

## UAHRA Newsletter

Fall 2021

### ***UAHRA Winter General Meeting***

***The meeting will be in January 2022. Look for an email with further information as it becomes available.***

### **Fall General Meeting**

UAHRA held its fall general meeting on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 313 of the Student Services Building. Coffee and cookies were served. After announcements, President Darren Dawson gave an update on the status of UAH. A summary of Dr. Dawson's update is given below in the minutes of the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Officers and Board**

The UAHRA Officers and Board for 2021-22 are

President	Jack Fix
Vice President	Steve Bruce
Secretary	Debra Moriarity
Treasurer	Sheila Scruggs
Board Member	Royce Boyer
	Sharlene Bruce
	Ramon Cerro
	Ravi Seth

### **New Members**

Don Bowyer  
Charles Corsetti  
Larrell Hughes  
Boris Kunin  
Natalia Kunin  
Linda Maier  
Juanita Owen

### **UAHRA President's Message**

After several years of Covid-enforced inactivity, the UAHRA is again active and organizing a number of exciting events and opportunities. We have joined forces with UAH Alumni Relations on events that can give retired faculty and staff an opportunity to get together with our former students. The first such event was Charger Tip Off on October 29<sup>th</sup> during Alumni Weekend.

Thanks to the efforts of Board member Royce Boyer, UAHRA members will have discounted admission to the Department of Music Constellation Series of performances. Professor Boyer has also arranged for UAHRA members to have a special tour of the new College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences space in Morton Hall, including a short concert in the new Black Box Theater. This event probably will take place in January 2022.

UAHRA members are also eligible for half-price admission to UAH basketball games this winter. Admission to other UAH sports events is free.

To help UAHRA members take advantage of these discounts, the Board plans to mail out UAHRA membership cards. Those with annual

memberships will receive a new card each year.

Finally, look for an invitation to the annual UAH Holiday Cheer Reception from 4 to 6 pm on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Library Old Photo Project**

The UAH Library is looking for our help in identifying archived photos. There are thousands of pictures dating back to probably the mid- to late-60's with little or no information for them and little to no organization. We are looking for volunteers to go through them and identify those that they can so they can be catalogued. There is a "fill-in-the-blank" spreadsheet that includes the information they are looking for. Charlie and Steve Bruce have started working on the project and have already identified and catalogued approximately 200 pictures. They report it is a fun project and brings back lots of memories. We need people from different colleges/departments to help identify people/buildings that they are, or were, familiar with. The current volunteer times are M-W-F from 10:00AM – Noon and because of current Covid restrictions they are asking that not more than 3 people meet at a time. Two-three people from the same discipline at the same time would a good starting point for volunteers as they could find a batch of photos from their area and get through them pretty quickly.

To volunteer, please contact Charlie Bruce at [brucesd@uah.edu](mailto:brucesd@uah.edu).

### **We Welcome New Members!**

If you know UAH retirees who are not members, encourage them to join. If you are a new retiree, please consider joining.

An organization such as ours always needs new ideas, helping hands and the strength that our mutual past brings. **If you know of a potential UAHRA member, please ask them to fill out the "Membership Form" in the attached file at the end of this newsletter and mail it along with a check made payable to UAHRA to:**

*Office of University Advancement  
315 Shelbie King Hall  
Huntsville, AL 35899*

Our membership year runs from October 1 – September 31.

### **UAH Retirees General Meeting Minutes**

**October 15, 2021, 10 AM in SSB 313**

Cookies and coffee were provided prior to the meeting.

Dr. Jack Fix convened the meeting.

1. About 20 members were in attendance.
2. Dr. Fix introduced President Dawson to make a presentation about the present and future plans for UAH.

### Remarks from Pres. Dawson .

In a summary slide of local agencies UAH interacts with, which included Redstone Arsenal, MSFC, companies in Research Park, President Dawson mentioned that the list was not up to

date and now also would include the FBI and Space Command.

UAH is on course to have \$143 mil in research expenditures this year. This is a significant jump from last year.

Our ranking in US News and World Report has gone up but we aspire to be in the top 100. The main two things keeping us from that are: 1) our 6 year graduation rate (now at 62% but it was <50%. Needs to be at least 68%) and 2) the percent of our alumni that give to UAH. (We are at 4% and need to be at 15-20%)

UAH lost about 3% enrollment this fall from last year, mostly attributed to Covid. This has been seen nationwide.

UAH lost money last year due to teaching online courses since out of state students pay in state tuition if they are online. We also lost revenue from students not living and eating on campus. This is behind the big push to get classes back to a face to face delivery. He stated that this was not received well by all, and that one professor in Philosophy left the University because he felt that going face to face would kill people. He also said that UAH also had to spend a lot of money on cleaning and cleaning supplies. He expected that we will drop the mask mandate, except for classrooms, within the next 2-3 weeks.

He was asked about the effect the current administration's proposal for free tuition for two year colleges would have on UAH. He stated that of course this would affect our enrollment, but had no positive plan for dealing with it.

He then discussed planned and hoped for renovations on campus:

- 1) Executive Plaza will be torn down, with help from the city, and left as a green field. They think they can attract developers more easily if the demo is already done. This will happen in the Nov. –Dec. timeframe. The Faculty/Staff clinic and the Counseling Center will move to the renovated CTC.
- 2) The Army Corps of Engineers has left the Bevill Center so the classrooms there will be renovated for use by engineering classes. Also, they will move HR and payroll from SKH to the Bevill Center. The hotel part is housing students and will continue to do so.
- 3) A new Engineering building is in early planning stages. They will need \$90 million for it. Once they have that and they renovate the current EB the engineering departments from Tech Hall will be moved back to this side of campus and the VBRH inhabitants will move to Tech Hall. Then VBRH will be torn down. It wasn't clear where CS would go.

President Dawson also said that ALL summer enrollment was going to be moved online. He said that will increase summer enrollment and increase tuition. Also, in-state tuition will be granted to ALL students from TN, not just the neighboring counties.

After the President finished a short business meeting was held. It was announced that Charlie Bruce

had been appointed to the Executive Board. Attendees were told about the discounts that had been arranged for the Constellation Music Performance series for UAHRA members and about a possible event to be held in the new Black Box Theater in Morton Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Debra M. Moriarity, Secretary

### **Retiree Spotlight**

This and future newsletters will include short updates on what our retired colleagues are doing in retirement.

**Don Bowyer**



Professor and Chair of the Music Department Don Bowyer left UAH in 2012 to become Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Arkansas State University. His sense of adventure (he has performed as a trombonist in nearly 50 countries and on 11 cruise ships) then led him to Sunway University in Malaysia where he was Professor and Dean of the School of Arts. During pandemic lockdowns in Malaysia he presented nightly concerts from the

rooftop of his condo, streaming the concerts to Facebook and YouTube.

Don recently returned to Huntsville where he is continuing his wide-ranging activities that include composing and performing, consulting on accreditation and curricular development, and maintaining Dolphin Don's Music School – a set of educational computer games for children.

Don and his wife are currently exploring the possibility of continuing their retirement in Costa Rica.

### **Thank You to UAH**

Although the UAH Retirees Association isn't officially part of UAH, we get a great deal of help and cooperation from the university. The officers and board are very grateful for UAH support.