resort—great location, 2 large family rooms, ex cond, $900–1,010.

Gulf Shores Plantation Resort—4 BR/3 BA, $990–1,000, and a 2 BR, 2 BA, $325,000, 1,000, 9 TR, 5-300.  0-300.  5-340.

Huntsville—all 6500 sf homes, big kitchen, 4 BR, 4 1/2 BA, HW floors, new kitchens, new appliances, system, area and rec room, separate 2400 sf workshop, covered front porch, 3-car garage, with new millwork, $1,300–1,500.

Huntsville—2 BR/1 BA, unfurnished, $850–1,000, VHS, new car stereo, living room suite, exc cond, $1190–1,500.

Jacksonville—3 BR/2 BA, wood floor living room, tile BA & kitchen; water/garbage inc, 800sf, $545.

Kentucky—2 great views from 2 different cabins. www.mentoneestates.com, $900/mo. References required. 216-481-7062.

Ridgeland—3 great views from 2 different cabins. www.mentoneestates.com, $900/mo. References required. 216-481-7062.

Rollan—one BR, 1 bath, card Deuce, fireplace, new appliances, new carpet, ceiling fans/lighting & carpet are 1 yr old, 6984/444-9023.

Sarasota Beach—sleeps 12–14, weekly or rentals Sept–Nov, $70–90/mo depending on availability. 904-912-7474.

Beaufort Beachfront—$150 or $100/night. Call and let us evaluate your condition and offer the best price! Contact us now. www.forsalebyowner.com. 904-912-7474.

USNORTH Services—provide services to adults and children. We are accepting new patients. Call Barbara Sandman, 443-4643.

UAB Family Practice Center often comprehen- sive health care services for your entire family — from pediatrics to geriatrics. Located at 930 S. 21st St, free parking. On-site pharmacy; handicap accessible. To schedule an appointment with a physician, please contact Dr. T. Michael Harrington or Dr. Robert E. Blessey, 901-253-8811.

The UAB Confucius Center covers all types of urinary and fecal incontinence as well as pelvic organ prolapse and pelvic floor disorders. Call us at 4-9700 or e-mail kynerd@uabmc.edu. We see all types of patients— from pediatrics to geriatrics. Located at 930 S. 21st St, free parking. On-site pharmacy; handicap accessible. To schedule an appointment with a physician, please contact Dr. T. Michael Harrington or Dr. Robert E. Blessey, 901-253-8811.

The UAB Personal Health Clinic specializes in confidential and expert care of STDs and vagi- nitis. Our comprehensive medical services—Call for appt. 6-2785.

UAB Obstetric Department provides ser- vices to adults and children. We are accepting new patients. Call us now. 443-4643.

UAB Family Practice Center often comprehen- sive health care services for your entire family — from pediatrics to geriatrics. Located at 930 S. 21st St, free parking. On-site pharmacy; handicap accessible. To schedule an appointment with a physician, please contact Dr. T. Michael Harrington or Dr. Robert E. Blessey, 901-253-8811.
VOTE YES

ON “RAINY DAY” AMENDMENT 1—
WILL SUPPORT EDUCATION, WILL NOT RAISE YOUR TAXES

You have a chance to make an investment in the future of education in Alabama when you go to the polls Tuesday, November 4, by voting YES on “Rainy Day” Amendment 1.

Six years ago, state leaders created a savings account from a small percentage of earned oil and gas royalties. Voters approved that measure at the polls. Funds were set aside beginning in 2002 to help cover a future shortfall of up to $248 million in the Education Trust Fund, including a mechanism requiring the money would be paid back into the rainy day account for use again when needed. Money was borrowed from the fund in 2003 and repaid.

The referendum on the upcoming November 4 ballot simply updates that amount to $437 million. The only statewide Constitutional referendum on the ballot, it is an important option that will allow the state of Alabama to sustain some momentum, and minimize the negative impact on our educational institutions and keep them moving forward.

The Rainy Day Amendment will lessen the impact of proration at the most critical time in the modern history of Alabama. As you prepare to vote on November 4, please consider these four important facts:

• This amendment will effectively manage proration of the education budget – K-12-Ph.D.
• It will create a mechanism for the General Fund so that cuts to Medicaid and health and human services will be minimized during this current year.
• It will not raise your taxes.
• This is not a Wall Street-style bailout. Money transferred to prevent proration must be paid back in full within six years.

Your “yes” vote on November 4 makes good sense both short- and long-term. The referendum will allow the public schools to borrow money from the Alabama Trust Fund, a $3.2 billion savings pool derived from the sales of drilling rights and leases. These dollars have been set aside for a time like this, and the Constitutional referendum is required to open that vitally needed credit line.

For more information, contact Porter Banister at 205/934-5193 or pbanister@uasystem.ua.edu.