As we begin a new Fall semester, I want to thank you for your hard work this summer and to encourage you to continue to be ambassadors of this university. Your efforts are making a positive difference to the campus.

Please join me in welcoming several new employees to the F&O team:

- Brandon Alexander - Landscaper I
- Geoffrey Buckelew - Landscaper III
- Nick Burton - Maintenance Work I
- Harrison Holt - Electrician I
- Ella Olive - Custodian
- Felix Salas - Custodian
- Noah Winburn - HVAC Technician I

We are excited to have these talented people join us as we pursue excellent facilities and customer service. When you see them please say "Hello" & "Welcome"!

We also want to congratulate, Evan Henry, who was recently promoted to Maintenance Worker II.

The following employees have served UAH well and are enjoying retirement:

- Alberto Heredia - Custodian
- Sofia Heredia - Custodian

Thank you, Alberto and Sofia, for your dedication and service to The University of Alabama in Huntsville.
The F&O Grounds and Landscaping team was recently awarded the 2022 Beautification Award on August 5. This dedicated team provides grounds maintenance and landscaping services for the University. They strive to maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the 500-acre campus. This was the first award ceremony since 2019 because of the pandemic. Area businesses and landscapers were recognized for outstanding efforts to keep properties clean, visually pleasing, and well-maintained. There were 500 properties judged, and 386 were awarded for their excellence. Our campus is also a proud honor roll winner. As a department, we have aspirations of winning the Mayor’s Award in the near future. To earn this award, a property must receive a perfect score from three judges. Our F&O goal is to win this award through the attention to detail this team puts into their work daily.

Our F&O Grounds and Landscaping team also participated in the Honors Service Corps - Day of Service event along with UAH students in planting 200+ shrubs outside of Charger Union. Thank you to Clint Bailey and Mike Marshall; this area looks excellent!

Back in the July, during the hottest part of the summer, we had a chilled water line break at VBH early one morning. Due to the old infrastructure, the shut off valves would not work, and we had to shut down cooling for the entire building to make the repair. Once the building water was off and drained out of the system, the HVAC team were able to see the deteriorating conditions of the pipe, and they quickly identified a solution and began the necessary steps to get this repaired ASAP. The valves and pipes were not easily accessible, and yet they were able to coordinate this job and get the pipe repaired and new shut-off valves installed by noon the following day. The VBH staff was able to return back to work that following afternoon. In addition, when events arise like this one, there tends to be a big mess with water, ceiling tiles falling, and odors. Our custodial staff is always there to assist maintenance in cleaning up. They also do a great job and are always willing to help.
Our department currently has seventy-eight (78) active projects in planning, design and construction including twenty (20) projects under construction at this time.

- Altenkirch Lawn “Greenway” Phase III is now substantially complete, and the contractor is finishing punch list items. It looks excellent.
- Altenkirch Lawn “Greenway” Phase IV: Ben Graves Drive is successfully realigned, and pavement improvements have been completed in Parking Lots G10, G12, and G16. Additional project work in Parking Lot G9 and the grounds to the east of the Conference Training Center (CTC) began in early September and will continue through October 5th including the temporary closures of Parking Lot G9.
- CTC Counseling Services Renovation and Shelby Center Basement Interior Renovations (Phase 2) were completed in time for the start of the Fall semester.
- Optics Building: Flooring and wall base will be replaced in the lobby and public corridors, and the front entry glass doors and hardware will also be replaced.
- Spragins Hall Interior Renovations will update about 9,400 square feet of the main lobby, first floor corridors, concessional areas, VIP Club, and existing first floor restrooms. The project also includes new exterior building signage. Completion is anticipated prior to the first home volleyball game of the 2022 season.
I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of our team and for your continued hard work. I am inspired by each of our units and its members for wanting to expand their industry knowledge, training, and their work skills. Thank you all for keeping the campus cleaner, safer, and more appealing for our students, employees, and visitors.