

April 8, 2022



Groundbreaking for new genomics building is April 11 🏗️

Join in person or via [livestream](#) for the groundbreaking of the Altec/Styslinger Genomic Medicine and Data Sciences Building 11 a.m. April 11 on Seventh Avenue South between 19th and 20th streets, which will be closed to thru traffic for the event. The new building will encompass 145,000 square feet of office space for research faculty and staff and administrative spaces, plus the new Marnix E. Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation Conference Center.



More than 1,200 employees to be honored with annual service awards

More than 300 employees with 20 or more years of service will be honored during a reception April 11. Vithal K. Ghanta, Jerry G. Spenny, Joseph G. Van Matre and Richard J. Whitley will be honored for 50 years of service to UAB.



Strong credit rating leads to favorable bond sale for UAB

Credit strength and a strong financial outlook enabled UAB to negotiate the sale of bonds to fund new construction and refinance existing debt at extremely low long-term interest rates.



Raut honored for contributions to service-learning through research

Samiksha Raut, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, is the recipient of the 2022 research award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education by the Gulf-South Summit.

Second COVID boosters now available to certain populations

On March 29, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized a second booster dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna shot for individuals age 50 and older and for immunocompromised individuals age 12 and older (Pfizer) or age 18 and older (Moderna). Employees who initially received the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine can receive booster doses without an appointment weekdays at the UAB Injection Clinics; find more info on [UAB United](#).

Things to know



Spring campaign totaled \$1.59 million in pledges to date

During the Benevolent Fund spring 2022 campaign, 154 new donors gave to the UAB Benevolent Fund, enabling nearly 150 organizations to assist UAB employees and the Birmingham community during their time of need.



See 'The SpongeBob Musical' by Theatre UAB April 13-17

When the Mount Humungous volcano threatens to annihilate the town, the citizens of Bikini Bottom must come together in this zany musical, which makes use of recycled and repurposed props, scenery and costumes. Tickets are \$10 for employees.

Faculty: Voting period for Faculty Senate open now

Faculty can read candidate statements for open positions in the Faculty Senate and vote online for senatorial and chair (elect) candidates through 11:59 p.m. April 10.

→ **Faculty Senate to meet Tuesday:** The UAB Faculty Senate will meet 7:30-9 a.m. April 12 via Zoom, and all faculty may attend. The agenda includes an update from Provost Pam Benoit, information on the World Games and voting on the proposed 2022 UAB Faculty Handbook.

UAB Football spring game is April 9 🏈

Get your first look at this year's team as UAB Football returns to Protective Stadium 1 p.m. April 9 for their spring game. Tickets are \$5; buy them [online](#).

More news online

Get campus news at [uab.edu/reporter](#) and COVID-19 updates at [uab.edu/uabunited](#). If you have news you want to share with UAB faculty and staff, use the [Request Publicity](#) form online.

Research & learning



Treating high blood pressure with medication during pregnancy is safe and beneficial, UAB study shows

A UAB-led national study headed by principal investigator Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, shows using blood pressure medication to treat pregnant women with chronic hypertension improves pregnancy outcomes, including a decrease in severe preeclampsia and preterm birth.



New partnership to connect hospital patients with brain-health information

The Brain Health Initiative, a collaboration between the Department of Family and Community Medicine's UAB Hospital-Highlands and Hoover clinics and the UAB Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute, will help patients better understand how lifestyle decisions affect brain health.

→ **Want to learn how to keep your brain healthy through your diet?** Suzanne Judd, Ph.D., professor of public health and director of the Lister Hill Center for Health Policy, will explore the science behind how your diet can protect and maintain brain health and reduce stroke risk noon April 12 on Zoom. Register [online](#).

UAB, Harvard to collaborate on cancer research 🤝

The UAB Informatics Institute has received funding to partner with the Harvard School of Medicine through August 2023 as part of the U24 project "Cancer Deep Phenotype Extraction from Electronic Medical Records."

Don't miss these additional learning opportunities:

- Hear discussions on social media and research dissemination April 12
- Discover how to ensure accessibility in the classroom and beyond April 12

Mark your calendars



Responding to public health crises fueled by climate change

Human-caused climate change threatens to undermine the last 50 years of gains in public health by exacerbating inequalities and impacting the world's most vulnerable populations. The Lancet Countdown: Tracking Progress on Health and Climate Change is an international, multi-disciplinary research collaboration that aims to monitor the world's response to this unprecedented challenge; find out more about the partnership 9 a.m. April 12 on Zoom in a discussion co-sponsored by the Office of Public Health Policy and UAB Sustainability.

Get \$1 hot dogs during Softball vs. Georgia Tech 🌭

All hot dogs will be \$1 at concession stands during UAB Softball vs. Georgia Tech 6 p.m. April 13 at Mary Bowers Field; buy tickets [online](#).

Expand your knowledge with these virtual seminars:

- Examine racial disparities in birth April 13
- Learn about health, inclusion and access in Peru April 13

One more thing



Peony paintings in WIC honor women who beat addiction during pregnancy 💖

Created by Birmingham artist Amy R. Peterson, the 50 painted flowers represent the 50 women who completed the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine's Comprehensive Addiction in Pregnancy Program in its first year. Find them on the second floor of the Women and Infants Center.

Check the campus calendar for more events

Lectures	Arts	Athletics
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