The Student Newspaper of UAH

Volume 38, Issue 2

March 28, 2007

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is saving the world. A group of engineering students led by Dr. Richard Fork, professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is developing a laser technology that will protect the earth from asteroid impact.

By Sarah Perrin, Exponent Staff Writer

Dr. David “Dave” Williams was named the fifth president of UAH by the University of Alabama System (UAS) board of trustees on Wednesday, March 14, 2007. Williams comes to UAH from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania where he is currently on a year-long sabbatical from his positions as the Vice Provost for Research and the Harold Chambers Senior Professor of Materials Science and Engineering.

Dr. Williams and his wife Margaret “Margie” expect to relocate to Huntsville sometime in July or August, well before the start of fall term. They will be the first to occupy the official president’s home, the Lowe House, located in the historic Twickenham District. Mrs. Williams has met with the trustees to discuss renovations required to make the space more livable.

The Williamses have been married for 31 years and have three sons: Matt, 27, is a high school physics and math teacher in New York City; Joe, 25, resides in Africa and works for a safari company; Steve, 22, is a senior at Carnegie Mellon where he plays rugby. Although originally from Lehigh—the best in the country for Integrated Technologies and Systems at the Sandia National Lab—Roumig has known Dr. Williams since he arrived in the states in 1976. “He was a new Assistant Professor at Lehigh and I was a graduate student. He served on my Ph.D. committee and functioned as my ‘unofficial’ co-advisor.” Thirty years later the two remain in touch through professional and social outlets. Said Romig, “Dave is a thorough and thoughtful leader and there is no value he holds so dearly as integrity. I am thankful and proud to call him a colleague and a friend.”

Mrs. Williams was born in Holland and raised in Australia. She received her B.A. from Lehigh University. Moving to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania when her boys were home), and flower gardening. Dr. Williams says she has made them a lovely garden. Mrs. Williams has long been aware of UAH and its unique relationship to NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center—a position that he feels has only grown stronger since his arrival here.

Dr. Williams has many interests and hobbies outside of his busy professional life. Each enjoys reading and playing golf and also likes to do crossword puzzles and travel. An avid sports fan during his university years, Dr. Williams enjoys exercising and keeping fit as his administrative positions tend to be rather sedentary. Mrs. Williams enjoys doing the daily crossword puzzle, sewing, cooking (especially when her boys are home), and flower gardening. Dr. Williams says she has made them a lovely garden. Mrs. Williams has long been aware of UAH and its unique relationship to NASA and the Marshall Space Flight Center—a position that he feels has only grown stronger since his arrival here.

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Meet the new president and his family

The Williams family—Dave, Steve (22), Matt (27), Margie, and Joe (25). Photo courtesy of Dr. David Williams

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Anti-Asteroid laser project in development

By Ben Montgomery
Exponent Staff Writer

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is saving the world. A group of engineering students headed by Dr. Richard Fork, professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, is developing a laser technology that will protect the earth from asteroid impact. The laser won’t disintegrate the asteroid in a fiery sci-fi explosion, but rather alters the asteroid’s course by “pushing” it. When the laser strikes the surface of the asteroid, the debris that ejects from its surface acts as a propellant, steering the asteroid safely away from Earth.

The project is being developed by the UAH Laser Science and Engineering Group, which is headed by Dr. Fork. The laser lab in the Optics building is home to many laser projects that make contributions to the asteroid deflection research, including “white light bullets,” concentrated light that can burn marks in thick metal in mere seconds. “The lab costs at least 500,000 dollars,” says Spencer Cole, a researcher on the project and student at UAH.

“At the right time, and the right way, you only have to sneeze to deflect [the asteroid],” says Dr. Fork, who has more than 40 years experience with lasers. According to Fork, an asteroid called Apophis will pass through a “keyhole” in the earth’s orbit on April 13th, 2029. The “keyhole” is about 600 meters wide, and when Apophis enters it, it will be able to swing around to a direct trajectory with Earth, and will collide in 2036. Hopefully, UAH’s laser-equipped satellite will be there to meet it.

The spacecraft that houses the laser is designed to be cheap, small, and efficient. Solar panels will ensure that it has a limitless supply of energy. It will, ideally, be very small, as it won’t need to house much more than the laser itself. Although the research itself costs hundreds of thousands of dollars, the spacecraft won’t cost much at all.

The laser is intense, nearly ten terawatts, and consists of several different kinds of lasers fired together. Even with that kind of power, though, it can take as much as two months to successfully deflect an asteroid. Dr. Fork says that the time it will take to develop this system will be a minimum of five years, assuming that there is a constant supply of interested parties. For the project to be complete, a prototype of the laser needs to be built, the solar energy collection devices need to be developed, the spacecraft housing the laser needs to be constructed, and a suitable launch vehicle must be chosen.

Apophis may be thirty years away, but that won’t stop Dr. Fork and the Laser Science and Engineering Group from thinking ahead. Thanks to them, the day might be saved in 2036.
RIGHT, SMACK, DAB!

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UAH Premier literary magazine continues

By Russel Hawkins
Exponent Staff Reporter

The Project began last summer as a fledgling idea of Kristen Ruccio (a senior double majoring in both Philosophy and Sociology) and her collaborators. After viewing a large collection of prose, Ruccio was inspired to gather a team of students to establish an outlet for creativity among the UAH student body. By beginning in June, The Project began weekly to discuss the project's inception.

Initially there was fear among the creators over the issue of censorship. But according to Ruccio, UAH assured them that this would not be a problem.

The magazine boasts a typical selection of short stories, poetry, photography, and art work; however, Ruccio noted that the staff is very liberal in their selection process. "If you're a Math Major, and you have a really cool equation, we'll put it in there." Ruccio also voiced a particular desire for original musical works. She says that she'd really enjoy putting together a CD to go with the magazine. The only limitations stressed by The Project are length and nudity.

If one submits any nude photographs, he or she must include documentation that the model is 18 years or older. Furthermore, if anyone's prose is incredibly lengthy, Ruccio was inspired to tell them to "cut the fat and make it shorter. I'd make money." I had listened to my friends who told me to be a Science teacher, but I was laid off and I had listened to my friends who told me to go into programming, so I'd make money.

What inspired you to pursue a career in teaching?

"I love teaching...it's not what I've always done. I used to be a database programmer, but I was laid off and I had listened to my friends who told me to go into programming, so I'd make money."

Why did you come to UAH?

"Because I was in Huntsville, and this is Huntsville's university."

What do you like most about this school?

"I like that there's a choice of things to do. It's small enough to have interactions between students and teachers, but it's big enough that there are opportunities for research— even as a freshman."

What do you like least?

"That's hard...you don't want to offend anybody. Maybe that there tends to be a focus on NASA and the Army— you know the Engineering sort of thing. It would be nice if there were more opportunities for other things at UAH and in the area."

What do you like most about this In Memory Of Dr. James Wilson

Please remember the family of Dr. James Wilson. Dr. Wilson, the first Vice President for Academic Affairs at UAH and a Professor of Linguistics died Friday, March 23, 2007, after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Visitation and funeral services will be Monday, March 26, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Matthew’s Episcopal Church. Visitation is from noon to 1:00 p.m. and the services begin at 1:15 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church Building Fund, 786 Hughes Road, Madison, AL 35784.

Baptist Campus Ministries

Celebration Tuesday nights at 8:30 pm

Lunch Thursdays at noon $2.50

Baptist Student Center 450 Sparkman Dr. 830-6611
Higher education day approaches

By Sarah Perrin
Exponent Staff Writer

The 10th annual Higher Education Day Rally will take place Thursday, April 5, in Montgomery. Students from the 13 public universities across Alabama are invited to travel to the capitol and voice their concerns regarding higher education funding.

According to SGA President Samuel Parks the university's goal is to take 100 students. Last year approximately 70 UAH students attended. Thus far only 45 have registered. There is no cost to attend, and those choosing to participate will receive a letter of notification from the Office of Student Affairs likely encouraging professors to excuse their absence. Said Parks, "We are very grateful for the continued support of the Office of Student Affairs...without Ms. Smith and her devoted team none of this would ever be possible."

Buses will depart from UAH at 6 a.m. on the day of the event. Students will receive free breakfast and a t-shirt. There may also be door prizes. Buses are expected to arrive in Montgomery before 10 a.m. when there will be a joint welcome session with the University of Alabama System and Auburn at the Center of Commerce. From there students will move to the State House for the rally. Traditionally the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house make an address. Jacksonville State University's jazz ensemble and Alabama State University's marching band will also play. After the rally there will be a free barbecue lunch on the grounds of the Capitol Complex.

This theme of this year's rally is "Equitable Funding Opens Doors of Opportunity." By showing legislators that institutions of higher education play an important role in the state economy, it is hoped that full funding of public universities will be reinstated. A recent University of North Alabama report shows that for each dollar invested in higher education by the state, a ten-dollar return is experienced.

In the past funding for public education was distributed equally amongst all levels, pre-kindergarten through Ph.D. This changed drastically when the state legislature moved to a two-thirds/one-third split—meaning that public universities now receive only one-third of the money that they did previously. Funding was further reduced when the amount of money expected by the state to be available for education was insufficient and pro-rationing was instituted. Today Alabama's public universities receive only a fraction
CAMPUS CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 28
- Springfest: Caiun Boi 
  - Thursday, March 29
  - Springfest: Free Ice Cream, UC Lobby, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - Comedy Dave Coulier, Chan Auditorium, 9 p.m.
  - Remote Control Cars, UC Lobby, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  - Comic Dave Coulter, Chan Auditorium, 9 p.m.
  - Women's Studies public lecture on feminism, Jennifer Baumgardner and
    Amy Richards, Chan Auditorium, 7 p.m.
  - Chemistry, "NMO as an Organocatalyst," Dr. A. E. Russell, Tuskegee

Thursday, March 29
- Springfest: Caiun Bounce, UC Lobby, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday, March 30
- Springfest: Free Ice Cream, UC Lobby, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Comedy Dave Coulier, Chan Auditorium, 9 p.m.
- Remote Control Cars, UC Lobby, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Comic Dave Coulter, Chan Auditorium, 9 p.m.
- Women's Studies public lecture on feminism, Jennifer Baumgardner and
  Amy Richards, Chan Auditorium, 7 p.m.
- Chemistry, "Hybrid Organic-Inorganic Network Solids," S. Madrahimov,
  UAH, and "Modified Bacterial Polyesters as Drug Delivery Models," J.
  Sparks, UAH, 1:30 p.m., MSC 100
- Chemistry for Ancient Languages presents, "Rosette and the Myth of
  Alexander the Great," Roberts Hall 419, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 1
- Financial aid application deadline for summer 2007
- Softball at *Valdosta State, 11 a.m.
- Tennis, vs. Cumberland (M&W), 3 p.m.

Monday, April 3
- Honors Forum, "You Stitch, Then You Lie: The Effects of Jailhouse
  of Psychology, 11:10 a.m., NCRH Multi-Purpose Room
- Baseball, home vs. West Alabama, 5 p.m.
- Music Student Recital, Kim Thompson, soprano, soprano, Roberts Recital Hall,
  7:30 p.m.
- Tennis, vs. Huntingdon (M), 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 4
- CAS seminar, "How common contextual characteristics shape
  relationships between commitment-based HRM and organizational performance,"
  Dr. Clint Chadwick, Illinois-UC, 11:30 a.m., ASB 338
- Atmospheric Science, ATS 781 Student Seminar Presentations, 12:45 p.m.,
  RCH 406
- Hispanic and Multicultural Studies, vs. West Alabama, noon

Thursday, April 5
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, income tax filing services for UAH
  students, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., ASB 372, sponsored by Beta Alpha Psi
- Softball at *West Florida, noon
- Music Student Recital, Kim Thompson, soprano, soprano, Roberts Recital Hall,
  7:30 p.m.
- Tennis, vs. Huntingdon (M), 10 a.m.

Friday, April 6
- Softball, home vs. West Georgia, noon
- Chemistry, "Calcium Regulation of Cardiac Muscle: FRET Studies of
  Activation of Mechanism," Dr. Il C. Cheng, UAH, 1:30 p.m., MSC 100
- Baseball at *Montevallo, 3 p.m.

Saturday, April 7
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, income tax filing services for UAH
  students, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m, ASB 372, sponsored by Beta Alpha Psi
- Softball, home vs. West Alabama, noon
- Baseball at *Montevallo, 5 p.m.
- Track, at Gamecock Invitational, Jacksonville, Ala.

Tuesday, April 10
- UAH Honors Day, no classes
- Physics, "Extra-dimensions and relic neutrinos with JEM-EUSO," Yoshi
  Takahashi, UAH, 1:30 p.m., MSC 100
- Baseball, home vs. Huntsville Stars (Dub.), Joe Davis Stadium, 6:05 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11
- Atmospheric Science, "Lightning: A View from Space - Red Sprites and
  Blue Jets," O. H. Vaughan, NASA/MSC, Ret., 12:45 p.m., RCH 406
- Baseball, home vs. West Alabama, 5 p.m.
- Tennis, at Montevallo (W), TBD

Thursday, April 12
- Honors Forum, Senior seminar, 11:10 a.m., NCRH Multi-Purpose Room
- Chemistry, "Vision's Realized: Using Connoil Multibits to Prepare
  Students for the Modern World," Dr. J.A. Finkleston, University of
  Washington, 3:45pm, MSC 100
- Softball, at GSC Crossover, Decatur, Ala., vs. *Ouachita Baptist, 6 p.m.
- Friday, April 13
- Chemistry, "NMO as an Organocatalyst," Dr. A. E. Russell, Tuskegee
  University, 1:30 p.m., MSC 100
- Tennis, at Martha Methodist (M&W), 2:00 p.m.
- Softball, at GSC Crossover, Decatur, Ala., vs. Arkansas Tech, 4 p.m.
- Softball, at *Arkansas State, TBD.
- Track at Sea Ray Relays, Knoxville, TN

Saturday, April 14
- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, income tax filing services for UAH
  students, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m, ASB 372, sponsored by Beta Alpha Psi
- Softball, at GSC Crossover, Decatur, Ala., vs. Henderson State, noon
- Baseball, home vs. *West Florida, 1 p.m., (DH)
- Softball, at GSC Crossover, Decatur, Ala., vs. *Christian Brothers, 2 p.m.
- Track at Sea Ray Relays, Knoxville, TN

Sunday, April 15
- Softball at GSC Crossover, Decatur, Ala.,
  - vs. *Southeast Arkansas, noon
  - vs. *Arkansas-Monticello, noon
- Baseball, home vs. *West Florida, 1 p.m.

HIGHER ED from page 5
of the one-third amount.

Higher Education Day is sponsored by the Higher Education Partnership (HEP), and facilitated by their affiliate group, Student Teams Advocating Realistic Solutions (STARS). The HEP is a political action committee with membership open to the general public. Aside from STARS they maintain two other organizations—the Higher Education Foundation, Inc. and the Alumni Leader's Advocacy Network. These groups work to organize a large grassroots effort to promote awareness and impli­cate positive changes in Alabama's public universities. In recent years they have placed supporters in Governor Bob Riley's accountability task forces and lobbied for the passage of Amendment One, a tax package that would have raised 1.2 billion dollars for healthcare and education.

"It is absolutely essential that the students of UAH become involved in the STARS program... Without their involvement and continued participation the program will suffer catastrophic setbacks. The HEP is our (students of public, four-year colleges and universities in Alabama) single largest and most effective advocate to the state legislature. If we, as students of UAH, want better campus facilities or improved internet we are compelled to offer our unwavering support for this program," stated Parks.

STARS was formed in the fall of 1997 and UAH has been a member for many years. The program is facilitated through the SOA and the $1000 annual fee allows for up to 500 students to be enrolled as members. Those students have the opportunity to gain leadership experience and help shape education policy.

"Our membership in the STARS program connects us with other student leaders from across Alabama, so that we may come together as the potential leaders of this state and plan for its future success and prosperity now!" Parks added.

For more information on the Higher Education Partnership or STARS visit their website at www.higheredpartners.org. To register for the Higher Education Day Rally please email sga@email.uah.edu with your contact information.

WILLIAMS from page 1
Leahg comes at a time of change both professionally and personally for Dr. Williams. The recent retire­ment of Dr. Gregory Farrington as the school's 12th president signals

Correction
In its March 14, 2007, edition the Exponent incorrectly identified the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity as Pi Kappa Epsilon. This story regrets the error and any inconvenience it might have caused.

FREE
FEMINISM
MINI CONFERENCE
@ UAH

PUBLIC
LECTURE
March 28, 7pm
Chan Auditorium

Amy Richards & Jennifer Baumgardner
Authors of WestTexas Young Women, Prerace & the Future

Photo credit: Stina Hjelle

UAH Students, Faculty, and Staff
are invited to the
2nd Annual College of Science
Lecture Demonstration Contest

Thursday, 29 March at 4 p.m.
McDonaldonn Douglas Auditorium
Materials Science Building

Please join us for an entertaining and informative hour as College of
Science faculty members present their best lecture demonstrations.
a period of change for the entire university. It was Farrington that gave Williams the ability and opportunity to create the Vice Provost for Research position that he has held for the past seven years, Williams likens the experience to that of starting a new business. The initial creation and management process is much different than the long-term maintenance required. Also, with youngest son Steve graduating from college this spring, Williams and his wife have more freedom to explore other options. While it will be difficult to leave the community where they raised their family, Dr. Williams said, “Shoveling snow I will not miss.”

On his first official day as the future president of UAH, Dr. Williams offers no comment to a host of questions including potential changes to the university, ways to improve the quality of instruction, the implementation of a football program, and cafeteria issues. His short term goal once taking office this summer is first to listen and learn the culture of the school and the city.

“Universities are there for the students,” said Dr. Williams. He feels that our unique combination of academic programs provides students from both the liberal arts and the sciences with exposure to a wide variety of ideas that will allow them to be more successful in their future careers.

His management strategy is simple and straightforward, “Tell them what to do and get out of their way. Give them the independence to make decisions and hold them accountable.” While he acknowledges that no university can be all things to all people, he makes it clear that he expects every professor to be committed to both teaching and research—whether it be in a lab or general scholarship. By catering to masters and doctoral students, research universities such as UAH provide opportunities to undergraduate students that they might not have at other schools.

Much like President Franz, Dr. Williams plans to be a visible figure on campus. During his years at Lehigh he was actively involved with student-life, serving as an advisor to fraternities, sports teams, etc. Mrs. Williams says she enjoys spending time with young people and also has a great interest in campus involvement. When asked if they enjoyed ice hockey, they both replied, “We do now!”

For now Dr. Williams has many books to read and things to learn before taking office this summer, but he knows that his long-term goal is to make an extraordinary difference at UAH, in whatever way that means.

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**Crossword**

Across
1 Drum accompaniment
5 Joe Louis in Detroit, e.g.
10 Saturday night ritual
14 Ms. Brockovich
15 Storms
16 Aviation prefix
17 Powdered drink
18 College senior’s quest, perhaps
20 Nurses org.
21 Challenged in court
22 Easy to reach
23 Metric quart
25 Friendly
27 Actress Garbo
29 Friendly and pleasant
33 Less strict
34 Podiatrist’s concerns
35 Fleming of Bond fame
36 Economist Smith
37 Data in columns and rows
38 well raise expectations
39 Math. game of strategy
40 Fatigued
41 City on the Willamette
42 Give a bad name
44 Sarcastic remark
45 Legal abbr.
46 Informal language
48 Fairly large
51 Fake
52 Positive vote
55 Army mule, e.g.
56 A high mountain
57 Former French coin
58 Agenda
59 Story starter
60 Reluctant
61 Pastry
62 Inferior dog
63 Prize money
64 Competent

Down
1 Spanakopita ingredient
2 Formerly Persia
3 Student’s concern
4 Coll. class
5 Debate
6 Less well done
7 Mild exclamation
8 Actor Beatty
9 Pomposus fool
10 Islands
11 Long period of time
12 Trampled
13 Sacred
14 Janissary of MSNBC
15 Champion, perhaps
16 One on a list
17 Part of www
18 Teacher’s problem
19 Simba’s Uncle
20 Jansing of MSNBC
21 Chirp
22 Easy to reach
23 National Geographic
24 Tied
25 Friendly and pleasant
26 Nurse
27 Actress Garbo
28 Math term
29 On the wagon
30 Experimental place
31 Fill
32 Opposition
33 Ms. Channing
34 Ms. Turner
35 Hay warehouse
36 Thai kitchen
37 Native American post
38 Thai kitchen
39 Thai kitchen
40 New York
41 Thailand
42 Chicago
43 NFL gear
44 Hockey stat items
45 Shaping machine
46 Parchi
47 Computer options
48 Portugal
49 Computer options
50 Written agreement
51 Simba’s Uncle
52 Positive vote
53 Chief Justice Warren
54 Feed the kitty
55 A high mountain
56 A high mountain
57 Former French coin
58 School org.

**Soduko**

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

By GFR Associates

**Solutions to last week’s puzzles:**

**Soduko**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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58 School org.

**Outable Quote**

A Sunday school is a prison in which children do penance for the evil conscience of their parents.

--- H. L. Mencken

**By GFR Associates** **Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com**

**By Ed Carty**
UAH Falls In The NCAA Tournament

By Raymond Gilstrap Exponent staff writer

After two periods of overtime play and the longest game in school history, the UAH hockey team's season came to a close last Friday night, with a loss to Notre Dame in the first round of the NCAA Division I tournament.

The game took 95 minutes and 18 seconds to complete and afterwards, the Chargers fell to top-ranked Notre Dame, 3-2.

The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame scored the first goal of the game to take a 1-0 lead in the first period with a goal from Josh Sciba. Notre Dame scored another goal a little over a minute later when freshman Ryan Thang scored to make it 2-0.

The Chargers now faced a two-goal deficit for the fourth straight game in postseason play this year.

But then, midway through the second period, senior Dominik Romani scored the first goal for the Chargers with a rebound shot from sophomore right wing Josh Murray. Freshman left winger Cale Tanaka tied the game at two all later in the period.

Also for the fourth straight postseason game, UAH came from behind in an attempt to extend Coach Ross's career just one more game. But this time, the Chargers could not pull off a miracle victory.

The score would remain tied until the second overtime period when Ryan Thang scored his second goal, advancing the Notre Dame to the regional finals and ending the Chargers' season storybook story.

The Chargers finish the season 13-20-3. Despite a losing record, the hockey team managed to claim the College Hockey America (CHA) championship after several come from behind wins. With the CHA championship, the Chargers earned their first trip to the Division I NCAA tournament, adding yet another accolade to Coach Ross's stellar 25-year coaching career at UAH.

Softball Team Anxious To Play On New Field

By Raymond Gilstrap Exponent staff writer

Having played home games on several different sites since 2001, including the Huntsville Sportsplex and Bob Jones High School, the UAH softball team is looking forward to playing their first home game on the new softball field on campus.

Senior catcher and slugger Stephanie Pinto, relived playing home games on different fields.

"The worst part about playing at different fields is that it is hard for us to get a strong sense of being on home turf," she said. "You want other teams to feel like they are in your house, not on neutral ground."

Not only will the new softball field become "home turf" for the softball team, it is currently serving as a practice field for the Chargers; Coach Les Stuedeman is grateful.

"We have always had to practice at Braggs Springs," Coach Stuedeman said. "The park is flooded with homeless [people] and the bathrooms were never open[ed] until mid March. So, we had to travel to the gas station three blocks away to use the restroom.

"Traveling with expensive equipment back and forth from campus to the park was another problem the softball team faced by practicing at Braggs Springs. While practicing at the park off of Drake Avenue, the softball team had to use the restroom at the Conoco gas station, where a clerk was murdered a few weeks ago."

"It has been a tremendous help to our student athletes to be able to practice on campus," Coach Stuedeman said. "Travel time and expensive equipment back and forth from campus to the park was another problem the softball team faced by practicing at Braggs Springs. While practicing at the park off of Drake Avenue, the softball team had to use the restroom at the Conoco gas station, where a clerk was murdered a few weeks ago."

"I am excited about playing on campus," senior pitcher Jenny Hess said. "Hopefully we'll start getting more support and attendance from students at UAH."

Coach Stuedeman encourages everyone to come out and support the softball program with a lot of enthusiasm for the team's first home game. Athletic Director Jim Harris has confirmed that the first softball home game on the new field is tentatively scheduled for April 6 against West Georgia at noon. The second home game is scheduled for April 7 against West Alabama, also at noon.

"We have to do a few things to the field," Harris said, "and if those things are not completed in time, then we won't be able to play any [softball] games this year."

The baseball team also has a new field on campus, of which the team has been practicing this year. However, Harris has stated that there will be no softball games held on campus this season.

While the baseball team will have to wait until next year to play on campus, the softball team is gearing up for their first contest.

"[We] will be nice to look up from the field and see a building with a big UAH logo on it," Stephanie Pinto said, "because the other teams won't forget where they are."