UAB Parents Association Event
Gang Green Reception & UAB Basketball!

Thank you to all who attended the Parents Association Gang Green Reception and the UAB vs. South Florida basketball game. You helped to make the event a great success! Nearly 200 parents and family members attended this fun and exciting gathering. President Garrison was on hand and spoke about all the additions to UAB including the Campus Recreation Center opening this May and the new dining facility and residence hall which will be completed in fall 2006.

We hope you enjoyed meeting other parents as well as UAB administrators. We are excited to have so many of you come to these events and hope you will continue to attend in the future. The Blazers played a great game beating the South Florida Bulls 85-71 in what proved to be a game full of excitement.
**COMING SOON TO UAB!!!**

**UAB Dining Commons**
Construction will start this summer on The Campus Dining Commons. This facility opening in fall 2006, will serve a variety of all-you-care-to-eat options during dinner throughout the week and weekends in a restaurant atmosphere. Breakfast and lunch will be priced and served al la’ carte during week. Customers will be able to eat what they wish and pay for what they eat. Customers will be able to “make the rounds” to each of the exciting dining destinations where food will be prepared out front…..just for them!!! Destinations being considered as a part of the current planning process for the Dining Commons are: Classics, International, Pizza, Grill, Deli, Soup & Salad, so customers will surely find options to satisfy their appetite. The Dining Commons will be open breakfast, lunch, dinner and late night too! Stay tuned for more exciting news about the Dining Commons.

On the second level adjacent to Blazer Hall (the new Freshmen Residence Hall due to open fall semester 2006), there will be a diner and convenience store. The Diner/ C Store will also be located in the Dining Commons. The convenience store will be well stocked with snacks, bottled beverages, toiletries and other miscellaneous items typically found in a convenience store. The Diner will serve up made-to-order grill items such as omelets, burgers, sandwiches and more. All items will be available “to go” for those persons on the run or going back to their residence hall. This area will be open afternoons and late nights 7 days a week.

**NEW RESIDENCE HALL! – BLAZER HALL**
Our brand new suite-style residence hall will be opening in the fall of 2006! Here’s the best part – Blazer Hall will be reserved EXCLUSIVELY for freshmen! With 750 spaces for freshmen to study, socialize, get involved, and participate in campus life, Blazer Hall promises to be our best housing option yet. Just think of the convenience, affordability, safety, and sense of community living on campus can provide. Students are sure to get the most out of their college experience. Blazer Hall will feature our newest residential learning initiative similar to the T.R.A.I.L. program presently offered in Rast Hall. The residential learning program is designed to provide students interaction with others from all over the world in an environment that focuses on academics and other college success skills. Research on the benefits of living on campus show that those who live on campus (even for a year) are more active on campus, perform better academically and persist to graduation in higher numbers than students who commute.

Current UAB students who wish to live in a more private setting yet increase their interaction with other students will be pleased. Whether they wish to increase their involvement on campus, or simply live closer to their classes and other campus resources, we have just what they’re looking for! The addition of Blazer Hall for freshmen will allow UAB to provide private rooms in apartment-style housing for more upperclassmen in other halls than ever before - over 1,000 spaces for the student on the go!

Make the most of your college experience. Live on campus!
What is the QEP & why is it good for your student?
By DeeDee Barnes Bruns, Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Management

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) accrediting team will be conducting a site visit at UAB during the week of March 22nd. Part of our 10 year reaccreditation process involves the submission of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) which, as the name implies, enhances in a significant way the learning of our students. The QEP for UAB’s SACS reaccreditation is: "Improving fundamental competencies at the undergraduate level".

Impressive sounding, you may say, but what exactly does that mean? It means that as a result of studies, surveys (students, faculty, alums, employers, and even members of the Parents Association!), the University has determined that by improving and enhancing the content and delivery of basic undergraduate course requirements the quality of foundational learning will be improved. This will result in more effective learning at higher levels of instruction, provide for better prepared graduates entering the work force and post-graduate study, and inculcate a greater sense of civic and ethical responsibility beyond the UAB experience.

Some of the aspects of this comprehensive, 10-year plan that are slated to begin in the next year involve expansion of learning communities, improvement in teaching technique and information delivery for basic English and Mathematics courses. A more ordered sequence for completing introductory English and Mathematics courses, and the introduction of a selected book for which campus-wide reading, discussion and other learning enhancement activities are components of the QEP as well.

The UAB Quality Enhancement Plan identifies 13 specific competencies, ranging from outstanding communication skills to excellence in quantitative reasoning, that are critical for ever UAB grad to possess regardless of major. The QEP, like many of the other amazing things happening at UAB, is a well-thought out plan for insuring that UAB grads are the recipients of the highest quality education over a broad spectrum of learning environments. This will insure that each graduate is prepared to lead fulfilling, enriching and productive lives beyond the time of their undergraduate experience. What more would any parent want for their child?

Visit www.uab.edu/qep to learn more about the QEP’s impact on your student’s education and his/her degree of excellence.
LAUNCH A CAREER OR BEGIN A JOB?
By Joy Jones, Assistant Director, UAB Career Services

Seated before me was a young man with a troubled look on his face. In an exasperated tone he blurted, “Can you help me find a job? I just graduated and I don’t know what to do. What companies will hire someone with my degree?” Each week in Career Services I meet with recent or upcoming graduates who are anxious about finding a job. As important as gainful employment may be, this presenting issue is often a cover up for a concern with additional far-reaching effects. When voiced, that concern sounds something like this, “I thought that earning my degree would allow me to get a job that I enjoy doing; something that would be meaningful in my life - more than just earning money to pay the bills. That’s what I expected a college degree would do for me.”

When students have not invested the time and effort to discover where they uniquely fit into the world of work, their career start is relegated to just finding a job that will pay the bills. Today’s students don’t want just any job. They want a career. A career is a sequence of behaviors (even attitudes) that are connected to work and that relate to our total life experience. A career is an integration of our personality with our job activities. Thus, it becomes a part of our self-concept. Perhaps you or someone you know works in an occupation that seems “just right” for them. As an example, can you recall one or more of your teachers who seemed to have selected the ideal occupation based on their individual traits? No doubt some of them would have taught for free if they could have afforded to do so. It wasn’t a job for them, it was a career. The good news is that when students take the appropriate action, their expectations of launching a career can be met. There are two major types of information students need in order to make informed decisions - information about themselves (self-awareness) and information about the world of work. We, in Career Services are prepared to help.

Taking appropriate action begins with raising self-awareness. Students need a strong understanding of themselves to acquire the confidence to plan their future. A strategy we use in career counseling to help students acquire this understanding is assessment. Several assessment options are available in our office including Discover, the Self-Directed Search and the Keirsey Temperament Sorter II. In order to take career assessments, students should schedule an appointment with a counselor in our office. The assessments are designed to help students identify their unique traits.

Student assessment results are presented in an integrated way by relating student traits to particular occupational areas. Every occupation requires a characteristic pattern of abilities, interests and personality traits. Within each occupation are workers with varying degrees of these characteristics. When students identify their key traits they can then begin to explore how they relate to the outside world. If students have thought about possible careers, assessment may support their ideas or suggest other possibilities. For students who are uncertain about what career path to follow, assessment will help them to establish a list of careers for further exploration.

The next appropriate action in the career planning process is career exploration. Students need to find out as much as possible about a career before they prepare to enter it. The best sources of viable information related to careers are printed material, people in the field, their own firsthand personal experience, and on-line computers. These sources may be utilized through reading, conducting informational interviews, participating in job shadowing, volunteer work, or through working a part time job. More than ever students need to give considerable attention to what they want to do and structure their training and education to be relevant both to their interests and to trends in the job market. Self-awareness and exploration are only the first steps in the career planning process. Students who skip these steps in the early stages of their college academics are setting themselves up for job searching instead of career launching. We know that parents want the best for their children. We invite you to partner with our staff in communicating to your students the importance of utilizing our services - beginning in their freshman year.

Students who know themselves and develop a plan of action based on both their needs and the needs of the job market are candidates for beginning a satisfying career. We will suggest to your student career development activities appropriate to each academic level they will experience while progressing through college and earning their degree. It is our desire to help them become responsible and informed decision makers. It is our desire to help your students launch a career! If you or your student would like more information, or if your student would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Career Services at 934-4324 or careerservices@uab.edu.
UAB Athletics 2004 – 2005 A Year of Excellence

UAB Athletics has made great strides in the past 12 months. We have seen our blazer athletic teams accomplish some extraordinary goals and compete at the highest level.

UAB Men’s Basketball
Our Blazer Basketball team had an amazing run in last year’s NCAA tournament as they conquered Washington and upset top-seeded Kentucky en-route to an unforgettable Sweet 16 run. This season they once again punched their ticket to the NCAA tournament and defeated the sixth seeded LSU Tigers in the first round. The Blazers fast style play and aggressive defense under third-year Coach Mike Anderson have earned them back to back NCAA berths and established UAB Basketball as a program of national prominence.

UAB Football
The UAB Blazer Football Team had a historic season as they finished the regular season with a record of 7 wins and 4 losses. The Blazers finished the regular season 2nd in Conference USA earning the Blazers their first post season bowl in school history. The Blazers headed to Honolulu to play in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl where they played a great game vs. The University of Hawaii Warriors.

UAB Women’s Soccer
The UAB women’s soccer team finished the 2004 season ranked 28th in the nation in the Soccer Buzz Final National Top 30 poll. The Blazers qualified for the NCAA Tournament after winning the Conference USA Tournament, their first tournament title in school history, as UAB edged Saint Louis, 2-1, in the final match. The Blazers finished in the top 30 in the nation for the first time in program history.

UAB Men’s Soccer
The 2004 Blazer men’s soccer team completed another great season in a longstanding tradition of success at UAB. The Blazers were 12-7 overall, their 11th 10-win season in the last 12 years, and finished as runners-up in both the Conference USA regular season and at the postseason tournament. UAB also finished the year ranked No. 23 in the final regular season NSCAA Coaches poll. Mike Getman’s club was ranked No. 4 in the South Region at the end of the regular season as well.

2005 UAB BLAZER FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat Sep. 3 at Tennessee; TBA
Sat Sep. 10 at Troy; TBA
Sat Sep. 17 vs. JACKSONVILLE STATE; TBA
Sat Oct. 1 vs. RICE; TBA
Sat Oct. 8 vs. SMU; TBA
Sat Oct. 15 at Marshall; TBA
Fri Oct. 21, vs. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI; TBA
Tue Nov. 1, at Memphis; 6:30 PM
Sat Nov. 12, vs. UCF; TBA
Sat Nov. 19, at UTEP; TBA
Sat Nov. 26, at East Carolina; TBA

(Home Games in Gold)
UAB Academic Calendar 2005

Spring 2005
Mar 27 - Apr 2  Spring Break
Apr 25  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
Apr 25  Last Day of Class
Apr 26 - Apr 27  Open Days
Apr 28 - May 4  Final Exams
May 7  Graduation
May 8  Grades Available on ACCESS

Summer 12-Week Session 2005
Apr 11 - Apr 15  Assigned Time Registration
Apr 11 - May 6  Web (ACCESS) Registration
Apr 18 - May 6  Open Registration
May 9 - May 17  Registration after Classes Begin
May 9  Classes Begin
May 12  Financial Aid Disbursement
May 16  Last Day to Drop
May 17  Last Day to Add
May 18  First Payment Deadline
May 30  Memorial Day Holiday
Jun 10  Final Payment Deadline
Jun 20  Last Day to Withdraw (Undergraduate)
Jul 3 - Jul 4  Independence Day Holiday
Aug 3  Last Day of Class
Aug 3  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
Aug 4 - Aug 10  Final Exams
Aug 14  Grades Available on ACCESS

Summer May Session 2005
Apr 11 - Apr 15  Assigned Time Registration
Apr 11 - May 6  Web (ACCESS) Registration
Apr 18 - May 6  Open Registration
May 9 - May 11  Registration after Classes Begin
May 9  Classes Begin
May 10  Last Day to Drop
May 11  Financial Aid Disbursement
May 11  Last Day to Add
May 12  First Payment Deadline
May 12  Final Payment Deadline
May 18  Last Day to Withdraw (Undergraduate)
May 26  Last Day of Class
May 26  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
May 27  Final Exams
May 30  Memorial Day Holiday
Aug 14  Grades Available on ACCESS

Summer 9-Week Session 2005
Apr 11 - Apr 15  Assigned Time Registration
Apr 11 - May 31  Web (ACCESS) Registration
Apr 18 - May 31  Open Registration
Jun 1 - Jun 9  Registration after Classes Begin
Jun 1  Classes Begin
Jun 3  Financial Aid Disbursement
Jun 8  Last Day to Drop
Jun 9  Last Day to Add
Jun 10  First Payment Deadline
Jul 3 - Jul 4  Independence Day Holiday
Jul 12  Last Day to Withdraw (Undergraduate)
Jul 13  Final Payment Deadline
Aug 3  Last Day of Class
Aug 3  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
Aug 4 - Aug 10  Final Exams
Aug 14  Grades Available on ACCESS

Summer A Session 2005
Apr 11 - Apr 15  Assigned Time Registration
Apr 11 - May 31  Web (ACCESS) Registration
Apr 18 - May 31  Open Registration
Jun 1 - Jun 3  Registration after Classes Begin
Jun 1  Classes Begin
Jun 2  Last Day to Drop
Jun 3  Financial Aid Disbursement
Jun 3  Last Day to Add
Jun 10  First Payment Deadline
Jun 10  Final Payment Deadline
Jun 17  Last Day to Withdraw (Undergraduate)
Jul 1  Last Day of Class
Jul 1  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
Jul 5  Final Exams
Aug 14  Grades Available on ACCESS

Summer B Session 2005
Apr 11 - Apr 15  Assigned Time Registration
Apr 11 - Jul 5  Web (ACCESS) Registration
Apr 18 - Jul 5  Open Registration
Jul 6 - Jul 8  Registration After Classes Begin
Jul 6  Classes Begin
Jul 7  Last Day to Drop
Jul 8  Financial Aid Disbursement
Jul 8  Last Day to Add
Jul 13  First Payment Deadline
Jul 13  Final Payment Deadline
Jul 22  Last Day to Withdraw (Undergraduate)
Aug 3  Last Day of Class
Aug 3  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
Aug 4  Final Exams
Aug 14  Grades Available on ACCESS

Fall 2005
Apr 11 - Apr 15  Early Assigned Time Registration
Apr 11 - May 30  Early Web (ACCESS) Registration
Apr 18 - May 30  Early Open Registration
Jul 25 - Jul 29  Assigned Time Registration
Jul 25 - Aug 17  Web (ACCESS) Registration
Aug 1 - Aug 17  Open Registration
Aug 18 - Aug 26  Registration after Classes Begin
Aug 18  Classes Begin
Aug 25  Last Day to Drop
Aug 26  Last Day to Add
Sep 5  Labor Day Holiday
Oct 19  Last Day to Withdraw (Undergraduate)
Nov 23  No Classes Held
Nov 24 - Nov 27  Thanksgiving Holidays
Dec 5  Last Day to Withdraw (Graduate)
Dec 5  Last Day of Class
Dec 6 - Dec 7  Open Days
Dec 8 - Dec 14  Final Exams
Dec 17  Graduation
Dec 18  Grades Available on ACCESS
We Want You! Please take a moment and volunteer your time with the UAB Parents Association.

UAB Parents Association Volunteer Profile

Last Name: ____________________  First Name: _______________________  MI: _______

Home Address: _______________________________________________________________

City: _____________________  State: _______  Zip: _________  County: _______________

Work Phone: (____) __________________       Home Telephone: (____) __________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________

Fax number: __________________________________________________________________

What is the best way to contact you? _______________________________________________

Please indicate in the space provided the area(s) in which you would like to serve.

_____ “Parent to Parent” Panel (panel discussion member during New Student Orientation)

_____ Parent Orientation (membership recruitment table during Parent Orientations)

_____ Fall move-in for incoming freshmen (provide information and refreshments as parents move their students into residence halls)

_____ UAB Days (panel speaker and welcome parents to UAB)

_____ Scholars Symposium (panel speaker and welcome parents to UAB)

_____ UAB Annual Parents’ Fund

_____ UAB Ambassador selection committee member

_____ Identify prospective students in your area

_____ Committee member

_____ Fall-Football tailgate and game

_____ Winter-Basketball and reception

_____ Spring-Springfest and UAB Day

Please Return to:
UAB Parents Association
Hill University Center, Room 531
1400 University Blvd.
Birmingham, AL 35294