Service project empowers young girls in online world

Rebecca Yeboss says she has never seen her girls so engaged. Sure, the eighth-graders at Girls Inc. of Bessemer enjoy their exercise program, have fun while they learn cooking skills and are hands-on with their craft activities—all of which are important activities for their development as productive young members of society. But it was when they got the opportunity to learn how to create and maintain their own password-protected Web site—Speak Out—that things really started clicking for them.

That opportunity came about when Rosie O’Birne, of UAB’s Center for Urban Affairs, approached Girls Inc. of Bessemer and Girls Inc. of Crestwood about a new service-learning project.

O’Birne and four UAB students who were fulfilling internship requirements (Osa Erhunmwunse, Michael Frederick, Britthynn Hall and Christopher Watson) set up a Web-based multimedia project for the after-school programs that enables the girls to create and maintain their own Web site.

The results at both locations have been enlightening and encouraging.

“These girls were just so taken in by the whole experience,” says Yeboss, the Science Math and Relevant Technology (SMART) coordinator for the Bessemer site. “It was hands-on training in a lot of areas—learning to operate a camera, a Mac computer, being responsible for a Web site. It was far and away the favorite activity they had this year.”

The Speak Out site is an online community that brings together the two area Girls Inc. groups. The participants were challenged to document their communities through photo essays and personal blogs as a way to create a dialogue about issues that are important to them.

“Girls Inc. wanted a program that focused on the Web, multimedia and technology,” O’Birne says. “They wanted to provide an outlet for girls to voice their opinions and express who they are in a safe way. We took the UAB students and had them brainstorm and see what we could do.”

The decision was to arm the 22 girls—11 at both locations—with digital cameras and teach them to tell stories about their community through digital images and Web technology.

The girls chose their own topics, including noise and education, obesity, garbage in their community and school life.

“There is just a whole new set of possibilities that’s been opened for them through this program,” says Crestwood SMART Coordinator Lisa Sutton. “One of the girls at our center went out for her birthday and got the same digital camera they used for this project. Another girl is really into art, and she’s interested in taking photographs from an artistic angle.

“It definitely had an impact on them.”

The program, funded by the Thomas H. and Jarman F. Lowder Foundation, has other benefits, as well.

O’Birne says research shows children are introduced to multimedia technology on the Internet during their seventh and

The Kite Runner chosen as second UAB discussion book

It has topped the prestigious New York Times Bestseller List and received stellar reviews from major newspaper and media outlets across the country. The power of its story has earned it merit as one of the Top 10 books for campus reading by the New York Times.

Those, says Marilyn Kurata, director of core curricular enhancement, are but some of the reasons that make Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner the perfect choice to be this year’s UAB Discussion Book.

“This selection is most significant,” Kurata says, “because of the universality of the book’s themes.”

That opportunity came about when Rosie O’Birne, left, of the Center for Urban Affairs, asked her students to help the eighth graders build the project as requested by Lisa Sutton, coordinator of the Crestwood Girls Inc. SMART program.

The girls chose their own topics, including noise and education, obesity, garbage in their community and school life.

“There is just a whole new set of possibilities that’s been opened for them through this program,” says Crestwood SMART Coordinator Lisa Sutton. “One of the girls at our center went out for her birthday and got the same digital camera they used for this project. Another girl is really into art, and she’s interested in taking photographs from an artistic angle.

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O’Birne says research shows children are introduced to multimedia technology on the Internet during their seventh and

AAFA kicks off endowed scholarship campaign

Bettye Wilson says the reasoning is simple. It’s about opportunity and giving deserving students a chance to make an impact with their lives.

That’s why the UAB African-American Faculty Association (AAFA) is establishing an endowed scholarship.

“We’d like to have a legacy at UAB and do something to help those students who are here,” explains Wilson, president of the AAFA and associate professor in the School of Health Related Professions.

“It’s important to us to support students. We want to honor those deserving students who choose UAB to further their education.”

Initial fundraising for the endowment campaign began with a May 4 luncheon in the Henley Room of the Sterne Library. The event was organized by the AAFA Scholarship Committee: Lisa Gary (Public Health) and Linda Harris (Sterne Library) were co-chairs of the

Those raising money for the UAB African-American Faculty Association (AAFA) endowed scholarship include Linda Harris, Carol Walden, Fred Wallace and Heather Martin, standing, and Daphne Powell and Bettye Wilson, seated.

The power of its story has earned it merit as one of the Top 10 books for campus reading by the New York Times. The Kite Runner spans from before the 1979 Soviet invasion until the reconstruction following the fall of the Taliban. The novel tells the story of a young boy named Amir who betrays his servant and best friend Hassan. When the Russians come, Amir and his father are granted asylum in the United States, where Amir becomes a successful writer. But when Amir learns that his childhood friend is ailing back home, he returns to find his relationship with Hassan was stronger than he realized. This realization leads Amir on a perilous
Software discounted for faculty and staff

Software packages for Microsoft products are available to faculty, staff, and enrolled students at a discounted rate at the Blazer Bookstore.

UAB has a license agreement with Microsoft to provide software for Office XP Pro, Office Pro 2003, Windows XP upgrade, Office 2003 Standard and Office 2004 for Mac for under $15 each. These software packages are available only at the Blazer Bookstore.

Faculty and staff must provide a current UAB ID. Students must provide a current, valid CampusCard.

For more information, call the Blazer Bookstore at 934-3200.

UAB’s Microsoft Campus Agreement Subscription is a centrally administered, annual software-licensing program designed specifically for higher education.

July 4 holiday set

Tuesday, July 4, is an official holiday according to university policy. Although most campus operations will be suspended on this day, essential services such as maintenance, some clinical facilities and UAB police, among others – will continue; managers in such departments should notify employees in advance of the work schedule to cover the holiday.

All full-time regular and part-time regular hourly and monthly paid employees are eligible for holiday benefits. Under university policy, eligible full-time regular hourly paid employees who are required to work on a designated holiday will be paid double time (their normal straight time rate for work plus straight time for the holiday) for no more than eight hours.

Because eligible employees of UAB Hospital, the UAB Police Department, the UAB Call Center and other personal holidays – use them or lose them

A re you a biweekly paid, full-time regular employee who works in a non-essential service area and has a personal holiday balance? (Essential service areas are the hospital, police department, physical security, call center, BREESS, trauma communications and Townhouse Apartments.)

If so, please remember that the deadline for taking your 2005-06 personal holidays is Saturday, June 24. Unused personal holidays will be forfeited; also, personal holidays must be taken prior to notice of termination as they will not be paid as terminal leave or during the period of notice.

In July, three new days will be added for the coming year and will run from June 25–July 8 pay period, which has a pay date of July 14. As outlined in UAB’s policy, the personal holidays for non-essential service area biweekly paid employees must be taken between the first biweekly pay period with a July pay date and the last biweekly pay period with a June pay date.

The 2006 Bi-Weekly Payroll Schedule can be found at main uab edu/show/1ski=/5673. A copy of the full holiday policy can be found at main uab edu/show/1ski=/44446.

If you have any questions, please contact the Benefits office at 934-3458 or benefits@uab.edu.

Commons on the Green now open

If you’re looking for a new place to eat lunch this summer, look no further than the new Commons on the Green.

The latest and greatest in on-campus dining is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the summer before its scheduled grand opening this fall. Blazer Café is closed for the remainder of the summer semester.

The Commons on the Green is located on the new Campus Green (formerly 16th Street South) just south of Ninth Avenue and the Campus Recreation Center. The upper plaza entrance is on the southwest corner of 16th Street and Ninth Avenue.

Several of the Commons’ specialty stations will be open on a rotating basis throughout the summer. Among the stations from which faculty, staff and students can choose:

• Classics: Hot and fresh classic home-style entrees (such as pot roast, fried chicken, turkey and dressing) with an array of side dish options
• Grill: Made-to-order burgers, hot dogs and a variety of grilled sandwiches
• Deli: Made-to-order deli sandwiches
• Pizza: A variety of freshly baked pizzas, hot and cold
• Vegan and Salad Bar: Make your own salad with all the fresh toppings you could want
• Made-to-order burgers, hot dogs and a variety of grilled sandwiches
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• And make sure to try out the vegan bar, which offers such popular items as hummus, tabouli, baba ghanoush and couscous.

The Commons on the Green will begin operating in full capacity in September.

Workshop for minority high school students set

UAB’s Department of Communication Studies will conduct a journalism workshop for minority high school students each weekday from July 6-19.

Students entering their junior or senior year of high school this fall and recent high school graduates are eligible to apply for the workshop. They must also possess a GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4-point scale.

Workshop hours will be 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Applications or letters of interest should be mailed to: Professor Minabere Ibelema, 1055 11th St. S., UAB Department of Communication Studies, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham AL 35294.

For applications or more information, call the department office at 934-3877 or Ibelema at 934-6297, or send an e-mail to mibelema@uab.edu.

The workshop is sponsored by the Alabama Press Association.

Vote for Faculty Senate chair-elect

Ballots have been distributed, and faculty are encouraged to vote in the UAB Faculty Senate supplemental election to select a new chair-elect for the 2006-07 academic year that spans June 1-May 31, 2007.

Candidates to fill this vacancy are associate professors Pat Greemup and Bettye Wilson. Balloting ends June 15.

Today is published biweekly (from left)

UAB Retiree Association installs new officers

In three years, the UAB Retiree Association has grown from six members to more than 700 members, becoming an influential force in lobbying the Alabama Legislature on state retiree benefits.

That was the report from the group’s outgoing president, Jack Bradford, at the association’s May 15 annual meeting, which featured Alabama U.S. Rep. Artur Davis as guest speaker.

Bradford and incoming president Dr. Alan Dimick and outgoing president Jack Bradford praised the members for their work with the state legislature – particularly on cost of living increases – and recognized retiring board member Ellen Jane Jackson for her past contributions to the group’s board of directors.

New and current board members announced at the meeting were Rebecca Bradley, Erma Wesley, Garvin Phillips, Kay Moore, Joan Padalino, Dr. Cecil Nepomucino, Marilyn Doss, Bill Moates, John Gillespie, Sandra Dillon, Von Stephens, Terry Hobbs, Dimick and Bradford.

UAB Retiree Association Officers are: (from left) Cecil Nepomucino, assistant secretary; Bill Moates, vice president; Alan Dimick, president; Jack Bradford, past president; Marilyn Doss, treasurer, and Theresa Hobbs, secretary.

UAB retirees are invited to join and become active in the work of the association; please contact Nepomucino, corresponding secretary, at 733-0010 for details. Dues are $15 per year. An association newsletter alerts members about meetings, workshops and such things as flu shots and volunteer opportunities.

The Diner and the Quick Zone convenience store upstairs will open in late August for the start of the fall semester.

The Commons on the Green will begin operating in full capacity in September.

Check out sample menus and more at www.uabdining.com.

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Welcome to the new UAB Reporter! Not only have we changed its look and feel to make it more attractive and easier to read, the new larger format will enable us to include more information in each biweekly issue—particularly news about employee benefits and services that affect you personally.

We also want to look beyond the headlines to tell the stories of the men and women who work here and the way their efforts contribute to the ongoing success of this world-renowned research university and health care center.

Which is where you — the reader — come in. We hope that you will submit ideas, items and photographs to us so that we can fully realize our new mission of being a publication by and for the UAB community. Then, keep up with the weekly updates for the calendar of events, classified advertising and listing of grants and contracts awarded.

Thanks for reading the Reporter, now in its 30th year of publication. We look forward to hearing from you!

To contact us, send an e-mail to Reporter@uab.edu, or contact individual staff members:

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Benefit performance The 13th Street Ensemble, a joint endeavor of the theatre department and the ASC, made its debut with a sneak-preview, benefit performance of Noises Off, with theatre professors Will York, Karma Ilsen and Ward Haarlauf.

20 YEARS AGO UAB announced the establishment of the Henry B. Peters endowed Chair of Optometry to acknowledge Peters’ 17 years service to the School of Optometry. The announcement was made during the June convocation ceremonies that also announced they are putting the final touches on the semester conversion process, shifting from preparation to implementation. The test run, early registration for end-users within the university academic, medical and support areas. And, team members Kim Mitchell (Payroll/LE), Carrie McGloin (HR/ Self Service), Tina Fulton (GL/FA), LaNeitria Head (Purchasing/AP) and Sandi Guiter (Access/Work/low) work closely with various functional and technical groups to ensure that they are knowledgeable of any new features and changes to the system so they can quickly and easily communicate them to end-users.

Online Information and Instruction

The Oracle HR and Finance Web site is designed to provide Administrative Systems users with the information and instructions they need to use the direct access self-service applications and the Human Resources and Finance modules. And, it’s regularly updated to highlight the introduction of new features and changes to existing features. Get started with the introduction found here: www.uab.edu/adminsys- tems/selfservice.php.

Electronic Classroom Instruction

Classes are offered on all of the Administrative Systems Human Resource and Financial modules. Course descriptions and class schedules can be found at www.uab.edu/adminsystems/classes.php. Each class is taught by one of the Oracle Administrative Systems instructors and offers hands-on experience. In order to make sure you’re updated on all self-service self-service applications for end-users.

New Features and System Updates

Campus-wide presentations are offered when it’s time to demonstrate new system functionalities and enhancements. Based on their access responsibilities, users are notified of such presentations via e-mail.

Oracle User

Computer Clinics

The Administrative Systems Instruction and Development team is available every Thursday afternoon in the AB B60 electronic classroom to answer questions by and for the UAB Administrative Systems. These user clinics have been expanded to include 30-minute presentations targeting new employees who will be approving or certifying reports completing and submitting TEL documents, and/or using the UAB direct access self-service applications.

• 2:30-3 p.m. – General assistance (any responsibility)

Users may log onto the system and get hands-on assistance with creating documents, running reports and/or locating information. This is not a class, and no registration is required. Users may come and go during the time period.

• 2:30-3 p.m. – Approving or certifying effort reports (UAB Effort Report users)

Employees who are responsible for approving/certifying quarterly effort reports are encouraged to attend.

• 2:30-3 p.m. – Reporting biweekly time (any responsibility)

Designed for employees who are responsible for completing and submitting TEL documents.

• 3:30-4 p.m. – Using the UAB self-service application (UAB self-service applications)

Covers all self-service menu options; any employee who needs basic or refresher training on how to navigate the system is encouraged to attend.

Special Training Sessions

Sessions are offered periodically for needs-based training. To inquire, e-mail your request to instructeam@uab.edu.
CORD ready for another year of its Summer Science Institute

Just because summer is here doesn’t mean that learning and exploration must come to an end.

Which is part of why some 100 area high-school students will forgo swimsuits for laboratory coats during their summer break as part of the UAB Center for Community Outreach Development (CORD) Summer Science Institute (SSI).

Since its inception in 1999, the Summer Science Institute has successfully drawn in some of the best students in the area, with a total enrollment of about 65 in 2005. Many of the students who participate are from Birmingham metro-area schools, something vital to CORD Director Michael Wyss.

“It’s extremely important to provide a boost to the science education of students within our minority school districts,” says Wyss, professor of cell biology. “The Birmingham metro area will have to make it (in the future) on their science. The industry of the 21st century is going to be science-based, so we have to enrol our students throughout the area to be leaders within that scientific infrastructure.”

The SSI program is unique. It’s a three-year program that introduces high-school students to a wide range of hands-on scientific research. BioTeach immerses rising sophomores in a three-week laboratory course in modern molecular biology. Their experience is then enhanced the next summer by ChemTeach, which focuses on state-of-the-art techniques in biochemistry. Capping off the three-year experience, rising seniors become research interns in one of UAB’s research laboratories. Students utilize the techniques and knowledge they learned during the previous two years to carry out a research project they design and execute during their internship.

The institute challenges students to explore new scientific ideas and methods, which facilitates their understand- ing of how science relates to the real world. It also provides them with the knowledge and skills to be competitive for the best science and technology undergraduate programs, including ones here at UAB.

The Summer Science Institute, sponsored by the Center for Community Outreach Development (CORD), attracts some of the best students in the Birmingham metro area for hands-on scientific research opportunities.

“It’s a tremendous boost to see kids who may not otherwise have an opportunity to be engaged with a mentor in the classroom to learn how to do research,” Wyss said. “It’s a tremendous boost to see kids who may not otherwise have that opportunity to take that leap and realize that they can be important contributors in science.”

The Kite Runner

“We see this summer program as a major pipeline by which UAB can aggressively recruit top-quality students,” Wyss says. “We are seeing the fruits of what they’re doing in our interns competing at the state and international science fairs and successfully competing in undergraduate and graduate education. Tina Unlap, assistant professor of medicine in nephrology, is one of many volunteer faculty members involved in the CORD program. Unlap says he is particularly impressed with the documented success of those who partici- pate in the summer program; during the past three years, about 90 percent of the participants have elected to major in some area of science and technology in college, with almost 50 per- cent of those students choosing UAB for their under- graduate training. “When I see statistics like that, I’m very encouraged,” Unlap says.

In an effort to enhance UAB’s mission of teaching, research and service to the community, all 13 UAB schools and both UAB libraries partner with CORD as part of the program. They provide lectures, seminars and laboratory mentoring.

Wyss, who has been mentoring high-school students for five years, says he is still very excited about stimulating students to excel in science.

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New Comprehensive Diabetes Center to go in Shelby Building

The Diabetes Trust Foundation (DTF) has announced that it is investing $5.5 million toward the establishment of a Comprehensive Diabetes Center at UAB to fight the rising epidemic in the disease. The center is slated to have offices and laboratories in the new Shelby Biomedical Research Building.

“We already have significant strengths in diabetes research and treatment,” said UAB President Carol Garrison when the gift was announced in early May. “Bringing together this talent under one umbrella with strong leadership will take us to the next level of excellence.”

Edward Abraham, chair of the UAB De- partment of Medicine, said the gift is a huge boost to UAB’s efforts to recruit an internationally renowned physician-scientist to lead the new center. “This is a top priority for us that will have a significant impact on the health of Alabamians,” Abraham said.

The DTF was founded in 1964 by the late Dr. Burri R. Boshell and his friends and colleagues. Boshell was a world-renowned UAB physician-educator and directed the Boshell Diabetes Research and Education Center at UAB. The building still bears his name.

John D. Smith, chair of the Diabetes Trust Fund Board of Directors, said the funds given to UAB will further the DTF’s long-standing mission of providing a better future for diabetics by supporting cutting-edge research, quality professional and public education, and treatment and community services.

“Now, with this gift to support a comprehensive diabetes center for research, education and patient care, we are truly coming full circle to support something Dr. Boshell cared very deeply about,” Smith said. “I believe he would have delighted to see his dream fulfilled.”

$5.5 million gift boosts UAB, diabetes partnership

The Office of Grants and Con- tracts Administration received the following awards for UAB faculty and staff. Linking includes the principal investigator along with any co-principal investigator(s) and faculty participants as well as PI’s department, project title, awarded amount, sponsor name and project dates.

**New/Competing Continuation**


David Calhoun (Medicine/Cardiovascu- lar Disease) Double-Blind, Randomized, Parallel-Group, Double Ranging, Multi-Center Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of 2, 5, 35 and 50 mg of IVERMECTIN Once Daily, Using 100 mg Losartan-Potassium once daily as Calibrator, for 12 Months Treatment in Patients With Mild to Moderate Hyperten- sion Sanofi-Aventis U.S. Inc $30,000, 5/2/2006-5/2/2007

Mark Dransfield (Medicine/Pulmonary) Effect of Roflumilast on Exacerbation Rate in Patients with Mild to Moderate Hyper- tension NHLBI $290,461, 5/1/2006 - 6/30/2008

Russell Read (Ophthalmology) Role of Microchannel-Collector Protein (CD24) in Geographic Atrophy Eyesight Foundation of Alabama $78,220, 7/1/2006-6/30/2007

Shehzad Saeed (Pediatrics) A Random- ized, Open-label, Determine the Pharmacoco- metries of Masalamine following Adminis- tration of 30mg/kg/day, 60mg/kg/day, and 90mg/kg/day as 400mg Delayed Release Tablets Given every 12 hours for 28 Days to Children and Adolescents with Achalasia Cvoice Colts Procter & Gamble Pharmaceu- ticals/ Inc. Research $29,573, 5/18/2006 - 5/17/2007

Paul Sanders (Medicine/Nephrology) PA - Ping-Yong Ying $173,325, 5/1/2006 - 4/30/2008

Paul Sanders (Medicine/Nephrology) PA - Pei-Xuan Wang $94,654, 5/1/2006 - 4/30/2008

Alexander Szalay/ Yu-Fai Chen/ Suzanne Gariel (Medicine/Immunology- Rheumatology) Rheumatoid Arthritis Mediation by Estrogen AHA/ Southeast Affiliate $154,000, 7/1/2006-6/30/2008

Gregory Walcott (Medicine/Cardio- vascular Disease) UA Metri Review Grant (Biventricular Pacing in Chronic Volume Over- load Heart Failure) VA $60,142, 4/1/2006 - 3/31/2008

Connie Kohler (Health Behavior) BODILY- OVE Radio Drama Project Calhoun County Community Foundation Calhoun County Community Foundation $49,450, 5/1/2006 - 1/31/2008


Aimee Landar/ Victor Darley-Usmar/ Paul Sanders (Family & Community Medicine) Year Outcomes of Mucositis in Subjects Being Treated for Breast, Colorectal, Head and Neck, Non-Small Cell and Ovarian Cancers Amgen Inc $29,750, 5/3/2006 - 5/2/2007

Fay-Tsong Lin (Cell Biology) The Role of TRPM in Lysosphosphatidic Acid-Induced Cell Migration AHA/ Southeast Affiliate $19,000, 7/1/2006-6/30/2007


Lise Nabell (Medicine/Hematology- Oncology) Phase II Open-Label Study to Evaluate the Safety, Tolerability and Phar- macokinetic Profile of Prasugrel in Patients with Recent Suspected Cardiac Ischemia of the Head and Neck for Whom at Least One Prior Cardiovascular Event for Recent Cardiac Disease has Failed Ventiola Biotech Inc/ PPD Development LP $70,464, 5/1/2006-6/30/2006


Jay Zhou (Neurobiology) Regulation of Neu- rotactinisms in Sympathetic Neurons: Functions of the Y4-33-316 Channel Interac- tion AHA $260,000, 7/1/2006-6/30/2010

Continuation


Elizabeth Sztal/ Liamiu Fu Sorting of CFTR for Degeneration NIDDK $98,181, 7/1/2006-6/30/2007


Ray Watts UAB PD Neuronal Control of Thr -luciferase Research NIDDK $90,000, 1/2/2005- 11/30/2006

**REMEMBER**

Investigators seeking support for research or extramural activities are required to file Conflict of Interest disclosure statements with original signatures along with the proposal submission. More information can be found at www.uab.edu/cirb.
Monday, June 12

Monday Noon Noon Conference, Overseas Postgraduate Students Mukeish Patel (Infectious Diseases); WP-E.
3:30 pm Anesthesiology GRs, CV board review, Asst Prof Thomas M. Burch, Instructor Truitt C. Ellis and Instructor Rhett T. Lively III (Anesthesiology), JT-906.

Tuesday, June 13

11 am Laboratory Medicine. What is so difficult about the laboratory diagnosis of clostridium difficile disease? Prof Ken Wyatt (Pathology); WP-D.

noon General Medicine Noon Conference. Perspective: Beyond residency, Asst Prof Lisa Witt-McBride (Medicine); WP-E.
5 pm Neurology GRs. Cognitive and behavioral aspects of Parkinson’s and Parkinson’s Plus disorders. Postdoctoral Fellow Jacqueline Phillips (Neurology); WP-D.

Wednesday, June 14

7 am Cardiology GRs. Antithrombotic agents and new oral anticoagulants. C. D. Houser, Jr. (Cardiology); WP-E.

noon French conversation table

Wednesday, June 14

1 pm Biomedical Engineering. Comparison of BOLD and ASL/CMR techniques for a visuospatial and a cognitive task, Candidate Omar Phadke; Finley Conf Ctr.

Meetings

Monday, June 12

1 pm Molecular & Cellular Pathology. BRMSI suppresses breast cancer metastasis to multiple organs. Candidate Purnakrishnan Arumugam; WP-D.

Tuesday, June 13

5:25 pm Power Yoga: UAB Arts Annex. For more info, call Frani 967-0303.
6:30 pm Power Yoga: UAB Arts Annex. For more info, call Bonnie 823-6602.

Thursday, June 15

8 am Rheumatology GRs. Clinical conference. WP-D.

noon UAB Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine, Acquired neuromuscular disorders in the ICU, Mitchell Allen (Housestaff), Finley Conf Ctr.

noon Geriatric Noon Conference. Geriatric health care: Evaluation and management, Asst Prof Ali Ahmed (Medicine); WP-Bld Rm.

noon The UAB Injury Control Research Center Research-in-Progress Seminar.

Wednesday, June 14

1 pm French conversation table. HUC Café (Carraway Methodist Hospital). Come to speak French and make new friends! For more info, Catherine Hare Krishna way where everyone is welcome to come to join. For more info, Varadraj Prabhu 383-9805. 1015 19th Ave, Apt 20, Birmingham.

Exhibits

Mervyn H. Sterne Library. Talent Show: Fancy Arts and Crafts by Sterne library staff members. 7:30-10 am and 10 am-1 pm. For more info, call Bonnie 823-6602.

UAB Visual Arts Gallery. Pixel visions: Contemporary Videos from Birmingham Collections featuring works by Emily Jakob, Tracey Moffatt, Lawrence Weiner, Nalé Savage, Julian Darch and others. Mon. Thurs 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The gallery will be closed Saturday and Sunday and all major holidays. Admission is free. For information, call 4-8151.

Teaching sessions cancelled for summer

The following teaching sessions have been cancelled for the summer.
- CNCR/Nutrition Sciences Noon Conference will resume in August.
- Endocrine Conference will resume in September.
- Geographic Medicine GRs will resume in October.
- GI/Hepatology GRs will resume in September.
- Dermatology/Oncolgy GRs will resume in August or September.
- Dermatology/Oncology Research Conference will resume Sept. 11.
- Vascular Biology/Hyperpension Program will resume Sept. 8.

Missed injuries: Protecting patient and provider, Dr. Kimball Maul (Carraway Methodist Medical Center), CHB189-402.
3:30 pm UAB Center for Metabolic Bone Disease Special Seminar. Prostaglandins and bone, Dr. Lawrence D. Koiz (Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Medicine; Director, Musculoskeletal Institute, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, Conn.), WP-Bld Rm.

Friday, June 16

noon Noon UAB Center for Aging/GREEC Scientific Seminar. Blood of anticoagulant in D to single strand DNA sequences present in erythrocyte: telomeres, Jessica Record (CFRA Honor Student) and Quality of life and decision making: How involved are the elderly in decisions that alter their life? Greg Blackwood (CFRA Honor Student); VA-Rm.

Thursday, June 15

12:10 pm UAB Resource Center. Tai Chi- Stress management through movement: The Resource Center, 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/taic.
6:30 pm SMART recovery group meetings, not a 12-step or religious program. Any addiction or habit can be helped. Southside Baptist Church, Call WL Fuchter 970-7715 for details.
8 pm Stammtisch conversation table, for anyone who speaks German; Giuseppe’s Cafe, 925 9th Street South. For info, agers@uab.edu.

Friday, June 16

7 am Fulan Dafa exercises, an ancient Chinese exercise that brings harmony & health. UAB Mini Park, 4-8295.

Religion

Tuesday, June 13

noon Noon Medical Center Christian Fellowship Meeting. WP-B. All welcome. Mark S47- 5177 or Blair 951-3826.

Wednesday, June 14

noon Employee-led Bible study; Interfaith Chapel-West Pavilion.
12:15 pm Latter Day Saints Student Association. Scripture study and discussion. HUC-413. All welcome. For more info, Andrew 822-9332.
7 pm Catholic mass; St Stephen Church, 1515 S 12th Ave. 933-2500.

Sunday, June 18

5 pm UAB Hindu Student Council. There will be a session on singing and feeding the Hare Krishna which everyone is welcome to come to join. For more info, Arvadra Prabhu 383-9805. 1015 19th Ave, Apt 20, Birmingham.

Special Events

UAB Theatre Touring Ensembles. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer. The beloved tale of adventure, imagination and freedom was adapted for the stage by Theatre UAB’s playwright-in-residence, Lee Shackelford. Performances are: June 8 at 1 p.m., June 9 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., June 10 at 10 a.m. at the Oddie Theatre. The production, for children ages 6-12, will then travel Jefferson County for two weeks to present 20 more performances at daycares, churches and schools, upon request.

Facility Senate Meeting Agenda

7:30 - 9:30 a.m. June 13 Penthouse CR1

1. Call to Order
2. Recognition of Visitors – Non-Members of the Senate – Sign Attendance Register
3. Approval of Minutes – May 9 Faculty Meeting – May 3 Faculty Senate Meeting
4. Oral Report – Chair Joe March
5. Professional Growth – President Cardinal
6. Senate Standing Committees
7. Chair Report – Chair Joe March
8. Finance – VACANT
9. Announcements

 Tom Sawyer opens June 12

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Tuesday, June 13

noon Noon UAB Resource Center Wellness Program. Stress management through meditation; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/taic.
7 pm Envision: Maggie Clowers, artist; Finley Conf Ctr.

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Former Air Force pilot lead on team that restores Israeli teen’s sight

New technologies, technology

A s an Air Force pilot in the 1960s, Robert Morris experienced how truly important it is for humans to have the ability of sight. He lists that as one of the reasons he decided to explore ophthalmology as a career — specifically, helping those who have experienced severe eye trauma.

After his days in the Air Force, Morris teamed with Dr. Robert Machemer, a German doctor who was the first to perform surgery behind the eye, and learned techniques from him.

“I was fortunate to get into this field in the early 1970s when this surgery was introduced, going into the back of the eye,” Morris said. “Before that surgery, if you had severe ocular trauma, all you could do was close the eye and say a blessing.”

Now Morris is chief of staff of the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital at UAB. He recently led a team of surgeons that restored vision into the left eye of Yatzhak Schilit, a 16-year-old Israeli boy injured when he was hit by a thrown book.

“It’s really remarkable,” Yatzhak says of his progress. “It’s the only way to determine that it is go in and look at the nerve tissue.”

Schilit’s mother, Shoshanna, didn’t believe the diagnosis and sought another opinion. She contacted a doctor she knew in Baltimore who told her to correspond with UAB. A relative in Israel knew a UAB researcher and directed her to Morris. Yatzhak was on Morris’ operating table two weeks after the injury.

Morris and his team of doctors, Douglas Witherspoon, Robert Phillips and Ferenc Kuhn, found a fully detached retina that was covering Yatzhak’s optic nerve, keeping him from seeing light.

Using tools invented by Morris and his team, the doctors unfolded the damaged retina and found the optic nerve to be healthy. They reconstructed the interior of Yatzhak’s eye and did a cornea transplant.

One week after the surgery, Yatzhak could read the first line of an eye chart.

“It’s really remarkable,” Yatzhak says of his progress. The surgeon says the window of opportunity for correcting this type of problem is the first few weeks after the injury. Otherwise, scar tissue, infection and dryness can make a correctable problem permanent.

Morris, who is president of the International Society for Ocular Trauma, is a pioneer in the treatment of severe ocular trauma along with his colleagues. Using new techniques they have developed and instruments they designed — such as microscopic scissors and tweezers — Morris and colleagues have repeatedly enabled patients to regain sight in an eye that other physicians thought was lost.

Morris and Witherspoon have been partners during their entire career at UAB.

“He challenges me, and I challenge him,” Morris explains of their abilities to make great strides in the field. “It’s amazing what having that kind of partner can do.”

Word of their successes is spreading: Morris estimates his department considers at least one case a month from someone in a foreign country. Plus, other doctors across the United States send patients here because of the knowledge accumulated by the Callahan Eye Foundation Team.

“We’ve developed an experience area that I don’t think exists anywhere else in the country,” Morris says. “Even with the fail- ures we’ve had, we’ve learned.”

During a three-hour surgery, UAB ophthalmologist Robert Morris and his surgical team reconstructed the interior of Yatzhak Schilit’s eye and did a cornea transplant, relying on tools and techniques developed by the team.

During a three-hour surgery, UAB ophthalmologist Robert Morris and his surgical team reconstructed the interior of Yatzhak Schilit’s eye and did a cornea transplant, relying on tools and techniques developed by the team.

**Did you know?**

The Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital at UAB is also the official U.S. Air Force Registry for veterans to call their experiences in, make sense of injuries and how they occur — and how to make them better. Visit the Web site at www. uae.org.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

CONTINUED from page 1

lunchen, with assistance provided by Heather Martin (Sterne Library), Michael Pitts (Lister Hill Library) and Askhari Hodari (Arts & Humanities).

Significant contributions were made at the lunch by AAFA members and other attendees; donations totaling $4,350 have been received to date. The AAFA goal is to reach the endowed fund level with a minimum $25,000 and then to encourage continued contributions each year after completion of this goal.

Provost Eki Capilouto, who was among those present at the meeting, says he was moved by the remarks of AAFA Scholarship Committee co-chair Carolyn Walden, librarian at Sterne Library, and by the personal donations made that day by Wilson and Fred Wallace, an associate in the department of surgery and co-chair of the AAFA Scholarship Committee.

Capilouto says the endowment provides a great opportunity for the AAFA and UAB.

“This generosity by the African-American Faculty Association is another manifestation of the goodness of UAB faculty,” says the provost. “The endowed scholarship will assist students for generations to come. Besides the legacy of learning provided by the faculty, future students will be able to grow in wisdom without the distraction of financial pressures.”

The endowed fund is to function as an advisory board on behalf of the African-American community at UAB.

To support and maintain the cultural traditions of persons of African descent within the context of UAB and the Birmingham community.

The AAFA has supported numerous groups in the community in recent years, including the Birmingham Housing Authority, students who came to UAB after being displaced by Hurricane Katrina and the Black Graduate Student Association.

One of the AAFA’s objectives for the new endowment is to encourage graduates of public high schools in the Birmingham metropolitan area to pursue their educational goals here at UAB. The endowed scholarship is also a symbol for many things, perhaps none more important than the AAFA’s commitment to making opportunities for students better at UAB.

“A scholarship endowment says we appreciate the fact that our way has been watered with tears, blood, sacrifice, hardship, ship, inequity, injustice, struggle and conflict,” Walden remarked at the luncheon. “But it has also been nurtured and strengthened with people who cared, with leaders who made courageous decisions even though associates were uncomfortable, with teachers of all races who were fair, with family who sacrificed so we could better our lives, with friends and supporters who stood by to lift our spirits, and with faith, hope and especially love.”

Earnings from the endowment will assist deserving students enrolled at UAB, with preference given to students who demonstrate a commitment to public service within African-American communities either in the Birmingham metropolitan area or in the state of Alabama.

Helping students

The undergraduate student body at UAB is 32.2 percent black, a fact important to Wilson, and she wants to see these men and women graduate.

All too often, Wilson says, the transition from high school or junior college to a four-year school for students, especially for those in the Birmingham metropolitan area, can be overwhelming. She says they can easily find themselves without answers, money or support and not know where to turn.

Wilson says the endowed scholarship, along with mentoring support from the AAFA, will go a long way to helping those students find the assistance and assurance they need to know that help is available — and a chance at a better life is right around the corner.

“He challenges me, and I challenge him,” Morris explains of their abilities to make great strides in the field. “It’s amazing what having that kind of partner can do.”

Word of their successes is spreading: Morris estimates his department considers at least one case a month from someone in a foreign country. Plus, other doctors across the United States send patients here because of the knowledge accumulated by the Callahan Eye Foundation Team.

“We’ve developed an experience area that I don’t think exists anywhere else in the country,” Morris says. “Even with the fail- ures we’ve had, we’ve learned.”

For more information on the scholarship, contact Powell at 934-1807 or daphne@ uab.edu. Inquiries for the AAFA should be directed to Wilson at wilsonbh@uab.edu.

June 12, 2006 UAB Reporter 7

**AAFA history, goals**

The AAFA has been in existence informally on the UAB campus for nearly 30 years and an official organization for the past three years. The association was formed for three reasons:

• To provide a forum for association among African-American faculty at UAB.

• To function as an advisory board on behalf of the African-American community at UAB.

• To support and maintain the cultural traditions of persons of African descent within the context of UAB and the Birmingham community.

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“We’ve developed an experience area that I don’t think exists anywhere else in the country,” Morris says. “Even with the fail- ures we’ve had, we’ve learned.”
Home-grown Townsend guiding softball program to success

Marla Townsend grew up in the city, but she’s really a country girl at heart.

Her 42 acres and four horses in Morris are a long way from the busy streets of her childhood home of Pinson, where she went to high school, and Pelham, where she coached the high-school softball team after receiving her master’s from UAB.

And when Gene Bartow called her July 28, 1998, asking her to come down to the university to talk about starting a softball program, her life was about to be better than she ever imagined.

“When Gene Bartow calls you, you’re like ‘Wow,’” says Townsend. “He took me under his wing and made me feel like family.”

Townsend has made sure to follow through in the promise Bartow saw in her back then, steadily building her softball program into a Conference USA contender while still calling the country home.

That was no more evident than this year, when the Blazers posted a 31-22 overall record, including a best ever 15-9 mark in C-USA, and had a shot at a regular season championship right up until the last game of the season.

Townsend was rewarded for the success, claiming her second C-USA Coach of the Year honor in her tenure.

“I call it the coaching staff of the year award,” she says, giving recognition to assistants Jennifer Collins and Kim Unkenholz and the support staff of Chris Deal, Stephanie Nitsch, Lucy Bass and Kylb Garrison.

“There have been ups and downs over the years. To do so with the quality of young ladies we’ve had, it’s awesome.”

Success no surprise

The first day Townsend walked into her office at UAB in the fall of 1998, she was hit with how new the program was. Not only did she not have any collegiate coaching experience or recruiting experience, she didn’t have any furniture.

“I had to get a little table and a chair so I could get in there and start making phone calls and begin recruiting,” she says. “So, when you say you’re building from scratch, we were.”

Deal, UAB softball sports information director, wasn’t around Townsend in those days.

But he’s been at her side for the past year, watching her continue to build the program. Her success this year is no surprise, he says.

“She’s just relentless,” Deal says. “She’s one of those coaches that never takes a day off whether the team is playing or not. This program is hers, and she loves it and pours her heart and soul into it. If there’s anyone that wants to see UAB do well in softball or anything else, it’s Marla. She loves this place.”

Interim Athletics Director Richard Margison agrees, saying Townsend’s passion for her game – and her students – is evident in everything she does.

“Marla understands the importance of working with student-athletes on all aspects of their college career, not just their hit-and-run potential,” notes Margison. “She is well-deserving of the C-USA Coach of the Year honor, and we’re all very proud of and for her.”

How do you build a program from scratch? Better yet, how do you sell it to recruits?

Townsend says that part of her job has been easier than one might expect. The quality of UAB as an institution, along with the camaraderie among its athletics programs, both go a long way toward convincing prospective student-athletes that being a Blazer is the right choice for them.

“How do you build a program from scratch? Better yet, how do you sell it to recruits?”

“I’m very proud of that,” Townsend says. “They’re so involved, and they’re taking ownership in the Birmingham area.”

They are producing on the field, as well. Six players were selected to All-CUSA teams after the season. Holly Krzan and Lindsay Stanley were selected to the first team, Kayla Harris and Jennifer Nelson took second-team honors, and Harris joined Andrea Rogers on the All-Freshman Team. All of those players will return next year; the Blazers lose just one senior.

“That’s the exciting part, we’ve got so many ladies returning,” Townsend says. Being able to coach those student athletes at her alma mater also has its benefits, she says.

“To be coaching a Division I program the quality of UAB in my hometown, it doesn’t get any better than this.”

Unless you count the drive back home to the horses in their field every night.

Lorbeor joins LHL staff

Lorbeor recently joined Lister Hill Library as the new associate director for content management, in which capacity she will oversee cataloging, serials, collection development and acquisitions at Lister Hill.

If faculty have comments or a recommendation for a purchase for the library collection, such as a book journal or electronic resource, call Lorbeor at 934-2460 or e-mail her at lorbeor@uab.edu.

Lorbeor also can assist those working on research projects and can help faculty who want to use Lister Hill Library’s resources as part of their curriculum.

Michael Flannery receives book award

Michael Flannery, associate director for Historical Collections (Lister Hill Library), was recently awarded the Archivist and Librarians in the History of Health Sciences Publications (ALLHIS) award for his 2004 book, Civil War Pharmacy.

The ALLHIS Publication Award, established in 1992, is awarded to the author(s) of a publication related to the history of the health-care sciences or works on the bibliography, librarianship and/or curatorship of historical collections in the health-care sciences, published in academic, trade, or private publishers within the three years prior to presentation of the award.

Markert to direct neurosurgery

James Markert, a professor of surgery, physiology and biophysics, and pediatrics, has been named director of the division of neurosurgery in the department of surgery at UAB.

In announcing the appointment, Kirby Bland, chair of the UAB Department of Surgery, said of Markert, “He is an excellent educator and researcher who will make signal contributions to neuro- oncology and neurosurgery. “The field of neurosurgery involves surgical and non- surgical treatments for head and spine trauma, aneurysms and cloaked arteries involving the brain, epilepsy, degenerative spine conditions, neurodegenerative diseases, spinal cord injuries, stroke, pitu- itary disorders, brain and spine tumors and other neurologic condition.

Markert, who joined the UAB faculty in 1995, also is the co-director of the UAB Brain SPORE, a $13 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop new therapies to treat brain cancer.

His major research interest is in the development of treatments for brain tumors using molecular biology, viral vectors and gene therapy. His current focus is on using an engineered herpes simplex virus as a vector to treat brain tumors.
**CLINICAL TRIALS**

**Do you have a fibroid?** Have you had symptoms? If you believe you have fibroids, you may be eligible to participate in an imaging study to evaluate the size and location of the fibroids. For more information, call Kathy, 4-1776.

**Are you a veteran?** Veterans who have served in Vietnam during the war are enrolled in a study to evaluate the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on bladder cancer. For more information, call 2-996-4104.

**Have you been diagnosed with osteoporosis?** If you have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on bone density. For more information, call 4-996-7798.

**Are you a new mother or do you know a new mother?** If you have a child born within the past year or if you know a woman within the past year, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on postpartum depression. For more information, call 4-1980.

**Do you have a new charitable donation?** If you have donated money to a charitable organization within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on charitable giving behavior. For more information, call 5-0666.

**Are you a Jewish female or know a Jewish female?** If you are a Jewish female or know a Jewish female within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on mental health. For more information, call 4-9614.

**Are you a female?** If you are a female within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on female health. For more information, call 9-9629.

**Do you have a history of smoking?** If you have a history of smoking within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on smoking behavior. For more information, call 5-5029.

**Have you been diagnosed with diabetes?** If you have been diagnosed with diabetes within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on diabetes management. For more information, call 6-7516.

**Do you have a history of depression?** If you have a history of depression within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on depression. For more information, call 4-7516.

**Have you been diagnosed with stroke?** If you have been diagnosed with stroke within the past 12 months, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on stroke prevention. For more information, call 4-9614.

**Are you a new mother or know a new mother?** If you have a child born within the past year or if you know a woman within the past year, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on postpartum depression. For more information, call 4-1980.

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**Have you been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and are currenti are depressed?** If you have been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and are currently depressed, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on bipolar disorder. For more information, call 5-0666.

**Have you been diagnosed with osteoporosis?** If you have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, you may be eligible to participate in a study to evaluate the effects of a new drug on bone density. For more information, call 4-996-7798.

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Call '03 Suzuki Intruder sell. 563-9179.

Flip flops, $3; socks 4/$5; brass locks, $2; iron all like new, exc cond. Michele Mullinax about 8-9 wks old, must have a fenced yard!

Free to good home: powder formula, $100. 853-7158.

Browning 270 A Bolt, 541-8310.

Baby items: (4) new Michelin P235/70/16, $180; (4) treated cans neg. 849-8208.

Crestwood—6291 12th Ave S. 3 BR, 2 BA, $800/obo. 6-347-2102.

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Crestwood—6291 12th Ave S. 3 BR, 2 BA, $800/obo. 6-347-2102.
Home maintenance and repairs: carpentry, painting, drywall, pressure washing; over 30 years experience. Contact 4-4301.

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