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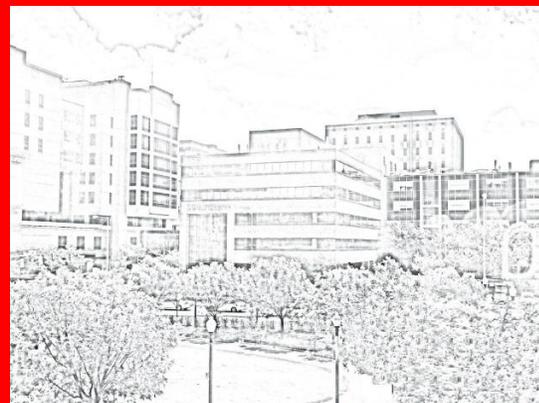
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Winter 2018

**Happy Holidays
from the
CIVITAN INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH CENTER**



Nucor Tubular Products – Birmingham

The Civitan International Research Center (CIRC) was honored with a gift from Nucor Tubular Products - Birmingham. The donation will sponsor a student in the Undergraduate Neuroscience Summer Research Academy. It will allow an advanced UAB undergraduate student to participate in the 10-week intensive research summer experience in one of the CIRC laboratories.

Nucor Tubular Products is part of Nucor Corporation. Nucor Corporation is considered America's premier steel company and is the largest steelmaker in North America.



Pictured:

Nucor Tubular Products team members Tyler Smith (left) and Patrick King (right) present the donation check to Dr. Craig Powell, Director of the Civitan International Research Center.

Charity Auction Benefits UAB Civitan Sparks Clinics



The Annual Art of Giving Charity Auction Benefitting UAB Civitan Sparks Clinics was held October 6 in the CIRC atrium. The event was attended by faculty, students, families and members of Civitan International. The benefit was hosted by the Research Civitan Club at UAB and the Civitan Alabama Central District. Civitans Jerry Levert, Governor of the Civitan Alabama District, and Governor-elect Judith A. Pike, were there representing Civitan International, the CIRC's community partner. Research Civitan Club President Tiffany Alexander and President-elect Dr. Matt Alexander as well as many other members of the Research Civitan Club planned and hosted visitors to the CIRC. Food, live music, and the Mystery at the Museum game were all part of the festivities.

Research Spotlight

Autism Spectrum Disorder Research and Treatment



Drs. Kristi Guest, Maria Hopkins, Sarah O'Kelley and Laura Stoppelbein are currently researching and treating patients in the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) spectrum. Their careers have brought each of them to various levels of expertise and their cumulative experience in the field is outstanding.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is the term that is used to describe a wide range of developmental disorders, now including Autistic Syndrome and Asperger's Syndrome, and diagnosis rates have risen steadily in the U.S. since researchers first began monitoring ASD nearly 20 years ago.

In their 2014 report, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that 1 in 68 children in the U.S. have autism, with a gender breakdown of 1 in 42 for boys and 1 in 189 for girls—or about five boys for every girl. That is a 30 percent increase over the prior report from 2008 and more than double the 2000 rate of 1 in 150.

Although many people worry about an “epidemic” of autism, the increase in rates may be attributed to our growing awareness of autism as well as changes to the criteria used to diagnose ASD. Regardless, it is a reality for many Alabama families who are motivated to find the right care for their children.

Several faculty members in the [Department of Psychology](#) study child and adolescent developmental disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder. And four of those faculty members happen to be female: Dr. Kristi Guest, Dr. Maria Hopkins, Dr. Sarah O'Kelley, and Dr. Laura Stoppelbein. While they all have different concentrations, they have many years of experience in the field. Their profiles offer fascinating insights into their work, the ASD interdisciplinary research platform at UAB, and what they have learned about the disorder over the course of their careers.

VIDEOS

Orders for the 2018 Civitan International Research Center video which premiered at the Civitan Convention can be placed by contacting Vicki Hixon at vhixon@uab.edu. In an effort to offset production costs, an invoice for \$15 will be included in the shipment.

New focus is being made to spotlight the Civitan International Research Center with brief video clips.

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/328-civitan-convention>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/324-what-is-the-circ>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/316-athens-ladies-civitan-club>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/circ/test/303-priceville-junior-civitans-2>

<http://www.uab.edu/medicine/neurobiology/news-events/news-archive/203-neurobiology-labs>

For updates on the Civitan International Research Center
visit the website at:

www.uab.edu/medicine/circ

To schedule a private tour of the
Civitan International Research Center
Contact Vicki Hixon – vhixon@uab.edu

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