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UAH Welcomes New Dean of Students, Regina Young Hyatt

Shelly Carlon
Staff Writer

Exciting changes are coming to the Office of Student Affairs this semester—starting with the appointment of a brand-new dean of students, Regina Young Hyatt. Hyatt isn’t just new to the university, but new to Huntsville as well. She grew up and received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in central Illinois and has worked in Student Affairs her entire career, most recently as the associate dean of students at the University of South Florida. She looks forward to finishing her Ph.D at USF this May—but she’s equally excited about exploring her new campus and city.

“I love [Huntsville]; it’s a great community,” she said.

She’s also impressed with our campus. “It’s a beautiful space—and everyone I’ve met so far has been great,” she added.

Even though it’s little more than two weeks into her new position, Hyatt already has big plans. “We’re entering into a strategic planning process—holding dialogues with students and our campus partners to start looking into the future of student life and student affairs.”

One of those changes is the new e-newsletter, ChargerNews, which launched on Monday. This weekly newsletter will feature on-campus happenings for each week, as well as student and faculty highlights, a health and wellness segment, and news about campus life. Student clubs and organizations will be able to post their events via the UAH website, and it’s intended to be a central place for faculty, staff and students to stay up-to-date on what’s happening on campus.

Hyatt and the other new staff in her office are full of energy and new ideas—but they are eager for student feedback.

“We are all about students, in terms of their experience on campus,” she stated. “We want to know how things are going, and we also want them to know we have a lot of resources available to them...whether that’s counselling support, or if they’re sick and need a place to go, or whether they want to have a specific event on campus...there are lots of people on campus who are here to help students.”

If you need any assistance or have a great idea about how to enhance campus life, Hyatt encourages you to stop by the Student Affairs Office, located in UC 114, just down the hall from Charger Central. You can also e-mail the dean directly at Regina.Hyatt@uah.edu.

“We want students to be proud to be UAH-Huntsville students,” she said. “And we want to do everything we can to support that.”

Local Corporation SAIC Challenges UAH Students in Competition

Jessica Bumbalough
Press Release

For the second year in a row, Science Applications International Corporation is hosting a Case Study Competition to recognize technical excellence at UAH and foster the development of closer ties between the company and the university.

Last year’s case was a NASA Exploration study, written by part-time UAH faculty member and SAIC employee Tom Percy. Jason Bigger, Adam Kim and Chuck Peltier were the 2010 recipients of the scholarship award, receiving $2,000 each for the 2010 - 2011 academic year.

This year’s competition will provide a first-place prize and a second-place prize. First prize for the competition will be $6,000, and second prize will be $3,000, which will be awarded in the form of scholarships to be distributed evenly among team members.

This year’s technical case study, Clean Energy for America, is open to interested students in the college of engineering and the...
Beloved Math Instructor Returns After Extended Illness

Claude Bridges
Staff Writer

Scores of students and faculty looked forward to the start of a new year and a fresh semester at UAH, but perhaps none more so than Pam Marples, a lecturer in the department of mathematics.

After a sudden illness kept her from teaching last fall, the well-liked algebra and calculus instructor returned on Jan. 12. Marples was welcomed back with warm smiles and hugs.

In college math departments, one rarely encounters an instructor as popular as Marples, who has taught at UAH since 2001. Students frequently attest to the fact that in her classroom, algebra and calculus no longer provoke threatening and repulsive thoughts, but are seen as fascinating and maybe even a little exciting.

A Facebook fan page dedicated to her clearly illustrates students’ appreciation for her. And numerous comments on her Rate My Professors.com profile confirm this, with comments such as “Made calculus enjoyable,” and “She brightens my day.”

Marples’ yearly teaching agenda consists of three or four classes during the spring and fall terms and two summer classes. Last summer, fewer than three weeks before finals, Marples fell ill and was temporarily hospitalized, forcing her to withdraw from her two teaching engagements. Substitute instructors handled these classes during the short period she expected to be absent.

However, medical complications ensued, and extreme weakness prevented her from teaching until the spring 2011 semester, ruling out the possibility of her teaching in the fall. Not only did she face months of dealing with poor health conditions, but she was also refused her love of teaching students at UAH.

During the long, taxing days and weeks which followed Marples’ diagnosis, several of her students and fellow UAH employees expressed her love and support for her by means of cards, phone calls and hospital visits.

“She just made me feel like my students hadn’t forgotten me,” the cheerful instructor said with a chuckle.

But kind words and thoughtful gifts could only raise the beloved teacher’s spirits during her extended absence, and nothing more. Unfortunately, she had to keep her love for teaching and amazing gift for mathematics under wraps for nearly six months.

But Marples was not the only individual who was adversely affected by this unfortunate turn of events — students also felt the effects of her prolonged absence during the remainder of the semester and throughout the following fall semester. Many who had already enrolled in one of her fall classes were disappointed upon learning the news of her health issues.

During Marples’ semester-long absence, students particularly missed her uncanny ability to communicate mathematical concepts in an effortless manner and her lively, sunny attitude toward everyday life.

“I love the way . . . Marples teaches class,” Josiah Thomas, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said. “She is so energetic about math that you can’t help but get caught up in what she’s teaching you. I was very surprised when I found out about her health problems.”

Marples’ first day back was as joyful and moving as she had anticipated. Due to the two snow days that set off the new semester, her return was delayed a bit further than she had hoped, but her characteristically glowing report proved that it was well worth the wait.

Her only complaint was that she was stopped so many times by those welcoming her back that it was almost difficult to go about her planned activities.

“I have felt very much appreciated and loved since I’ve gotten back,” she said. “It really makes you feel good.”

From COMPETITION on Pg. 1

UAH Spring Career Fair to be Held Feb. 17

Ashley Tromba
Staff Writer

It is once again time for the biannual career fair. Each semester the university opens its doors to various companies looking for students to fill open positions across all professional fields for a wide range of internships, co-ops and entry-level jobs.

This spring’s career fair will take place Feb. 17 at the University Fitness Center. The doors open at 9 a.m. and will remain open until 2 p.m. All students and alumni are welcome to attend the event.

Any student or alumnus planning to attend the career fair should dress appropriately in business professional attire. Come armed with resumes, business cards and questionnaires to ask the various employers in attendance.

For a complete list of employers attending the career fair or for more information, students should contact Career Services at careers@uah.edu or visit the office in Madison Hall Room 110.
President Barack Obama Signs Repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy

SHELLEY CARLYON
Staff Writer

On Dec. 22, 2010, President Obama signed legislation ending the 17-year military policy of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” symbolically reassuring openly gay or bisexual men and women that they are no longer barred from military service.

“The repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ is a huge step in the American LGBTQ rights campaign,” Heather Shelton, president and co-founder of UAH’s newly chartered Gay-Straight Alliance, said. “It is essentially the military recognizing homosexual and bisexual soldiers as equally respectable human beings [who] are no longer forced to hide and are no longer cast out if discovered.”

However, not everyone is thrilled by this decision. While some express indifference to the sexual orientation of our soldiers, some express indifference to the sexual orientation of our soldiers, some opponents may feel that the repeal comes at the wrong time and is a distraction from larger military issues— including the ongoing “War on Terror.” Others believe that allowing gays to serve in the military is wrong altogether.

The stigma surrounding gays in the U.S. has deep roots that are reflected in its military history. As early as 1778, the first soldier was discharged from the military under suspicion of same-sex acts. Throughout history, there have been numerous incidences of violence toward suspected or actual gays within all branches of the military, one of the most infamous of which is the 1999 murder of Pfc. Barry Winchell at Fort Campbell—the subject of the controversial movie “Soldier’s Girl.”

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue” was adopted by the Clinton-era congress of 1993, a compromise reached by the Senate’s Armed Services Committee. It was intended to ease unrest by ignoring (at least on paper) the sexual orientation of soldiers. Under this policy, members of the military would not be asked about their sexuality or discharged simply for being gay—but they would still be subject to discharge for engaging in sexual conduct with a member of the same sex.

While ostensibly preventing sexuality-based “witch-hunts” and removing a question regarding sexual orientation from pre-enlistment psychiatric screening, the policy did not truly protect gay or bisexual soldiers, leading to further violence and discrimination. Even President Clinton, who had originally proposed the change in military policy, declared “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to be a failure.

“I believe the largest problem with ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ was the message it sent to LGBTQ individuals: you are less of a service member, less of a citizen, because of your sexual orientation,” Shelton said.

Although the new legislation will not take effect until 60 days after President Obama and the defense secretary certify that the military is ready for its implementation, opponents of the repeal are uneasy about its timing. To soldiers currently stationed in war-torn parts of the Middle East, for example, the integration of openly gay soldiers sexual orientation from pre-enlistment psychiatric screening, the policy did not truly protect gay or bisexual soldiers, leading to further violence and discrimination. Even President Clinton, who had originally proposed the change in military policy, declared “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to be a failure.

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By ELIZABETH RECTOR

The Alabama Space Grant needs YOU!

Are you a full-time student & U.S. citizen studying in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math or thinking about becoming a Science or Math teacher?

Apply NOW for one of our Undergraduate Scholarships or Graduate Fellowships. Deadline is quickly approaching on March 1, 2011! Find more information at www.uah.edu/ASGC/.

Now Hiring For the Spring Semester!

The UAH Student newspaper is looking for motivated students who need a part time job and want to take part in creating the only student-run news service on campus. We currently have positions available for those interested in writing for The Exponent.

Interested? Here's how to apply:

Submit your writing sample and/or questions to exponent.editor@gmail.com.

The Exponent

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Charger Chic: Christy Lafayette

SALOME SALIASHVILI
Staff Writer

Take out the scarves, hats, boots and sweaters and throw on some gloves. It’s winter, and there will be plenty of time to wear the T-shirts, flip flops and shorts in the five-plus summer months Huntsville experiences.

Christy Lafayette, a computer science major, pairs a stylish outfit with bright white tights and a striped skirt. The red sleeves of her sweater add color and contrast, as does the nicely tucked in warm scarf. It’s a true winter outfit, in which the coat usually doubles as a sweater when the temperature drops below freezing.

White is a color that seems to disappear during winter, or more precisely after Labor Day. But fashion experts agree that as long as the fabric is not linen paired with white shoes, it’s all about matching it to the outfit. White tights are daring and their certain retro touch makes them fun, especially with the striped skirt.

Black shoes on white tights continue to a black and white striped skirt, which culminates with a gray coat. These make the opposite colors actually blend. The palette has a few bits of color here and there, and the light blue bag perfectly complements it. Its material goes with the coat, and the color is a nice finishing touch.

Mostly, it’s just about your attitude. Your attitude comes through what you wear, either your quirkiness, laid-back spirit or sense of avant-garde daring. That’s why fashion, or to use words with less connotation, what you wear, says something about you. The way you wear it says even more.

The campus looks best with different styles, and if Armani fails to come in for a campus-wide makeover, everybody would appreciate its effects.

CASEY KALBER
Staff Writer

When I entered UAH as a freshman last semester, I knew that I wanted to get involved on campus. I was not going to be in my room all the time, just studying and doing homework. So, I joined the pep band, and it has been a fun ride ever since.

Recently, we followed the hockey team up to Nashville to face off against the Merrimack Warriors. The Chargers lost both games, but we were behind them all the way until the final period ended.

The trip, in general, was exciting. We got to roam downtown Nashville on Friday night, which is quite a sight to see. Also, there were many officials from school at the tailgate the next day, including President Williams.

It was quite the experience to play at a venue bigger than the Von Braun Center, and I am sure that we new people will never forget it. However, the most exciting moment came after Saturday’s game.

The media representative for the Nashville Predators hockey team approached us and asked if we were interested in playing at a few of their games. Whether this will come true, we do not know yet, but the only team that matters to us is UAH.

We have lots of fun going to hockey and basketball games and just letting loose while showing some Charger spirit. Our repertoire is vast, with popular and old-school jams, and some shortages also. Also, as many students who regularly attend games know, we are not afraid to be a little different when it comes to cheers and expressing anger at the refs or other teams.

The “world’s longest cheer” is definitely a favorite.

No one is as loud as Evian, however. Evian, Ninja, With Stupid, Kupo, Moon, Disco Stu, and Caesar are just a few of the other egos of the members. Everyone has a nickname selectively chosen by the higher powers in the group, and I can already tell that these names stick like glue. When we received our nicknames a few weeks ago, there was a sense of involvement and closeness within the group.

Everyone is welcomed with open arms, but getting your nickname symbolizes your official place in the band. Rodney Nissen, the president, even calls us his “kids.”

Furthermore, in my experiences with the pep band, I realized just how much it matters to be peppy and full of spirit if the Chargers are in a tight spot. We have stood by the hockey team to the last seconds of the game, and we will stand by the basketball team as well.

Our student section should be no different. It is important to go to at least a few athletic events during the year, because UAH not only studies hard, but plays hard too. Going to a game with friends is a great break from studying and is free for students. Whether in the student section or elsewhere, it is a great way to feel part of collegiate life. So, come support the Chargers and be entertained by the pep band at the next home game.

Donate your plasma at Talecris Plasma Resources to help save the lives of patients worldwide and earn up to $100 this week as a new donor.

plasma for life

Photo by: Salome Saliashvili

Earn $100 this week

2420 Jordan Lane, Suite L,M & N
Huntsville, AL
(256) 217-0345
www.talecrisplasma.com

A valid photo ID, proof of your current address and your social security or immigration card are required to donate.
Peer Assisted Study Sessions – The Free On-Campus Student Study Sessions

ALEXANDER HAZELWOOD
Staff Writer

Peer Assisted Study Sessions are provided for selected courses in order to give students an opportunity outside of class to get together with fellow students to compare notes, review for exams and discuss helpful study concepts.

These PASS sessions are conducted by appointed PASS leaders, who are students who have already taken the selected course and have earned a high grade in it. The PASS leaders reiterate and reinforce material that has been covered in class, instead of repeating lectures.

These PASS sessions are voluntary and typically determined by a discussion among students to determine a suitable time to conduct them. This relaxed and convenient approach makes the sessions more appealing than attempts to find a tutor who coincides with a student’s school and work schedules. It also helps that more often than not, a PASS leader will also share other classes with the students, making him or her a familiar and easily approachable figure for assistance.

PASS is a growing program, with more classes using it every semester. Many professors have said that they have seen higher grades in students who attend PASS sessions, leading many to believe that it is a very useful program for students to participate in. It is also enriching for them to participate as a PASS leader, if given the opportunity.

One PASS leader, senior biology major Yasmin Musa, is currently the vice president of the UAH Spanish club as well as a biology tutor. Recently she has also become an ACE volunteer. Musa was kind enough to take the time to answer a few questions about PASS.

How did you become a PASS leader, and how does someone go about becoming one? Dr. Chad Pearson e-mailed me, asking if I wanted to become a PASS leader. I wanted to become a PASS leader, if given the opportunity.

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Colorado College Too Much For Chargers

JONATHAN KEE NUM
Staff Writer

The Chargers hockey team continued its tough year this past weekend as Colorado College swept it 7-0 and 4-1.

It was rough from the start for UAH as the Tigers stormed out of the gate in the first game and were up 4-0 after just one period. The red-hot Tigers continued their assault into the second intermission by adding three more goals before finally letting off the gas pedal in the third.

Colorado used a swarming defense to hold UAH to 17 shots in the game, including just three in the final 20 minutes. The Chargers started redshirt-freshman John Griggs in the net before freshman Clarke Saunders came in for relief.

Colorado jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the second game and shut out the Chargers for the fourth consecutive period. UAH was able to get off more shots in the second period, and freshman forward Alex Allan ended the Chargers’ scoring drought by netting the equalizer at the 2:09 mark. Less than a minute later the Tigers answered back and retook the lead.

Colorado finished the game by clamping down on defense once again and earning the sweep.

The road only gets rougher for UAH this weekend when the team heads for Omaha, Neb., in a two-game series against No. 16 Nebraska-Omaha. The Chargers will then hit the road once more before returning home for the final games of the year.

Basketball Teams Continue Success

JONATHAN KEE NUM
Staff Writer

Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams defeated the West Alabama Tigers this past weekend, 69-49 and 78-74, respectively.

Sophomore forward Zane Campbell surprised everybody when he entered the contest just a few minutes into the game. Campbell, who is still recovering from a left knee sprain, told Assistant Coach Jason Parrish that he felt good and was available if needed.

Head Coach LeMie Acuff decided to put him in and see what would happen. “I hadn’t planned on playing him,” Acuff said, “We were stuck in the mud early, and we decided to throw him out there and see if he could spark us. And he did.”

Despite playing just 15 minutes, Campbell led the team with 15 points, and his presence provided a spark for the Chargers in the first half. UAH had a 33-18 halftime lead and did not allow the Tigers to get any closer than nine for the remainder of the game. The win marked number 17 overall for the Chargers, including a perfect 4-0 in the conference.

The Lady Chargers had a more difficult test. After putting together a four-game win streak, their best start of the year, the women gutted it out through two close losses, and faced a very talented West Alabama team with a record of 14-2. Even though their opponent had one of the best records in the country, the hometown women were determined to show they had come a long way since their rough start to the season.

The women were down 12-6 early in the game before catching fire and rallying to a 34-26 halftime lead. West Alabama tied the game and took the momentum at the 14:15 mark of the second half. The Lady Tigers were up by eight a few minutes later, but the Lady Chargers were not done yet. The women went on a run of their own, and senior Andrea Bennett hit a 3-pointer to put UAH up by one with 6:33 left.

West Alabama answered right back after a timeout to go back up by one, but Bennett hit another three to give UAH the lead for the remainder of the game. Bennett led the team in scoring and recorded a double-double with 21 points and 12 rebounds. Freshman Jasmine Hammmon had a double-double of her own with 18 points and 16 rebounds.

The win brings the Lady Chargers’ record to 7-10 and 2-2 in the conference.

Both squads have just one game this week as they head to Jackson, Tenn., to take on Lambuth on Jan. 27. They hit the road once more before returning home Feb. 5 to continue conference play.

From DANCE on Pg. 5

know how in the future.

Peggy and Kevin are preparing to celebrate their wedding day in a month. They want the wedding dance to be a sparkling start to their marriage. There are also two couples who have been married for more than 20 years. They are learning dance together to enliven a mutual hobby and enhance their relationships.

Different people have various reasons to get started this journey of dancing. And all of us enjoy this process. Michael, who has taught ballroom dance as a part-time job, told us that dancing gave him another way to get connected with people and delighted him in life.
Sudoku

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

Crossword

Across
1. Endure
5. Sense
9. Tots' rests
13. Like many NYPD tips
14. Philosophy
15. Give the eye
16. Underdog's fastener?
19. Polish off
20. Book after John
21. Legends
22. Punchers
23. Court order
24. Be a buttinsky
27. "Beg pardon..."
28. Bloody 2004 thriller
31. + part
32. Mark for life
33. Mystique
34. Advice on how to tie a shoe
37. Disney
38. Red in the middle
39. Campus groups
40. Turkish VIP
41. Of two minds
42. Play parts
43. Pantry stock
44. Bush activity
45. Half a cocktail
46. Making lace
47. Half a cocktail
48. Packs away
49. Mitzi, for one
50. Salzburg vista
51. Column
52. Universal tieup?
55. Top-rated
56. Middays
57. Winter
58. Makes lace
59. Finishes, with "up"
60. Parks of Montgomery

Down
1. Michigan, e.g.
2. Eleanor Roosevelt's first name
3. Target of a sweep
4. "We know drama" channel
5. Erie, e.g.
6. Target of a sweep
7. Tokyo, once
8. Like some relationships
9. Syonym of 24A
10. Turkish VIP
11. Conserve
12. Wimbletons
13. Synonym of 24A
14. Shower phase
15. Like some relationships
16. Happy 1985
17. Noisy baby
18. Mass unit
19. Some are sliding
20. Area unit
21. Boredom
22. Some are sliding
23. Disgrace
24. Mercury and Saturn
25. Boredom
26. Some are sliding
27. Type of squash
28. Africa's largest country
29. Tetsu, for one
30. Landfalls?
31. Target of a sweep
32. Toes
33. Advice on how to tie a shoe
35. Landfalls?
36. Mortgage condition
37. Disney
38. Red in the middle
39. Country place?
40. Family member
41. Gang land
42. Red-tag events
43. Pub pals
44. Glenn, Ford, and others
45. Card game for three
46. Puzzler's buffalo
47. MS word choice
48. Pack away
49. The Stooges, for one
50. Salzburg vista
51. Notion
52. Universal tieup?
53. Fish eggs
54. Bruins legend

Quotable Quote

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

• • • Albert Einstein

Solutions to last issue's puzzles:

7 1 3 8 4 5 9 6
2 4 5 7 6 9 3 8 1
6 9 8 1 5 3 7 4 2
9 2 1 5 4 6 8 7 3
5 5 6 3 7 9 1 4
4 3 7 9 8 1 6 2 5
1 7 9 4 3 5 2 6 8
8 5 2 6 1 7 4 3 9
3 6 4 2 9 8 1 5 7

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.
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