

## Memorandum

**TO:** Faculty, Staff, and Students

**FROM:** Robert A. Altenkirch

**DATE:** August 20, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Welcome Back

For those of you starting your first academic year at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, welcome. To those returning, welcome back. This past year was a productive one for UAHuntsville. Just some of the many highlights include:

- The College of Business Administration secured a gift from Science Applications International Corporation to develop programs in enterprise resource planning.
- Jeffrey Evans, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, received an NSF CAREER award, NSF's most prestigious award in support of the early career-development of faculty, and Timothy Boykin, Electrical and Computer Engineering, was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society.
- Jason O'Brien, Education, and Andrea Word-Allbritton, English, received the largest grant in UAHuntsville history from the U.S. Department of Education to support second language instruction training for Huntsville City School teachers and administrators.
- Plans were developed to expand the College of Nursing and to renovate and expand the existing Nursing building.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of the formula for the World's first high-temperature superconductor by UAHuntsville alumnus Jim Ashburn, Physics, was celebrated.
- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classified UAHuntsville as a very high activity research university.
- The UAHuntsville student team finished first in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Race at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.
- UAHuntsville received one of the largest gifts in history, over \$4 million, from the MaryLou Durkee Management Trust to support the Colleges of Business Administration, Engineering, and Nursing, the Department of Athletics, and general scholarships.
- Men's basketball captured the NCAA Division II South Region Championship, and women's basketball was selected to compete in the NCAA Division II South Regional.
- Track and field continues to set records, with both the men's and women's 4x100 meter relay teams setting school records.

There are many more to be added to the above, and we can look forward to another exciting year for UAHuntsville, including the completion of the university's Strategic Plan, which will chart a course for the next several years. Additionally, our physical plant continues to be enhanced with construction underway on the new Student Life Center, the Campus Greenway and recent completion of the baseball/softball/soccer complex housing a ticket booth, concession stand, and locker rooms. Plans are underway to expand the Nursing building, as mentioned above, and to construct a facility to house some of our severe weather research laboratory.

Together we can continue to make progress as we have this past year and look forward to the year ahead.

Thanks,

Bob