Six faculty named Exceptional Innovation Award winners

UAB has named the first winners of its new Exceptional Innovation Awards.

The novel, ongoing faculty awards program was introduced earlier this year to recognize recipients for the impact they are having or will have on an academic field or quality of life. Named as inaugural award recipients by the Office for Research and Economic Development were: Rebecca Bach, Ph.D., Department of English; Michael Miller, Ph.D., Department of Cell Biology; Sarah Parcak, Ph.D., Anthropology; Casey Weaver, M.D., Pathology; Bradley Yoder, Ph.D., Department of Cell Biology; and Louis Dale, Ph.D., vice president for Equity and Diversity.

The honored faculty each say that recognizing the efforts of faculty who want to take chances and push their respective fields forward is an important way to encourage innovation.

“All of these honorees have contributed superlative projects, ideas or accomplishments to their academic field or our quality of life,” says Richard Marchase, vice president for Research and Economic Development. “We are so fortunate at UAB to work among many great thinkers and innovators. These faculty all have broken new ground with creativity, which is what we sought to honor with these awards.”

Nominations were initiated by department chairs or fellow faculty and subjected to a screening process culminating with a review by a distinguished panel of university and community leaders. That group made the final recommendations to UAB President Carol Garrison.

“Excelsior!” says Dale Dickinson, assistant professor of public health, is teaching both courses.

Dickinson says demand by undergraduates to learn more about how everyday environmental exposures affect human health and cause disease led to the creation of the courses.

“As a campus, training in health-related professions is one of our strengths,” Dickinson says. “We know there are a great many science undergraduates who come here looking to go to medical school or a health-related profession. Understanding how the environment contributes to human health is essential regardless of the career a student pursues. These new courses are a great way to educate the undergraduate student body about the ways in which the environment interacts with us to affect our health.”

In ENH 400, Dickinson’s students explore the physical, chemical and biological aspects of the environment and examine where the agents we are exposed to originate, how we are exposed to them, how they affect us, and the regulations to reduce exposures; examples include both natural and man-made sources and will include fields forward is an important way to encourage innovation.

“This is fundamental to advancing our respective research fields,” Yoder says. “The fact six faculty were selected really demonstrates that UAB has faculty who are doing some cutting-edge, really amazing work — and this award is an important recognition of their efforts to make UAB a top-notch educational and research university.”

Rebecca Bach

Bach has demonstrated exceptional innovation in her research on 16th- and 17th-century English literature. She has attained national and international recognition in her field and is a highly productive and admired scholar.

Physical work makes us tired at the end of the day, but what about problem-solving? UAB Researcher Gary Hunter wants to investigate if problem-solving leads to decreased brain glycogen, which leads to feelings of hunger, fatigue and tiredness.

New course aims to hit researchers’ creative juices

Gary Hunter, Ph.D., had an idea for a research project two years ago, but he was hesitant to follow through with it. Hunter, a professor of Human Studies, has had continual funding from the NIH for almost 20 years. Most of his work has focused on identifying the metabolic factors that predispose individuals to weight gain. But his new idea took him in a new...
B-ALERT deliveries now streamlined

To ensure rapid delivery of emergency notifications, UAB has reduced the number of on-campus phones that receive automated calls from the B-ALERT system only to numbers that are entered manually by UAB students, faculty or staff and departmental numbers known to be answered by a person. Previously, the automated system called every listed number on campus; this resulted in many calls going to voice mail.

If you want your individual campus phone to be called, log on to www.uab.edu/balert and enter it in the Automated Voice Call Messaging section.

Fifth annual Suits for Success Nov. 7-11

Clear out your closet and help someone in need by donating your gently used items to Suits 4 Success. The annual clothing drive, organized by the UAB Commission on the Status of Women, collects items for disadvantaged women who are trying to enter or return to the work force.

Donations will be accepted from 7 to 10 a.m. Nov. 7-11 at the Whitaker Building and delivered to My Sister’s Closet, an outreach program of the YWCA of Central Alabama.

“The Suits 4 Success drive provides gently used business suits and separates to women who are entering or reentering the job market and need assistance to build a professional wardrobe,” said Wendy Gunther-Canada, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Government and of the UAB Commission on the Status of Women.

In addition to the drop-off location at the Whitaker building, drop boxes will be set up in Heritage and Campbell halls, Business and Engineering Complex, Humanities and Webb buildings, Hill University Center and the schools of Nursing, Public Health, Education and Health Professions.

Items needed include suits, jackets, skirts, casual pants, shirts, shoes, handbags and accessories that are gently worn and reasonably new. Items should be clean, pressed and on hangers.

WBHM says thanks

WBHM’s Fall 2011 Fund Drive reached a very successful conclusion in October, with more than $200,000 raised — about half of the public radio station’s programming costs. The dollars contributed will go to support programming important to North Central Alabama — the news, “Morning Edition,” “All Things Considered,” “Car Talk,” “Fresh Air with Terti Gross” and more.

If you didn’t get a chance to pledge during the drive, you can still become a member, renew your support or make an additional gift; visit WBHM.org. WBHM is a listener-supported service of UAB.

New incentive added for Blazer Fun Run

Blazer Fun runners from designated entities across campus with the highest participation will earn free, comprehensive HIV/STD testing is being offered and incentives will be given to each person tested.

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Know Your Status event offers free HIV screenings Nov. 9

In an effort to reduce transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases, a Know Your Status event will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9 in the Hill University Center Great Hall.

Free, comprehensive HIV/STD testing is being offered and incentives will be given to each person tested.

UAB Opera to present “Amahl and the Night Visitors” Nov. 11-12

UAB Opera will present “Amahl and the Night Visitors,” at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11-12 in the UAB Mary Culp Hixey Recital Hall. Tickets are $5; call 975-7287 or visit www.uab.edu/theatre.

UAB to present “Postcards to J. Bird” Nov. 9-20

Theatre UAB will present alumnus Stephen Webb’s award-winning play, “Postcards to J. Bird,” Nov. 9-20, which won a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival student playwriting award. Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 9-12 and Nov. 16-19 with a 2 p.m. matinee Nov. 20 in UAB’s Alys Stephens Center Odeas Theatre.

General admission tickets are $12; students $6. UAB employees and senior citizens $10. Call 975-2787 or visit www.uab.edu/theatre.

UAB participated in National Disability Mentoring Day Wednesday, Oct. 19. The university’s RAVE (Retaining A Valued Employee) Program and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) coordinated a student group visit to UAB Hospital’s Food and Nutrition Services and Environmental Services departments. The students had the opportunity to tour the departments, meet employees on the job and learn first-hand about jobs and related opportunities within those career fields.

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Anthropology’s Sarah Parcak named a 2012 TED fellow

Sarah Parcak, Ph.D., associate professor of Anthropology, has been named a 2012 TED fellow. She is among a group of 25 innovators chosen from around the world to join the elite TED Fellows community and, at its 2012 conference, give the “talk of their lives” in only a few minutes.

Parcak uses satellite imagery to uncover archaeological sites. She recently made international headlines when she discovered lost pyramids, tombs and an entire city that had been hidden for thousands of years underneath the deserts and fields of Egypt.

“It is an amazing honor to be chosen as a 2012 TED Fellow,” says Parcak, whose discoveries were the focus of documentaries on the BBC and Discovery Channel this year. “I am so excited about the global visionaries I will have the opportunity to learn from in the next year.”

Founded in 2009, the TED Fellows program hand-picks world-changing innovators from around the globe and brings them to the TED stage — literally and figuratively — to raise international awareness of their remarkable work. The annual TED conferences, in Long Beach/Palm Springs and Edinburgh, bring together the world’s most fascinating thinkers and doers to give a TED Talk.

“We are tremendously proud to announce this year’s class of TED Fellows, which includes 25 amazing cross-disciplinary innovators from around the world,” said Tom Rutley, the director of the TED Fellows program. “The generous and collaborative spirit of the TED Fellows and the global nature of much of their work allow them to find surprising and ingenious solutions to many of the world’s biggest problems. From struggling to fight disease, to engineering a sustainable future or saving our environment, to expanding human potential, this group of Fellows promises to make an impact for generations to come.”

This year’s fellows hail from 11 countries including Ireland, Lebanon, Korea, Kenya and Uganda. Among them is Kyristen Sinema, an Arizona state senator, human rights activist and LGBT political leader; Jean-Baptiste Michel, a cultural scientist, French Mauritian mathematician, biologist and co-founder of Culturomics, which uses millions of books and terabytes of historical data to quantify the evolution of human culture; and Greg Gage, a DIY neuroscientist and co-founder of Backyard Brains, an organization teaching secondary school kids neuroscience. The full list of the 2012 TED Fellows is online at www.ted.com/fellows.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Continued from page 1

case studies from food and water pollution, indoor and outdoor air pollution, pest and pesticides, and the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

“We’re looking at major factors that are found around us every day, regardless of where we work, live or play,” Dickinson says. “We teach the students to look at how these environmental exposures specifically impact human health. Learning what these factors are is important to students down the road regardless of their chosen profession. And even as consumers — whether they are food consumers or information consumers — being able to critically evaluate a news article on these topics and understand it on a deeper different level is important as members of society.”

In ENH 405, Dickinson will guide students through the interactions of environment with genetics. Students will investigate why some people are more susceptible to dangerous or damaging environmental exposure as it relates to their individual genetic make-up.

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The class will look at environmental exposures, including nanoparticle exposure, smog, drugs and alcohol, pesticide use, noise pollution, indoor air pollution, contaminants found in plastics, vaccines and sexually transmitted infections. It also will examine positive environmental exposures, including nutrients or functional foods like soy, green tea and garlic.

Disease models studies will include autism and Asperger’s Syndrome, schizophrenia, depression, violence, addictions, obesity, intelligence, sexual preference and cancer.

We’re very excited about the fifth-year master’s program,” Dickinson says. “Our students will learn everything that a student coming here and studying for two years in grad school would, but they would only have to spend one extra year in full time studies. We’re hoping a lot of undergraduates will take a real look at this. If they want to go to medical school and they get in, then they don’t have to finish the master’s, but they’ve got a good background in public health. Or, if they want to go to a professional school and they don’t get in, they can finish this in a year and have a master’s degree in a public health discipline.

“We’re really hoping a lot of students once they start it will fall in love with it and want to do public health practice.”

For more information on the new courses, the public health minor, the fifth-year master’s and the joint M.D./M.P.H. programs, visit www.soph.uab.edu.

Nov. 7, 2011 UAB Reporter 3
Two decades ago, Civitan International and UAB forged a partnership that revolutionized the standard of care for millions of children worldwide.

Since that time, the Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) has developed innovative programs for developmental cognitive disabilities including cerebral palsy, Fragile X, Down syndrome, autism and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder — programs that formed the basis for the national Head Start program. It also has conducted groundbreaking clinical research on Rett syndrome, Ataxia, epilepsy and brain tumors.

“We’re incredibly proud of the breakthroughs at the CIRC,” said Bill Buscher, president of Civitan International, during CIRC’s annual reception in October. “Helping people with developmental disabilities is a cause close to the heart of every Civitan. We look forward to many more years and to building a better tomorrow for children everywhere.”

Harold Sontheimer, Ph.D., director of the CIRC, credits the faculty and staff for investigating unique, ground-breaking ways to improve the quality of life for families around the world.

“We have 83 principal investigators, and they’re all amazingly successful,” Sontheimer says. “For each of them, there is at least a small breakthrough they can report. We have been a key player in identifying a need for early intervention, formulated the concept for its implementation and advocated in Washington for Head Start. And our work really has just begun.”

Down syndrome and cerebral palsy were the diseases of greatest concern when Civitan International made its initial commitment of $1 million a year for 20 years to the CIRC.

Craig and Sharon Ramey, the first directors of the CIRC, focused on cognitive development and helping impoverished children at risk in rural communities reach their learning potential. The Ramey’s work became the foundation of Head Start, and CIRC continues to identify children who are at risk and provide them with educators and social workers who can assess learning abilities and provide help.

Other developmental disabilities have become problematic during the past 20 years, including autism and ADHD. Sontheimer says one of CIRC’s strengths is its ability to adapt to the changing landscape and investigate new disorders as they emerge.

“We didn’t want to limit ourselves in these areas, so our objective always has been to find the best talent we can, bring them in and let them do what they want to do,” Sontheimer says. “They discover wonderful things. One of the reasons we revealed estrogen’s effect on spinal-cord injury was an interest in acute insults. How are kids who are born normal affected when they have accidents? We didn’t do anything beyond that. We just identified a talent, Candace Floyd, Ph.D., and she developed the research.”

CIRC researchers also work closely with the Civitan Sparks Clinic to develop therapies along the autism spectrum and for ADHD and cerebral palsy, among others.

One area of cerebral palsy research has focused on children born hemiplegic, where half of their body doesn’t function well. It typically affects the arm or leg, and many children have difficulty writing, playing with toys and getting dressed.

Stephanie Deluca, Ph.D., and her colleagues developed a protocol for Pediatric Constraint Induced Therapy, known as ACQUIRE, which is used at UAB and hospitals and rehab centers throughout the world. As part of the intense therapy, a child’s fully functional arm or leg is constrained for up to eight hours per day for weeks, which forces them to use their hemiplegic extremity.

“The results in these kids have been miraculous during the course of two to three months,” Sontheimer says. “The handbook for how to implement ACQUIRE therapy literally was written here. It teaches clinicians around the world how to implement this program in their clinic and help children who are born with cerebral palsy regain the function they didn’t have at birth.”

“Combining our translational and clinical enterprise with the Civitan Sparks Clinic has resulted in many discoveries being made that translate into changes in clinical practice. And the clinical problems we find challenge our scientists to do better research to find causes for disabilities.”

Sontheimer believes the CIRC has laid a solid foundation for the years to come. Other areas of research are coming to the center or have recently started, including epigenetic influences into neurological diseases and genetics.

The sequencing of the human genome — “an event akin to landing on the moon for science,” Sontheimer says — means CIRC researchers now have a great opportunity to mine for genes that are actually causal of medical conditions.

“We’re beginning to do genomic analysis to look at diseases such as autism and metabolic disorders to see the extent to which there actually are changes in gene expression and genetic predictors of disease,” Sontheimer says. “We’re hoping to incorporate genetic analysis much more into our understanding of developmental disabilities in the next decade.”

Emphasis also will be placed in using the IMRI to learn more about developmental disabilities. The groundbreaking FaceSay program — a computer program developed by CIRC researchers Fred Blasini, Ph.D., research associate professor of psychology, and Maria Hopkins, Ph.D., assistant professor on psychology, to help autistic children identify emotions — will be further explored using the IMRI.

Researchers will study brain activity of the children before, during and after they are engaged in the game to see if their brains are being re-wired.

“That’s where the research, clinical and interventional ends really meet together,” Sontheimer says. “You can’t do this in isolation. You really need a center like this that has everything from clinical psychology to imaging to molecular biology all in one.

“And if the kids that use this program show permanent changes in their brain activity, that’s potentially transformational. We’re to the point in our research where we certainly want to use the IMRI much more as an evaluative measure for cognitive development disorders.”

Five scientists receive grants from Civitan International

Five UAB scientists received grants to support research programs into developmental disabilities at the annual Civitan International and CIRC reception in October.

Rita Cowell, Ph.D., an assistant professor of psychiatry, was recognized for her excellence in research with the $50,000 McNulty Civitan Scientist Award, given to the most promising young faculty working on developmental disabilities. Her work on proteins involved in the development of interneurons in the brain hold promises to alter developmental disabilities in the future.

Aimee Franklin, a graduate assistant in Physiology and Biophysics, will research the molecular and electrical signaling components of Fragile X syndrome.

Lauren Libero, a graduate assistant in Psychology, will study the groundbreaking computer program FaceSay. This therapeutic program developed at the Civitan-Sparks Clinics has been shown to improve the social and communication deficits associated with autism.

Stefanie Rohel, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in Neurobiology, will study reactive astroglia, a process that occurs during epilepsy, its affect on the brain development in people with epilepsy.

Visit www.circ.uab.edu for information on the CIRC, or visit www.civitan.org for information on Civitan International.

Herald Sontheimer, director of the Civilian International Research Center, credits the faculty and staff for investigating unique, ground-breaking ways to improve the quality of life for families around the world for the past 20 years. “And our work has just begun,” he says.
Corey Shum was talking with brain surgeons and crockett scientists within a week of beginning his UAB career in 2002, and he couldn’t have been more excited.

The investigators and physicians wanted to see their research data in high-tech ways — to help them with their own work and help others see what they were doing and ways they could collaborate.

“It was exciting,” Shum says. “They didn’t want to stay in their own spaces. And the opportunity to reach out and help people understand each other’s problems and how they can help can be a great joy.”

Co-workers have been impressed in Shum’s ability to help them solve problems and the attitude he displays in his role at programmer/analyst in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. His work in the Enabling Technology Laboratory (ETLab) has been crucial to many successes, they say. Through it all, Shum has displayed high ethical standards in a professional, responsible and diligent manner — all qualities that have earned him selection as October’s Employee of the Month.

The ETLab employs three faculty members and nine full-time programmer/staff members immersed in research funded by major agencies, including the Department of Defense, NASA, Department of Energy, National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation. Shum is one of the programmers. His primary responsibility is to develop software for projects that need computer graphics — virtual- and augmented-reality technologies, high-performance computing and biomedical simulations, for example.

His work has contributed to several groundbreaking discoveries, including the Virtual Interactive Presence, ETLab Virtual Reality Facility, High-Performance Computing Facility, Virtual Patient System, Case Management Project and NFI Laser3D.

“Corey’s contributions to these research projects are so significant and instrumental that I strongly believe that without his knowledge and diligence, many major research projects would have fallen short of what we have achieved today,” says Alan Sih, research professor and director of the ETLab. “Corey worked with me to initiate many new ideas and technologies. Many of them continue to be funded by federal agencies and — because of their significance in technology — have international patents pending or have been licensed to commercial entities by the UAB Research Foundation.”

The VIP is a prime example of that. The goal of the project — a collaboration between the Department of Surgery and the ETLab — was to develop a remote-assistance technology for surgical procedure.

Shum worked diligently with the team to integrate hardware and develop software to design a system for a successful neurosurgery trial that attracted the attention of NASA National Lab Office, which investigated the growth of neurofibromas, a common skin tumor seen in patients with a genetic disorder known as NF1. Theo says Shum was instrumental in the design and execution of her study.

“I believe this study would not have been completed without Corey’s involvement,” Theo says. “Corey operated the scanner during all patient visits, was able to analyze the data and fix the many technical problems we ran into during the course of the study.”

Shum also has contributed to many education and outreach endeavors, including the Leonardo Certificate Program, Summer Institutes, Governor School, Open House and High-Performance-Computing Boot Camp. That doesn’t include the support he has provided to UAB students, Christopher Lowther, assistant professor in the Department of Art & Art History and co-creator of the Leonardo multi-disciplinary program, says students in his time-based media courses have benefited greatly from Shum’s guidance.

“My 3D modeling students use the ETLab as a component of virtual reality, and Corey’s assistance has been invaluable,” Lowther says. “Without his assistance, there would be no virtual reality component to 3D modeling in art. He is very accommodating and is able to customize his approach so that students with less technical expertise are still able to learn and enjoy the process. My students love Corey, and they are attracted to his nurturing approach.”

Shum is said to be a group of co-workers around him dedicated to helping UAB faculty and staff achieve the most they can out of the work.

“We’re very passionate and dedicated; this isn’t something you can leave at the office,” Shum says. “There’s no way to distinguish between our lists of personal and work projects — they’re all the same thing. We’re just trying to do our best to enable collaboration between as many groups on campus as we can.”

Corey Shum, programmer/analyst in mechanical engineering, is October’s Employee of the Month. Shum’s work has contributed to several groundbreaking discoveries, including the Virtual Interactive Presence, ETLab Virtual Reality Facility, High-Performance Computing Facility, Virtual Patient System, Case Management Project and NFI Laser3D.
male/female love. Bach thereby demonstrates that Shakespeare's world did not regard marriage or even heterosexuality in the same way that later periods did; he has established an outstanding and innovative program geared to help mathematics teachers in the Birmingham Public Schools to improve their mathematics teaching skills. Since then, he has been awarded 35 additional grants that total $37,678,368 — all geared to help Birmingham and Alabama fulfill this critical need.

Dale also has had success with other proposals to help establish a new mathematics curriculum in the public school system, known as Alliances for Minority Participation (AMP). In addition to bringing together all major colleges and universities in Alabama as part of AMP, he has secured continuous AMP funding for 25 years to support under-represented minorities. Dale also began the Alabama Minority Graduate Education program (known as Alliances for Graduate Education and Professorate) and the Alabama Bridge to the Doctorate Program.

As a result of these and other programs, minority undergraduate student STEM-degree production at Alabama AMP institutions increased 198 percent from 1991 to 2010. Minority STEM doctoral degrees rose 240 percent during this period. Minority undergraduate enrollment at Alabama AMP institutions also increased 64.2 percent, and in a few years the AMP program will be graduating approximately 12 STEM doctoral students each year.

I am pleased to have been chosen for this award," Miller says. "The work for which this award is based was a team effort of numerous outstanding scientists at UAB. I would like to specifically acknowledge Jeroan Pravec, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Wes Edmonds, Ph.D., the lead author of a recent Developmental Cell paper and a former graduate student in my lab who now is the laboratory section chief in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. UAB is a fantastic place to work, and I am grateful for the opportunity to run my research program here."

Sarah Parcak

There are few examples of exceptional innovation in research more obvious in the transformation of a scientific field or more significant in their singularity than the work being carried out by Parcak. She is pioneering the use of satellite infrared imaging to transform archaeology and advance public health studies. As the founding director of the Laboratory for Global Observation, Parcak has developed the use of NASA satellite imagery to detect archaeological sites buried under sand, many of which were previously unknown. In doing so, Parcak has helped forge a new field of space-based archaeology, for which her peers internationally recognize her as a leader and innovator.

Parcak directs the Middle Egypt Survey Project and co-directs Remote Sensing and Coring of Uncharted Egyptian Sites (RESCUE) from her lab at UAB. She has been widely published in the leading journals of her field and has written Satellite Remote Sensing for Archaeology, the first methods book on the subject of satellite archaeology.

In her most recent and perhaps most significant discovery, Parcak worked with the Egyptian government to identify at least 17 new pyramids and thousands of other significant archaeological sites. This work was recently featured in a BBC broadcast shown in Europe and a Discovery Channel program in the United States. "So many people at UAB are doing innovative, cutting-edge research and teaching, and it is rare that institutions recognize their faculty in this way," Parcak says. "This is a tremendous step by UAB I was quite surprised and honored to be selected."

Casey Weaver

Weaver’s research on a new class of T cells, called Th17 cells, has revolutionized the research community’s understanding of immune-mediated diseases and offers great promise for development of new therapies for a broad range of autoimmune diseases and cancer.

Weaver, the Wyatt and Susan Haskell Professor of Medical Excellence in the Department of Pathology, has had his Th17 cell research reported in Nature Immunology, Nature, Immunity and the Journal of Experimental Medicine. These articles have generated tremendous excitement among immunologists and the medical community in general.

Bradley Yoder

Yoder has engaged in seminal research that has unequivocally reversed the long-held view that primary ciliogenesis — a microtubule-based antenna-like structure that emanates from the surface of virtually all cells in the mammalian body — was a vestigial organelle with no clinical relevance to human health.

Yoder’s research, conducted during the past decade, has proven that cilia in mammals are required for viability, and that dysfunction of the cilium is associated with a large number of developmental abnormalities and disease phenotypes. These now include obesity, cystic kidney, liver and pancreatic diseases, hydrocephalus, skin and hair follicle abnormalities, random left-right body axis specification and skeletal defects.

Yoder has an outstanding record of research and publication; his most recent series of publications have been cited more than 3,000 times by fellow researchers. His research activities are recognized internationally and include citations in the Faculty of 1900. His obesity research has been highlighted in the New York Times science section.

I am personally honored by this award, more so that it came from the UAB community," Yoder says. “But I really consider this an award recognizing my present and past research groups. It is a reflection of all their hard work, with a little input from me. The members of my group work long hours and have dedicated many of their weekends to seeing projects to completion.”

"As a result of their efforts, we have been able to produce some really exciting findings that are changing how researchers think about human disorders such as polycystic kidney disease, hydrocephalus and obesity, and how bone development is regulated."
World on State Festival at Alys Stephens Center Nov. 7-13

UAB's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center will present the World on Stage Festival Nov. 7-13. Throughout the week, experience a sampling of diverse performers that represent unique cultures and artistic expression from around the globe. From the juxtaposition of small town Alabama with Mali, West Africa, from acrobatic China and Flamecua Madrid, this festival will showcase the innovation of the world's most vibrant arts. For details call 975-2787 or visit www.AlysStephens.org.

The week will kick off with "Common Threads: Quilts of West Africa meet Madocloth Makers of West Africa," Monday through Friday, Nov. 7-11. "Common Threads" showcases the artistry of two of the world's most vibrant contemporary textile traditions. The artists will work side by side on their art pieces each day during the week of free activities in the ASC lobby, 1200 10th Ave. South. Guided tours, hands-on quilt-making activities, lunchtime discussions, mid-morning and afternoon film screenings and special events Monday through Thursday will explore each art form and the artists who practice it, the similarities between the arts, and cultural memory patterns included in both groups' artistic expressions.

Experience the thrill and passion of authentic flamenco when the dancers, singers and guitarists of Noche Flamenca perform live on Friday, Nov. 11. Recognized as the most authentic flamenco touring company today, they will demonstrate several forms of the dance. Continue the evening with an ASC after-party on the stage of the Sirote Theatre featuring local flamenco dancers, Spanish wines, tapas and a DJ that will keep the rhythm flowing. After-party tickets are $10; the party is free for ASC Junior Patrons.

Saturday, Nov. 12, enjoy "The Bollywood Experience," with two shows at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Local dancer Parul Kapoor and friends will demonstrate the cultures of various regions of India through dance, with traditional costumes and great music. Sunday, Nov. 13, the Golden Dragon Acrobats of China will combine dazzling acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty.
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To set up an appointment with clinics, call (205) 934-2700 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For additional information, please visit [dental.uab.edu](mailto:dental.uab.edu).

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