

August 26, 2022



### Optometry renovation wins People's Choice Award 🏆

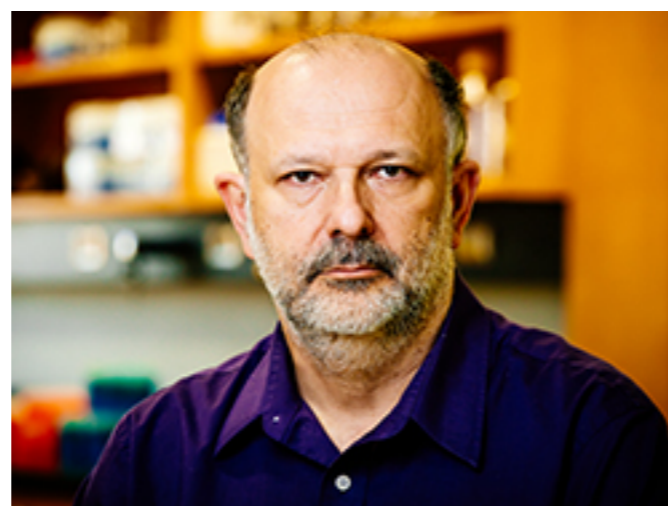
Renovations of the ground through fifth floors of the School of Optometry received a 2022 People's Choice Award from the Birmingham chapter of the American Institute of Architecture. "These needed updates to our building have translated into light, open, and useful spaces that have improved the learning and patient care experiences that happen here," said Dean Kelly Nichols. Read more about the project [online](#).



### Researchers awarded \$11.2 million for heart attack recovery research

Jianyi "Jay" Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., chair of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, and colleagues were awarded a five-year NIH grant to study how the growth of new heart muscle cells may restore dead tissue left from a heart attack.

→ **Want to learn more?** Results from this 2020 study led by Zhang reported that newborn pigs who underwent surgery to the heart's left ventricle could better regenerate heart muscle cells — and new results from the same model showing changes in gene expression could help researchers in their search for ways to repair human hearts following a heart attack.



### Parpura is a star — in the field of astrocytes

Vladimir Parpura, M.D., Ph.D., professor in the Department of Neurobiology, was listed as the second-highest cited expert in the world on astrocytes — the star-shaped cells crucial for nervous system health — based on his decade of research in the discipline and an analysis of PubMed.



### Amsler named Sigma Xi Fellow

Margaret "Maggie" Amsler, polar marine biologist and researcher in the Department of Biology, is one of just 10 scientists to receive the scientific research honor society's distinction in 2022.

[Read more about Amsler's honors and accomplishments in the UAB Reporter.](#)

### More news online

Get campus news at [uab.edu/reporter](http://uab.edu/reporter) and [uab.edu/news](http://uab.edu/news) and COVID-19 updates at [uab.edu/uabunited](http://uab.edu/uabunited). Check the [Campus Calendar](#) for more events on campus, and submit your own. If you have news you want to share, use the [Request Publicity](#) form online.

### Info for employees



### Updated international travel portal launches Sept. 1

The upgraded UAB International Travel Registration portal will facilitate travel risks reviews and enhance awareness of potential health and safety risks within a single platform, eliminating the need to submit separate documents through the current SharePoint site, which also will be discontinued Sept. 1. [More online.](#)

### Have a question about the performance review process?

Click the yellow Help button in the [Performance App](#) to search for answers within the HR Connect knowledge base or submit an inquiry directly to HR experts. The app is open now for the 2022 performance evaluation cycle; full-time (01) and part-time (03) employees in [Workgroup A](#) must submit self-evaluations, and supervisors must complete and upload evaluations by Sept. 30. Visit the [Human Resources](#) website to learn more and explore resources.

→ *Managers can learn best practices for performance reviews in a workshop with UAB Learning & Development:*

#### Planning and Conversations for Managers

🕒 10 a.m. Aug. 29 | 📍 virtual  
[Register online](#)

### Free resources for UAB employees

#### Save money on goods and services with UAB Perks

Employees can get discounts from retailers and service providers through the UAB Perks program — from special pricing on certain Apple products and 18% off monthly Verizon Wireless plans to discounts on local lawn care services, at local retailers and on sports and entertainment options. [See a full list online.](#)

#### Are you a caregiver or parent? The EACC created virtual toolkits for you

These collections of online tools, articles, training opportunities, support groups and more are designed to provide employees with useful resources for day-to-day obligations outside the workplace. [Visit uab.edu/codeblaze](http://uab.edu/codeblaze) and click on the [Toolkits tab](#).

#### Your UAB email gets you free access to the New York Times and other media

You can get access to digital editions of the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and Financial Times through UAB Libraries with your UAB email. [Get step-by-step instructions online.](#)

### Get involved



### Where to buy UAB merch so you can 'Be Seen in Green' 📍👕

Be Seen in Green is back! Beginning today, Aug. 26, UAB employees and fans are encouraged to wear green each Friday to show their support for UAB Football and the Blazer community. Wondering where to get your UAB gear? Check out a [list of places](#) on campus, online and around town.

### Mark your calendars:

#### Adobe Creative Cloud and Creative Composing in Core Classrooms

Learn to use Adobe Express, Premiere Rush and XD for student research and presentation projects.

🕒 11:30 a.m. Aug. 29  
 📍 Lister Hill 411  
[Register online](#) (free lunch)

#### Crate-stacking Competition

Build the highest stack to get a prize from URec. Competitors must arrive by 6:30 p.m.

🕒 6 p.m. Aug. 31  
 📍 Campus Rec Climbing Wall  
[Details online](#)

#### Human Rights in 2022

UAB experts will discuss the current situation of human rights in the U.S. and across the globe. Part of the Social Justice Café series.

🕒 4 p.m. Aug. 31  
 📍 virtual  
[Details online](#)

#### Translational Artificial Intelligence: The Need to Translate from Basic Science to Clinical Value

Part of the Informatics Institute PowerTalk Seminar Series.

🕒 10 a.m. Sept. 1  
 📍 virtual  
[Register online](#)

Check the [Campus Calendar](#) for other upcoming events, and set reminders for things you're interested in by signing with your BlazerID and clicking the "I'm interested" button to get email updates for events.

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