

# UAB Graduate School *News & Events*

Fall 2003

## UAB Bids Farewell to Graduate Dean

Dr. Joan F. Lorden, the sixth dean of UAB's Graduate School, has accepted the position of Provost at UNC Charlotte. President Carol Z. Garrison, Acting Provost Eli Capilouto, faculty, and guests honored Dr. Lorden at a reception held at Woodward House on Thursday, July 10. Known throughout the academic community for her many accomplishments, Dr. Lorden became dean of the Graduate School in 1994 and has simultaneously held that position and the Associate Provost for Research position since 1995. She leaves behind a legacy of dedication, determination, and academic excellence.

Dr. Garrison presented Dr. Lorden with a Resolution listing many of Dr. Lorden's outstanding accomplishments since joining UAB in 1976. Those accomplishments include establishing one of the nation's first offices for postdoctoral scholars, publishing over 75 scholarly papers, and acquiring over 30 extramural grants that have been continuously funded since 1977. She has worked to broaden the participation of women, underrepresented minorities, and low-income first-generation college students in graduate education in the sciences by establishing programs and acquiring over \$4.5 million in funding for high school, junior college, college students, and graduate students. Dr. Lorden has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools, President of the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools, and Dean in Residence for the National Science Foundation.

Acting Provost Eli Capilouto's speech describing Dr. Lorden as "unselfish" and remarking that, "her quiet determination and leadership are deafening in the work that they manifest," drew tears from the audience. He later quoted Harry Truman, saying, " 'You can accomplish any thing in life, provided that you do not mind who gets the credit.' That has been Joan."

Graduate School employees will perhaps miss Dr. Lorden the most. Dr. Julia Austin, Director of the Graduate School's Professional Development Program, stated, "She gave her staff a vision and then allowed us the freedom to complete the work, supporting us when needed but never hampering our creativity." Julie Bryant, Director of Graduate School Operations, feels that UAB has lost a great leader and friend: "Joan has always worked to improve the areas she oversaw, offering suggestions that grew into exemplary programs or addressed areas of need, all without seeking credit for herself (or rarely taking deserved credit when it was offered)."

On behalf of the UAB Graduate School, we wish Dr. Lorden the very best in all her endeavors.



## [www.uab.edu/graduate](http://www.uab.edu/graduate)

Hill University Center, Suite 511, 1400 University Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35294-1150  
205-934-8227 or 800-975-GRAD (4723)

**Fall Offerings:**  
*Professional Development  
Program*

**Fall Term (August 20 - December 12)**

**GRD 700-2S: Culture and Speaking in the U.S.** (Second language English Speakers). Sat., 9:30am - 12:00pm. Questions to Ms. Abney 934-8129 or Dr. Austin 975-6539. (3 hr)

**GRD 702-2S: Writing Up Research.** (Second language writers). Sat., 9:30am - 12:00pm. Questions to Dr. Austin 975-6539. (3 hr)

**GRD 704-00: Specialized Instruction.** (Individualized Instruction. For questions or call numbers, call Dr. Austin 975-6539 or Ms. Abney 934-8129).

**GRD 706-C1: Grants and Fellowships 101.** Sat., Sept 6, 9:00am - 5:00pm. One-day workshop. Lunch provided. Questions to Dr. Austin 975-6539. (1 hr)

**GRD 715-C1: Preparing TAs to be Effective Teachers.** Recommendation of department required. Questions to Dr. Austin 975-6539. (2 or 3 hr)

**GRD 717-6N: Principles of Scientific Integrity.** Tue., 3:30 - 6:00pm, Bevill 170. Questions to Dr. Kincaid 934-4805 or Dr. Vollmer 934-4805. (3 hr)

**GRD 720-P7: Effective Communication Skills.** Thu., 5:30 - 8:30pm. (Second language English speakers). Questions to Ms. Abney 934-8129 or Dr. Austin 975-6539. (3 hr)

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For more details, see the UAB Class Schedule, visit the GRD web site ([www.uab.edu/profdev](http://www.uab.edu/profdev)), or contact Julia Austin at 975-6539 or [jaustin@uab.edu](mailto:jaustin@uab.edu)

**Graduate School Deadlines:**  
*To Graduate in Fall 2003*

MPH, MSPH, DrPH, and MSN students: Check with your Graduate Program Directors for other deadlines, which differ from those of the Graduate School.

**Aug. 20:** Deadline to change residency  
**Aug. 20:** Admission to candidacy due (Doctoral students require 2 semesters)  
**Sept. 12:** Application for degree due

**Plan I**

**Nov. 7:** Last day for public defense  
**Nov 17:** Approved version due in Graduate School

**Plan II**

**Dec. 5:** Last day for receipt of final papers

*Baird Joins Professional  
Development Staff*

Jan Baird joins the Graduate School's Professional Development staff as the Educational Services Coordinator.



Ms. Baird takes over the editing of theses and dissertations and Graduate School publications as well as leading workshops and seminars and working individually with graduate students.

Dr. Julia Austin, Director of Educational Services, says, "We are fortunate to have someone with Jan's specialized knowledge and experience join our team."

## Spotlight on Professional Development

I attended the majority of the Professional Development Courses and Workshops, all of which were very helpful, especially GRD 704. Intended for advanced graduate students, GRD 704 is designed to help students, especially non-English-speaking students, with all kinds of writing, including theses, journal articles, and grant proposals. I learned how to write professionally from my instructor, Nancy Abney, who helped me greatly with grammar, conciseness, sentence construction, and style. This course allowed me to learn writing skills while completing my dissertation at the same time. It's an excellent course for any who want writing assistance.



Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD

I successfully finished my dissertation and had a paper accepted by *The Gerontologist*. I received the 2003 Health Services Research Dissertation Award, and have presented my research for the Academy of Health, the American College of Gastroenterology, and the International Association for Business and Society. Recently, I received a Steven M. Teutsch Fellowship at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

I highly recommend Professional Development Courses and Workshops; I'm very pleased that the graduate school has these offerings.

Xinzhi Zhang, MD, PhD  
UAB Department of Health Services Administration

## Doctoral Hooding Ceremony Draws Large Crowd

The first semiannual Graduate School Doctoral Hooding Ceremony was held on May 10, 2003, in the Sirote Theatre of the Alys Stephens Center.

Dr. Joan F. Lorden welcomed the doctoral candidates along with President Carol Z. Garrison and Acting Provost Eli Capilouto. Dr. Yogesh K. Vohra, the 2003 recipient of the Caroline P. and Charles W. Ireland Prize for Scholarly Distinction, was the keynote speaker.

Family and friends were able to watch each candidate being hooded by their mentor and Dr. Lorden, dean of the Graduate School. President Garrison and the dean of the candidate's school congratulated each of them personally as they walked across the stage.

"The ceremony was a big hit," says Julie Bryant, Director of Graduate School Operations. "The candidates and their families seemed to appreciate the special ceremony just for doctoral candidates."

A small reception in the lobby followed the ceremonial recession. The doctoral candidates were invited to process in with the faculty at the afternoon commencement held in Bartow Arena. The Fall Doctoral Hooding Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the Jemison Concert Hall at the Alys Stephens Center.

For more details about the ceremony held in May, 2003, visit the Graduate School web site at [www.uab.edu/graduate](http://www.uab.edu/graduate) and click on News and Events.



# Graduate Students *In The News*

## 2003 Alabama Space Grant Consortium Awards

Two UAB graduate students were awarded \$22,000 NASA Space Grant Fellowships. **Valerie Meyers**, a doctoral student in pathology, and **David Alvarez**, a doctoral student in physics, received their awards at an awards ceremony luncheon held at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

This year the Alabama Space Grant Consortium presented \$265,000 in scholarships and fellowships to students at seven Alabama universities.

The consortium includes the state's institutions that are involved in space-related research and teaching. These members are UAH, Alabama A & M University, Auburn University, Tuskegee University, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama, and The University of South Alabama.

Congratulations to Valerie and David!

## UAB PFF Pilot Program a Success

Completion of the first year (2002 - 2003) of the UAB Preparing Future Faculty program was celebrated with a reception in Campbell Hall, May 16, 2003. Interns, advisors, and members of the Chemistry, physics, and Biology departments and Graduate School were in attendance. Interns received certificates for their participation and successful completion of this program.



(left to right) Jeannette Doeller, PhD, UAB PFF Director, and PFF Interns Raja Krishnan, Andrea Sadlonova, Carlos Garcia, Lulu Edwards, Yavuz Cakir, PhD, Esther Suswam, PhD, Guy Melvin, Michelle Klobe, Vik Sahasrabudde

**UAB** GRADUATE  
SCHOOL

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