Welcome to the UAB Family!

From the first moment a new student and their parents set foot on the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) campus they become part of a new extended family, the UAB family.

The Dragon’s Den is a newsletter for members of the UAB Parents’ Association and is published twice each year. It provides information of interest to parents keeping them abreast of university news, (both academic and athletic), and informing them of Parents’ Association activities.

As members of the UAB Parents’ Association, you can join our e-mail listserv. This listserv is private. We do not release e-mail addresses or any other information. If you are not receiving monthly parents’ e-mails and would like to, please e-mail me at ParentAssoc@uab.edu.

If you have recently changed your e-mail address and have not been receiving monthly updates, please let me know via e-mail, giving your old address and the new address you want to use.

Thanks for being a part of our extended UAB family!

Regina Willis Hawkins
Director of New Student Orientation/UAB Parents’ Association

UAB Parents’ Association Event Football Tailgate!

Thanks to all who attended the Parents’ Association tailgate event and the UAB vs. Troy State football game and for helping to make the event a great success! Nearly 200 parents and family members attended this fun and exciting gathering.

We hope you enjoyed meeting other parents as well as UAB administrators. UAB President Carol Garrison was among the attendees, and welcomed everyone to the event and to UAB.

Orientation Leaders were also on hand helping everyone get in the proper spirit through cheers and the UAB fight song. Even Blaze, UAB’s mascot, made it to the festivities to get everyone pumped up for the game! The UAB Marching Band and Cheerleaders performed before a large crowd, wrapping up the tailgate as fans began to file into Legion Field.

Even though the Blazers score fell a little bit short in the game, the event was a great success and we hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. Thanks again to all who attended.

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Upcoming Parents’ Association Events

Jan 31, 2004 UAB vs. St. Louis Basketball game
and get together reception

April 3, 2004 Springfest, UAB Mini Park 11 a.m.

More information to follow!
Did you know?...
The 1,708 new freshmen entering UAB this fall (2003) represent the largest freshman class in the history of the University.

Student Affairs Welcomes Two New Staff Members

DeeDee Barnes Bruns has been named Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management at UAB. Virginia Gauld, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs, announced that Bruns has overall responsibility for student recruitment, international student and scholar services, financial aid and new student orientation (which includes the UAB Parent Association). Since 1995 Ms. Bruns has served as Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid at Birmingham Southern College in Birmingham. Prior to that, she served at colleges in the Midwest for 13 years.

Commenting on her move to UAB, Ms. Bruns said, “UAB offers its students a tremendous opportunity to receive an outstanding, high-quality education and other opportunities that are of life-long value. Ranging from the chance to conduct research with some of the world’s preeminent scientists to the activities of the traditional college experience, students who come to UAB can take advantage of it all within the context of this wonderful city. I look forward to introducing future students to the university and helping them discover the many reasons UAB is a great option for their college choice.”

Jeff Davis has been named Assistant Director of New Student Orientation. Jeff hails from the great state of Texas, having made his home in Houston for the past 18 years. He received a B.B.A. in Business Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX where he was involved in Orientation as well as many other organizations. Mr. Davis is a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity and serves as a member of the TKE Alumni Board of Advisors. He is also a member of the National Orientation Directors Association, Leadership Honor Society, Order of Omega, and Who’s Who Among American Universities and Colleges.

He now makes his home in Hoover, AL and is currently pursuing an M.B.A. in Management at UAB. His responsibilities in Orientation include the recruiting, interviewing, hiring, and training of the Orientation Leader Staff. Commenting on students getting involved in campus activities, Mr. Davis said, “Students, who are active both inside and outside the classroom are the students who receive the full experience of college life and are provided with many skills and opportunities not afforded to students who do not.”

Making Midterms More Manageable
Helping Students Handle Stress

Midterms are fastly approaching sometimes causing students to “stress out.” Here are a few things your student can do to reduce that stress.

Tips for Students to avoid the Midterm Madness:
• Meet with your Academic Advisor,
• Study progressively over time, avoiding late night studying and cramming sessions,
• Engage in other activities between study periods and take breaks from studying to avoid mental fatigue,
• Meet with professors regularly to ask questions.

UAB Enrollment Hits a New High

Total fall 2003 enrollment at the University of Alabama at Birmingham increased by more than 11.3 percent from 15,579 the previous year to 17,345. Undergraduate enrollment grew almost 5.2 percent, from 10,501 to 11,046. Graduate enrollment saw an increase during the period of 4,096 to 6,299. Freshmen saw a 16% increase over last year with 1,708 students in the Fall 2003 entering class! UAB is the place to be!

Did you know?...
The 1,708 new freshmen entering UAB this fall (2003) represent the largest freshman class in the history of the University.
Have we got a great opportunity for your family!

As a member of the UAB Parents’ Association, you are entitled to many special benefits around campus including the opportunity to see the world’s brightest performers at UAB’s Alys Stephens Center (ASC). During the past seven years, the ASC has presented hundreds of wonderful artists including Itzhak Perlman, The Chieftains, Roberta Flack, and Herbie Hancock to name a few.

You may choose the performance that most piques your interest and receive a pair of complimentary tickets! Here are your choices:

**Shaolin Warriors** - November 2, 2003
A Kung Fu Spectacular featuring Shaolin monks performing feats of strength and agility.

**Los Angeles Guitar Quartet** - November 16, 2003
They’ve been called the “world’s finest guitar ensemble.” Come find out why!

**Katia and Marielle Labeque** - January 16, 2004
This French piano duo has an acclaimed style that’s both unique and beautiful. They will be joined by two incredible percussionists.

**Three on a String** - January 17, 2004
Birmingham’s favorite bluegrass ensemble will have the entire audience pickin’ and grinnin’.

Select the performance that you would like to attend and then visit the ASC box office two days prior to the performance to redeem your voucher for two tickets. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis and may not apply if the selected performance is sold out.

The ASC Box Office is located at 1200 10th Avenue South, on the campus of UAB. For more information on the ASC call 975-ARTS or visit on-line at www.AlysStephens.org.

The staff at the Alys Stephens Center and the UAB Parents’ Association look forward to seeing you at a show and sharing the unforgettable magic of the performing arts.

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**UAB Campus Updates**

**UAB** has continuous efforts to improve and better serve its students. There have been many campus improvements of late.

As UAB’s enrollment increases, so does the need for additional facilities to accommodate the growing student population. UAB is addressing these needs and growing in facilities as well as population.

Currently, UAB has multiple projects under way. A few of these include the UAB Recreation Center and the 14th Street Student Parking Deck.

UAB’s new campus recreation center is scheduled for completion in Fall 2004. The $24 million, 150,000 square-foot building will feature an indoor recreational pool with a lap pool, indoor basketball courts, a multi-purpose court, a climbing wall, cardiovascular fitness areas, well-equipped weight-lifting areas, racquetball courts, and an outdoor pursuit center.

Also, UAB currently has a student parking deck under construction by the 14th Street University Boulevard commuter bridge. This parking deck will help to address student parking concerns and will create nearly 700 new parking spaces for students. The project will be finished in time for the Spring 2004 semester.

These are a few of the examples of UAB’s growth and dedication as we strive to serve our students. For an updated look at the Campus Recreation Center, you may view a live web cam of the progress at [http://138.26.167.188/](http://138.26.167.188/).
UAB HOMECOMING 2003 JUST AROUND THE CORNER

UAB’s Homecoming festivities will kick off Sunday, October 26th and run through Saturday November 1st. Homecoming brings out the Blazer spirit every fall with a full week of exciting activities and favorite campus traditions! Days of contests and parties lead up to a parade, pep rally, and bonfire on Friday, plus the football game on Saturday.

There are must-see events for students, faculty, parents, alumni, and the community. This year’s Homecoming activities promise to be full of excitement, spirit, and UAB Pride. This is just the thing for a proud UAB Parents’ Association member!

UAB HOMECOMING 2003 Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 27th
Paint the Town Green & Gold | 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Hill University Center Lobby
Homecoming Scavenger Hunt | Receive your packets 5:00 p.m. | Hill University Center Lobby
Operation Inflatables & Blazer Tag | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | UAB Mini Park

Monday, October 28th
Psychedelic Casino Night | 8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. | Hill University Center Great Hall

Tuesday, October 29th
Trick or Treat Tuesday | 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Hill University Center Concourse
Free Play at the Blazer Arcade | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Hill University Center Blazer Arcade
Blazer Victory / Fight Song Competition | 12:30 p.m. | Hill University Center Concourse
Freaky Fright Film | 7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. | Hill University Center Alumni Auditorium

Wednesday, October 30th
Fun Flicks | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Hill University Center Lobby
Gurney Derby – sponsored by the UAB Alumni Office

Thursday, October 31st
Blaze’s Smokin’ BBQ / Blazer Boot Camp | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm | UAB Mini Park
Blazer Stomp Down / Block Party | 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. | UAB Mini Park

Friday, November 1st
Homecoming Parade | 12:00 p.m. | starts on 10th Avenue South
Dragon March / Bon Fire / Pep Rally | 7:30 p.m. | UAB Mini Park

For Tickets visit http://uabsports.oscn.com

Important Dates to Remember

Fall Semester 2003

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<td>Phone/Web Registration</td>
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