

MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students

FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch

DATE: August 19, 2015

SUBJECT: Welcome to a New Academic Year

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, always an exciting time on campus. This past year was a very productive one for UAH, and we look to build on its momentum. There were many noteworthy faculty, staff, and student accomplishments from 2014-15, as well as progressive changes on campus. Just a few of the many highlights include:

- The Department of Music's Roberts Recital Hall was renovated to house state of the art facilities for music performance, recording, and audio engineering.
- Pavica Sheldon, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts, won the Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award from Southern States Communication Association and followed that up this past summer with the publication of a new book *Social Media: Principles and Applications* (New York: Lexington Books, 2015).
- Chargers for Sustainability launched a new single-stream recycling program for all academic buildings on campus.
- The College of Business Administration is introducing three new master's programs this fall: Master of Science in Management Science – Business Analytics (MSMS-BA), Master of Science in Management – Human Resource Management (MSM-HRM), and Master of Science in Supply Chain and Logistics Management (MS-SCLM); all three programs are offered fully online.
- Jeet Gupta, Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration, received the Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award at the annual meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute in Tampa, Florida. The award recognizes Jeet for his role in the globalization of the Decision Sciences Institute.
- Atmospheric Science graduate student Eric Anderson won the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools thesis competition for best use of innovative technology in a thesis category.

- Volunteer Chargers obtained a new electric vehicle from Woody Anderson Ford that is free for all student organizations to use while engaging in community service activities in and around Huntsville.
- The UAH Fraternity and Sorority Community donated the most money in history to the various philanthropies and charitable organizations associated with their respective organizations, totaling over \$100,000 in gifts.
- UAH welcomed its newest chartered fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi.
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering faculty member George Nelson received the prestigious NSF CAREER award in support of his research to understand better the performance of lithium-ion batteries operating under elevated temperature conditions.
- Kareem Omar, an undergraduate with a double major in Aerospace Engineering and Physics and an Honors student, authored a poster entitled "Characterizing the TGF-Lightning Relationship Using ENTLN" that was among 60 chosen nationally for the highly selective Council on Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill competition.
- UAH NSF research expenditures moved up 35 positions in the NSF rankings in FY13 (most recent rankings).
- Gloria Greene, Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, was elected President of the Southern Section of the Society of Research Administrators.
- Gary Zank, Chair of the Department of Space Science and Director of the Center for Space Plasma and Aeronomic Research, was awarded the Axford Medal, the highest honor given by the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society, which recognizes an individual for outstanding achievements in geosciences, including planetary and solar system science.
- An experiment to study the roles enzymes play in biological processes, "Protein Crystals for Neutron Crystallography," developed by Joe Ng, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, through the UAH spinout company iXpressGenes, Inc. and in association with Oak Ridge National Laboratory flew on the International Space Station.
- Lori Lioce, Executive Director of the Learning and Technology Resource Center in the College of Nursing, received the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning 2015 Excellence in Service Award for her work as Chair of the Committee for *Standards of Best Practice: SimulationSM* and her lead work on the development of the *Simulation Design Standard*.

- The UAH College of Education was officially formed in October 2014, with two academic departments (Curriculum and Instruction; Kinesiology) and one service and outreach center, the UAH Rise School, a preschool for developmentally challenged and typical children.
- Beth Quick, Dean of the College of Education, was elected President-Elect of the Alabama Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (ALACTE). The association serves as the state affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, a national alliance of over 800 member institutions dedicated to high-quality, evidence-based educator preparation.
- Men's and women's lacrosse were added to the inventory of intercollegiate athletic teams with the inaugural seasons coming this spring.

The campus saw a number of changes this past academic year in addition to the Roberts Recital Hall renovation mentioned above. The Nursing expansion was completed and renovation began on the original Nursing Building, which is now complete. We purchased University Park, just east of Charger Park, from the City of Huntsville. The Park, open to the public, will provide intramural fields, gathering spaces for university events, and athletic practice fields. Installation of wayfinding signage was completed, including an electronic message board on Sparkman Drive that will be powered up sometime this fall.

A number of faculty who support the Strategic Priorities in Expanding Horizons were recruited to join us this fall. From last September's meeting of the Board of Trustees to present, the Board approved ten new academic programs, including four in Education, the three in Business Administration mentioned above, a PhD and MS in Space Science, and a BA in Theatre.

Kristi Motter joined us this past year as Vice President for Student Affairs. The year was one of heightened student recruiting activity resulting in this fall's entering freshman class being the largest ever at UAH. Total enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students combined is likely to be the largest in UAH history as well, although official enrollment is not determined until the 10th day of classes.

Last year saw a lot of progress on a number of fronts due to your efforts, which are greatly appreciated. Enjoy this academic year.

Thanks,

Bob