PowerAtlas database will save research time, money

David Allison was sitting in the office of fellow researcher Stephen Barnes, helping prepare a large grant application to the National Institutes of Health when the question was asked: What size sample should be prepared?

There was no answer — no right answer at least, only a guess. So Allison, Grier Page and other UAB colleagues began an endeavor to take the guesswork out of preparing grants for researchers, creating what they call a unique and one-of-a-kind database that estimates the sample size required for good statistical power.

The PowerAtlas (www.poweratlas.org) is a storehouse of information potentially saving genetics researchers time and money in performing microarray studies.

“Let’s say a Dr. Smith wants to do a microarray study investigating the affects of eating figs on rat liver fatty acid content,” explains Allison, a professor of public health. “She’s going to write a grant application to do this, but in order to calculate power she has to collect pilot data. That might cost $50,000. It might be that he or she would be satisfied that there is a similar study out there. Maybe there’s a study giving apples to rats and Dr. Smith’s hypothesis is that figs will do the same thing apples did. Now Dr. Smith can go and write her grant proposal and submit it to the NIH without having to spend the $50,000 to do the pilot work first.”

The PowerAtlas took 18 months to design, build and compile and has been used for 15 to 20 studies on campus during the past year. Funding for the project came via the National Science Foundation (NSF) and is now supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute.

The PowerAtlas has approximately 1,053 studies available to researchers now. Page says the database, which was designed by UAB programmers, is due for an update this month that should increase the amount of studies available to close to 1,500.

“It is a live Web resource that we update regularly,” says Page, associate professor of genetics. "It is a live Web resource that we update regularly. It is a database that estimates the sample size required for good statistical power. Researchers also can upload their own pilot data and generate an appropriate sample size based on the information. The PowerAtlas can even help researchers who don’t have pilot data for their project.

UAB’s new Physician Directory has been launched at www.uabhealth.org/physiciandirectory, giving patients an easy one-stop shop for locating and scheduling appointments with UAB physicians.

The previous version of the Physician Directory was the second-most visited section of the UAB Health System Web site, generating 85,000 visits in 2005 alone.

The new Web site, launched late in May, should prove equally popular and even more user-friendly for potential customers, enabling them to conduct easy, fast and informative searches for the physician who can treat their ailment. Users can now search for physicians not only by facility or specialty, but also by disease or treatment type, such as breast cancer or Hepatitis C. They also can search by the first and/or last name of a physician.

The physician specialty search option is particularly helpful to both patients and referring physicians, says Susan Reid, Internet marketing manager for the UAB Health System.

“It’s a one-stop physician search engine that allows patients to find a UAB doctor for their health concern easily and quickly,” says Reid. "When the research was first done to design it, we were told that one search on our old site meant that someone was looking for a doctor who could help with cancer. This new site allows a patient to say, ‘I have cancer, now find a doctor who can help me.’"
HRM upgrades ALAS system to enhance information security

In a move to enhance information security, the university’s automatic leave accrual system (ALAS) has been upgraded to use employee identification numbers instead of Social Security numbers and to include the current organization codes.

The upgrade was done to protect sensitive information from unnecessary publication and to ensure standardization of data across the university.

“The reports from ALAS are accepted by the university for use when considering an employee’s leave of absence or to process appropriate vacation payments when someone is exiting his or her job,” said Don Roser, director of HRM Technology and Data Services.

“The Teacher’s Retirement System of Alabama also accepts these reports to vouch for unused sick leave accruals at the time of retirement,” Roser explained, noting that while ALAS reports are subject to audit to ensure proper starting and ending balances, the methods used have been accepted as interpretation of policy.

Roser said the rollout of the upgraded version of ALAS (for use with Windows Operating Systems 2000 or higher and MS Access XP or 2001) will be scheduled with current departmental users; those departments not using ALAS are encouraged to contact HRM Technology and Data Services at HRIS@uab.edu to schedule installation and training. Questions about ALAS or the registration process should also be directed to HRIS@uab.edu.

Decision-making seminar to be offered

UAB Training and Development is introducing a new series of seminars that will focus on one of the most critical tasks in anyone’s job: decision-making.

The series, which begins this summer and will continue into next year, offers employees a chance to explore issues and methods that are essential to making effective decisions.

“All of us rely on the decisions we make to be successful in our careers,” says Bonnie Powell, manager of Professional Development Programs. “The problem is that most of us have had very little opportunity to learn about effective decision-making techniques. We hope this series will fill that gap.”

Each seminar will use discussion, case studies, movie clips and other activities to help participants become better decision-makers. Watch for the first three seminars this summer and continue the series each Tuesday through August.

• “Leadership in the Trenches: Guiding Others in Decision-Making” begins this Tuesday, July 11, at 12:10 p.m. and will continue each Tuesday through August.

• “Principles of Ethical Decision-Making” begins a new session on Thursday, July 6, at 12:10 p.m. and will continue each Thursday through August.

• “Using Creativity and Innovation in Decision-Making” begins a new session on Thursday, July 6, at 12:10 p.m. and will continue each Thursday through August.

These classes are free for all UAB employees, and there is no experience necessary for either class. Registration is required but you may start at any time.

Call 934-2281 to register, or visit the Web site at www.uab.edu/ep for more information and a schedule of upcoming programs, including “Caring for Elderly Parents” and “Freedom from Smoking.”

Storytelling class for adults returns

A storytelling class for adults returns to the Alys Stephens Center this summer.

The class will be held three nights a week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 6-9 p.m., for three weeks, with two bonus sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday of the fourth week. The dates are July 11-13, 18-20, 25-27 and Aug. 1-2.

Aspects of storytelling development in this class will include the art of listening, understanding points of view and making the story your own by giving it to others.

Exercises will include both oral and written techniques. Classroom activities will include family histories, biographies, interviews, creative activities and the art of listening.

To register, visit the Training and Development Web site at www.uab.edu/trained.

Laughter joins lunch in brown bag series

Feeling stressed at work or at home? Join The UAB Resource Center Employee Assistance and Wellness Program and explore the conventional wisdom that laughter is the best medicine during a new brownbag lunch series. “The Joy of Stress.”

The Resource Center is hosting the program on Wednesdays, July 12, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13 at noon. Bring your lunch and the Resource Center will provide drinks and dessert for the hour-long program.

“The Joy of Stress” is a three-part series guaranteed to make you laugh while also providing information about managing stress. You may attend any one or all of the programs.

The UAB Resource Center also is continuing several other popular classes this summer.

A new session of “Stress Management through Meditation” begins Tuesday, July 11, at 12:10 p.m. and will continue each Tuesday through August.

“Tai Chi – Stress Management through Movement” begins a new session on Thursday, July 6, at 12:10 p.m. and will continue each Thursday through August.

These classes are free for all UAB employees, and there is no experience necessary for either class. Registration is required but you may start at any time.

Call 934-2281 to register, or visit the Web site at www.uab.edu/ep for more information and a schedule of upcoming programs, including “Caring for Elderly Parents” and “Freedom from Smoking.”

Intensive summer program to teach academic English

The UAB English Language and Culture Institute (ELCI) at the School of Education is offering a two-week, intensive program to help international undergraduate students with the English language skills needed for success in an American university environment.

The program is Monday through Friday, July 31, through Aug. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. each day.

The courses in the program will be taught by professionally trained, English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors.

The deadline to register for the program is Friday, June 30. Contact the ELCI at the UAB School of Education at 975-6628, e-mail elci@uab.edu or visit the Website at www.uab.edu/elci/SAEPP06.htm.
Vice President for Student Affairs

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) invites nominations and applications for the vice president for student affairs. UAB is the major teaching-research university in the state of Alabama and ranks in the top 20 U.S. academic institutions with respect to National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding. UAB received more than $460 million in grants and contracts (FY 2004). UAB has rapidly become one of the state’s largest public universities with 12 schools, a large graduate school and a world-renowned medical center. The total student enrollment is approximately 15,000 with a full-time faculty of over 1,100. UAB is also the largest employer in the state of Alabama.

The vice president for student affairs reports to the provost for day-to-day operational matters relating to student affairs and to the president on matters of university policy, vision, strategic planning and long-range budgeting.

Responsible for the development and administration of student programs that encompass all facets of student life other than academic programs, the vice president works closely with the associate provost for undergraduate programs and deans to ensure a comprehensive, quality educational experience for all students. The vice president is responsible for directing the recruiting effort, the application of admission standards, the orientation of new students, and the promotion of student diversity and an inclusive campus climate.

The vice president also is charged with the responsibility of student discipline, student registration and records, and various student auxiliary services, which include on-campus residential housing. The vice president oversee student government associations and officially recognized student organizations including the Greek letter organizations. Further responsibility includes the administration of the student center, campus recreation center, student information systems, counseling services, career services, and financial aid to students who qualify under federally funded or other university programs.

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To apply, interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, a complete vita, and the names of five references to place names in nomination should submit a letter of nomination which includes the name, position, address and telephone number of the nominee. Requests for information, written nominations, and application materials should be directed to:

Dr. Janice A. Greenwood
Dr. Betty Turner Asher
Greenwood & Associates, Inc.
42 Business Center Drive, Suite 301
Montgomery, AL 36109
Phone: 850-269-7450 • Fax: 850-650-2272
johns.hopkins@uab.edu or call any member of the staff

A rare gift: That’s what Mervyn Sterne Library Director Paul Spence called this volume of French poet George Sand’s Les lettres as the book was presented to the library in commemoration of the 300,000th volume in the library collection. Dr. William Murray, right, purchased the book “as a curiosity” 20 years earlier. Also pictured, left, are Vice President Thomas Hearm, Deon Brooke and Spence. (UAB Report, Vol. 5, No. 40, 1991)

20 YEARS AGO A new book, The Best in Medicine, is released that ranks University Hospital the nation’s third best, behind the Mayo Clinic and Massachusetts General. "The book ranked the top 10 medical facilities in America based on a nationwide survey of physicians in 27 medical specialties.

SHRP changes name to fit its mission, reflect its evolution

The UAB School of Health Related Professions has a new name: UAB School of Health Professions.

The change was approved April 6 by the University of Alabama Board of Trustees and formally endorsed June 16 by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

Removing “Related” speaks volumes about the school’s rapidly evolving mission, said Dean Harold P. Jones. “For some time, we have been moving away from programs focused on basic health professions training to training at the certificate, associate and bachelor degree levels, toward providing more advanced opportunities — at the baccalaureate and graduate degree levels — for students pursuing leadership careers in the health professions.

“Our programs are not just related to health, they’re integral to it.”

Jones added that this change reflects a nationwide trend among similar top-rated health-professions schools, which have seen their basic curricular offerings shift to community colleges.

“This means more efficient use of the state’s precarious higher education resources,” Jones said. “By not duplicating excellent community college training programs that now are available to Alabama’s students, we can concentrate on offering higher-level health-professions programs, a number of which are unique within the state.”

Created in 1969 by the Alabama State Legislature, the UAB School of Health Professions (SHP) is one of the largest health-professions schools of its type in the nation, with 21 innovative programs at the baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree levels within six departments: Critical Care, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Sciences, Health Services Administration, Nutrition Sciences, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy.

The school’s mission focuses on preparing health-care professionals for service in medically underserved areas of Alabama and ensuring consistent academic and clinical training in a medical center setting. U.S. News & World Report ranks several SHP programs among the nation’s top 25; research funding for the school surpassed $8 million; and SHP ranks first among similar schools in research funding from the National Institutes of Health and holds the record for 25 consecutive years in either first or second place.

Rigney to become acting VP, search committee begins work

Doug Rigney, special assistant to the provost, has been appointed the acting vice president of student affairs.

Rigney assumes the day-to-day responsibilities for the post held by Vice President Jenny Gauld, who announced her retirement, effective Sept. 1.

Rigney is a professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Engineering and earned four degrees, including his Ph.D., at UAB before accepting appointments as a professor in the department of materials and mechanical engineering and assistant professor in metallurgical engineering.

In his role as special assistant to the provost, a post he has held since 2005, Rigney has been responsible for implementing new student records and information systems for the campus. Prior to that, he was assistant dean for academic and student affairs from 2000 to 2002 before becoming associate dean for Engineering, a post he held until 2005.

Rigney has been a member of numerous campuswide committees and is a past president of the UAB National Alumni Society and the UAB Faculty & Staff Benevolent Fund Council.

Search under way

Martyn Karata, interim associate provost for Undergraduate Programs and director of Core Curriculum Enhancement, is chairing the search committee, which is being assisted in the search by Greenwood & Associates Inc. Ads have been placed in several national publications, and the position description is listed on the UAB Web site at www.hrm.uab.edu/employ/

Search committee members include DeeDee Bruns, Enrollment Management; Stella Coorins, Registrar’s Office; John B.Fields, director of the Child Health Institute; Hughes Evans, Pediatrics; Dean Doreen Harper, Nursing; Eric Jack, Business; Janice Kluge, Art & Art History; Mindy Laker, Engineering; Dennis McCampbell, Financial Affairs; Diane Tucker, Science and Technology Honors Program; Nancy Walbara, Nursing; Dr. Charles Watkins, Chemistry; and students Andrew Brashear and Julia Schmitz of the undergraduate and graduate student government associations, respectively.

To nominate a candidate for this position, refer to the official advertisement below.

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The position requires an earned doctorate and progressive and administrative supervisory experience in an academic institution.

How to apply

The UAB Vice President for Student Affairs Search Committee is being assisted in the search by Greenwood & Associates Inc. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. For best consideration, materials should be received by July 14. Application materials should include a letter addressing how the candidate’s experience matches the position requirements; a curriculum vitae; and the names, titles, e-mail and business addresses, and home and telephone numbers of at least five (5) references. Individuals wishing to place names in nomination should submit a letter of nomination, which includes the name, position, address and telephone number of the nominee. Requests for information, written nominations, and application materials should be directed to:

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A rare gift: That’s what Mervyn Sterne Library Director Paul Spence called this volume of French poet George Sand’s Les lettres as the book was presented to the library in commemoration of the 300,000th volume in the library collection. Dr. William Murray, right, purchased the book “as a curiosity” 20 years earlier. Also pictured, left, are Vice President Thomas Hearm, Deon Brooke and Spence. (UAB Report, Vol. 5, No. 40, 1991)

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The UAB Report wants you! The UAB Report wants to share news of what’s going on in your department with others across campus. We also know that UAB employees dedicate themselves to many community efforts, and we’d like to share news and photos of your activities through the UAB Reporter and its companion Web site, www.uab.edu/reporter.

It’s been revamped to include breaking news and photos — as well as quick links to other key campus news sources.

Bookmark it today! Our publication schedule through the summer is:
• July 10
• July 24
• August 7
• August 21

To send in your news, e-mail reporter@uab.edu or call any member of the staff (listed on p. 2 of this issue).

June 26, 2006 UAB Reporter 3
UAB faculty, high-school students both benefit from mentoring

I t’s not every day a 16-year-old gets an opportunity to do research work on cancer.

Stephen Hicks, a just-graduated 18-year-old from Mountain Brook High School, is happy to point that out. He was that 16-year-old.

“I’ve loved it,” says Hicks, who recently completed a two-year researching stint at UAB in the division of nephrology in the department of medicine. “It’s been nice to get out of the science room and do real work. I got to see the real-world results of the science and see it applied.”

Hicks was afforded that opportunity thanks to Tino Unlap, assistant professor of medicine in nephrology. A counselor at Mountain Brook High School contact ed Unlap about mentoring Hicks, and the professor was happy to do so.

Unlap took Hicks under his wing, teaching him how to use the department’s research equipment and empowering him with responsibility.

“Every one of us got here because of somebody taking the time and showing an interest in us,” Unlap says. “There are a lot of kids that need direction, and sometimes they just need to be given a chance, given some responsibility. If we can give every student a chance, I think they’ll continue on with their education.”

Unlap was afforded that chance when he came to the United States from the Trik Islands of Micronesia after high school. While in graduate school at Kansas State, Unlap was taken in by one of his professors, Dr. Charles Hedgcoth.

Hedgcoth did the same thing Unlap has been working to do over the past 10 years — take an interest in students and their lives. Mentoring has become a passion for Unlap.

It’s “very fulfilling, especially when they begin to work independently,” he says. “I just think it’s very critical that we train students. After all, they are the future.”

Unlap thinks mentoring is especially important for junior faculty because it helps them with their own training. “They will be teaching one-on-one, and that is so vital to success in the classroom,” he says.

And Unlap believes researchers are especially fortunate to be mentors because he says it’s the field of research that provides the best training for “real” life.

“First, you have to manage and motivate people and learn to get along with them because they are going to be the driving force behind every successful research project,” he says. “Second, you learn to address problems and come up with solutions that would take the least amount of time and money. Third, you learn to be patient through failures. Finally you learn to package and sell your ‘stuff’ through writing and public speaking. If you can’t sell your stuff and your ideas, who’s going to buy? You can’t get a grant, and you can’t publish.”

And students can learn each of those concepts all in one summer under the guidance of a mentor at UAB, he says.

Hicks opted to learn for two years. Hicks, an honors student who aspires to be a doctor, admits he was bored with the standard learning that goes on in a high-school science class.

He wanted to get his hands dirty and learn real-world principles.

Unlap threw him straight into the fire of cancer research.

Hicks worked through his first summer and enjoyed it so much he kept coming back. Unlap kept throwing more and more at the youngster and took on another student from Mountain Brook High School, Emily Capilouto, this past year.

The two students worked on a potential anticancer drug, slightly modifying an organic compound previously used to treat uterine cancer. They tested it on resistant lung-cancer cells, B-cell lymphoma, brain tumors and solid-tumor cells from muscle. The results of their research stunned them.

“They have shown, through great diligence and hard work, that this drug induces programmed cell death in a number of cancer cells while not affecting normal cells,” Unlap says. “That was very exciting to them.”

“It’s amazing,” Hicks adds. “The solid-tumor cells — I had results where they were completely wiped out.”

Their findings were presented at the Intel Regional Science fair in Birmingham in March, and they received second place honors. They then presented their findings at the Science and Engineering State fair in Huntsville and placed third.

In addition, they also won the Mu Alpha Theta, Stateline Sporting Goods Division, Boeing Company, U.S. Army Science and Engineering and the U.S. Metric Association awards in the Senior Division.

“Emily and Stephen are excellent examples of how young minds can accomplish great things when given the opportunity through mentoring,” Unlap says.

The research, part of a five-year, $550,000 NIH grant, now enters the next phase of testing and — if successful — could lead to clinical trials.

There are endless opportunities for students to learn from mentors at UAB.

The schools of Dentistry, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry and Public Health are just a few of the other areas where faculty members serve as mentors on campus.

Hicks says his experience learning under Unlap at UAB has been exciting him and not just for the research he was doing.

“It’s been wonderful working with Tino,” Hicks says. “I like learning from him and just being able to talk to him.”

Unlap says he’s going to miss Stephen and Emily, but he is grateful for the privilege of working with them and says he expects great things from them in the future.

As for Unlap, he’s welcoming a new group of students this summer with two students from the UAB Early Medical School Acceptance Program (EMSAP), a student from the Community Outreach Development (CORD) Program, and one from the Summer in Biomedical Science (SIBS) Research Program all coming aboard.

“This is what bring a faculty member is about,” he says.

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CONTINUED from page 1

that the updates come via new datasets from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) and other databases such as The Nottingham Arabidopsis Stock Center.

What kind of studies will researchers currently find in the PowerAtlas?

Page says many of the studies in the database are on cancer. Other major studies in the PowerAtlas include nutrition and obesity, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, yeast and others with the majority of the studies in humans or model organisms such as rats, mice, flies, worms and plants.

Microarray experiments also can be conducted here on campus, saving even more time and money for UAB scientists.

“It’s cheaper to do it on campus than with any of the for-profit companies,” Page says.

Allison says he pictured in his mind the PowerAtlas working like a book, where every page turned has a picture of the study the researcher is seeking. He says his vision for the project was achieved.

“But instead of a book, you have the computer and instead of the picture of, say, a fruit fly exposed to lead, you have a publication-quality graphic of the power and sample size results,” Allison says. “I know of no other tool that will allow investigators to immediately access hundreds of studies and in a matter of minutes have sophisticated power calculations on the basis of any one of those studies.

“I think this is something that could be aimed for in the future in other areas as well. I think the areas of genetics and genomics we will see these types of things because it is becoming the standard in the field for investigators to make their data publicly available.”

June 26, 2006
Heart & Vascular Center ushers in new era of patient care

Heart and vascular diseases affect more than 71 million Americans and are the leading cause of non-accidental deaths among Alabamians.

UAB formally dedicated the state’s best-equipped, most comprehensive facility for the diagnosis and nonoperative treatment of heart and vascular disease and related conditions on Monday, June 19. The new 55,000-square-foot UAB Heart and Vascular Center at UAB Hospital, features 13 state-of-the-art procedural labs, including labs for pediatric cardiology patients and 26 private rooms for future growth is designed into the technology of the future, but also a facility of the highest quality to serve patients needing both routine and highly complex non-operative, catheter-based treatments.

Highly advanced technology, in particular imaging technology, plays a key role in the UAB Heart & Vascular Center, for which he is co-director.

The new facility is the largest in the Southeast in terms of square footage and number of labs. It is also one of the few centers in the country to completely integrate multiple lines of health-care service within one unit. There will be five service lines within the UAB Heart and Vascular Center: vascular, interventional radiology, pediatric cardiology, interventional neuroradiology, diagnostic and interventional cardiology and electrophysiology.

The diseases treated by these groups include cardiac arrhythmias, congestive heart failure, coronary and peripheral atherosclerosis, acute myocardial infarctions (heart attacks), uterine fibroids, liver and gall bladder diseases, bone tumors and intracranial aneurysms.

Innovative New Cardiology and Gastroenterology

Heart & Vascular

New/Competing Continuation

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

- Robert Bourge, director of the UAB Division of Cardiovascular Disease and center co-director. “This facility, with its highly advanced technology, plays a key role in the UAB Heart & Vascular Center, for which he is co-director.”

- Robert Bourge, director of the UAB Division of Cardiovascular Disease, welcomes visitors during the opening of the new 55,000-square-foot UAB Heart & Vascular Center, for which he is co-director.

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Monday, June 26
3:30 pm Anesthesiology GRs, OB board review, Asst Prof Robin Walters (Anesthesiology) – JT-906.

Tuesday, June 27
11 am Laboratory Medicine. Gray-zone lymphomas, Dr. James Weissberger (vice president of Medical Officer, Bio-Reference Laboratories); WP-D.

Thursday, June 29
8 am Rheumatology GRs. Clinical conference; WP-D.

Noon Pulmonary GRs/Critical Care Medicine. Alternative methods for hemo-dynamic monitoring, Jeremy Scherwein (Housestaff); Finley Conf Ctr.

Noon Geriatric Noon Conference. Advance directives: Progress and promises, Fellow Samina Uddin (Gerontology); WP-Bd Pm.

1 pm UAB School of Nursing 15th Anniversary. Igniting evidence-based practice in clinical and educational settings, Dr. Bernadette Mazurek Melnyk (Dean) and Distinguished Foundation Professor in Nursing at the Arizona State University College of Nursing; SUN-aut.

Monday, June 26
3:30 pm Biomedical Engineering. Longitudinal evaluation of HSV brain tumor therapeutic Hyperthermia RSF field and diffusion tensor MR imaging, Candidate Wei Biao; Hoehn-152.

Tuesday, June 27
1 pm Nursing. Effects of breast cancer risk, psychological distress and dispositional optimism on immune responses in healthy women, Candidate Na-Jin Park; SON-6207.

3 pm Public Health. Effects of psychological stress and cytokine genes on antibody response to tetanus toxoid in family caregivers of Alzheimer’s disease patients, Candidate Jian Li; RPHB-117.

Wednesday, June 28
10 am Biology. Evaluation of sedi-ment-sensitive biological metrics as bio-monitoring tools on varied spatial scales, Candidate Janna Yvonne Smitherly Owens; CH-274.

1 pm Mathematics. Mathematical investiga-tion of statistical hazard models for survival data, Candidate Katherine Harb; ZRB-739.

Thursday, June 29
10 am Biology. Hepatocellular viability is maintained by endogenous hydrogen sul-fide production, Candidate Helen Patel; CH-274.

1 pm Cell Biology. Delineating the effects of mutant Huntington on mito-chondrial function, Candidate Tamara Miljkovic; BBRB-170.

2 pm Medical Psychology. Hope, self-efficacy, and functional recovery after knee and hip replacement, Candidate Shannon Hartley; CH-415 Conference Rm.

2 pm Biology. LHPLPS, a candidate gene for uterine leiomyoma; Candidate Travis Placek; CH-274.

4:30 pm Nutrition Sciences. The valida-tion of a self-assessment nutrition and physical activity screening tool for ado-lescent overweight, Candidate Amanda Columbus; Midtown Center Conf Rm 202.

Friday, June 30
10 am Microbiology. The identification and characterization of spores of the Bacillus anthracis exquisitus, Candidate Chris Steichen; BBRB-170.

10:30 am Health Behavior. Assessing the implementation of the Citation Chinese Health reduce smoking exposure in a low-income population, Candidate Narvette L. Slutman; DH-234.

1 pm Lifespan Developmental Psychology. Longitudinal relations between spoken word recognition, pho-nomen awareness and beginning reading, Candidate Despina Stavrinos; CH-327.

Meetings
Monday, June 26
5:25 pm Power Yoga; UAB Arts Annex. For more info, call 967-3033.

6:30 pm Power Yoga; UAB Arts Annex. For more info, call Bonnie 832-6632.

Tuesday, June 27
noon UAB Resource Center Wellness Program. Stress management through meditation; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/eap.

7 pm Conversational English, levels 1-4; Smokin Intl. House. For more info, 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.

Wednesday, June 28
noon French conversation table; HUC Cafeteria (look for the French flag). Come to speak French and make new friends! For more info, Catherine daniell@uab.edu.

5:25 pm Power Yoga; UAB Arts Annex. For more info, call Fran 967-3033.

6:30 pm Power Yoga; UAB Arts Annex. For more info, call Steenie 832-6632.

7 pm Society for Intuitive Research meeting. Discuss the three levels of mind and how to use them to your benefit. Students and faculty welcome. Spencer Honors House.

Thursday, June 29
12:10 pm UAB Resource Center. Tai Chi-Stress management through move-ment; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/eap.

6:30 pm SMART recovery group meet-ings; not a 12-step or religious program. Any addiction or habit can be helped. Southside Baptist Church. Call WL. Fulcher 975-7755 for details.

8 pm Stammtisch conversation table, for anyone who speaks German; Giuseppe’s Cafe, 925 9th Street South. For info, agrestil@uab.edu.

Final defenses
Monday, June 26
10 am History. Emory O. Jackson: A tra-ditioner in the early Civil Rights fight in Birmingham, Alabama, Candidate Chris Davis; Ulman-335.

1 pm Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics. Development and application of biochemical assays for functional and drug discovery studies of HIV-1 integrase and Ebola virus VP40, Candidate Simu John; Finley Conf Ctr.

Teaching sessions cancelled for summer
The following teaching sessions have been cancelled for the summer.

- CNRC/Nutrition Sciences Noon Seminar will resume in August.
- Endocrine Conference will resume in September.
- Friday Noon Conference will resume July 14.
- General Medicine Noon Confer-ence will resume July 18.
- Geographic Medicine GRs will resume in October.
- GI/Hepatology GRs will resume in September.
- Hematology/Oncology GRs will resume in August or September.
- Hematology/Oncology Research Conference will resume Sept. 11.
- Medical GRs will resume July 12.
- Monday Noon Conference will resume July 10.
- Vascular Biology/Hypertension Program will resume Sept. 8.
- UAB Center for Aging/GRECC Scientific Seminar Series will re-sume in September.

City chamber music festival debuts Aug. 4-6
The Alys Stephens Center and the Birmingham Chamber Music Society present the first-ever Magic City Chamber Music Festival, featuring the incomparable Borodin String Quartet and the Louisiana Chamber Players, Aug. 4-6.

The chamber music festival incorporates all of the elements of a traditional festival with lively discussions and enlightening educational opportunities, but with Southern flair, said Carson Thornton, executive director of the Alys Stephens Center.

“Those Southerners, creating and listening to music is a social occasion, and that means delicious food, drinks and hospitality as well,” Thornton said. Performances will be held in the center’s intimate 170-seat Reynolds-Kirschbaum Recital Hall.

The ASC Chamber Players feature Van Cliburn medalist Yakov Kasman and Denise Graves, Karen Bentley Pollick, Michael Fernandez, Hilarie Harp Rivas and Dennis Parker.

Weekends and individual event tickets are on sale; seating is limited. Call 975-2787 or go to www.AlysStephens.org for a complete listing of activities.

Friday, June 30
7 am Falun Data exercises, an ancient Chinese exercise that brings harmony & health; UAB Mini Park, 4-8025.

Religion
Tuesday, June 27
Noon Medical Center Christian Fellowship Meeting, WP-B. All welcome. Mark 647-5177 or Blair 981-3862.

Wednesday, June 28
Noon Employee-led Bible study; Interfaith Chapel-West Pavilion.

12:15 pm Latter-day Saints Student Association. Scripture study and discus-sion; HUC-413. All welcome. For more info, Andrew 822-9338.

7 pm Catholic mass; St Stephen Church, 1515 S 12th Ave. 933-2500.

Sunday, July 2
5 pm UAB Hindu Student Council. We will have discussion on singing and feast-ing the Hare Krishna way where everyone is welcome to join. For more info, Varadraj Prabhu 383-9805. 1501 15th Ave S, Apt 20, Bham.

Exhibits
Mervyn H. Sterne Library. Talent Show: Fancy Arts and Crafts by Sterne Library staff members. 7:30 am-10 pm Mon- Thurs; 7:30 am-7 pm Fri 9 am-5 pm Sat; 1-11 pm Sun.

The Samuel Ullman Museum. Home of prominent Birmingham civic leader and poet. Open by appointment only, 4-3328.

UAB Visual Arts Gallery. Pixel visions. Contemporary Videos from Birmingham Comix Collections featuring works by Emily Jacobs, Ted Maltz, Lawrence Weiner, Hiralal Sawai, Julian Dashper and others. Mon-Thurs 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The gallery will be closed Saturday and Sunday and all major holi-days. Admission is free. For information, call 4000.
3 WHHM-Birmingham presents AIDS: The Epidemic in Alabama, a one-hour documentary examining HIV/AIDS in the Heart of Dixie. The documentary airs Thursday, June 29, at 7 p.m. and will be rebroadcast Sunday, July 2, at 3 p.m.

WBHM Producer Rosemary Pennington interviews AIDS patients, a rural outreach worker, a high school administrator and many others as she explores the major issues facing those in the front lines of AIDS work in Alabama.

More than 14,000 Alabamians are living with HIV or AIDS. "AIDS has been around for most of my lifetime, it's something I've grown up with" says Pennington. "But when I was younger it was an urban disease, now it's sweeping through rural areas, especially here in the South. With this year being the 25th anniversary of the epidemic, it felt like the right time to explore the epidemic in Alabama."

In addition to the documentary, two related stories will air June 26 and 27 during Morning Edition and All Things Considered. The first touches on UAB's MOMS (Making Our Mothers Stronger) project, which aims to help HIV-positive moms manage stress better so they can be healthier and be better parents. The second story deals with methamphetamine use and the effects it has on workers worrying about the effect methamphetamine is having on the transmission of HIV.

Online components include a Web exclusive featuring an interview with an AIDS researcher about AIDS orphans in the Black Belt, touching on the lack of discussion about AIDS orphans in the United States. Also, there will be a time-line of the epidemic. Online streaming of the documentary and related stories will be available as well.

Chair Report: Past-Chair Pete Anderson presented Dr. Linda Reed with the Faculty Senate Outstanding Service Award and officially transferred the gavel to Chair Joe March for the 2006-2007 senate term. Chair March presented a res-olution recognizing the service of Dr. Pete Anderson as chair of the Faculty Senate for 2005-2006. Chair March announced that Provost Eil Eippe, who has approved the senate and FPPC-recommended changes to Section 2 of the UAB Faculty Handbook related to FPPC mem-bership, has distributed the new Excused Absence Policy and has forwarded to the senate office a report that compares UAB faculty salaries by rank and by school to the SUG averages. Chair March present-ed an overview of the senate including its function and structure and addressed some of the items recommended by sena-tors at the last meeting for consideration during the upcoming year including new senator orientation and increased com-munication.

President Report: President Carol Garrison announced that the new UAB dining facility (Commons on the Green) and residence hall (Blazer Hall) are now open, agenda items for the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for June 15 and 16 include tuition and budget plan-nning and the new UAB Women and Infants Facility, and Dr. Philip Way will join UAB on Sept. 1 as the associate pro-vost for undergraduate programs.

Standing Committee Reports: Faculty Affairs Committee – Chair Mark Lockhart reviewed the revisions made to the Periodic Career Developmental Review Concept Proposal Draft based on feedback received from the deans after presentation at an Academic Programs Council meeting. Senators were encour-aged to distribute the proposal draft to faculty and solicit input. The proposal draft is in the final review stage and will be voted on at the July Senate meeting.

New Business: Elections for the two sena-tor-at-large positions were held and Dr. Pamela Autrey and Dr. Ellen Buckner were elected to serve a one-year term on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Chair March announced that he is look-ing for volunteers to fill the following vacant senate positions: chair of the Governance and Operations Committee, chair of the Finance Committee, senate parliamentarian, senate representative to the UAB Athletic Advisory Committee/ Academic Standards Subcommittee and senate representative to the UAB Committee on Academic Advising.

Universitywide Committee Reports: Linda Reed, senate representative to the UAB Fringe Benefits Committee, provided an overview of the committee and encour-aged senators to contact her about any issues or concerns related to fringe ben-efits.

Announcements: The next Senate meet-ing is July 11 in the Penthouse CR1, the next FSEC meeting with the president and provost is July 5, and the next FPPC meeting is June 16.

Chair March announced that he is look-ing for volunteers to fill the following vacant senate positions: chair of the Governance and Operations Committee, chair of the Finance Committee, senate parliamentarian, senate representative to the UAB Athletic Advisory Committee/ Academic Standards Subcommittee and senate representative to the UAB Committee on Academic Advising.

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Secretary Jennifer Long submits this draft summary of the minutes and a more complete record will appear on the senate page www.uab.edu/fsenate/home.htm after approval at the July Senate meeting. The minutes of the FPPC meeting also are available for review on the Senate Web site.

The work of the facilities division spans both the medical and academic sides of campus. Several projects combining the enhancement of residential and classroom space also have been undertaken, including two new parking garages and a new Campus Green, anchored by the new UAB Campus Recreation Center. Nearby are the new Dining Commons and Blazer Hall. Construction soon will begin on a new academic building on the site.

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Diane Massey created a mess. It was one of those innocent accidents that happens every once in a while. She dropped a three-hole punch and the paper holes flew out, coating the floor around her desk.

Massey, a manager in Health System Information Services, hopped up and went on the search for a vacuum. That’s when she ran into fellow UAB employee Stephanie Simon, an environmental services specialist.

Massey told Simon she needed a vacuum and when Simon inquired as to why, she was having none of it.

“That is my job,” Simon told Massey.

Dedication to her job and the joy she exhibits every day in doing her work are just a couple of the reasons Simon has been chosen June’s Employee of the Month.

Workers on the fourth floor of the General Services Building (GSB) have countless stories similar to Massey’s. Gary Slaten, a senior system analyst, was cleaning his desk one day when he asked Simon for a rag to wipe down the top of his shelves.

“She stopped what she was doing and cleaned it for me,” he says.

Simon has worked at UAB for more than three years, and since she began cleaning her fourth floor everyone has noticed a difference.

“All area that is assigned, customers are very satisfied with her work,” says Ed Crump, director of environmental services.

“Her work ethic speaks for herself, and this explains why she is so well liked.”

Simon says she is flattered to be honored as the employee of the month, saying it’s the people she works with on a daily basis that keep her motivated.

“I’ve worked in a lot of places and a lot of hospitals, but none have been like GSB,” Simon says. “They are nice people, wonderful people and loving people — people that really care about you.”

Community service led Cathy Barker to career at UAB

Cathy Barker will tell you she joined the General Federation of Women’s Clubs almost 30 years ago because she was looking for a daughter.

“I got involved in Juniorettes and Girl Scouts many years ago because I’ve got all boys,” she says of her two children. “I had to adopt girls through community service.”

However, Barker, a nurse coordinator in nephrology, was recently installed as the new president of the Alabama Federation of Women’s Clubs (AFWC) for the first of June, capping her years of commitment and dedication to the organization that has become her second family.

“It’s definitely an honor to lead such a fantastic volunteer service organization,” says Barker, who is serving a two-year term.

There is no question in Barker’s mind that her decision to join AFWC all of those years ago has shaped her life in a positive way. Her path to joining was an interesting one. A neighbor one day asked her if she wanted to be a part of a garden club.

“I’m just not a gardener,” Barker says with a laugh.

Her neighbor came back later and asked if she was interested in joining a service organization called the Shades Mountain Women’s Club.

“She was barking up the right tree then,” Barker says.

So Barker joined and began a life that would eventually bring her to UAB by way of the AFWC.

A club member arranged a tour of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for the group and Barker was overcome by the experience. After her youngest son started kindergarten, she began pursuing her nursing degree at UAB. She’s been working here for 15 years.

“Because of my children’s work I went to nursing school here,” she says.

As part of her service work, Barker began sponsoring the Pelham Juniorettes several years ago. The group meets once a month and does volunteer work at the Humane Society and a nursing home in Alabaster throughout the year.

“Working with these girls kind of gives you faith that the world is going to be OK,” she says of the group, which boasts 67 girls from the 10-12th grades.

It’s no coincidence then that Barker selected youth as the AFWC’s primary mission for her two-year term, choosing Alabama Youth Leadership Program.

The group is for high-school sophomores.

Every high school in the state can select a representative to attend a leadership conference.

“We ask for not necessarily the leader of the class, but someone with leadership ability,” Barker says.

Barker demonstrates that in her personal life as well. Her work as a kidney disease researcher at UAB is especially important because kidney disease has affected her family. Barker’s brother, Ron Vick, has had two kidney transplants.

Her sister, Coleen Johnson, donated a kidney to him 15 years ago. Two years ago, Vick’s donated kidney began to fail. So, Barker was tested and determined to be a perfect match. She immediately decided to donate a kidney to him. It was another way for Barker to give back.

Barker is happy to report she, her brother and sister are doing well. And, she says, her commitment to AFWC is as strong as ever, adding that membership — 3,000 strong in Alabama — is open to any woman in the state.

Barker says her community service shouldn’t be looked upon as noble. She says it’s nothing more than a great chance to give back what she has been given.

“I think community service is just a price we pay for the privilege of living on this Earth,” she says. “I’ve had so many opportunities, it only seems fair to try and afford those opportunities to others.”

Obituaries

Retired Environmental Services Specialist-Campus Emma Davis (Building Services). May 21.

Unit Support Specialist Irene Youngblood Davis (Transplant and General Surgical Services). May 21.

Retired Professor Ramon Duchaux (Ophthalmology), May 30.

LPN Robbie Hill (Rehabilitation Nursing Services/Dept-Span Rehabilitation Center), June 7.

Rosalyne Butts, an office associate in HSIS, says Simon goes beyond the call of duty to assure the floor looks and smells fresh and clean.

“She does this every day, not just to impress supervisors during inspections or when company is expected,” Butts says. “Vendors and visitors always offer compliments as to how warm and inviting our floor is. They often express how they would love to work in a pleasant environment such as ours.”

“She is second to none in her area of expertise, and her wonderful personality is the icing on the cake.”

Simon’s sunny disposition draws the same praise as her attention to detail does when it comes to cleaning.

“Stephanie is very friendly, never failing to greet employees in the hallway or wish them good night on their way out as she goes about her work,” says Cathy Childers, clinical information system specialist. “She is positive in her approach and never complains when HSIS has 24-hour work schedules that are accompanied by food festivities to fuel the extra work. She simply expresses concern that all is going well and puts out extra effort herself.”

“Employees like her are our unsung heroes.”
Women

Would you like to know your body fat? Bone density? Healthy African-American and Caucasian women ages 40-70 may be eligible for a study on ethnic differences in insulin sensitivity. Contact: Rose 4-2130/866-7870.

Men

Inconvenience study compares two treatments for urinary incontinence after surgery for prostate cancer. You must be a man if you are experiencing urinary leakage more than a year after surgery. Contact: James 4-2750.

Conservative Therapy for Post-Prostatectomy Incontinence (CPT) Men need to have had surgery for prostate cancer and experiencing urine leaking. You may also be experiencing urge incontinence. Contact: James 888-4949/7294.

Healthy white males age 18-50 may be interested in a study on erectile dysfunction. Compensation: $150.

Healthy white males age 18-50 may be interested in participating in a multicenter study to evaluate a new treatment for major depression. Contact: David 4-7128.

Healthy white males age 40-70 may be interested in a study to evaluate a new treatment for major depression. Contact: David 4-7128.

Men and women ages 50 and older are needed for the AiM Project study. Women & Men

Healthy women ages 40-70 may be interested in a study to evaluate a new treatment for major depression. Contact: David 4-7128.

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Classifieds

For Sale

Appliances & Electronics

19" Emerson TV, 1080i DVD, sfilter & wireless TV, both in good working cond, $35; obo. Must sell. 343-2039.

Refrigerator: 2000 white Whirlpool w/ ice maker, 18 ft. W x 32”, $150. Cash only. $240 sold.

Toaster: $4.50. 705-1023.

Nokia 6110 flip phone, brand new, ask $80 incl. home charger. 427-2984/668.

Automobiles

10 Toyota Corolla, 2-door hatchback, white, 3-spd, in good working condition, $8,000. No trade. $4,500.

Refrigerator: 2000 white Whirlpool w/ ice maker, 18 ft. W x 32”, $150. Cash only. $240 sold.

Toaster: $4.50. 705-1023.

Sports & Fitness

Carver—want to live in the country? Nice brick private home on 0.6 acres, very private, lots of extras. 688-1375.

Toro Recycler 22’ walker mower, 2-dr hatchback, white, 4-dr, 26,000 mi, gray/red, under manufacturer’s warranty, V6, 61,000 mi, Bose sound system, alarm, runs, sold as-is, $1000/obo. Danielle 503-0510.

Beachfront condo: Gulf shores Plantation: 60” TV in LR and wall-mounted flat screen in BR. Caribe, 60” TV in LR and wall-mounted flat screen in BR. $12,000/4wks. $2700/mo for couple or $475/mo for single; deposit $900. All utilities paid in the development. Rates go to vacationspaces.com click on Caribe, then Caribe宫座, then Palace 6 (r), Terry 438-7232.

Lisa: 3 BR 2 BA condo, beach front luxury property. 6 BR/6 BA plus, free washer & dryer, private elevator. 5-896-0864. 

Motorcycle:

Toro Recycler 22’ walker mower, 2-dr hatchback, white, 4-dr, 26,000 mi, gray/red, under manufacturer’s warranty, V6, 61,000 mi, Bose sound system, alarm, runs, sold as-is, $1000/obo. Danielle 503-0510.

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Certified nurse assistant will provide private care for home/elderly care & light housekeeping. Excellent experience. Dalcin 249-6824.

Want to own professional cookware free? This product is flexible, non-stick and easy to clean. Perfect for students; hours are semi flexible. Must be reliable, hard working and have basic operating knowledge of typical small kitchen appliances. Contact Shunta’ 873-0776.


Looking for your precious moments. Specializing in weddings. For consultation, call Katrina, 410-3811.

Beauty, love babies, kids, teens. Mom love babies, kids, teens. Mom


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CONCERT
Tuesday, July 4th - 8:00 p.m.
Bartow Arena Plaza
Bring lawn chairs and picnics!
(concessions available)
Music for the entire family...
show tunes, Broadway classics, patriotic favorites.

WHEN THE JOY OF MUSIC-MAKING MEETS THE CELEBRATION OF SUMMER...
EXPECT FIREWORKS!