

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch, President

DATE: August 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Welcome to a New Academic Year

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, to those returning and to those joining us for their first year. This past year was a productive and exciting one for UAH, and this coming year looks to be just as exciting if not more so. Just some of the many highlights from 2012-13 include:

- Seventy-two students from the College of Business Administration Accounting Department participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provides tax filing assistance to low-income residents of the state of Alabama and to international students attending UAH. These students gave over 1,500 hours of assistance in preparing over 1,000 tax returns.
- A team of UAH students, C. Bryson (Nursing and Engineering), J. Bryson (Engineering), and J. Finney (Engineering) placed first in the SAIC sponsored technical case study competition titled "Modernizing Deployment and Coordination of Humanitarian Aid." The winning team received \$10,000 in scholarship money.
- Marta Grande, BA '09 from the UAH Department of Foreign Languages and Literature, became the youngest member of the Italian Parliament.
- Susan Alexander, Clinical Associate Professor of Nursing, was selected as the recipient of the Alabama State Award for Nurse Practitioner Excellence. She was honored at the 2013 American Association of Nurse Practitioners National Conference in June.
- Lingze Duan, Associate Professor of Physics, won an NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award for his proposal "Semiconductor Detectors for Direct Probing of the Absolute Phase of Light." The CAREER award is NSF's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty. Duan is the third Physics faculty member in the last four years to win an NSF CAREER Award.
- Mikel Petty, Director of the Center for Modeling, Simulation & Analysis, oversaw the activation of UAH's NASA-funded CAVE (cave automatic virtual environment), an immersive virtual reality environment.
- The UAH Cheerleaders placed fourth in the Cheer Ltd Nationals for Large Collegiate squads that are coed.
- Six UAH Chargers intercollegiate athletic teams won conference championships (Men's and Women's Basketball, Men's Cross Country, Softball, Men's and Women's Track and Field).
- The UAH Men's Ice Hockey team gained membership starting with the 2013-14 season in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

- UAH's Strategic Plan, Expanding Horizons, was completed and is in the implementation phase.

There are many more to be added to the above, and we can look forward to another rewarding year for UAH. The new student center, Charger Union, will be complete for opening this spring, and with the first phase of the Campus Greenway stretching from Charger Way to Holmes Avenue complete, the second phase north of Holmes Avenue to Roberts Hall is under way. Renovation and expansion of the Nursing Building is proceeding with opening slated for fall 2014. Construction started this summer on the Sever Weather Institute and Radar and Lightening Laboratory (SWIRLL) behind Cramer Hall.

This fall, the Huntsville Rise School, a preschool, 18 months to six years, for children with developmental disabilities and children without disabilities will open on campus behind Olin B. King Technology Hall and will partner with the UAH Department of Education, the UAH College of Nursing, and interested student groups. This fall will also see the introduction of Charger Cycle. Launched by the UAH Student Government Association, Charger Cycle is a program to deploy bicycles around campus that can be used free-of-charge to move from one campus location to another.

Together we made a lot of progress this past year, and we can all look forward to the year ahead.

Thanks,

Bob