A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP
CHILDREN’S OF ALABAMA SUPPORTS UAB DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

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A Note from
THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

THIS SUMMER WE REACHED A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR UAB.
Thanks to many of you, we have now raised more than $500 million from more than 74,000 donors, surpassing the halfway point of our $1-billion goal. (See “Campaign Reaches Halfway Mark” on page 5). This is an important benchmark for UAB as well as Birmingham and Alabama, as we work together to push the envelope even further.

Whatever your passion may be, someone here at UAB shares it. From working on a cure for devastating diseases such as cancer and Parkinson’s to scholarships for deserving students to arts outreach that truly changes lives, this campaign touches every aspect of the world around us.

Reaching the halfway mark certainly gives us cause to celebrate, but we are not slowing down. UAB is positioned to be among the top universities and academic medical centers of the 21st century, providing superior patient care for our state and region, fostering a vibrant arts community, and growing a very competitive technology-based economy. We are grateful to all our supporters for sharing this vision and partnering with us to make it a reality.

Thank you for being a part of this milestone accomplishment and many more to come. As the largest fund-raising initiative ever undertaken by the university, The Campaign for UAB is ambitious in scope and impact, but every gift counts, no matter the size. Giving something can truly change everything.

We’re looking ahead to the continued success of this historic campaign!

Sincerely,
Theresa Bruno, Johnny Johns, and Mike Warren

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CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

- Fostering Research, Innovation, and Economic Development through research acceleration and drug discovery, innovation, and economic enrichment;
- Advancing Faculty Excellence with a focus on recruitment and retention, and a goal of doubling endowed chairs and professorships;
- Enriching the Student Experience by increasing the number of endowed scholarships and fellowships, improving technology, providing study-abroad opportunities, and exposing students to multidisciplinary learning and a new world of discovery;
- Developing Programmatic Support for local, national, and international service to communities with a focus on patient care and the transformational experience of the arts;
- Enhancing Facilities to advance learning in state-of-the-art academic and student buildings in a campus environment that inspires scholarship, research, patient care, and community enrichment.
A POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP

Children’s of Alabama Supports UAB Department of Pediatrics

UAB AND CHILDREN’S OF ALABAMA are committed to providing a brighter future for the children of Birmingham, the state of Alabama, and beyond. This powerful alliance allows these two institutions to leverage their unique strengths and resources to pursue a joint mission—to offer world-class pediatric health services in an environment that fosters world-class research, excellence in medical education, and access to leading-edge treatments for pediatric illnesses and injuries.

In support of this partnership, the Board of Trustees of Children’s has voted to pledge $5 million to The Campaign for UAB to support pediatric initiatives in the School of Medicine.

“The Children’s Board of Trustees is pleased to show our support for The Campaign for UAB and to bolster our collaborative efforts to improve the health of children,” says James C. Lee III, chair of the board of Children’s.

An important first step was to recruit an outstanding leader for the position of chair of the UAB Department of Pediatrics who would also serve as physician-in-chief of Children’s of Alabama. This has already been accomplished. (See “Cohen Welcomed to UAB and Children’s of Alabama” on page 4.) It is expected that a substantial portion of the gift will be earmarked for the most pressing initiatives in the Department of Pediatrics, including the recruitment of more physician-scientists for targeted areas of highest need.

“For the past six years, Children’s has focused a tremendous amount of energy and resources to bring the most modern, world-class pediatric medical facility in the country online,” says Mike Warren, CEO of Children’s of Alabama.

“This remarkable effort was crowned with the opening of the Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children and extended by major upgrades of existing facilities and technologies. But buildings don’t heal children. It is now time to turn our attention to the people and programs that do. This gift is a major step in that direction and a tremendous show of faith in the healing power that our combined institutions’ efforts bring to bear on ill and injured children.”

For the past five years, Children’s of Alabama has been ranked among the best children’s hospital programs in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, and is the third-largest pediatric medical facility in the United States. As the only hospital in Alabama dedicated solely to the care and treatment of children, Children’s has provided specialized medical care for ill and injured children across the state and throughout the Southeast since 1911. Last year, patients made more than 670,000 outpatient and nearly 14,000 inpatient visits to Children’s from every county in Alabama, 41 states, and four foreign countries.

UAB provides outstanding clinical expertise and world-class research capabilities aimed at developing new treatments and cures. Through groundbreaking surgical techniques, such as minimally invasive surgery, which was pioneered at UAB, and innovative medical treatments, UAB and Children’s of Alabama offer care for a broad range of diseases, such as cystic fibrosis, heart disease, childhood cancers, diabetes, muscular dystrophy, asthma, immune deficiencies, and more.

continued on page 4
MITCHELL COHEN, M.D., a national leader in pediatric medicine and an internationally renowned specialist in children’s digestive disorders, has been named chair of the Department of Pediatrics at UAB and has been elected physician-in-chief of Children’s of Alabama by its board of trustees. Cohen is a professor of pediatrics, vice-chair for clinical affairs, and director of the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. He was chosen after a national search considered candidates from some of the country’s most prestigious institutions.

Cohen will officially join UAB and Children’s in September. “I am looking forward to leading a faculty well known for its excellence,” Cohen says. “This is an opportunity to meaningfully advance the health of the children of Alabama, to work with a faculty that is driven to improve the quality of care, and to work in an exceptional facility.”

The Department of Pediatrics at UAB has more than 170 faculty members and trains more than 100 residents for careers in primary care and pediatric subspecialties. Children’s of Alabama, with its new Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children, had nearly 14,000 hospital discharges and more than 670,000 outpatient visits in 2013.

“There is an opportunity to enhance the research portfolio and make research and discovery more prominent within the Department of Pediatrics,” Cohen says. “The energy and vision of Dr. Vickers [M.D., senior vice president and dean of the UAB School of Medicine], and the alignment between UAB and Children’s of Alabama, also made this opportunity very attractive.”

Children’s serves as the primary site of the UAB pediatric medicine, surgery, research, and residency programs. Most of the physicians at Children’s are on the faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at UAB. For more than 50 years, the alliance between UAB and Children’s has provided world-class care to the youngest, most vulnerable patients and established Birmingham as a nationally renowned center for pediatric medicine. A legacy of exceptional leadership has been integral to this success. Strong leadership and vision will be even more critical in the coming years as the pace of scientific discovery accelerates, increasing competition among leading hospitals and research institutions for top talent and research funding.

“This extraordinary gift from Children’s reflects the new energy of our institutions’ collaborative efforts in pediatrics, not only with the Department of Pediatrics, but our child-focused efforts in surgery and psychiatry as well,” says Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., senior vice president and dean of the UAB School of Medicine.

Recruiting renowned physicians and scientists is essential to continued success and growth. Respected physicians enhance clinical capacity and reputation, while top-tier research recruits represent potential new treatments and cures, and often bring significantly funded projects. Attracting additional world-class physicians and scientists to UAB and Children’s of Alabama ensures a bright future for both.

It is now time to turn our attention to the people and programs that do [heal children]. This gift is a major step in that direction and a tremendous show of faith in the healing power that our combined institutions’ efforts bring to bear on ill and injured children.

Mike Warren, CEO of Children’s of Alabama
CAMPAIGN REACHES HALFWAY MARK

THE CAMPAIGN FOR UAB: GIVE SOMETHING, CHANGE EVERYTHING is halfway to its ambitious goal of raising $1 billion.

More than 74,000 donors have contributed, allowing the institution to surpass the $500-million mark in its largest-ever philanthropic campaign. Gifts support diverse initiatives across the institution that advance faculty excellence, support research innovation and economic development, enrich the student experience, develop programmatic support, and enhance UAB’s facilities.

“If you look at the history of UAB, a fairly young institution, it’s really been a great story of partnerships within the university community but also with the community outside of UAB in metropolitan Birmingham, in Alabama, and beyond,” says UAB President Ray L. Watts. “The scope and impact of this campaign will extend far beyond our campus.”

UAB is also in the midst of its most comprehensive campuswide strategic planning process, which continues to establish and advance institutional priorities that guide thoughtful investment.

“Established priorities allow us to confidently invest most heavily in the programs and people that will best advance our mission—where the most impactful achievements and benefits will be realized for the greater good,” Watts says. “These priorities give a targeted purpose to each philanthropic gift.”

The funds raised thus far, including several transformational gifts, are enabling UAB to invest substantially in campaign and strategic priorities that advance the university’s mission and contribute to a robust economy in Birmingham and Alabama.

“We are now more than halfway through a campaign that will help lead the way for the next exciting chapter in UAB’s leadership in medicine and academics,” says Michael Warren Jr., president and CEO of Children’s of Alabama and co-chair of The Campaign for UAB. “The importance of this campaign cannot be overstated, as its success is directly tied to the Birmingham region’s future, and vice versa. As CEO of Children’s of Alabama, I know firsthand that success for the UAB campaign will also advance our two institutions’ collaborative efforts to provide care for ill and injured children in Alabama and throughout the Southeast.”

Many gifts to the campaign are bolstering Birmingham’s thriving technology-transfer programs by offering diverse, multidisciplinary programs to attract promising students and researchers. In addition to their names adorning the UAB Collat School of Business and many contributions across UAB, the $25-million gift from Charles and Patsy Collat is expanding scholarship opportunities for high-potential business students.

“The primary drivers of growth and prosperity in every community are big ideas, smart people, educational excellence, high-quality research and development, and a culture supporting entrepreneurial business formation,” says Johnny Johns, president and CEO of Protective Life Corporation and co-chair of The Campaign for UAB. “Our city and state are blessed to enjoy all of that—in abundance—at UAB. I am confident that the fruits of this capital campaign, by unlocking the incredible resources of UAB, will nourish economic and cultural development in our city and state for decades to come.”

The campaign is funding tremendous strides in innovative research and the recruitment of top faculty, who will keep UAB competitive among the nation’s elite academic medical centers.

“UAB is one of the largest and most productive academic medical centers in the country, and we want to remain on the leading edge of science and medicine,” says Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D., FACS, senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine. “By realizing the goals of our AMC21 Strategic Plan, we will become the preferred academic medical center of the 21st century, pushing the envelope in strategic areas such as genomics and personalized medicine and, in turn, providing unparalleled care to patients throughout our state and region.”

In addition to improved health and quality of life, campaign gifts are also supporting the artistic vitality of the campus and community. The Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center anchors a burgeoning Cultural Arts Corridor, including the new Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts, and is taking quality arts education into the community through its innovative outreach programs ArtPlay and ArtReach.

“We are now fostering in Birmingham the caliber of arts opportunities and venues that we used to associate strictly with bigger metro areas nationally and globally,” says Theresa Bruno, co-chair of The Campaign for UAB. “The campaign is furthering our mission of, not only drawing the community in to experience world-class performing and visual arts, but reaching out to the community with outstanding arts education that can be truly transformational, especially for our young people.”

The public phase of the campaign launched in October 2013 and will run through 2018. Online contributions since the campaign launch have surpassed total online gifts from the entire previous fiscal year.

“Reaching this halfway point is a tremendous milestone, and not just for UAB and the programs and people this campaign supports,” says Shirley Salloway Kahn, Ph.D., vice president for development, alumni, and external relations. “Together we are transforming the future of Birmingham and Alabama —creating new treatments and potential cures for disease, exciting new avenues for the arts, academic programs that inspire and equip students for 21st-century careers, and the innovations and start-up companies that make us very competitive in a global, knowledge-based economy.”

FIVE WAYS TO FOLLOW THE CAMPAIGN FOR UAB
A BOLD VISION FOR ADVANCING OPHTHALMOLOGIC RESEARCH

Research to Prevent Blindness and The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama Partner with Susan and Dowd Ritter to Establish Endowed Chair

A UNIQUE AND DYNAMIC PHILANTHROPIC collaboration has resulted in a gift commitment to establish the Research to Prevent Blindness/Susan and Dowd Ritter Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology Research in the UAB Department of Ophthalmology. The $3.75-million endowment, one of the largest in UAB history, will enable the department to recruit a world-class scientist to join its existing roster of international experts in the study of blinding diseases like macular degeneration and glaucoma.

The concept for a multimillion-dollar endowment to advance the department’s vision research programs evolved out of discussions between two of UAB’s staunchest supporters: Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to funding eye research in the world, which has a long history of supporting the UAB Department of Ophthalmology; and the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama (ESFA), the department’s and university’s largest donor. In 2013, the two organizations recognized that they could leverage their individual philanthropic impact with equal matching support from an additional private philanthropic partner. They approached the Department of Ophthalmology with this proposal, and the final piece of the puzzle fell into place resulting in a gift commitment to establish the Research to Prevent Blindness/ESFA Chair in Ophthalmology Research in the UAB Department of Ophthalmology.

Susan and Dowd Ritter, lifelong Birmingham residents, were inspired to make the gift because of the unique opportunity it offered to help elevate the UAB Department of Ophthalmology to the top tier of vision research institutions. “We’ve gone to the Department of Ophthalmology for family eye care for years, and all the doctors we’ve encountered have been fabulous—it’s a stellar part of UAB and as it grows is going to be a real jewel for the city,” Mrs. Ritter says. “We’re also impressed by Dr. Girkin and think he will be a great steward of the gift. And we liked the fact that his work is public and private partnership that’s going to allow UAB to bring top ophthalmology researchers to Birmingham to improve vision care for the entire world.”

Christopher A. Girkin, M.D., chair of the UAB Department of Ophthalmology and holder of the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama Endowed Chair of Ophthalmology, which was established in 1999 by a generous contribution from ESFA, says he is grateful for the support of all three parties. “As a result of RPB’s strategic philanthropic investments, researchers funded by the organization have been associated with nearly every major breakthrough in the understanding and treatment of vision loss over the past 50 years,” Girkin says. “RPB’s partnership with the Ritters and the EyeSight Foundation provides an opportunity at a critical juncture for expansion of the department’s research program. Having a $3.75-million endowed chair will enable us to recruit another stellar individual who will add even more depth and breadth to our already outstanding research faculty.”

According to RPB President Brian F. Hofland, Ph.D., a number of factors influenced their selection of UAB as the pilot site for an endowed research chair. “RPB is interested in supporting upward trajectory in vision science, so this concept of a highly leveraged endowed research chair with potential to attract a truly excellent national vision researcher to UAB was appealing to us,” Hofland says. “Plus, the UAB Department of Ophthalmology was already a respected recipient of one of RPB’s unrestricted grants supporting the top departments of ophthalmology in the country. And, at the time, the department had a relatively new chair in Dr. Girkin, who had developed a dynamic strategic plan for the department with ambitions to aggressively raise its national ranking. At RPB, we see this project at UAB as an effort that may well prove to be a model for other such partnerships in other parts of the country.”

Today, RPB provides major research funding to more than 50 leading scientific institutions in the United States and supports the work of hundreds of top vision scientists, including those at UAB. Since 2008, the organization has awarded grants and pledges totaling $2,180,000 to the School of Medicine at UAB.

The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama likewise is enthusiastically supportive of Girkin’s vision for the department’s research goals, according to Torrey DeKeyser, executive director of the organization. “Under his leadership, there is an emphasis on research that is generating excitement among the scientists, and this collaborative endowed chair will help boost and continue this momentum,” she says. “The EyeSight Foundation board and staff could not be more pleased to be part of this strategic funding collaboration with the Ritters and Research to Prevent Blindness.”

Ray Watts, Torrey DeKeyser, Brian Hofland, and Christopher Girkin

Dowd Ritter, Christopher Girkin, and Susan Ritter
INVESTING IN BREAKTHROUGHS

Ruth and John Jurenko Establish Endowed Professorship in Neurology

Sallie and Hilton Dean Create Endowed Support Fund

THE JURENKO NAME IS INDELIBLY LINKED with the UAB Department of Neurology, so consistent has been the Huntsville couple’s support of the department’s goals. Since 2007, John Jurenko, the retired vice president of sales and marketing at ADTRAN, a company he co-founded in 1985, and his wife, Ruth, have made gifts to advance numerous initiatives within the department. Among these are the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Neurological Research Laboratory, the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Research Scholar Fund, and the UAB-HudsonAlpha Collaborative Project in the Genetics and Genomics of Parkinson’s Disease.

Their latest gift, to establish the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Endowed Professorship in Neurology, enabled department chair David G. Standaert, M.D., Ph.D., to recruit one of the country’s leading Parkinson’s disease researchers. In 2007, Andrew B. West, Ph.D., was recruited from Johns Hopkins University to UAB, where he was named the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Research Scholar and became director of the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Neurological Research Laboratory in the UAB Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics (CNET). In February 2013, he became the inaugural holder of the John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Endowed Professorship in Neurology.

John Jurenko first encountered the Department of Neurology as a Parkinson’s patient, but was quickly impressed by the innovative research taking place. “My original contact with the department was because of the disease, but then I got to know the people there. They are exceptional people, both professionally and personally,” he says. “In discussion with them, I learned that they wanted to grow the department, and I figured I could help. They mentioned Andy West and his talent and that they’d like to have him. So I said, ‘Well, let’s go get him.’”

According to Standaert, philanthropic support like the Jurenkos’ has been key to making the UAB Department of Neurology and its associated divisions and centers the hives of innovation they are today. “Almost all of the major faculty recruitments we have done have been based on philanthropic gifts,” he says. “Their willingness to support our vision has enabled the tremendous growth we have experienced in less than a decade. When I first came to UAB in 2006 to lead CNET, it was just me. Now the center comprises more than 50 scientists, students, postdocs, and staff.” This philanthropic investment in research has contributed to an explosion in Parkinson’s discoveries, Standaert says. “The amount we’ve learned in the past five years exceeds everything we knew from the previous 200 years. We are deeply grateful to John and Ruth Jurenko for helping us achieve so much in such a relatively short period of time.”

According to West, “Meaningful advances in neurodegeneration research are very hard won. The John A. and Ruth R. Jurenko Professorship in Neurology allows us to accelerate the process and provides key resources to address critical questions that can’t wait for traditional funding mechanisms. With the support of the Jurenkos, we can focus on addressing critical bottlenecks and hasten the identification of novel neuroprotective therapeutics.”

SALLIE DEAN AND HER HUSBAND, HILTON, have provided a gift to the UAB Collat School of Business to create the Sallie Dean Endowed Support Fund. This fund will support an endowed scholar faculty position. Sallie Dean says the gift is a wonderful way to show her appreciation for her good memories and lasting benefits of attending UAB.

“I attended UAB in the early 1970s as what was then considered a nontraditional student. I had completed two years of college at Alabama and then married. When I came to UAB, I was married with two children,” Dean says. “I loved my time at UAB. I still have several friends whom I met during that time.”

The fund’s support of a faculty position is also a perfect way to express Dean’s gratitude for her experience with the teaching faculty and staff. “The professors were excellent, professional, and very concerned that we were prepared for the marketplace. Loudell Ellis Robinson, Ph.D., in particular, was a wonderful mentor and role model. I feel especially indebted to her for all that she taught me.”

Dean received a master’s in professional accounting from the University of Miami and her certified public accountant certificate from the University of Florida. While she and her husband lived in Florida, she taught at the University of Miami. When they lived in New York City, she taught at Baruch College, one of ten senior colleges of the City University of New York and the largest urban public university in the country, and at Fordham University Graduate School of Business at Lincoln Center.

Even in retirement, Dean and her husband, retired vice chairman and chief financial officer of Ernst & Young, are still committed to business and volunteer activities. “Hilton and I have been blessed to have some wonderful opportunities and feel that the educations we received prepared us to pursue those opportunities,” Dean says. “Because our educations were so important to us, we believe in giving back so others can have similar opportunities.”

Dean is active in a family business and serves on the board and finance committee of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she and her husband now live. “As you can see, I am still using, and thankful for, that business degree from UAB,” she says.
RENAZOWNED PATHOLOGIST GIVES BACK

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Adams Support UAB Department of Pathology

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Adams Support UAB Department of Pathology

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF THE LATE DR. ROBERT B. ADAMS AND HIS WIDOW The University of Alabama Board of Trustees recently approved the establishment of the Dr. Robert B. Adams Endowed Professorship in Pathology in the School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, at UAB. Dr. Adams earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Alabama, now the School of Medicine at UAB, and later served as the medical director of the blood bank and associate director of surgical pathology at UAB Hospital. The Adams Education Fund previously established by Dr. and Mrs. Adams has provided grant support for UAB pathology residents since 2003.

Dr. Adams expressed his reasons for giving to UAB in an interview before his passing in June: “As a graduate of the Medical College of Alabama, I have loyalty to the entire institution and to the pathology department especially. I want to continue to support that part of medicine that has been so good to me.”

Adams was inspired to make the gift because of both his own past affiliation with the university and his high regard for the level of clinical practice and medical education that the department provides. “I think that UAB can be the number-one pathology department in the country, including the Ivy League,” he said.

Bruce Alexander, M.D., professor and vice chair of the Department of Pathology, was a friend and colleague of Adams for more than 20 years. “It was a real treat to be able to work with such a professional over the years,” Alexander says. “Throughout his career, Dr. Adams had a mission to provide quality service in pathology to the citizens of Alabama—he provided that through his own lab and through his training of pathologists. The establishment of this professorship allows the continuation of that mission through the UAB Department of Pathology.”

According to Kevin A. Roth, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Pathology, “Dr. Adams’s commitment to the profession was exemplary, and he served as a role model and mentor for both community- and UAB-based pathologists. I personally have benefited from his wise and steady counsel and am inspired by his selflessness and commitment to pathology residents, medical technology trainees, and laboratory personnel. He was a physician with vision and an advocate for an essential role for pathology and laboratory medicine in effective clinical care. This gift will enhance and support the mission and goals of the Department of Pathology and ultimately provide significant benefits to our patients by enhancing the practice of pathology at UAB.”

THE GIFT OF ART

UAB Receives Never-Before-Displayed Prints from Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts

THE UAB COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES has been gifted six never-before-displayed prints created by the late artist Andy Warhol. This significant gift comes to UAB after the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts voted to make new gifts to all institutions that were recipients of photographic works from The Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program.

In 2008, UAB received 150 works by Warhol as part of a gift from the foundation, which distributed works to nearly 200 university museums nationwide. The new gifts are large screen prints on paper.

“These works are pristine and in the state they were coming off the press,” says Robert Palazzo, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “The works are essentially priceless. UAB is honored to accept such a gift that will doubtless interest and inspire many students in the future.”

“This is a spectacularly generous gift not only to UAB but also to the city of Birmingham,” says John Fields, M.F.A., interim director of the UAB Visual Arts Gallery. “These are major works by one of the most significant artists of the 20th century, and we are thrilled that they have found a permanent home at UAB.”

Gail Andrews, director of the Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA), says that the prints, joining the already impressive gifts of Polaroids given several years ago, enable UAB as a strong interpreter of Warhol’s work. “The opportunities for exhibitions, teaching, and research are significantly enhanced. This is great for the university and for our community at large.”

Michael Straus, chairman of the board of the Andy Warhol Foundation, says that the gifts to UAB and other universities help fulfill their foundation’s mission, by making available to the widest public audience compelling images together with material that will encourage scholarly and other educational exploration of Warhol’s extensive body of work. Straus adds that he is especially pleased at the degree to which these gifts will greatly expand UAB’s own holdings and, with the opening of the AEIVA, thereby foster the already expanding and fruitful relationship between UAB and the museum, all for the benefit of the public at large.
EXPANDING HEALTH-CARE ACCESS

The Daniel Foundation of Alabama Supports Nursing Scholars Program

THE UAB SCHOOL OF NURSING wants to improve the quality of life for all Alabamians, especially those who have limited health-care access. Through targeted programs, the school is devoted to increasing the number of primary-care advanced practice nurses in the state, building partnerships to break down barriers, and increasing health-care access in rural and underserved areas.

With this in mind, and with the help of a significant gift from The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, the school will build and launch a Graduate Nursing Education Primary Care Scholars Program. This program will support a telephone coaching center where faculty nurse practitioners oversee and guide nurse practitioner trainees as they care for and educate patients and their families; provide expert consultation services and support to existing care providers; and establish primary-care clinical training hubs in Alabama’s most underserved areas, where trainees gain hands-on experience providing patient care under the supervision of School of Nursing faculty.

In Alabama, 62 of the state’s 67 rural areas have a shortage of primary-care providers. The health professional shortage affects more than 1.6 million Alabamians. By providing access to quality health care in rural areas and training providers who are willing to live and serve in these areas, the UAB School of Nursing is helping to overcome one of the most challenging issues facing our state.

“With the Daniel grant, we are hoping to create more nurse practitioners like Sheena Champion, who was trained at the UAB School of Nursing and now practices in Wilcox County, Alabama,” says Doreen Harper, Ph.D., dean of the school.

Pam Carver, M.S.N., CRNP, an instructor in the School of Nursing, has been named as the program director. “This is an exciting venture and partnership for the School of Nursing that affords us the opportunity to do what we do best—be on the forefront of leading and working with others to improve health and well-being, not just for Alabamians, but as far as we can reach, which is truly limitless,” she says. “We strive to help others be the best they can possibly be, in all facets of life, and I’ve been blessed to have been a small part of that for almost 24 years. It’s been a tremendous joy to see the amazing growth we’ve accomplished here at the School of Nursing, and this new partnership is another example.”

Charles W. Daniel, chair of The Daniel Foundation of Alabama, is optimistic about their partnership with the School of Nursing at UAB. “We made the decision to focus our funding in areas where we felt we could have greater impact,” he says. “Improving the health of all Alabamians, especially those living in regions that lack access to health care, is a priority for us and for the School of Nursing. Working together, we have a unique opportunity to address this statewide health problem and build healthier communities.”

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

Lemons Scholarship Established in School of Engineering

“..."The generosity of so many people in giving toward this scholarship is a testament to the impact Dr. Jack Lemons has had on students and faculty," says UAB School of Engineering Dean Iwan Alexander, Ph.D. “He has built a legacy that will not be forgotten—not only in the School of Engineering, but in the schools of Medicine and Dentistry, as well.”

Lemons served as chair of the UAB Department of Biomaterials from 1978 through 1990, which included positions as professor and director of laboratory surgical research for the Department of Prosthodontics and Biomaterials in Dentistry and the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery in the School of Medicine.

In 1998, Lemons was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, an honor bestowed on the top two percent of the medical and biological engineering community. As a Fellow of this society and numerous other professional societies, Lemons is considered a leader in the field and an outstanding bioengineer in academia who has distinguished himself through his contributions in research, industrial practice, and education.

Lemons is a professor in the Department of Clinical and Community Dentistry in the School of Dentistry, the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the School of Engineering, and the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery, where his academic responsibilities include dental prosthodontics, medical engineering education, research, and service. He also serves as professor of the Joint Materials Science Program at The University of Alabama and adjunct professor of prosthodontics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine and several international programs.

Lemons has received many honors, including the UAB Distinguished Faculty Lecturer award, the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Florida, and the ASTM P. Laing Award for contributions to standards. In 2015, he will receive the Acta Metallurgica Gold medal for contributions to the discipline of biomaterials for surgical implants. In 2012, he was one of only seven faculty who were honored for serving four decades at UAB. Graduate student training and professional development have always been near and dear to Lemons. As a dedicated mentor and educator, he has had the opportunity to affect the lives of countless graduate students in his roles in the schools of Dentistry, Engineering, and Medicine.
**A BOOST FOR MEN’S BASKETBALL**

*Matching Gift Challenge Leads to Beautiful New Locker Room Facility*

The UAB Men’s Basketball Locker Room, located at 617 13th Street South in Bartow Arena, will soon be designated as the Ronald K. Richey Locker Room. The Ronald K. and Florence E. Richey Charitable Fund made the lead gift toward the project as a matching gift, and several other generous donors have met the challenge.

“A first-class university needs first-class athletic programs to attract and develop student-athletes,” says Linda Richey Graves, daughter of Ronald Richey. “Our family has followed [UAB Men’s Basketball Head] Coach Jerod Haase, first as a top-flight student-athlete and now as a coach. There was no hesitation when we were asked to be a part of this enhancement. We hope this gift helps play it forward and will encourage other gifts that will continue to build UAB.”

Under the direction of Coach Haase, the UAB men’s basketball team has greatly benefited from this capital project. Top-notch facilities are essential for recruiting and sustaining the most talented student-athletes. Gifts received toward the project have provided an incredible opportunity for the men’s basketball program at UAB.

“This locker room has been phenomenal for our program,” Haase says. “It has exceeded any expectations and has absolutely blown us away. We are stressing in our program the importance of doing everything first class. With this new locker room, our players understand there is a great commitment from the university and our staff to having a first-class program.”

The UAB Men’s Basketball Locker Room Enhancement Project rivals the most impressive locker rooms in the country. The old 1,010-square-foot locker room was expanded to approximately 1,500 square feet and includes a state-of-the-art locker room and team lounge. The enhanced facility also features a coaches’ locker room and lounge, nutrition room, and 16 walnut wood-veneer player lockers, helping to position UAB men’s basketball as one of the premier programs in the country once again.

“We are extremely grateful to the Richey family for their lead gift,” UAB Athletic Director Brian Mackin says. “Their generosity has already made an impact on our program and will continue to benefit Blazer student-athletes for years to come.”

**FUNDING A FACELIFT**

*School of Health Professions Adds Much-Needed Space*

Last fall, the School of Health Professions added much-needed space, thanks in large part to SHP Building Campaign co-chairs Mike Williams and Jon Vice. At the opening celebration, visitors saw first-hand the additional 35,000 square feet of space, the state-of-the-art research laboratories, and the cutting-edge Executive Learning Center (ELC). The ELC can seat more than 80 students and has the technology to transmit the classroom learning experience to thousands of people around the world instantaneously.

Mike Williams, president and CEO of Community Hospital Corporation, is a nationally renowned speaker of and advocate for the preservation of community hospitals. An alumnus of the school, Williams co-chaired the SHP Building Campaign Committee because he understands the vital health-care role played by the school and its students.

“During this significant time of health reform that we’re experiencing in the United States today, there’s never been a more important time to focus on the education of individuals who work in the health profession,” Williams says. “The dedication of this new addition to the UAB School of Health Professions is timely as it will provide the education and training of the excellent workforce that we are all dependent upon in today’s health-care delivery system.”

“But before now, our programs were spread around multiple buildings across UAB’s campus, so we needed this for current growth. More importantly, we need this for future growth,” says Harold P. Jones Ph.D., dean of the School of Health Professions.

Jon Vice, an alumnus of the school and past president and CEO of Children’s Hospital and Health System of Wisconsin, reminded everyone at the ribbon cutting last fall that the building is complete, but the building campaign is not. His message to his fellow alumni is simple. “You can’t just always take. You have to give back,” he says. “By making a contribution, whether it is large or small, you can give back to the program that helped make you successful.”
A GIFT WITH A RETURN

Dr. and Mrs. John B. Ponder Support School of Dentistry through Charitable Gift Annuity

When John B. Ponder Jr., D.M.D., and his wife, Mary Joyce, discussed making a gift to the School of Dentistry, they discovered that establishing a charitable gift annuity could accomplish several goals. It made even more sense when their daughter, Elizabeth, director of Planned Giving at UAB, pointed out the benefits of a charitable deduction and the ease of making the gift.

The Birmingham couple entered into an agreement with the UAB Educational Foundation for $25,000. The Ponders will receive a fixed annual annuity payment of $1,400 (approximately a 5.6 percent payout rate) for both their lives. When the surviving spouse passes, the remainder of the gift annuity will benefit the School of Dentistry. It’s a win-win situation for the Ponders and the school.

“Our first goal was philanthropic,” Dr. Ponder says. “There are so many tax advantages. There was no sense in the money sitting in our bank account earning low money market or CD returns. It’s a great option. A gift that gives back.”

Dr. Ponder says his dental education at UAB and hands-on training made it possible for him to earn a decent living and send his children to college. The skills he learned were the best anywhere.

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“A HISTORY OF GIVING

Robert C. Bourge, M.D., Continues Legacy of Philanthropy with Faculty and Staff Campaign Gifts

Robert C. Bourge, M.D., the E. A. and Abbie Drummond Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine in the Division of Cardiovascular Disease and vice-chair for clinical affairs and professor of medicine, radiology, and surgery in the Department of Medicine, has an encyclopedic knowledge of the contemporary history of the UAB Department of Medicine and the Division of Cardiovascular Disease.

Having experienced UAB as a resident and fellow, a physician, a clinical and translational researcher, and an educator, he has the ability to evaluate the School of Medicine’s mission from every angle. And he has capitalized on his broad perspective by committing a number of strategic gifts to the Faculty and Staff Campaign for UAB, adding to a giving history that dates back to 1985.

His most recent gifts support research projects that touch Bourge’s professional and personal lives. They include two efforts in the Division of Cardiovascular Disease: an endowed research fund in heart transplantation, created in partnership with David C. McGiffin, M.D., former deputy director of the UAB Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery; and an endowed research fund in mechanical circulatory support—a life-saving treatment option for critically ill patients with advanced heart failure—established in concert with James K. Kirklin, M.D., director of the UAB Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Jose A. Tallaj, M.D., has been named the inaugural Bourge-McGiffin Endowed Scholar in Heart Transplantation, and Salpy Pamboukian, M.D., M.S.P.H., has been named the inaugural Bourge-Kirklin Endowed Scholar in Mechanical Circulatory Support.

Bourge has also given to create the Detraz Family Endowed Research Fund in Polycystic Kidney Disease in the Division of Nephrology, an effort that hits close to home. Polycystic kidney disease is a hereditary disease with complications ranging from hypertension to renal failure, and it often leads to the need for a kidney transplant. The family of Bourge’s wife, Cutessa Detraz Bourge, suffers from the disease, so he insisted that the fund bear her family’s name. “[Polycystic kidney disease] is autosomal dominant, which means if you get the gene, you get the disease,” Bourge says. “Michael Mrug, M.D., is a rising star in that area. I asked Anupam [Agarwal, M.D., director of the Division of Nephrology, vice-chair for research in the Department of Medicine, and executive vice dean of the School of Medicine], who’s a good friend, and he suggested Mrug for the fund, and offered some matching funds as well.”

Bourge believes that philanthropy is vital to advancing the UAB Department of Medicine’s mission of promoting excellence in patient care, research, and medical education, and he has earmarked gifts both to support immediate needs and to lay a foundation for future success in all three of these vital areas. “I hope these funds will provide continuity of resources in clinical care, research, and teaching,” he says. “With all three areas, funding can wax and wane; I believe these endowments can be utilized to provide continuity. UAB has been blessed by the generosity of many of my patients, and indeed, I hold an endowed chair given to UAB by friends and patients of mine. I have previously and will continue to make gifts that can be used immediately in addition to gifts toward endowments, as some things need immediate attention.”

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THE UAB COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES opened its new Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts (AEIVA) to the public in January. Across the street from UAB’s Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center on 10th Avenue South, the AEIVA houses academic classrooms and laboratories for instruction, offices for students and faculty of the Department of Art and Art History, and a series of professional art galleries for exhibitions. Art history, time-based media, and graphic design classes are located on the building’s second floor.

The 26,000-square-foot building was named for lead donors Judy and Hal Abroms and Ruth and the late Marvin Engel. Additional major donors include Gail and Jeffrey Bayer, the Ronne and Donald Hess Foundation, and Carol and the late Jack Odess. The building was designed by renowned Los Angeles-based architect Randall Stout. Hoar Construction, based in Birmingham, oversaw the construction of the building.

“Growing the arts and culture is a priority for UAB, and the new Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts represents a major stride in those efforts,” says UAB President Ray L. Watts, M.D. “The AEIVA joins the Alys Robinson Stephens Performing Arts Center, the William Hansell and Susan Mabry Hulsey Center for Arts and Humanities, and the National Alumni Society House in a burgeoning cultural arts corridor that is a tremendous asset for UAB, Birmingham, and the state of Alabama.”

The AEIVA is more than just a building—it is a work of art in itself, says UAB College of Arts and Sciences Dean Robert E. Palazzo, Ph.D. “We hope it will inspire and interest all who see it and experience what it has to offer,” Palazzo says. “The AEIVA provides the College of Arts and Sciences, UAB, and the city of Birmingham with a new forum for the creation of original works of art, the exhibition of art, and the resulting intellectual exchange that is needed to achieve a comprehensive education.”

The AEIVA will house works from UAB’s permanent collection that include Polaroids and prints by Andy Warhol; a Pablo Picasso lithograph; six large James Rosenquist lithographs; eight Donald Judd etchings; large-format Polaroids, particularly those by William Christenberry; Christo’s “Mein Köln Dom, Wrapped”; an Anthony Caro paper sculpture; a mural by Dzine; a painting by James Marshall, a.k.a. Dalek; and much more.

The building features state-of-the-art security and environmental control systems for humidity, temperature, and UV exposure, as well as a loading/unloading bay within the building so works are always climate-controlled. Based on a palette of red brick, glass, and patinated zinc, the AEIVA has an outdoor sculpture garden, a covered art plaza, and exterior spaces for gathering. A two-story atrium allows natural light to flood the glass-enclosed, ground-floor lobby. Both the lobby and the atrium provide views between second-floor academic spaces and ground-floor public access as well as into and out of the facility. The art plaza, an extension of the main lobby, will support events from catered dinners to performances. The design also includes an education bar, light monitor, an elevator cube on the north side of the main public entrance, and a canopy over the gallery concourse.
Events

Bob Palazzo, Bert Brouwer, Donald Hess, Ronne Hess, Shirley Salloway Kahn, Jeffrey Bayer, Gail Bayer, Ray Watts, William Engel, Ruth Engel, Hal Abroms, and Judy Abroms

Jeffrey and Gail Bayer

Hal and Judy Abroms

Ronne and Donald Hess

Shirley Salloway Kahn with Theresa and James Bruno

Ruth Engel and son William Engel

Seated: Hal and Judy Abroms
Standing: Gena Genz, Jim Abroms, Louise Abroms, David Abroms, Lois Weinblatt, Sarah Kunin, Abe Kunin, and Justin Miloud
THE LEADERSHIP UAB CLASS OF 2014 was welcomed at a reception in February. The group will have several opportunities throughout the year to network with other young professionals and community volunteers as well as members of the UAB leadership team to learn more about the exciting research, medical, educational, and entrepreneurial activities taking place at UAB.
SEVENTEEN LOCAL ARTISTS worked with a variety of media to create masterpieces in 90 minutes that could be purchased during a silent auction during the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center’s annual ArtBLINK Gala 2014 in February at The Kirklin Clinic. Proceeds from the gala go toward the Cancer Center’s Fund for Excellence, which supports high-priority research efforts—such as funding special projects, launching young investigators in cancer research careers, or recruitment of new faculty members. A percentage of the funds raised also will support patient and family assistance efforts.

“The Cancer Center thrives on the generosity of the community, and especially in these tight economic times when we feel the pinch of federal budget cuts, we rely even more on their support,” says Edward Partridge, M.D., director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. “Philanthropic support provides us with the critical seed money to investigate drugs and develop treatments that we can quickly and safely move to our patients.”

Participating artists were Thomas Andrew, Ahmad Austin, Nada Boner, David Boyd, Gary Chapman, Joan Curtis, Kate Merritt Davis, Vicki Denaburg, Randy Gachet, Lila Graves, Darius Hill, Carol Miser, David Nichols, Linda Ellen Price, Michael Swann, Paul Ware, and Robine Wright.

The evening also featured a cocktail dinner provided by Kathy G. & Company and dancing to the sounds of The Rock Candy Band. Sponsors included Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP; Burr & Forman LLP; Edwards Chevrolet; Medical Properties Trust, Inc.; Protective Life Corporation; and Regions Financial Corporation.