

June 30, 2023



Help identify the next provost

UAB is beginning a national search for its next provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs to replace Pam Benoit, Ph.D., who will retire at year's end. You are encouraged to submit nominations and recommendations to the search committee and WittKieffer, the firm assisting with the national search. Email the name and place of employment of prospective candidates to UABProvost@wittkieffer.com.



Annual performance evaluation cycle opens July 1

Eligible employees in Workgroup A will complete self-evaluations in the Performance App. Managers must complete evaluations by Sept. 30. Visit the Performance Management site for tools, FAQs and training and check your workgroup here.

CMS will no longer require COVID-19 vaccination for health care workers

With the severity of the COVID-19 threat significantly diminished and the nation's public health emergency declaration ended in May 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is ending its requirement that health care workers be vaccinated for COVID-19 or have an approved exemption. As a result, UAB will no longer require health care workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an approved exemption, **effective July 1, 2023**.

UAB continues to strongly encourage COVID-19 vaccination. Employee Health and Student Health Services will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines free of charge for those who elect to have one. Read the full message to UAB Medicine employees.

Things to know



These tips can help you stay safe in the summer heat ☀️

Most of central Alabama will experience daytime heat indices ranging from 105-114 degrees through the weekend. Heat illness can be a dangerous, even fatal, condition, says Marie-Carmelle Elie, M.D., chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine. Learn the signs and symptoms of heat stroke and heat exhaustion and how you can be prepared and stay safe.



University to close July 4 for holiday, no bus service

Although most campus operations will be suspended, essential services will continue. There will be no Blazer Express bus, Highlands Shuttle or Motorist Assistance Roadside Service; Safety Escort ride will be available July 2-3; call 4-8772 to request. Those who park in Express lots can use the Sixth Avenue Parking Deck.

Deadline extended for 2023 Woolfolk award nominations

The Odessa Woolfolk Community Service Award recognizes faculty who have rendered outstanding service in the Birmingham community, read more about eligibility criteria online. Nomination packages must be submitted by July 21 to sami@uab.edu.

More news online

UAB eReporter will not publish July 4 due to the university holiday; it will resume July 7. Get campus news at uab.edu/reporter and uab.edu/news. 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.

Blazer achievements



Bjornsti begins her term as president of FASEB

On July 1, Mary-Ann Bjornsti, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, will take the reins of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, the largest coalition of biological and biomedical research associations in the United States and one of the nation's most powerful forces for science. Bjornsti will be the third FASEB president from UAB.



Blount leads effort to prevent spina bifida worldwide

Fortifying foods with essential vitamins and minerals could dramatically reduce risk of spina bifida and neural tube defects, which kill 240,000 newborns each year. The Global Alliance for Prevention of Spina Bifida, co-founded by UAB pediatric neurosurgeon Jeffrey Blount, M.D., helped introduce a resolution calling for mandatory folic acid food fortification that was recently adopted by the World Health Organization.

Learning and patient care



Connecting community through Cooper Green

A faculty clinic focused on women's health and a community paramedicine program are two new services from Cooper Green Mercy Health Services Authority to enhance and enrich the lives of Jefferson County residents. Cooper Green is an affiliate of the UAB Health System. A new Cooper Green Mercy Health building is under construction and is set for completion in early 2025.

The paramedicine program helps to alleviate inpatient readmission and emergency room visits by connecting specially trained emergency medical and paramedicine technicians with patients who have visited the emergency room more than three times.

The faculty clinic, led by School of Nursing associate professor Kelley Borella, DNP, offers gynecological and women's health services such as screenings that are often unavailable because of a lack of insurance.



Hear UAB leaders share their learning experiences

Karen Gamble, Ph.D., vice chair of Basic Research in the Department of Psychiatry, will speak about "Embracing Challenges, Overcoming Adversity" during the latest installment in the Learning from Leaders series, 11 a.m. July 6 on Zoom.

Sign up to be a judge at the Summer Expo

The UAB Expo celebrates excellence in research, creative activity and scholarship by showcasing the academic endeavors of undergraduate students. Register on [BlazerPulse](#) to be a judge for poster and oral presentations; slots are available throughout the Expo, which is scheduled for July 24-28.

Mark your calendars



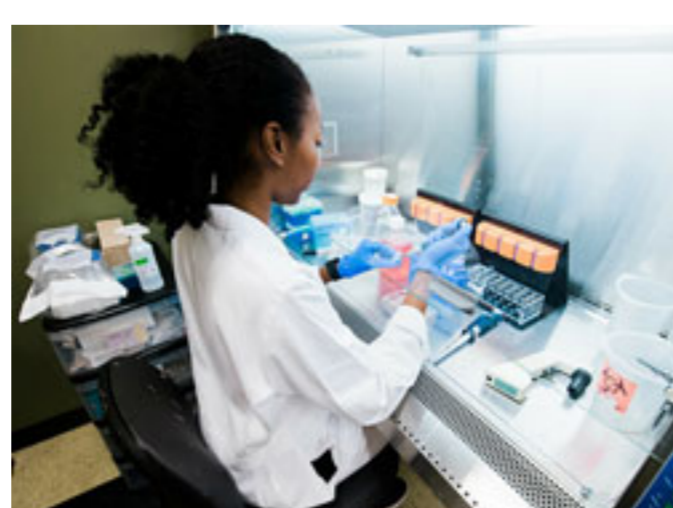
Free concert to celebrate freedom July 4

Bring a blanket or chair and a picnic and join the UAB Summer Band outside Bartow Arena to enjoy traditional and popular patriotic songs at 7 p.m., then stay to enjoy the fireworks launched from Red Mountain at 9 p.m. The Summer Band includes dozens of UAB faculty members, students and alumni, along with professional and amateur musicians from the community.



Andy Kennedy Youth Basketball Camp July 17-20

Boys in grades 3-12 can spend four days working on fundamental skills with NCAA coaches and athletes at Bartow Arena. UAB employees get a \$50 discount on the registration fee. Register here.



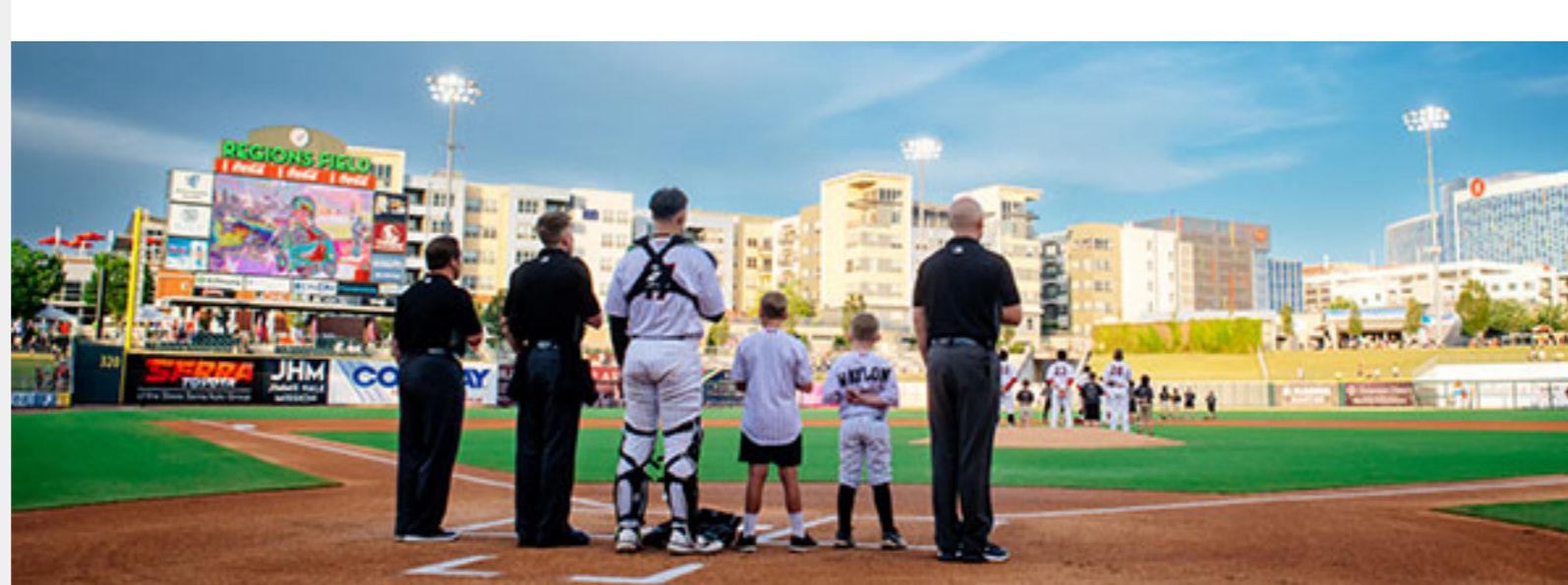
Interested in commercializing cancer-focused technology?

Monique Pond, Ph.D., and Saroj Regmi, Ph.D., of the National Cancer Institute's SBIR Development Center will present "Funding and Commercialization Resources for Cancer Technologies" July 20.

🕒 12:30-1:30 p.m. July 20
📍 Wallace Tumor Institute, Room 231
📄 [Details online](#)

→ After the seminar, Pond and Regmi will be available from 2-5 p.m. for one-on-one meetings with investigators; pre-register for a 1:1 meeting here.

One more thing



UAB, Barons make patient's baseball dreams come true

Six-year-old Waylon Marshall was able to sign a one-day contract with the Barons, a true milestone just six months after a traumatic hand injury was thought to have crushed his baseball dreams. Read this story about Waylon's care at UAB and watch his special day with the Birmingham Barons in this video.

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