UAH Professor Pens Bio on the Curious Case of George W. Bush

DREW WOOLLEY
Staff Writer

UAH’s Dr. Clarke Rountree recently authored a new biography chronicling the life and influences of former President George W. Bush.

Greenwood Press, who actually recruited Rountree to take on the project, published the book as part of a series of biographical reference books. Rountree was originally working on another book about the president during a sabbatical in 2008, exploring the varying perceptions of George W. Bush.

As a student of rhetorical studies, and as an admitted liberal, Rountree says that Bush was always a confounding figure.

“He’s always been an interest of mine that I wanted to understand him better, so I started writing this book,” Rountree said.

The original project, “The Chameleon President: The Curious Case of George W. Bush,” takes a look at 11 differing views of Bush to explain the man and his presidency.

While the biography is out now, “The Chameleon President” will be released later this year. The two projects, while similar on the surface, are extremely different approaches to the same subject. “The Chameleon President” focuses solely on the presidency, while the biography explores Bush’s entire life, even going so far as to trace the family tree before him.

The biography is also free of bias, whereas “The Chameleon President” sets out to intentionally explore both the positive and negative biases that surround Bush.

“This is very objective,” Rountree said. “The other isn’t objective at all. I make arguments for each of those perspectives, but this is a very balanced view. The whole thing was meticulously supported.”

There was a challenge, however, in writing about a figure so much in the public eye and whose legacy is so difficult to view objectively.

“It’s certainly the case that we don’t have the perspective of history, and any biography that’s written right now is based on what information we have,” he said. “Unfortunately, in the future when the archives are opened we’ll know stuff that we don’t know now.”

Opening those archives could prove difficult after Bush issued an executive order making it nearly impossible for historians to view documents regarding his presidency. Rountree hopes that future presidents will change that order, but until then he says that it is almost as though Bush does not want people looking too deeply into what he did during his presidency.

By the time he began writing, Rountree had already done a great deal of research, but still found the new project to be enlightening.

“It was an interesting project,” Rountree said. “Writing about a guy like that you start to feel a little pity for [him]… He had a different life in many ways, mostly because he was living under the shadow of his father. His mother was rather cold-hearted and he lost his sister to leukaemia when he was 7.”

Rountree does not put forward his own opinion of the former president, but has clearly come to have some sympathy for the self-proclaimed black sheep of the Bush family.

Whether his decisions prove to be good or bad, Rountree asserts that, in the long run, Bush’s presidency will certainly prove Influential. As an excerpt from the end of the biography reads, “Whatever his legacy, Bush will be considered a consequential president.”
Charger Student Profile – Chemistry Major Monica Gilstrap

ALEXANDER HAZELWOOD
Staff Writer

As many of you already know, UAH is a large and eclectic campus filled with lots of interesting individuals. Unfortunately, when you're constantly trying to read ahead to gain the upper hand in a class or recovering from a hangover due to a party the night before, the diversity of the campus might go unnoticed. With over 7,000 students it's easy to see that it's tough to keep track of its population.

Luckily, the Exponent is here to fill in that gap and introduce you to some of the more interesting and lesser-known students whom UAH has to offer. This week we introduce you to Monica Gilstrap.

Gilstrap is a senior at UAH majoring in chemistry with a minor in biology. She plans on attending pharmacy school after graduation. While Gilstrap is not in class or perusing study material for an exam, she takes part in hobbies that include tennis, various forms of dance, video games and Shin Nagare Karate (in which she is a black belt).

Chemistry majors seem to be a rare breed when it comes to many social events at UAH. In fact, I rarely see any chemistry majors outside of the classroom. Do you think it's the workload associated with the degree that causes this hermit effect in its students? I would definitely agree that the workload has an effect on the social lives of chemistry majors, or any science major for that matter. It really depends on how in-depth and dedicated people are to their studies. I know for me, Organic Chemistry II and Microbiology in the same semester are draining a lot of my sleep-time and social life.

I still try to make sure I see people outside of school and [do] karate on the weekends. I would say a beer and a few good friends at a bar every once in a while is "hermit-like."

As we finish up this profile, there is any advice you would like to give to anyone considering a degree in chemistry? The advice I would give for someone considering chemistry is to be patient. Chemistry is not an easy subject to understand because it literally has a touch of everything in the world. Since chemistry is in every aspect of the world, an in-depth understanding of the subject is necessary (which takes time).

Consider this: without the study of chemistry, civilization would not be anywhere close to what we know today. For example, we would not even be utilizing soap without some acid rain, ash and animal fat! Gross? Yes. Very interesting? I happen to think so!

The advice I would give would be to take their minds off school ever so often and upgrade to see what is likely to be their primary academic institution over the next 4 years. Student groups had arrived on campus by 8:30 a.m. via several different charter buses and were quickly greeted by university employees before being set into assigned groupings. Each group received a walkthrough of the UAH campus, including a stop at the newly constructed Charger Village, where student clubs had gathered to demonstrate the benefits and excitement of membership.

The Rave to Open an IMAX Theater

ALEXANDER HAZELWOOD
Staff Writer

The Rave Movie Theatre has been a popular spot for students to take their minds off school ever since it has been built. Located off of Valley Bend Road, the Rave holds 18 screens and has always had the newest releases on its entertainment menu, whether you have an appetite for a deep thriller or a light comedy.

With the recent explosion of 3D movies it was only natural for the Rave to take the initiative, like many other theatres, and upgrade its screens so that it could display these 3D movies. However, unlike other theatres it appears as if the Rave has taken it to a whole other level. It has recently been announced that the Rave will open a digital IMAX auditorium on April 29, just in time for summer blockbusters such as "Thor," "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," "Cars 2" and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Halows Part 2."

Those working at the Rave have been tight-lipped on the specifics of the new IMAX auditorium, such as pricing and number of seats. Until then, we will just have to wait until April 29.

Club Fair Shines a Spotlight on Extracurricular Activities Available to UAH Students

CHRISTIAN EDENFIELD
Staff Writer

Monday, February 21 was both a busy and exciting day on the UAH campus. As early as 8 a.m., large numbers of university personnel began preparing for the arrival of recently admitted students seeking to tour what is likely to be their primary academic institution over the next 4 years. Student groups had arrived on campus by 8:30 a.m. via several different charter buses and were quickly greeted by university employees before being set into assigned groupings. Each group received a walkthrough of the UAH campus, including a stop...
SPORTS

CHARGER SPORTS SCORES

Men's Basketball
Record 23-3
GSC 9-1
February 17
West Georgia 77
Chargers 69
February 19
Oakland City 60
Chargers 88
Women's Basketball
Record 10-14
GSC 5-5
February 17
West Georgia 79
Chargers 71
February 19
Oakland City 96
Chargers 94
Baseball
Record 6-4
GSC 0-0
February 15
Lincoln Memorial 9
Chargers 8
February 19
Huntington 11
Chargers 8
February 20
Huntington 7
Chargers 13
Softball
Record 6-0
GSC 0-0
February 18
Northern Kentucky 0
Chargers 2
February 19
Augusta State 1
Chargers 3
February 19
Maryville 2
Chargers 10
February 20
North Georgia 1
Chargers 2
February 20
Georgia College 1
Chargers 13

Women's Basketball
Record 23-3
GSC 9-1
February 17
West Georgia 85
Chargers 85
February 19
Oakland City 60
Chargers 88

Charger Sports Calendar

Men's Basketball
Record 23-3 GSC 9-1
Date
February 24
February 26
Opponent
Lambuth
North Alabama
Site
Home
Home
Time
7:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Women's Basketball
Record 10-14 GSC 5-5
Date
February 24
February 26
Opponent
Lambuth
North Alabama
Site
Home
Home
Time
5:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m.

Baseball
Record 6-4 GSC 0-0
Date
February 25
February 26
Opponent
Stillman
Stillman
Site
Away
Away
Time
4:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m.

Softball
Record 6-0 GSC 0-0
Date
February 27
Opponent
Indiana State
Site
Home
Time
1:00 p.m.

Men's Tennis
Record 1-1 GSC 0-0
Date
February 26
February 27
Opponent
Lee
Clark-Atlanta
Site
Away
Home
Time

Women's Tennis
Record 0-1 GSC 0-0
Date
February 26
February 27
Opponent
Lee
Clark-Atlanta
Site
Away
Home
Time

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www.uah.edu/ASGC/

Charger Basketball to Wrap Up Regular Season

JONATHAN KEENUM
Staff Writer

The regular season is coming to a close for Charger basketball, but both teams seek to finish the year strong and make a run in the Gulf South Conference Tournament.

The men suffered an upset last week at West Georgia, snapping their 11-game winning streak and giving the Chargers their first loss in conference play. Both teams shot below 40 percent in the first half, but West Georgia hit a fastbreak layup to take a one-point lead and close the half. UAH continued to struggle, shooting in the second half and led by as much as 34 points as UWG found its groove and quickly built up an 11-point lead. UAH began to chip away at the lead and tied the game on a three-pointer by Zane Campbell with just fewer than six minutes left. Unfortunately, the Wolves found their stride once again and made another run to close the game, taking the win 77-69. The loss has no effect on the Chargers' standing in the GSC tournament, as they have already clinched the top seed in the East.

The men sought to take out their intensity throughout the second half against the Lady Wolves, en route to their 88-60 victory. The Lady Chargers entered last week knowing every conference game was critical in their run for the GSC Tourney. The women came out strong in their first game, building a nine-point lead in the first half against the Lady Wolves, but just as in the men's contest, West Georgia caught fire and went on a 20-6 run.

UAH was without three key players who fouled out by the end of the game, and the team was never able to fight back. The 79-71 loss dropped UAH to 5-5 in the conference, but still alive in the East Division race.

It was another tough battle in their second game at Oakland City. The women found themselves down by 10 early in the second half, but continued to fight their way back and eventually take the lead. The game was back and forth with both teams having a chance to win it in regulation, but it headed to overtime at 85 all.

In overtime UAH rallied for a five-point lead, but could only

See BASKETBALL on Pg. 4
Despite the fact that recently admitted students attending the club fair had not officially enrolled in classes, most club, fraternity and sorority representatives maintained optimistic outlooks about obtaining new members. Herson Roch, human resources director of the UAH Apollo Project confirmed such optimism by stating: "We want to start recruiting them [recently admitted freshmen] so in the future we will have enough people."

Tiffany Webb of Invisible Children added: "I’ve been in Invisible Children since my freshmen year...we have a sign-up sheet so that we will be able to send e-mails to the students coming in."

Always ready and willing to accept new members, Christopher McKinney of Alpha Phi Alpha explained: "We are really trying to promote our community service events to prospective students...we offer scholarships and have three national programs."

Assuming most of the recently admitted students in attendance at today’s club fair do indeed sign up for classes, they will be presented with a plethora of exciting extracurricular options as they settle into their academic careers.

The Huntsville Havoc plays Knoxville at 7:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Civic Center. Tickets prices vary and can be bought online at Ticketmaster.com.

**Event Calendar**

**Feb. 24**
- The Huntsville Havoc plays Knoxville at 7:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Civic Center. General admission is $12.
- Invisible Children hosts a screening of the latest documentary about the child abductions occurring in Uganda. 7:30 p.m.—9 p.m. in the Frank Furno Multi-Purpose Room.

**Feb. 25**
- UAH is holding a Mathematical Sciences Colloquium with Dr. Nagendra Singh. The topic is "Magnetic Reconnection: A Mechanism for Converting Magnetic Energy into Kinetic Energy of Charged Particles in Plasmas." The lecture starts at 3 p.m. at the Shelby Center room 218.
- UAH holds intramural volleyball at the University Fitness Center at 3 p.m.
- Teaching Matters: "How to Raise Your SIEs Without Bringing Cookies: Education Professors Discuss Pedagogy," is being held at Wilson Hall Gallery at 3 p.m.

**Feb. 26**
- Squidling Brothers Circus Sideshow’s Amazing Cliff-Hanging Adventure weekend with the ladies of the Posey Peep Show (the Exciting Conclusion). Admission is $8 per show or the two-night double adventure special for only $12. 9 p.m.

**Feb. 27**
- UAH is holding Intramural 5 on 5 at the University Fitness Center. It starts at 1:30 p.m.

**Feb. 28**
- The North Alabama Songwriters workshop will hold its monthly meeting. Meetings are the fourth Monday night of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Malibu Apartments Clubhouse. For more info, go to www.northalabamasongwriters.com, e-mail info@northalabamasongwriters.com, or call 256-682-2564.

**March 1**
- Alabama A&M hosts Books and Coffee in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Learning Resource Center. The week’s book is "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. For more information, contact Edward Journey at 256-372-4865 or grover.journey@aaum.edu.

**March 2**
- Sammy T’s Music Hall presents the Monster Energy Outbreak Tour. The tour features the bands Rev Theory, Pop Evil, Black Cloud Collective and Arina. Tickets are $9.51. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.
- The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey – Barnum’s Fun-nundrum comes to the Von Braun Civic Center. Tickets prices vary and can be bought online at Ticketmaster.com.