Exponent, Vol. 43, Iss. 10, 2011-11-17

University of Alabama in Huntsville

Follow this and additional works at: https://louis.uah.edu/exponent-2011

Recommended Citation
https://louis.uah.edu/exponent-2011/21

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Exponent (1969-2012) at LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2011 by an authorized administrator of LOUIS.
KARA MILLION
Staff Writer

In an interview last week, newly appointed UAH President Robert Altenkirch discussed his overall philosophy for developing UAH, even the controversial partnership of the New Jersey Institute of Technology with the University of Colorado Boulder for the National Solar Observatory contract.

When asked what drew him to UAH, Altenkirch replied that it was the reputation of the institution as well as its proximity to NASA and Redstone Arsenal, as well as its relationships with the businesses in Research Park.

"It's a strong institution," he said. "It has a good reputation all around the country.

Altenkirch believes that the experience he had as president at NJIT will serve him well in addressing UAH's needs.

"What you'll find is that a lot of the issues and a lot of the initiatives that you are confronted with are very similar from institution to institution," he said. "When we're talking about from public institution to public institution," he said.

"A lot of the things I saw over a nine-year period, I'm going to see some of the same issues bubble up here, and so I have some experience in dealing with them."

Altenkirch's priorities for UAH include continuing to work with the university's existing partners and attempting to increase enrollment. In reference to a published summary of the support UAH receives from each research partnership, he stated that NASA and the Department of Defense together make up 67 percent of support for the university. Altenkirch hopes to maintain the strong base of support with the institution's largest partnerships while growing the other areas as well, such as the National Science Foundation.

"It's the same strategy as the stock market," he said. "You want to diversify your portfolio, even out the ripples, and keep your whole enterprise growing. The strategy is to play on your strength and to use it to broaden your base and also to go after large-scale projects."

One of the major academic issues Altenkirch stressed was the need to enhance the enrollment at UAH. With state funding for schools decreasing all across the country, Altenkirch believes that the university needs to minimize its fixed costs and focus on its revenue streams, one of which is tuition. Turning from a practical point of view to a philosophical one, he said, "But further, if you have the opportunity to expand the programs that can relate to them that broaden the student's educational experience, like in liberal arts and business."

He is investigating opportunities to expand the professional programs at UAH, such as the nursing program. In response to the buzz recently generated concerning NJIT's partnership with CU-Boulder, UAH's primary rival for the NSO contract, Altenkirch said that such a relationship between institutions is nothing new.

"Institutions partner with each other all the time," he said. "As a matter of fact, if you look at our [UAH's] NSO proposal, there are also other educational partners with Huntsville. NJIT partnered with Colorado and Hawai in many different ways."

New Student Center to Include Pub, Shops, Theater, Meeting Rooms

AARON SNOODY
Staff Writer

Construction for UAH's Student Center is scheduled to begin in spring 2012, bringing to fruition months of hard work to improve the student experience for the university.

"I strongly feel that this building will change the face of the university and raise the bar for student life on our campus," SGA president and steering committee member for the project Ravi Patel said. "Since my freshman year in 2007, our university has come a long way in the form of student life and activities on our campus."

He continued, "Many students not only want a great education, but they also want a great experience from a university."

The $25 million structure will provide space for student organization offices, meeting rooms for student organizations with computer and projection capabilities, a theater with a box office, as well as places for students to get away from the stress of college life, including a retail store, coffee bar, and two or three new dining options.

Regina Hyatt, dean of students and associate vice president of student affairs, and other members of the planning team, toured universities across the Southeast, such as the University of Memphis and Wake Forest. "They sought the holistic view of what a student center should be for a campus."

"Having a place that is built specifically for students that is comfortable and conducive to engagement is the number one difference between a student center and any other type of building," Hyatt said.

In wake of the recent demolition of the UAH hockey team to club status due to its financial shortcomings, some view the multi-million dollar construction of a new student center as ill-advised. Hyatt explains that the planning was included in the campus master plan, but the timing just happens to coincide with the decision about the hockey program.

"There will be food service in the building along with other retail [outlets] that will generate revenue," Hyatt said. "But the profitability of the building comes when students say that they had an experience in the building that was exciting or fun or life-changing."

Hyatt said that discussions about the student center remain positive.
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge a Local Resource for Bird-Watching, Hiking, Fishing
ALEX LEWIS
Staff Writer

Those traveling on I-65 South from Huntsville may not know that one of the nation's most pristine waterfowl refuge is located nearby.

The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is a part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. According to the USFWS website, the refuge houses 115 species of fish, 74 species of reptiles and amphibians, 47 species of mammals, 285 species of songbirds and 10 federally listed endangered or threatened species.

Just under the bridge before the Decatur/Pricville exit is one of the refuge's many water-control areas from which U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees use the water to attract resident and migratory waterfowl.

Each winter, refuge employees flood the harvested field to provide for the "dabblers and divers," the ducks which are labeled according to their feeding patterns. Some ducks such as mallards are dabblers—those that stick their bottoms in the air while feeding—and others are divers, which submerge themselves completely underwater.

Refuge employees also conduct several surveys during each season to assess how many species of birds they have resident or visiting the refuge. They then report and catalog this data for larger-scale population trends over several years.

The best time for wildlife viewing at the refuge begins in mid-December when all of the migrating birds either roost or stop by for the winter. Larger birds, such as Sandhill Cranes, make a home at the refuge. Distinguishable by their bright red heads, the large numbers of sandhills make it to the refuge by mid-November. Even the American Bald Eagle resides in the refuge during the winter months. This national bird is a rare find within the refuge, but there are currently at least one adult and one juvenile, both spotted two weeks ago.

"They are not only house birds—there are also residential al­ligators that have migrated from the Gulf. "They can get pretty big," U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Lisa Lehnhoff said. "But unless they start causing trouble we'll let them manage their own business, and we'll mind ours."

The Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge is a viable resource for all Huntsville residents and is im­portant as a national conservation effort as well.

Many UAH students either don't know about the wildlife ref­uge or remember visiting it during elementary school field trips.

"We used to go every year in elementary school," senior Natalie Parker said. "But then I just kind of forgot about it, and I haven't been since."

Park Ranger Theresa Adams says this is a common problem with the refuge's lack of visitors.

"Lots of people just forget about us and they usually confuse us with Joe Wheeler State Park," she said.

Even for nature enthusiasts, the wildlife refuge is rarely at the top of anyone's hiking lists; however, because it's so close to home it is a resource that students can make use of for personal recreation such as hiking, boating, hunting to literary criticism, while English allows me to develop my writing skills, which are extremely impor­tant in science for writing papers."

"The significance of Million's academic pursuits shows her fel­low students to follow their passion, because that is clearly what Million has done and without large sacrifice on her part."

Dr. Hank Aiwine, a professor in the college of business, has also combined two seemingly different subjects for a very successful ca­reer as an environmental account­ant. Aiwine received a Bachelor of Arts in biology, and then went on to complete a Master's degree in accounting. He has now combined the two subjects to pur­sue research in environmental ac­counting.

"My research explores how people cognitively process envi­ronmental cost accounting infor­mation," Aiwine said, explaining the rele­vance of the combination.

"Environmental accounting is the measuring, capturing, recording and reporting of information on an entity's activities that have an impact on the natural environment. Environmental accounting infor­mation may be measured in finan­cial terms or nonfinancial terms."

This summary of relevance connects two seemingly unrelated degrees into a very relevant entity. Aiwine encourages those who would like to combine different de­grees to pursue what they are truly interested in.

"Having two degrees in differ­ent fields also opens the door to career possibilities that did not ex­tist for students studying only one subject," Aiwine said.

This encouragement validates Million's decision for her degree combination, but also does the same for any other student who is combining oddly paired subjects.

Jarrod Mosteller: Nominee for Co-Op Student of the Year
CHRISTINE MILTON
Staff Writer

In late October, Jarrod Mosteller, currently a UAH senior, was nominated for the Co-Op Student of the Year Award for the 2011-2012 academic year. The award is presented by the Cooperative and Experiential Education Division of the American Society for Engi­neering Education.

Candace Phillips, the career coordinator for the colleges of en­gineering, nursing and science, and Mosteller's current supervisor at the Science Applications International Corporation, nominated the 29-year-old.

Mosteller was able to attend an "Integrity Day" event, at which a select few of the interns at SAIC were invited to create a presenta­tion based on their work over the semester.

"Jarrod's elaborate presenta­tion was wonderful; it is obvious that he has a true passion for the field of engineering," Phillips said.

Welch's nomination package stated, "Jarrod's work ethic allows him to effectively and innovatively support his team and overcome alized obstacles during his employ­ment with SAIC." To qualify as a nominee, the student must be enrolled in a four- or five-year undergraduate program, be registered in a co-op education program and have com­pleted at least two work sessions or be in the process of completing his or her second work session. In addition, a student must be nominated by a member of the Coo­perative and Experiential Education Division.

Mosteller started UAH as a sophomore in 2009. He has a degree in human and resource management from Athens State University. Before enrolling at UAH, Mosteller worked under a contractor within the Transporta­tion Security Administration for about three and a half years. At age 27, he found himself laid off and decided to return to school to obtain a degree in mechanical engineering.

"Jarrod's elaborate presenta­tion was wonderful; it is obvious that he has a true passion for the field of engineering," Phillips said.

"My research explores how people cognitively process envi­ronmental cost accounting infor­mation," Aiwine said, explaining the rele­vance of the combination.

"Environmental accounting is the measuring, capturing, recording and reporting of information on an entity's activities that have an impact on the natural environment. Environmental accounting infor­mation may be measured in finan­cial terms or nonfinancial terms."

This summary of relevance connects two seemingly unrelated degrees into a very relevant entity. Aiwine encourages those who would like to combine different de­grees to pursue what they are truly interested in.

"Having two degrees in differ­ent fields also opens the door to career possibilities that did not ex­tist for students studying only one subject," Aiwine said.

This encouragement validates Million's decision for her degree combination, but also does the same for any other student who is combining oddly paired subjects.
Charger Volleyball Ousted by North Alabama in Conference Semifinal

JONATHAN KEENUM Staff Writer

After pulling off a stunning upset in the first round of the Gulf South Conference tournament, the Lady Charger volleyball squad fell to host UNA, 3-2 in the semifinals, on Friday night. Providence was 2-4 on the year, but UAH was unable to take advantage of any of its five power play chances. Providence also held a 48-21 advantage in shots and won 33 face-offs compared with UAH's 29.

Sophomore Breanna Gatt led the team-high in shots for a game this season, matching a feat freshman Kyle Lysaght had achieved twice.

The Lady Lions found themselves down 2-0 once again in the second game of the series as Providence continued to take advantage of its power play opportunities. UAH responded in this context by ending its three-game scoreless streak in the second period.

Lysaght scored a power play goal to end the 215-minute drought for the Chargers and pull to within one. The Friars extended their slim lead just 19 seconds later when sophomore Derek Army put one past Saunders.

Providence went up 4-1 early in the third period with a score just 51 seconds in. UAH was able to pick up another goal on its second power play of the night when sophomore Mac Roy fired in a shot at the 6:41 mark, but the Chargers were unable to get any closer.

Despite the higher scores, both teams were down on shots from the previous night as Providence registered 35, while UAH attempted 18. Saunders put together another 30-plus save game as he turned away 31 shots in the contest.

UAH plays Merrimack Nov. 23 and then takes on UMass-Lowell. The team ends its three-game run Nov. 26 in Durham, N.H.

The Chargers will not return home until the New Year's week-end as they take on Mercyhurst Dec. 30 and 31. UAH hits the road once again in an at-large bid trip before returning home for the last time as a Division I hockey team as they face off against the United States National Development Team Under-18 squad Feb. 24 and 25.

Charger Hockey Begins Long Road Test with Losses at Providence

JONATHAN KEENUM Staff Writer

The Charger hockey team has begun a brutal 11-game road trip with a pair of losses against Providence as UAH continues to search for its first win of the season.

UAH entered the first game of the weekend seeking to break a two-game scoreless streak in which the Chargers dropped two games to Ohio State by a combined total of 6-0. Despite the lack of support from the offense, sophomore goaltender Freeman made 18 saves and sparked the team to a 3-0 defeat by the Friars. Saunders blocked 45 of the 48 shots he faced, his second consecutive 40-save performance.

The Chargers remained in contention until late in the third, when the Friars took a 3-0 lead with the man-advantage. Providence was 2-4 on the power play while UAH was unable to take advantage of its two sets.

The first set saw both squads playing well as Christian Brothers found itself down only 14-13 mid-way through the set. After six lead changes, the Lady Lions took the lead just 19 seconds later when sophomore Derek Army put one past Saunders.

Just hours later the Lady Chargers were out to an early 9-2 lead in the second set. After six lead changes, the Lady Lions took the lead just 19 seconds later when sophomore Derek Army put one past Saunders. The Friars entered the first game with a stellar collegiate debut by picking up a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Six Lady Chargers scored in doubles-digits, led by sophomores Jasmine Hansmon with 16 points and Jordan Smith with 15.

The defense also played very well by holding Fisk to just 37.5 percent shooting and forcing 40 turnovers by the Lady Bulldogs, including 27 steals. Fisk was only able to score 28 in the first half, thanks to an aggressive defense by the Lady Chargers.

Head Coach Roy Heintz was very pleased with his team, but was also impressed with the energy from the student section and took to Twitter (@RoyHeintz) to thank the fans after the game.

“Student section was off the charts tonight,” Heintz said. “Great job Blue Crew! From the opening tip, our students were great!”

The men kept the home crowd jamming as they also frustrated Fisk with strong defense and an efficient offense en route to an 89-65 win.

The Chargers were unable to pull away from the Bulldogs during the first 15 minutes of play as Fisk refused to back down, and UAH held just a two-point lead with 5:02 left before halftime. UAH then showed why the team is the favorite in the South Region by switching into high gear and finishing the half on a 13-0 run to take a 43-28 lead.

The Chargers then made sure Fisk had no hope of a comeback by starting the second half with a 13-2 run over a three-minute span to take a commanding 56-30 lead. The Chargers were up by as much as 34 before the game came to a close.

Junior Jamie Smith led the Chargers in scoring with 16 points, followed by fellow juniors Zane Campbell with 15 and Xavier Baldwin with 14. UAH shot just under 60 percent for the game while holding Fisk to just under 38 percent.

The Chargers wanted to play at a high level tonight and set the tone for the season before starting
From PLANS on Pg. 1

There are also complications within the seemingly more "regular" requirements, like the education major's requirement for CM 113, a communication arts class that is required to fulfill a humanities course. Other majors, such as English, are required to take CM 113.

"The education major is the most complicated out of the college of liberal arts," Bell said. This variety is not just within the college of liberal arts. Nursing majors have to take extra philosophy classes, and science majors have to make sure they get in a computer science course. Because of all this variation between colleges and even within majors, there can be some discrepancies with advising and ensuring that a student takes the right courses.

For this reason, Bell said, "Students should not depend on the online catalog, because it is not as clear as it could be, but it is good for instantly updating information.

The catalog also has a few problems, such as not containing the specific general education requirement charts for the college of engineering, which further reinforces the student's need to actually meet with an advisor.

For those in the college of engineering and nursing, it gets even more complicated. Both colleges have special requirements and there are also certain exceptions, like the education major in the college of liberal arts.

Another concern is for students taking advantage of their faculty advisors. Most students only go to their advisors when absolutely needed, especially if they have filed a POS and do not need to see their advisor for an access code. Other students, like senior communication arts major Emily Roach, visit with their advisors once each semester but find a lot of convenience in not requiring an access code.

"I don't have an access code and I like it a lot better," Roach said. "It's a lot easier to register.

Senior Chrisa Mayhall, an aerospace engineering major, has filed a POS but she still needs an access code.

"Yes, I have an access code, but the engineering department just recently changed it [so that] you do not have to meet with your advisor to get it," Mayhall said. "Now, if you have a certain GPA, they e-mail it to you.

Meeting with advisors is beneficial not only for the student but also for the student-advisor relationship.

"Developing a strong relationship with your advisor and explaining your passion is very important to ensure that you are doing what you want to do," Bell explained. "Majoring in something that will 'make money' but that makes you miserable is a bad idea.

From REFUGE on Pg. 1

Located right in front of the Off-Campus Bookstore, Powerbook Medic is one of the country's largest Mac, iPod, iPad, and iPhone repair companies.

- FREE Diagnosis
- Best Price Guarantee
- Same Day iPod & iPhone Repair
- Mac Service Parts & Upgrades Available

Call us Toll Free: 1-866-726-3342
1015 Henderson Rd, Huntsville, AL 35816
http://www.PowerbookMedic.com

The Exponent - November 17, 2011

Altenkirch agreed with Dr. Vijaya Karihar, the provost of UAH, that a relationship with CU-Boulder may prove beneficial for the university.

"Universities will compete with each other and collaborate with each other at the same time," he said. "It's not unusual. It happens all the time."

According to Altenkirch, his people skills are a major asset that he will bring to the office of the president.

"I work with people very easily," he said. "I don't pound the table. I can work to bring people together so that they'll pull in the same direction. Nothing is ever done exactly the way you want it, but if you get close to it, that's good enough for me."

Turning from business to pleasure, Altenkirch listed golfing and woodworking among his hobbies. He also likes to attend professional sporting events.

"I wish I were younger so I could compete," he said with a grin.

He is a cooking enthusiast who possesses multiple barbecues, including both a dry and a wet smoker. He and his wife have a total of five cats and one dog, which remain in her care in New Jersey as the family completes the move to Alabama.

Altenkirch was named the new president of UAH on Sept. 21, 2011. Although he moved to Huntsville from New Jersey, Altenkirch is no stranger to the South, having served as vice president of research at Mississippi State for 11 years before becoming the president of NJIT.

The refuge has three open hicking trails: Atkeson Cypress Trail, adjacent to the visitor center, Dunby Bottoms Trail near Flint Creek and Flint Creek Trail, located on the north side of highway 67. The refuge allows many recreational activities other than hiking, such as hunting and fishing. Managed hunts are held for small game, deer and feral hogs. The required refuge hunting permit may be obtained at the visitor center, refuge headquarters or online; however, only a regular state fishing license is required to fish and can be obtained at any bait shop. Fishing tournaments occur every year as well.

The refuge encourages wildlife photography and bird watching as the refuge's pride resides in its numerous bird counts during the winter season.