I’d like to introduce a few people who have joined us recently.

Jason Greene joined us as Dean of the College of Business Administration this academic year. Prior to UAH he served as Interim Dean of the College of Business and the Henry J. Rehn Professor of Finance at Southern Illinois University. Before joining SIU he was Vice President and Senior Investment Officer of Intech Investment Management in West Palm Beach Florida. He also served as Associate Professor of Finance at Georgia State University. Jason earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Mathematics from Rhodes College and the PhD in Finance from The Indiana University Kelley School of Business.

In December Mallie Hale joined us as Senior Director of Alumni Relations and Executive Director of the Alumni Association coming to us from UAB where she served for three years as Major Gifts Officer of the Department of Medicine. Prior to UAB, Mallie served as an Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs at Birmingham Southern College where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in Applied Sociology from UAB.

Rigved Joshi is the new Director of the D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation Center, our new incubator facility for startup companies for which we will break ground around June. Rigved comes to UAH after career experience in venture capital, private equity, startup incubation and intellectual property monetization, and he recently managed new ventures, strategy and innovation at Vanderbilt University. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering from Maharashtra
Institute of Technology in India and an MBA from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Laterrica Simmons joined us as Director of Compliance and Title IX Coordinator in March. Laterrica was previously Senior Compliance Manager University Investigator at the Missouri University of Science and Technology managing daily responsibilities associated with conducting Title IX and equity investigations to ensure compliance with federal equal opportunity/civil rights laws. Laterrica earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Operations Management from The University of Alabama and the Juris Doctor from the The University of Alabama School of Law. She is a member of the Alabama Bar.

As we welcome new faces, we have one leaving us, Ray Pinner, who announced his retirement at the end of June.

Ray has served as the senior administrator for finance and administration since October 2000. He has had a wide-ranging role in campus operations during that time. He also played a lot of tennis, or so he tried. I searched the Huntsville Tennis Center’s United States Tennis Association’s database to look up Pinner’s record. Looks like he was on a number of teams in 2010, one of which was named “Lots of Laughs.” I guess that refers to their play. In 2011 he was listed as being on only one team named “Over The Hill Gang.” Must have had meaning; he does not show as being on a team since!

As Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for the University, Ray has been accountable for fiscal and general administrative functions, including financial planning, budget development and control; investments and risk management; management of general accounting functions as well as contract and grant accounting; facilities planning and physical plant operations including public safety; acquisition and disposition of real property; procurement, telecommunications and other business services; human resources; and the Bevill Conference Center and Hotel.
Ray was UAH’s Vice President for Finance and Administration from 2000 to September 2012, and earned a promotion to Senior Vice President in October 2012. He first joined UAH in September 1994 as Assistant Vice President for Finance and Budgets.

He has provided leadership in numerous key aspects of campus operations:

- Improved financial resources and stability through financial controls and conservative budgeting, resulting in multiple bond rating upgrades from Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s
- Led the development of comprehensive campus master plans in 2004, 2009 and 2016
- Developed campus housing with the addition of three residence halls and five fraternity/sorority houses, as well as numerous other major campus facilities and improved infrastructure developments.

We want to express our appreciation to Ray for his service to UAH, and we wish him and Tatiana the best in their future together.

I showed this slide at the April 2016 Board meeting noting that we started with our SASCOC reaffirmation of accreditation process in September 2014. As you can see, last April there were two steps to go and those were completed successfully under the leadership team of Brent Wren, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies and SACSCOC Liaison, Provost Christine Curtis, Professor Sandra Carpenter of Psychology serving as Faculty SACSCOC Committee Chair, Professor Al Wilhite,
College of Business Administration, serving as Quality Enhancement Plan, QEP, Steering Committee Chair, and Ray Pinner and many others on campus.

We are currently implementing our Quality Enhancement Plan, Collaborative Learning.

We continue to make advances in enrollment.
For the second year in a row we have record enrollment as well as the largest freshman class in history and this incoming freshman class also had the highest average ACT score in UAH history, 27.6, the highest in the state.

A key contributor to enrollment growth is improved retention due to the diligent efforts of the Provost’s Office and the faculty.
The Honors College is also a key contributor to the growth of the freshman class and incoming ACT score, with the Honors College average ACT score reaching 31.5, highest in history.

Projections are that next fall we will again enroll our largest freshman class and record total enrollment as we approach the goal of 10,000 students. In order to accommodate the enrollment growth we are adding faculty and managing class scheduling and class size.
Contributing to recruitment and retention successes are the campus life and enhancements we have been able to put in place and are planned. The Student Services Building consolidates our student-facing services and houses the university administration, bringing it back on the east side of Sparkman.

With enrollment growth comes a need for more student housing, a residence hall opening in fall 2018
As well as an additional sorority house.

New academic programs have contributed to enrollment growth as well. From fall 2015 we have been able to establish new programs in five of our seven degree granting colleges.

The Department of Music in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences is celebrating its Golden Anniversary this year with a yearlong celebration that kicked off with a Golden Jubilee Weekend and continues with the Constellation Concert Series with seven concerts throughout the year.
Self-taught puppeteer Bakari Prigg started as a mechanical engineering major but could not let go of his childhood passion developed watching Sesame Street. He switched majors to Theatre and was invited by legendary Big Bird puppeteer Matt Vogel to a workshop on Sesame Street style puppetry in October in Manhattan.

Former international fashion model Clair Birkholz, UAH Finance major, has her sights set on Wall Street. She applied for an internship at Goldman Sachs in New York and after three rounds of interviews was accepted and spent her days at corporate treasury.
and her nights in an NYU residence hall in Greenwich Village. She says “I was working a lot, but I got to do all the touristy things like going to Ellis Island and seeing the Statue of Liberty.”

As part of the 2016 SaveFirst Initiative, 69 UAH students volunteered at free tax preparation sites in Huntsville and Decatur to prepare more than 1,480 tax returns for working families – helping them to secure more than $3.1 million in tax refunds and saving them $593,000 in commercial tax preparation fees. This represents a 7% increase in the number of families served compared to last season.

The Early Learning Center, which was formed in spring 2016 to house the Rise School, pre-K and Head Start classrooms, moved into University Place School this fall. The UAH Rise School was housed in temporary buildings on campus shown here during the 2013-14 and 2015-16 academic years.

The College of Education, formed in 2014, has contributed substantially to UAH’s enrollment growth, and continues to grow with Kinesiology being a popular major.

Mechanical Engineering student Nick Peterson and Aerospace Engineering student Robert Hicks were selected from a very highly competitive national pool for internship programs at Space X and Blue Origin. Nick conducted vibration, thermal, pressure, and radiation testing for components of SpaceX’s two spacecraft systems, the Falcon 9 and the Dragon. Robert worked with Blue Origin’s engine development team on their Blue Engine 3, a liquid hydrogen/liquid oxygen engine, investigated alternate drying methods for the engine and performing cost analysis.
Maria Pour, Assistant Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, received the prestigious NSF five-year Early Career Development Award for her research on advanced methods to design state-of-the-art phased array antennas with applications in mobile and wireless systems for homeland security, unmanned vehicles, surveillance, remote sensing, and intelligent transportation systems.

The College of Nursing was recently named to *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2017 list of Best Online Master’s in Nursing Programs, moving up 19 spots from last year to number 50.

Using information provided by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, U.S. News and World Report and Forbes
Magazine, Best Medical Degrees ranks UAH’s Doctor of Nursing Practice #4 Best Value Online DNP Program.

Nursing Faculty member Maria Steele and Theatre faculty member Karen Baker collaborated on a coping with stress project. Six theatre students were enlisted to do a role-playing performance representing maladaptive and adaptive coping behaviors in response to stress.

Eric Mendenhall, Assistant Professor in Biological Sciences, upper left, and Rick Meyers, President and Science Director of HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, are collaborating on a project to be conducted at HudsonAlpha that is part of a four-year, $31.5 million NIH Encyclopedia of DNA Elements (ENCODE) Project to further the construction of a comprehensive parts list of functional elements in the human genome, including elements that act at the protein and RNA levels, and regulatory elements that control cells and circumstances in which a gene is active.

Phil Bitzer, Associate Professor in Atmospheric Science, is the recipient of the prestigious NASA New Investigator Program in Earth Science Award for his proposal on Detection and Applications of Continuing Current in Lightning Using LIS and GLM. LIS is the Light Imaging Sensor now aboard the International Space Station and GLM is the Geostationary Lightning Mapper aboard NOAA’s GOES-17 weather satellite. UAH was heavily involved in the development of LIS and GLM.
Membership in the National Academy of Sciences is one of the highest honors a scientist can receive. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that was established under a congressional charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863. It recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and - with the National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Medicine - provides science, technology and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations. Members are elected to the National Academy of Sciences by current members in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research.

We are very proud that Gary Zank was elected to membership in the Academy in 2016. Gary is Eminent Scholar, Distinguished Professor, Director of the Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research, and Chair of the Department of Space Science in the College of Science.

Gary is a prolific researcher and scholar, authoring or co-authoring over 300 published manuscripts. He is one of the leading theorists working on NASA’s Interstellar Boundary Explorer (IBEX) satellite. In September 2013, Gary and a team of researchers at UAH, determined that NASA’s Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched in 1977, had exited the solar system and ventured into interstellar space, the first human-made object to do so.

The academy elected 84 new members in 2016 and 21 foreign associates from 14 countries. Those elected bring the total number of active members to 2,291 and the total number of foreign associates to 465. Foreign associates are nonvoting members of the academy, with citizenship outside the United States. Gary is the only member in the state of Alabama. Approximately 200 members of the Academy have received Nobel prizes.

Gary could not be with us this morning. He is currently in Granada, Spain attending a meeting related to a European Spacecraft, Solar Orbiter, on which he is a co-investigator on the magnetic field instrument.
The College Academy, a partnership between Huntsville City Schools and UAH, kicked off last fall with a high school freshman class of about 30 at Jemison High School. UAH’s Space Hardware Club involved the freshman cohort in a high-altitude BalloonSat project in the fall. The project was carried out over a five-week period in October and November. Project modules included an introduction to high-altitude ballooning, payload design and predictions, the actual launch from the Jemison football field, follow-up of flight details and payload, and creating a research poster about the project. A project this spring introduced the College Academy students to computer based animation led by Vinny Argentina, assistant professor I Art, Art History & Design.

We continue to rank highly in DoD and NASA supported research expenditures along with good company.
Cybersecurity is one of our research focus areas, supported in part by a $4.2 million NSF CyberCorps Scholarships for Service program. Scholarship recipients serve a paid internship during the summer term in a government cybersecurity related position, and must work for government after graduation.

Saroj Kumar a master's candidate in Aerospace Engineering, whose research centers on the use of nuclear fusion propulsion got to spend two weeks as a "Marsnaut" at the Mars Desert Research Station in Hanksville, Utah, whose unforgiving environment is Earth’s closest approximation to that of the Red Planet.
And, speaking of space travel, UAH is working with a local team to develop an FAA application for certification as a landing site for Sierra Nevada's Dream Chaser spacecraft.

Ground breaking for the D.S. Davidson Invention to Innovation Center, or I2C, an incubator for startup companies, is slated for summer 2017. The 45,000-square-foot facility, to be located between Wilson Hall and the Business Administration Building, to which it will be physically connected, is made possible by a $5 million gift from Dorothy Davidson, Chairman and CEO of Davidson Technologies, in combination with funding
from the state of Alabama, the Madison County Commission, and the City of Huntsville, along with financial support from the UAH Foundation and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. The I2C aims to build a regional innovation ecosystem linked by in-person and online mentoring and training programs and activities and assist in diversifying the greater Huntsville regional industry base to reduce dependence on federal funding.

Our athletics program continues to reach milestones. This fall, Lennie Acuff, Men’s Head Basketball Coach, amassed his 500th win. Lennie stand up along with some of your players and take a bow.

This spring, just last weekend, Les Stuedeman, Head Softball Coach, reached the 1,000 win mark. Les, please stand along with your players and take a bow as well.

We, in the administration, have worked closely with the Student Government Association, the Staff Senate, and the Faculty Senate on handbook revisions and policy development and revisions in a number of areas including class scheduling, modified duties and extension of the tenure clock for faculty who experience unanticipated life events, and making the five days of spring break paid holidays rather than one day of that week as was previous practice among others.

The Faculty Senate recently passed a resolution that the Faculty reaffirms their commitment to UAH’s Core Values as expressed in UAH’s Mission Statement. They welcome the expression of ideas in non-violent forms and the free debate of topics, without undue regard to speaker backgrounds, including, but not necessarily limited to, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation backgrounds, and they affirm their commitment to lead efforts and initiatives that strive for inclusiveness and diversity. The administration stands with the Faculty in support of this resolution.
What we have accomplished, some of which you have seen today, is made possible through hardworking, dedicated faculty, administrators and staff, an enthusiastic student body, and the extraordinary support we have received and continue to receive from the Board of Trustees. To the Board and everyone moving this institution forward, let me close with a well-deserved thank you.