Virtual Patient creation believed to be first of its kind

Viewing the brain in 3-D. Watching the direction the blood flows through the heart. Viewing a cross-section of a real human body.

UAB researchers and inventors have made this possible with the Virtual Patient, an innovation its creators in the schools of Nursing and Engineering say will revolutionize learning in the classroom and stimulate engineering research.

“We needed something to translate what the students were going to see in a real-time environment in an operating room or on a CT scan or an MRI in the classroom. The only way to do that was to duplicate it,” says Danny Murphy, an instructional design manager in the School of Nursing.

Murphy, whose original idea for the simulator seeded the quest, and co-creators Alan Shih, Ph.D., a research associate professor in mechanical engineering, and Corey Shum, a programmer/analyst in the Enabling Technology Laboratory in the school of Engineering, did just that.

The Virtual Patient is an all-inclusive, mobile display system for full-scale human anatomy that uses internally developed custom software and data from the National Institutes of Health Visible Human Project. It’s constructed in a six-foot customized stereoscopic display system configured to mimic a patient bed and utilizes 360 degree, 3-D imaging and other cutting-edge applications. It also utilizes real patient data.

“The visible human data set already was available through the National Library of Medicine,” Murphy explains. “We’ve just taken that and refined it to create a stereoscopic view of the human body and represent different systems in high resolution; if you wanted to display the differences between a diseased organ in the body and a healthy organ you could do that in high resolution and distinguish between the two.”

Dynamic duo
To make the Virtual Patient work, Shih and Murphy needed to come on board. They were the ones who successfully constructed the apparatus and the computer mainframe and set up the baseline data. The next step for them will be to develop the different modules, such as modules for the nervous system, muscular system, brain, etc. Nursing faculty will develop the content in each of these specialty areas.

Shih, whose background is in aerospace engineering, never dreamed he would work in biomedical or nursing areas creating something to help train future health-care providers.

“The Virtual Patient simulator is basically a platform,” Shih says. “The idea is that we will be able to incorporate more material into it in the future.”

Shum says the Virtual Patient technology enables it to show animations as well as simulations, allowing users to see the results.

“Rather than the doctor saying, ‘This is what happens when the bone breaks,’ we could simulate what happens when the bone is exposed to certain stresses and breaks,” Shum explains.

“We take the bone and its material properties and codify that into the software. Then, on the Virtual Patient system, you could see how the crack propagates, how the actual deformity

What are the benefits of the Virtual Patient?
Nursing students have the opportunity to see in a real-time environment what happens in an operating room or on a CT scan, and can view it in 3D.

The technology will aid Engineering in its many research efforts.

Developers and users working together will generate an entire family of patents, as well as registered copyrights for software modules.

He said it
“I could say very nice and poetic things, but if you needed to cut me open and use that information it wouldn’t be very helpful. How better to get that information from one person to another than to use technology to show how things can happen.”

— Corey Shum, programmer/analyst, on the virtues of the Virtual Patient as a teaching tool

Effort reporting emphasis pays off in compliance

The emphasis UAB has placed on timely and accurate certified effort reports since 2004 has paid off in compliance.

Since the fourth quarter of 2005, the university reached a rate of 98.9 percent of reports submitted by 90 days after quarter-end, which is when they are considered delinquent, said Samuel Tilden, M.D., UAB research compliance officer.

“Richard Marchase, our vice president for research, Patricia Raczynski, the associate vice president for Financial Affairs, and Dr. Tilden are to be commended for their work and their teams have put into working to ensure that all UAB’s project employees understand how important it is that we be in compliance with federal time and effort reporting of charges to grants,” said President Carol Garrison, Ph.D. “I also want to thank our research faculty and staff, in particular, for making timely and accurate effort reporting a continuing priority.”

Effort reporting is the documentation that demonstrates the proper charging of costs. It is required for every employee who is paid for time spent on a sponsored project.
UAB Temp Services
can help with staffing

Need help with your temporary staffing needs? It’s only a phone call away with UAB Temporary Services.

Temporary Services can help departments find employees for part- or full-time positions to work any shift.

Employees hired through the service undergo a comprehensive initial screening, including an extensive criminal history investigation, verification of education and previous work history, multiple reference checks and more. In addition, Temporary Services takes care of most payroll and administrative issues.

Call 934-4030 to get the hiring process started today!

Search for new head football coach begins

Interim Athletics Director Richard Margison and senior associate athletics directors Brian Mackin and Lee Moon will lead a national search for a new UAB head football coach to replace Watson Brown, who resigned Dec. 9.

UAB President Carol Garrison, Ph.D., expressed appreciation for Brown’s hard work and efforts in establishing the university’s program in Division I football, and also expressed confidence those leading the search would find the best candidate.

“These experience working together in filling openings, specifically the men’s basketball, baseball and volleyball positions, demonstrates that this search will be thorough, discreet and successful in finding the right person for our university,” Garrison said.

Brown, who directed the UAB football program as head coach since 1995, resigned to accept a position in his hometown as head coach for Tennessee Tech University in Cookeville, Tenn.

Cancer Center JFDG proposals sought

The UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center plans to fund up to three Junior Faculty Development grant awards in 2007.

The primary purpose of these grants is to provide seed funding to junior faculty members that facilitates successful competition for extramural funding programs at the national level. Awards will be limited to $30,000 per investigator for a 12-month period beginning April 1, 2007.

The deadline for proposals is Feb. 9, 2007. Application guidelines and instructions may be obtained from Cheryl Lyles at chlyles@uab.edu or from Denise Shaw, Ph.D., professor of hematology/oncology, at dshaw@uab.edu. The guidelines and instructions are also available on the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center Web site at www.ccc.uab.edu.

Changes in IACUC protocol submissions

Effective in January 2007, the protocol submission deadline for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee will be the 21st day of each month instead of the last working day each month.

When the 21st day occurs on a weekend or official UAB holiday, the deadline will be the next regular business day (following NIH submission guidelines).

Questions should be directed to the IACUC office, 934-7808/7692 or visit main.uab.edu/internal/show.asp?durki=3592.
labor costs to federally and non-federally sponsored activities at UAB. University project employees must certify quarterly effort reports specifying the percent of total UAB effort expended on the employee’s various institutional activities, including sponsored research, sponsored instruction, other sponsored activities, instruction, training, administration, etc. Principal investigators and departmental management are responsible for ensuring that UAB project employees responsible for certifying their activities understand clearly which accounts represent those activities and how their effort actually relates to those accounts.

OIG plans

“In the OIG’s fiscal year 2007 work plan, that office has said that its investigators and auditors will continue to work closely with the Department of Justice to develop and pursue cases under the False Claims Act against institutions that receive fundings from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other agencies in the Public Health Service,” Tilden said. “The OIG said it plans to determine whether salary charges on NIH grants accurately reflect the time that researchers spent on those grants,” he said. “The OIG also plans to determine whether colleges and universities have appropriately charged administrative and clerical salaries to federally sponsored grants and to determine whether cost transfers by NIH grantees were allowed.”

The agency’s work plan said there are a growing number of settlements under the False Claims Act indicating “that some major research universities continue to engage in practices that do not result in an equitable distribution of their employees’ activities, resulting in overcharges to NIH grants and a reduction in funds available for other research costs.”

Tilden said UAB will place emphasis on those same areas while at the same time continuing its efforts to ensure that certified reports are submitted by the 60-day due date and prior to the 90-day deadline when they are considered delinquent. To find out more about effort reporting, go to www.uab.edu/effort.

VIRTUAL PATIENT

CONTINUED from page 1

would occur, in 3D, right in front of you.”

Shum’s personal satisfaction comes from creating a mechanism that presents information visually. “I could say very nice and poetic things, but if you needed to cut me open and use that information it wouldn’t be very helpful. How better to get that information from one person to another than to use technology to show how things can happen,” he says.

Full of possibilities

The UBAB Research Foundation (UABRF) is seeking patent protection for the Virtual Patient and its uses and filed its first patent application on this technology more than a year ago.

Leona Fitzmaurice, Ph.D., director of Technology Transfer for the UAB Research Foundation, is responsible for protecting and licensing this intellectual property for the university. According to Fitzmaurice, developers and users of the Virtual Patient will generate an entire family of patents, as well as registered copyrights for software modules. She says what’s seen of the Virtual Patient, the possibilities for the developers and UAB are endless.

“I think our people are ahead of the curve, because there’s nothing else like this out there that we’ve been able to find.” Fitzmaurice says. “And this is the virtual male patient. You could have the Virtual Female, Virtual Baby. There are even possibilities in veterinary medicine with the Virtual Dog, Virtual Cat, Virtual Horse or whatever. Not to mention the numerous software programs that can be developed.”

Collaboration the key

Although Murphy originated the concept, he didn’t have the technical ability to translate it into a tool for faculty and students. “I just an instructional design guy,” he says.

Murphy needed someone who could write software for the Virtual Patient and the logical place to turn to, he says, was the School of Engineering.

Nursing Dean Doreen Harper, Ph.D., and Engineering Dean Linda Lucas, Ph.D., soon began discussing how the two schools could work together to facilitate the Virtual Patient, and their involvement was pivotal. Murphy says.

Lucas says the benefits for both schools were easy to see – and the decision to work together was an easy one.

“You hear all the time about nursing shortages and engineering shortages. We think these two professions need to work together because we need to train more people to work in these areas,” Lucas says.

“Therelife situations and to use actual clinical experiences more efficiently.”

Harper agrees that the collaboration has produced a product that could revolutionize future learning in both schools.

“This creation, impossible without the collaboration between our two schools, links an engineering research with sophisticated electronic learning development,” Harper says. “With the need to prepare many more nurses to care for the Baby Boomers in the next 30 years, the Virtual Patient offers a type of simulated learning that can better prepare students for real-life clinical situations and to use actual clinical experiences more efficiently.”

“This technology has the potential to transform how we teach in nursing as well as other health professions, helping students understand and see the complexities of body systems and pathological conditions virtually.”

English Resource Center

I n UAB’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), one of the areas identified as needing improvement is student communication skills. Writing, in particular, is essential to success in university-level courses and the working world.

UAB’s goal is to provide its students high-quality instruction in this area, says Rita Treutel, interim director of the English Resource Center (ERC), which provides students additional guidance in improving their reading and writing skills.

“I want people to know this resource, the ERC, is here,” Treutel says. “The QEP directs us to improve student writing at UAB. People don’t know that we have the ERC already in place, and it can address many of the concerns that have been expressed.”

While the ERC is affiliated with the English Department, its services are available to all students – and the benefits, Treutel says, are easy to see.

“Faculty across this institution have identified instances in which their students’ writing is not where it needs to be, but they don’t always have the resources to help the students. We do,” Treutel says.

“We have the resources, the training and the facility to work with students.”

Students can call the ERC to set up one-time or standing appointments to meet with a tutor, or they can visit without an appointment during drop-in hours and receive help.

Resources also are available to professors who would like to refer students for appointments or receive information about strategies to help improve student reading and writing. Professors can arrange for a student or group of students to receive tutoring by contacting Treutel.

Tutors also are available to meet with professors to review assignments before they are assigned to the students. This enables the tutors to have a clear understanding of the assignment, thus enabling them to better aid students.

The ERC can help students with writing not directly tied to coursework, too. Tutors are available to help formulate resumes and cover letters for students applying for graduate school or a job.

“We can help with creative assignments and reading-comprehension strategies,” Treutel says. “We do a lot more than people might think when they hear English Resource Center. It’s about interacting with reading and writing at the university level. It’s not just about putting commas in the right place. It’s about how you develop a thesis statement, how you organize your thoughts, how you generate topics. It’s about strategies to help students read and write more effectively.”

Treutel stresses that the ERC is not a proofreading service. Tutors work with the student on an assignment to help them generate and organize their ideas.

“We will not proof a paper, but we will read a paper and identify where there are patterns of errors and work with the student to develop strategies to catch and eliminate those errors,” she says. “We teach students proofreading strategies they can use for any of the writing occasions they may encounter as students at UAB.”

The ERC is located in Humanities Building Room 224. For more information, stop by the ERC, call 934-8118 or visit www.uab.edu/english/resources/index.html.
Walsh leads project to boost oil production in Alabama

Did you know that about 60 percent of the original oil in a petroleum reservoir is left underground after recovery using conventional technologies is complete?

Peter Walsh, Ph.D., research professor in Mechanical Engineering, didn’t. “I thought they extracted almost all of the oil,” he says. “It turns out there’s often 50 to 70 percent of the oil that’s not recovered using standard methods.”

Extracting oil from a reservoir isn’t always easy—not is it particularly cheap to do, especially in some terrains like those in South Alabama or in the Gulf of Mexico. Eventually, removing oil from any reservoir reaches a point where its not cost-effective to continue, and the majority of the oil remains below the Earth’s surface.

That’s where Walsh enters the picture. He is the principal investigator on an upcoming Department of Energy cost-shared project that will inject carbon dioxide (CO2) into a Mobile County oil reservoir in an effort to increase domestic oil production. The five-year, $6 million project is scheduled to begin Jan. 1, 2007.

“Injecting CO2 makes the oil swell, and, at sufficiently high pressure, oil and CO2 become a single fluid with lower viscosity than the oil by itself, which enhances its flow to the production wells,” Walsh says. “The pressure at which CO2 and the oil from South Alabama form the homogeneous mixture is not known, so that’s one of the first things we’ve got to find out.”

The CO2 flood will take place in the Citronelle oil field in Mobile County. The Citronelle field is Alabama’s largest oil producer and is what is known as the secondary stage of oil recovery, when water is being injected to push the oil out. Oil recovery using CO2 is known as tertiary, or enhanced, recovery.

Denbury Resources Inc., the owner and operator of the Citronelle oil field, is a partner in the project along with the Southern Company, and Theodorou Constantinos. Walsh is the principal investigator on an upcoming Department of Energy cost-shared project that will inject carbon dioxide (CO2) into the Citronelle oil reservoir in an effort to increase domestic oil production.

The Citronelle field is Alabama’s largest oil producer and is what is known as the secondary stage of oil recovery, when water is being injected to push the oil out. Oil recovery using CO2 is known as tertiary, or enhanced, recovery.

Denbury Resources Inc., the owner and operator of the Citronelle oil field, is a partner in the project along with the Southern Company, the Geological Survey of Alabama, the University of Alabama, Alabama A&M University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Gary Cheng, Ph.D., and Alan Shih, Ph.D., in Mechanical Engineering are co-investigators from UAB, working with Geologist Richard Esposto of the Southern Company and Dino Theodorou, both Ph.D. candidates in the Environmental Health Engineering Program.

Walsh says the team expects the injection of CO2 into the reservoir will significantly enhance oil recovery and extend the productive life of the oil field. It is estimated that 64 million barrels of oil could be recovered from the Citronelle field using the technique.

“It will be a great thing for the state of Alabama if the life of the field could be extended, because not only means more oil could be extracted, but the people who work the Citronelle field could remain employed there for many more years,” Walsh says. “The field could continue to produce oil in a cost effective way for 10, 20, maybe 30 years.”

If successful, Walsh expects the yield for the Citronelle oilfield could improve by 15 to 20 percent. He says the improvement could be 10 to 20 percent at any oilfield, including those in the Gulf of Mexico, meaning total oil recovery could reach as high as 55 percent or more.

The project also will assess the potential for storing CO2 in the reservoir once the oil is depleted. The storage of CO2, also called carbon sequestration, is a hot topic because of rising concerns over possible global warming caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

“There’s no question that the CO2 concentration in Earth’s atmosphere is increasing, and temperatures have also been increasing,” Walsh says. “Some climate models show that the warming is consistent with the increase in CO2, but I don’t think that proves a cause-and-effect relationship. Still, that shouldn’t be an excuse for not trying to reduce CO2 emissions to the atmosphere. I hope that in addition to storage, we will develop the technology to recycle some of the CO2 produced in industrial processes.”

The CO2 to be injected during the Citronelle enhanced oil recovery project will come from a naturally occurring source in Mississippi and will be supplied by project partner Denbury Resources via pipeline. Walsh says he hopes the CO2 used for future enhanced oil recovery will come from large combustion sources, such as coal and natural gas-fired power plants, and industrial processes such as cement plants, though their exhaust gases are not pure CO2. Technologies for capture of CO2 from large sources are not yet commercially available.

“We need to see how pure the CO2 should be for enhanced oil recovery,” Walsh says. “We need to find out how completely the CO2 must be separated from other combustion products, especially the nitrogen that comes along with oxygen when air is used to burn fossil fuels.”

“One of our priorities in the last few years has been to create an overall structure that enables alumni of every discipline to become engaged in UAB.”

Paul Saltor. When we announced the Rays of Hope Campaign for private support to build the Radiation Oncology Center, Chip attended a presentation about the facility and the need it would fulfill. After follow-up from UAB, Chip decided that he wished to target his philanthropy to this project by naming the facility in his parents’ honor and to honor the outstanding work of the Salters. In Chip’s case, the opportunity to make a difference could be found in this magnificent gift for facilities.

REPORTER: How have our alumni made a difference?

KAHN: Alumni have played and continue to play a role not only in fund raising, but also in volunteering their time in service to their particular schools and the university at large. One of our priorities in the past few years has been to create an overall structure that enables alumni of every discipline to become engaged in UAB. The University Alumni Council was created to bring together members of the National Alumni Society, as well as members of the constituent societies in Medicine, Dentistry, Health Professions and Optometry. Today, almost 8,000 members are active.

REPORTER: If a member of the UAB family wants to make a gift to the university before year’s end, how might they best accomplish this?

KAHN: All of our schools and many units in the School of Medicine have development directors. By contacting them, you can learn where important needs could be helped with private support. Alternatively, you can go online at itisapps.ad.uab.edu/UADVGR/OGivingSystem/ and make a gift today.

Did you know...

Did you know that through the Allys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center, UAB is home to the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the Alabama Ballet? UAB ... advancing community and state goals in quality of life.
Syllabus

Monday, Dec. 18

Noon Monday Noon Conference. Liver function tests. Prof Mike Fallon (Gastroenterology); WP-E.


4 pm Anesthesiology GIs. Epipodalis and spirals. Prof Nabil M.K. Ali (Anesthesiology); JT-906.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

8 am Neurology Gls. What are words? Asst Prof David Clark (Medicine); WP-E.

11 am Laboratory Medicine. Anti-beta-glycopyrotein I: A new marker for antiphospholipid syndrome. Shuying Li (Housstaff); WP-F.

Noon General Medicine Noon Conference. Critical problem-solving. Asst Prof Stan Massie and Asso Prof Mark Stafford (Medicine); WP-E.

Noon Pharmacology & Toxicology. Cancer chemoprevention with selenium and Oriental herbs. Dr Junxuan (Johnny) Lu (Prof, Cancer Biology, University of Minnesota); WH-C.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

7 am Cardiology Gls. Cath lab; LHRB-302.

Noon Pharmacology & Toxicology. Role of hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF) pathway in skeletal development; graduate Yang Wang (Pharmacology & Toxicology); WH-C.

Thursday, Dec. 21

8 am Rheumatology Gls. Clinical conference; WP-D.

Meetings

Monday, Dec. 18

5:25 pm Power Yoga; UAB Marshal Conference Center. For more info, call 967-0030.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

10 am International Women’s Group. Smolian Int’l House. 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.

Noon UAB Resource Center Wellness Program. Stress management through meditation; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/ear.

4:30 pm Spanish conversation table. Commoners on the Green dining room (look for the Spanish flag).

Wednesday, Dec. 20

10 am Conversational English classes. Levels 1-4; Smolian Int’l House. 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.

Noon French conversation table. Commoners on the Green cafeteria (look for the French flag). Come to speak French and make new friends! For more info, Catherine danieleu@uab.edu.

5:25 pm Power Yoga; UAB Marshal Conference Center. For more info, call 967-0030.

Thursday, Dec. 21

12:10 pm UAB Resource Center. Tai Chi- Stress management through movement; The Resource Center. Call 4-2281 for more info or visit www.uab.edu/ear.

5:15 pm Beginning Chinese class. Smolian Int’l House. 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.

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 Fulcher 975-7755 for details.

7 pm Conversational English classes. Levels 1-4; Smolian Int’l House. 4-1205/awowens@uab.edu.

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

Friday, Dec. 22

7 am Falun Dafa exercises, an ancient Chinese exercise that brings harmony & health; UAB Mini Park, 4-8269.

Religion

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Noon Medical Center Christian Fellowship Meeting. WP-B. All welcome. Mark 847-5177 or Blair 951-3826.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

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 822-9388.

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

Sunday, Dec. 24

5 pm UAB Hindu Student Council. We will have a session on singing and featsing the Hare Krishna way where everyone is welcome to join. For more info, Varadna Prabhu 383-9805. 1501 15th Ave S, Apt 20, Bham.

Exhibits

Mervyn H. Sterne Library. Birmingham: Photographs by Kelly Schiff. 7:30 am-10 pm Mon-Thurs; 7:30 am-7 pm Fri; 9 am-5 pm Sat; 1-10 pm Sun.

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

WBHM-FM, 90.3

Fresh Air with Terry Gross can be heard 3-4 pm daily on 90.3 WBHM-Birmingham, and 91.5 WSGN-Gadsden, your station for NPR News and classical music. Fresh Air is NPR’s Peabody Award-winning weekday magazine of contempo- rary arts and issues.

Blazer sports

Dec. 18: Women’s Basketball vs Florida Atlantic. Bartow Arena, 6 pm

Dec. 19: Women’s Basketball vs Alabama State/ Hampton. Bartow Arena, 7:30 pm

Dec. 21: Women’s Basketball vs Virginia Tech. Bartow Arena, 7 pm

Dec. 23: Men’s Basketball vs Winston-Salem State. Bartow Arena, 7 pm

Legend of locations

AB Administration Bldg.
BBS Boxhill Bldg.
BBRB Bevill Biomedical Research Bldg.
CH Campbell Hall
CHSB Community Health Services Bldg.
CPR Center for Cardiology
HUC Hill University Ctr
KT Kaul Human Genetics Research Bldg.
LHL Lister Hill Library
LHR Lyons-Harrison Research
MCLM McCollum Building
MUCA Margaret C. Myatt
NCB National Cancer Institute
PHD Department of Dermatology
PPB Physical Plant Building
SOU Department of Surgery
SOD School of Dentistry
SOC School of Education
SON School of Nursing
SOO School of Osteopathy
SBH Shelby Building
SHEL Sheikh Building
SHS School of Hospitality
SOO School of Osteopathic Medicine
SRG Spain Rehabilitation
TCH The Children’s Hospital of Ala.
TCK The Kirklin Clinic
THT Tinsley Harrison
UBSO University Blvd Office Bldg.
VH Volker Hall
WP West Pavilion
WORB Worrell Building
ZRB Zeliger Building

ASC presents violinist Hilary Hahn

Violinist Hilary Hahn, recently named “America’s Best” young classical musician by Time Magazine, will perform Sunday, Jan. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Alys Stephens Center.

A Prelude, a pre-concert discussion of the program, will begin at 2 p.m., and a “Cool to be Classic” post-show reception will feature desserts, a cash bar and music by area violin students.

Hahn, who began playing violin just before her fourth birthday, made her major orchestra debut in 1991 with the Baltimore Symphony and her Carnegie Hall debut at 16. Now 26, the Grammy Award-winning violinist regularly appears with the world’s greatest orchestras. Her latest recording, released in October, is an unusual pairing of Paganini’s “Concerto No. 1” and Spohr’s “Concerto No. 8”, with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Eiji Oue. Visit her Web site at www.hilaryhahn.com.

Tickets are $32, $42 and $22; student tickets $10. For tickets, call 975-2787 or visit www.AlysStephens.org.

“Private Lives” to be performed Jan. 19

The Alys Stephens Center presents L’A. Theatre Works’ production of Noël Coward’s “Private Lives,” starring Kathryn Meisle and Stephen Caffery, Friday, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. A pre-show discussion of the play begins at 7 p.m., and a stage-side actors’ chat follows the performance.

Coward’s most insightful and bittersweet comedy tells the all-too-familiar tale of a couple that cannot live with or without each other. Beneath the surface lies a study of relationships, stubbornness and the pitfalls of love.

Tickets are $45, $35, $25, $10 student tickets. For tickets, call 975-2787 or visit www.AlysStephens.org.

Reflect & Rejoice: A community tribute to the late MLK Jr.

The Alys Stephens Center/Birmingham Civil Rights Institute/Alabama Symphony Orchestra will present Reflect & Rejoice: A Community Tribute to MLK Jr. Sunday, Jan. 14, at 3 p.m.

This program of celebration, in honor of the work of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., has become a community tradition, bringing people together in a joyful program of music to remember the past and imagine the future. Justin Brown, ASO music director and principal conductor, will conduct the program; featured soloist is Ebony Preston Oya, lyric soprano. Tickets are $7.50. For tickets, call 975-2787.

6 UAB Reporter December 18, 2006

CALENDAR
Don Ross explores gambling addiction in South Africa

Sometimes people can’t admit they have a gambling problem, while it’s painfully clear to those around them.

Take for example a recent robbery that took place in Durban, South Africa. Armed gunmen entered a casino and robbed it, taking money from the casino and those playing games.

Even while the gunmen were forcing patrons to the ground at gunpoint, some gamblers were reaching up to drop money in the slot machines. They were so addicted they couldn’t quit.

“They were putting their lives at risk because they were unable to stop playing even though anything they won would have gone straight into the robbers’ loot bags,” says Don Ross, Ph.D., professor of philosophy and economics. “It’s really quite amazing the powerful hold gambling can have on an individual.”

Ross is the principal investigator on a project in South Africa that is examining the gambling habits of people and the stimuli that trigger the need for a rush. Rudy Vuchinich, Ph.D., professor of psychology, is aiding Ross in the research, along with colleagues from Baylor College of Medicine and the universities of Cape Town and KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

Why South Africa?
Ross, a Canadian by birth, is a dual resident of South Africa and the United States. He made his way to South Africa 10 years ago to accept a position at the University of Cape Town, then joined UAB in 2003.

Ross, who is an economics instructor at the University of Cape Town and directs the National Center for the Study of Gambling in South Africa, says problem gambling is a public health issue that is as prevalent in South Africa as it is in any other part of the world. He’s studying gambling addiction as a basic model of other, more complicated addictions, such as drug abuse.

The study compares problem gamblers with others using several psychological measures that research suggests involve the way in which people compare rewards that are expected in the future.

“The brain of an addict is measurably different from that of a non-addict, but – in the case of the gambling addict – the brain alters itself,” Ross says. “Gambling addiction is the purest form of addiction because you don’t have the noise caused by external chemicals introduced to the brain. A particular part of the brain manages to gain too much influence over behavior and disconnects or subverts the parts of the brain that are there to help with certain checks and balances.”

The brain essentially begins responding overwhelmingly to novelty and surprises within very short timescales and is unable to maintain interest in competing stimuli. It’s that instant of discovery – Are the dice going to roll a 7 or will they come 11? – that stimulates the brain and derails reasonable thinking.

The research team has recruited a mix of problem gamblers and people who gamble without problems as test subjects so they can compare the two groups in a series of experiments. The project began this past summer and is expected to expand next year, giving Ross a larger number of subjects on which to base his results.

“To really get the powerful data we want, we need to get more subjects,” Ross says. “We’ve processed 40 subjects so far, but we hope to involve several thousand before the project is complete.”

Don Ross explores gambling addiction in South Africa

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CAMPUS NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS – TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Hilary Hahn, violin
Sunday, January 7 @ 3 p.m.

River North Chicago Dance Company
Friday, January 12 @ 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 13 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 14 @ 2:30 p.m.

Reflect & Rejoice: “A Community Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”
Sunday, January 14 @ 3 p.m.

ASC Kids’ Club presents “Private Lives”
Friday, January 19 @ 8 p.m.

L.A. Theatre Works presents “Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit”
Saturday, January 27 @ 8 p.m.

“Classical Savion” starring Savion Glover
Sunday, January 28 @ 7 p.m.

Alys Stephens Center
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Season sponsored by The Birmingham News and NBC 13.
Price honored by ASCAP for seventh year in a row

W hen people hear the phrase “He’s a drummer,” stereotypes often come to mind. Some think of a wild, crazy guy who will do anything and speak gibberish, like The Who’s Keith Moon or the Muppets’ Animal. William Price, D.M.A., is not that kind of guy. He never really was.

Sure, he’s had the long hair. He’s even beat the skins in rock bands – some good ones that didn’t make any money, and some very bad ones that netted him $300 or more a night in his college days. Go figure.

“That’s the music business for you, right there,” says the UAB associate professor of music theory. “Just because something is good doesn’t mean it’s going to be the next big thing. It doesn’t have to be good to be big.”

As a child, Price was interested in the countless hours spent listening to his favorite records and Frank Zappa’s ‘Joe’s Garage’ album when he was 18, Price says. “From then on, I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to compose music.”

It turns out that all of the work put into those bands and the countless hours spent listening to his favorite records have helped Price achieve his goal. And to top it off, he’s been recognized nationally for doing what he loves to do.

Price recently was selected as a 2006 American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Standard Award recipient for the seventh consecutive year. “I think the award inspires composers to try to do more,” says Price. Price has had his compositions performed and premiered in Athens, Greece, and the Ensemble Rosario from Argentina, among many others.

But Price wasn’t just aimlessly passing time in all those rock bands. Or the jazz bands, marching bands or concert bands in which he played. He was after more than the next gig’s paycheck. He was vested in all parts of the music and the way every piece melds together to form a work of art for the ear.

“When I first heard Igor Stravinsky’s ‘Rite of Spring’ and Frank Zappa’s ‘Joe’s Garage’ album when I was 18, I remember being just blown away,” Price says. “From then on, I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to compose music.”

Price’s research interest is the music of late 20th century composers, especially Zappa’s music. In fact, Price is working on an in-depth musical study of Zappa’s contemporary classical music.

What does Price consider the secret to composing? Well, he says, there isn’t any big mystery – time and effort both play strong roles.

“What sometimes it takes a while to compose a piece, and other times it takes a little bit longer,” he says with a laugh. “I guess in some ways it’s like writing a novel. Sometimes it goes in different directions, other times it dies on the page.”

Price, second-generation teacher in his first year at UAB, has been impressed with the talent of the students in the Department of Music, many of whom have shown a knack to work at.

“It’s a nice way to reward those who are producing and having their works played,” Price says of the award. “Think the award inspires composers to try to do more.”

Price’s music has been performed at many international concerts and events around the country and the world. His pieces have been performed and premiered by the Contemporary Ensemble of the Conservatory in Athens, Greece, plus the Louisiana Sinfonietta and the Ensemble Rosario from Argentina, among many others. His works, which have been broadcast on public radio stations throughout America, are published by Honeyrock, Dorn Publications, Cimarron Music, Couters Publications and IROM Music.

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Prof examinerscripture, rhetoric in new book Holy Murder

A new book by two UAB communication studies professors examines one of the Bible’s most controversial stories, in Genesis 22:1-14, when Abraham, in obedience to the voice of God, places his son, Isaac, on an altar for sacrifice.

“The story of the sacrifice of Isaac has, for 3,000 years, impacted the three great religions – Christianity, Judaism and Islam – and each religion has interpreted the story differently,” says UAB Professor Larry Powell, Ph.D. “Even among adherents of a common faith, the interpretations have differed so widely that the story has been used to justify acts such as infanticide, mass murders and even suicide bombings.”

The book Holy Murder: Abraham, Isaac, and the Rhetoric of Sacrifice, by Powell and Associate Professor William Self, Ph.D., is written for scholars and students. The book, published by United Press of America Inc., explores the rhetoric of sacrifice and how the sacrifice of Isaac has been interpreted by individuals and by the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths.

In Judaism the story is known as the “sacrifice.” In Christianity, it is the binding of Isaac, in which God commands Abraham to sacrifice his son as a test of Abraham’s faith. In Christianity the story is an example of faith and foreshadows Christ’s sacrifice for mankind. In Islam the story is about supreme obedience. In this version, Isaac actively submits to being sacrificed. In all three versions, however, the story ends with God intervening and preventing Abraham from actually killing Isaac.

In their book, Powell and Self discuss the moral questions that the “sacrifice” has evoked through the centuries, such as whether Abraham would have actually killed his son and whether the kind of obedience Abraham displayed was justified. The authors also highlight recent case studies to demonstrate how elements of the “sacrifice” have been used to inspire acts of martyrdom and self-sacrifice.

In addition, Holy Murder showcases infamous examples of when people have used the rhetoric of sacrifice to inspire others to kill or to kill themselves for a greater cause. Such examples include the 1978 mass murder of more than 900 people in Guyana under the inspiration of cult leader Jim Jones and the shooting of abortion clinic doctors by those claiming to be followers of the right-to-life movement. Most recently, following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Osama bin Laden maintained that he would prevail over Americans because his followers were more willing to sacrifice their lives than were Americans, the authors write.

Powell says the story of Abraham and Isaac has fascinated him since he was a teenager. “I grew up in a conservative, religious background,” says Powell. “As a teenager, I became fascinated with the one passage in the Bible in which the pastor did not follow his literal interpretation. I became intrigued by the passage in that it would get someone like him to abandon one of his basic principles, which was a literal interpretation of the Bible.”

Years later, Powell says he was reminded of the story after reading stories in the news about mothers killing their children and about honor killings in the Middle East and the United States in which males kill female relatives for dishonoring the family.

Holy Murder makes no attempt to resolve disagreements over the interpretation of the “sacrifice,” the authors write. “I hope the book, however, will encourage readers to be less gullible,” says Powell, “and to be suspicious of those who use religious arguments to get others to commit non-religious acts.”
Women

Would you like to know your body fat? Bone density? Healthy African-American women ages 40-70 needed for a study on ethnic differences in insulin sensitivity. (1) overnight visit required. Compensation $310.

Caucasian women ages 19-50 needed to complete a short survey about body weight. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Compensation $20. Paula 4-2089/pstapath@uab.edu.

Men

Women: you may have vaginal atrophy (BV) again and again? You may be eligible for a UAB clinical trial if you have BV now? You may be eligible to participate in a study of the effects of estrogen stress therapy and prevention of recurrent BV. If you’ve had at least 2 episodes of BV in the past 12 months call Joy, 996-2780. Compensated up to $200.

Females age 19-50 and either normal weight or obese are needed for a BMI >30 wanted for brain imaging study. Just make sure you have no medical problems and have normal vision for seeing distant objects without needing to wear glasses (contacts OK). Compensated $45 for up to 2 hours. Researcher: Weeler 4-6653.

Are you a healthy woman between the ages of 19-50? Do you think you have problems with stress incontinence? We are looking for healthy women in two different studies: one a placebo-controlled, double-blind study of an investigational vaginal gel designed to protect against stress urinary incontinence and atrophic vaginitis infections 996-6126. Compensated.

Do urine leakage stress you? You may be experiencing stress urinary incontinence. If you leak urine when you exercise, cough, sneeze, laugh or lift; are female age 19 years or older, have had two episodes of stress leakage in a 7 day period; have had this problem for at least 3 months, and desire treatment or avoidance of future incontinence, you may be eligible to participate in the ATLAS study. Compensation. Nancy 996-4988.

Are you interested in learning how to control itching, burning, and/or discharge? You may have a common condition known as an irritant dermatitis. If you are interested in participating in one of our clinical studies being conducted aimed at diagnosis and treatment of irritant dermatitis. 996-7790. Compensation.

Attention women age 65 & older: The UAB Division of Endocrinology is currently seeking women not seeking hormone replacement and in this age group for a research study investigating the effectiveness of an intravenous application of low-dose estrogen to optimize pelvic floor health. All study-related visits are at no cost. Compensation. Kathy 4-1776.

Women over age 60 wanted to exercise. Caucasian women ages 60-80 are needed. Women over the age of 60 needed to participate in an exercise study being conducted by the UAB Department of Physical Therapy and Nutrition Sciences. This 32-week study requires a 1-year commitment, 3 days a week of a program consisting of weight training and treadmill walking. Compensated up to $225. Paula 4-0658/4-6653 (Enjoying Exercise Together) study: 5-0666.

Do you have a family history of breast cancer and do you have breast cancer in your family? You may be eligible to participate in a study about a treatment program. Confidentiality. Compensation. Marvin 5-0992/5-0068.

Men & women age 60 & older: have you been diagnosed with psychosis with symptoms such as delusions, hallucinatory behavior, excitement or hostility, you may qualify to participate in our study. Study Hospitalization and all other study-related medical care provided at no cost. Required to stop using for up to 8 days in hospital. Compensated. Lemeshia 4-2484. Normal weight, healthy adults needed to participate in a study to examine how thinking, emotions and stress are affected in the treatment of types of surgery. Compensation. 996-8970.

Care Teams For HIV: If you are HIV+ and a minority partner you may be eligible to participate. The study looks at the effects of being in a Care Team for the participant and visit in those in Care Team vs. those without a partner. Compensation $80 for 4 sessions. Dr. Burreage 4-0630.

Do you have acne? You may qualify for a research study to examine factors associated with acne. Compensation. Nancy 599-9061.

Have you been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and are you currently depressed? If so, and you are ages 19-65, you may be eligible to participate in one of our clinical studies. Evaluation and treatment at no cost. Compensation. Alanna 996-2689 or Dana 996-4015.

African American men & women age 40-60 needed for a bacterium study (H. pylori bacteria or H. bacteria). In this study you will be given FDA approved bladder medication for 1 year and compensated $300. to upper thigh region. Compensated $300. to upper thigh region. Compensated $300.

Healthy African-American men and women ages 19 and older for an 8-week study on weight loss and diet to prevent diabetes. (2) overnight admissions to UAB hospital required. Meals provided for 8 weeks. Compensation. 996-5295.

Black or white men 30-40 and 65-75 years old needed. Must have been born in AL, black or white men ages 30-40 and 65-75 years old needed. Must have been born in AL, and you may not have any symptoms. Must have normal periods, not be pregnant, and cannot be on oral contraceptives. Must have normal vision for seeing far objects without needing to wear glasses (contacts OK). Compensated. Carolyn 4-9632.

Participants age 18 or older needed for an ambulatory blood pressure monitoring at no cost. Eligible to participate in one of our clinical studies. Evaluation and treatment at no cost. Compensation. Alanna 996-2689 or Dana 996-4015.

Healthy volunteers age 19-60 needed for metabolic study. This study requires a 3-4 day stay in the hospital physical exam, lab results and compensation provided. Alanna 996-2689 or Dana 996-4015.

African American men & women age 40-60 wanted for a study to examine factors associated with acne. In this study you will be given FDA approved bladder medication for 1 year and compensated $300. to upper thigh region. Compensated $300. to upper thigh region. Compensated $300.

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Do you have osteoarthritis knee discomfort? Participants 45-70 year old may be eligible to participate in a 24-week research study investigating an new investigational, all-natural nutritional supplement for individuals with knee osteoarthritis. Free study-related medical care, study medication and compensation. 4-2130/866-8765.

Insanoma research study: 19 & older, experiencing difficulty getting asleep for at least 3 months. May be interested in receiving insulin. No charge for study-related procedures or medications. Compensation. 599-1200/sleepalabama.com. Type 2 diabetes needed for metabolic study. If you are orally on medication to control your blood sugar levels you may qualify. Age 19-60. Receive a physical exam, lab results and compensa- tion. Compensation. Alanna 996-2869 or Dana 996-4015.

Mental health problem study: men & women ages 19-65 are needed. This study is looking for men & women ages 19-65 with a mental health problem or mental health condition, no charge for study-related procedures or medications. Alanna 996-2869 or Dana 996-4015.

Native Spanish speakers wanted for speech perception research. Must have been born in a Spanish-speaking nation and fluent in both English and Spanish. Experienced speech-language pathologist required for 1-1.5 hour listening experiment. Satomi 5-1275.

HF-ACTION trial. If you are 19 or older and have had a heart failure event you may be eligible to participate in a trial to study the effects of the drug Propranolol on in- fluencing affects illness and survival among people with heart failure. Meredith 5-8088.

You are an adult, white male or female ages 30-80. Needed. Must have no heart disease, have bone density, body fat percentage, cholesterol, kidney function and be able to stop taking all other medications. Compensation. 122/spegram@sleepalabama.com.

Do you have high blood pressure? Are you age 18 or older? You may be eligible to participate in a 29-week research study evaluating 2 new investigational medications for hypertension. Receive $50 for completing office visits, physical exams, lab tests, ECG and ambulatory blood pressure monitoring at no cost. Compensation. 5-9629.

Healthy volunteers age 19-60 needed for metabolic study. This study requires a 3-4 day stay in the hospital physical exam, lab results and compensation provided. Alanna 996-2689 or Dana 996-4015.

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For Sale

Appliances & Electronics


Food dehydrator (Proctor-Silex) - for Sale - good condition, used only a few times, manual inc; new $25, wooden rocking chair, good cond, $35. Donna 520-4365.

Automobiles

- 91 Toyota Camry 149,000, auto, excellent condition, asking $1800. Must go today. 368-0971.
- 2 Ford Taurus wagon, gray, 130,000 mi, $1200, great utility car. 821-1464.
- 93 Toyota Corolla, 4-d, 144,000 mi, fair cond, new tires, asking $1500. Must go today. 368-0971.

For Rent

- Southside—bldg 4 1/2 BR house, for $850. 2 BR, BA, all appliances, secured parking, pool, fitness center, located behind and across from the street from TCG. Don 1-6890.

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For Sale

- 08 Toyota Highlander 5, 90,000 mi, all services up to date, asking $23,500.00.
- 10 Toyota Prius, 23,000 mi, new tires, well maintained, asking $14,000. 979-0981.
- 04 Toyota 4-Runner SR5 V6, 2WD, auto, black, 130,000 mi, $1500.00. 908-8781.
- 01 Honda CR-V EX-L, 23,000 mi, new tires, remote start, asking $15,000. 979-0981.
- 02 Honda Civic LX, $1200, asking $60; Penn 320GTi salt water fishing rod, $120. Rob 4-5037.
- 06 Mazda Miata, black, 60,000 mi, asking $12,500. Jim 5-2680.
- 02 Ford Explorer sport Trac, 130,000 mi, automatic, $5900; 799-3471/799-7442.
- 00 BMW Z3, 54,000 mi, asking $15,000. 422-8787/5964/902-5617.
- 978-0881.
- '93 Toyota Corolla, 132,000 mi, asking $2500. 979-0981.
- '92 Ford Taurus wagon, gray, 130,000 mi, $9000. 253-8970.
- '90 Toyota Celica GT, 130,000 mi, asking $2500. 979-0981.
- '90 Honda Civic, black, 80,000 mi, asking $2000. Rob 4-5037.
- '99 Mazda Miata, black, 60,000 mi, asking $12,500. Jim 5-2680.
- '98 Ford Mustang, red, 60,000 mi, asking $3000. Rob 4-5037.
- '97 Mazda Miata, black, 60,000 mi, asking $12,500. Jim 5-2680.
- '95 Toyota 4 Runner, white, 100,000 mi, asking $4000. Rob 4-5037.
- '94 Toyota Corolla, 132,000 mi, asking $2500. 979-0981.
- '93 Toyota Camry, 110,000 mi, asking $3000. Rob 4-5037.
- '92 Toyota Camry, 80,000 mi, asking $3000. Rob 4-5037.
- '91 Toyota Camry, 60,000 mi, asking $3000. Rob 4-5037.
- '90 Toyota Camry, 40,000 mi, asking $3000. Rob 4-5037.
- '89 Toyota Corolla, 30,000 mi, asking $1800. Rob 4-5037.

For Sale

- 03 LS Enviro-Car (electric car), 13,000 mi, asking $4500. 908-8745.
- 02 Honda Fit, black, 14,000 mi, asking $9000. 908-8781.
- 01 Ford Escape, blue, 13,000 mi, asking $11,000. 253-8970.
- 01 Toyota Tundra, black, 12,500 mi, asking $27,500. 979-0981.
- 01 Toyota Sequoia, black, 80,000 mi, asking $27,500. 979-0981.
- 99 Toyota Tacoma, 90,000 mi, asking $15,000. Rob 4-5037.
- 97 Toyota 4 Runner, white, 100,000 mi, asking $4000. Rob 4-5037.
- 95 Toyota T100, black, 130,000 mi, asking $4000. Rob 4-5037.
- 94 Toyota Celica, black, 100,000 mi, asking $3000. Rob 4-5037.
Let me supply you with all your landscape needs. Shrub, bark and mulch, etc. JR 296-9028.

Holistic healing: Let me do it for you, cakes, cookies, candy, etc. Kay 595-2300.

Japanese: Speakers: Let me help you. Japanese can be very demanding. Dependable and attractive in social situations. I do all I can for you. I have a background in customer service. I am very well organized, reliable and have a great sense of humor. For free call me Robert, 835-3805.

Home maintenance and repair: Carpenter, plumbing, electrical, decks, ceramic tile, paint, free estimate. 785-6006/833-5157.


Need a car? Will you arrive to your dream car and pass the savings on to you? Our car dealer today. Woman 4-619/1173.

Housekeeping/babysitter is available. experienced, dependable, bonded. Can do all you need. Dependable and skilled. 573-3736.

Hammock supplier: Hammocks, outdoor furniture available all year. E-mail hammocks@uab.edu.

Need a housekeeper? Will provide TLC for your most cherished loved one. Mature, experienced sitter with references. Reliable, bonded, located in Mountain Brook area. Toni 4-1390.

Housekeeping/babysitter: Will do an excellent job of feeding, walking and playing with your pets while you are away on vacation. I have over 20 years experience. Dianne 943-0068.

House and yard cleaning: Will fit all carts including Costco/Sam’s large projects and small. Let me give your project the professional look that draws attention. E-mail photo. 4-2149/908-4190.

House and yard cleaning: Need someone to clean your home? 590-7560.

House and yard cleaning: Will provide tlc for your holiday party now! Call 254-3300 Smooth Jazz - A musical offer you can’t refuse! Baby care-adorable children home daycare available all year. Samantha 707-2675. How long does it take you to get to the office? Let me find out for you to get to your schedule. Free estimate. 4-250-0131.

House and yard cleaning: Need someone to clean your home? 590-7560. Do you need a baby sitter, teen sitter/chaperon or house sitter? I will come to your house to baby sit and teen sit and check on your house, water your plants, get your mail, etc. while you are away on vacation. I have over 15 years of experience. Call for available references. Teresa 276-4767/term401@uab.edu.

House and yard cleaning: Let us be your visiting angels:  Resumes are available, and we will laser engrave lasting memories in your home. Garvin Phillips, required. Excellent pay, great job for student. Call 492-1221, Lisa 631-4523.


House and yard cleaning: Let me help you. Japanese can be very demanding. Dependable and attractive in social situations. I do all I can for you. I have a background in customer service. I am very well organized, reliable and have a great sense of humor. For free call me Robert, 835-3805.

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BLAZER BASKETBALL

UAB VS. WINSTON-SALEM STATE
Saturday, December 23 • 7:00 PM
Bartow Arena

YOU ARE INVITED TO BLAZE’S HOLIDAY PARTY!

There will be snow at Bartow Arena!
FREE hot chocolate and holiday cookies!
Get your picture made with Santa!

THE FIRST 1,500 FANS RECEIVE A FREE BLAZER ORNAMENT!